

BRITISH COLONIALISM: PERPETUATING STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE THROUGH PERCEPTUAL MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN CANADA

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It is not possible to achieve reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada while upholding the British colonial model. Perceptual differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people perpetuate misunderstanding and maintain structural violence. This article presents two lenses that allow us to see this violence and how perceptual misunderstandings continue to reinforce colonialism and conflict. Viewing conflict through these lenses can redress the continued colonization of Indigenous people in Canada by creating an opportunity to align our perceptions. The first lens presented explores divergent perspectives of the colonizer and the colonized in relation to ecology and agency. The second lens describes the need to understand the co-creative, relational, and relative nature of meaning making.

Lived rights are “the difference between legal words on paper and actions that result in positive changes in the daily lives of disadvantaged people, locally and globally.”¹ Achieving *lived rights* allows all people to enjoy, in their daily lives, the rights that are assured to them in written law. However, to achieve this, the laws need to be first put into place at all levels of government. Despite the fact that most disputes do not break out into fully fledged conflict, a number do around the world, including in Canada. World wars, terrorism, feuding communities, civil war, and ethnic disputes are only some examples of the numerous conflicts occurring globally. As time goes on, these conflicts become increasingly protracted and therefore more and