

We are pleased to present this special issue on the impact of British colonialism on indigenous peoples from Ireland to Canada. We are also especially grateful for the work done by Sean Byrne, our guest editor for this issue and the author of this introductory article, to compile this collection of articles.

THE LEGACY OF COLONIALISM AMONG INDIGENOUS PEOPLES:
DESTRUCTIVE OUTCOMES, HEALING AND RECONCILIATORY
POTENTIALS

Sean Byrne

The process of colonialism that emerged in Europe from the sixteenth century onward witnessed the expansion of empires around the world. Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, French, British, Belgian, German, and Italian colonial models played out differently in their colonies. Resources and cheap labor were extracted as the Indigenous people internalized their oppression. During the decolonization process new independent nations emerged who are still trying to process and deal with the past. In the aftermath of group trauma stemming from colonization, how can Indigenous communities process the trauma, heal, and reconcile with non-Indigenous people? This is a critical issue and we hope that this special issue can begin that conversation within Peace and Conflict Studies.

During the late 1980s, the Canadian peace movement with a focus on the abolition of war and militarism articulated the importance of consciousness raising to mobilize the Canadian population by putting together a concrete program so that it could take root in local neighborhoods.¹ Lately there has been a shift in focus from research on the anti-war movement to empowering