

Note-Taking Tool

Think about what you've learned about arguments connecting enslavement, colonization, and capitalism. (It may be helpful to listen to [Episode 3, 12:46-21:37](#), or skim the [Episode 3 transcript, pp. 12-18](#), to refresh your memory. You can find these resources under "Listening Guides" at <https://sceneonradio.org/capitalism-educator-resources/>.)

Then, examine sources that share some recent scholarship about the role enslavement and colonization played in Britain's Industrial Revolution and the development of capitalism.

Source**"Markets, cheap calories, and cotton: The colonies, slavery, and the Industrial Revolution in Britain"****by the CORE Econ Team (2023)**

According to CORE Econ, the Industrial Revolution "was not something that just 'happened in Britain'; it resulted from interactions between Europe and the rest of the world." Britain, CORE Econ reveals, needed many things to industrialize and "maintain the momentum of continuous growth."

As you read the source, complete the first part of the chart below to understand where Britain obtained what it needed to industrialize and grow its economy. Then, consider the questions in the second part of the chart to synthesize your understanding.

Reading Notes		
To industrialize, Britain needed...	According to CORE Econ, how did Britain gain access to this?	What role, if any, did colonization or enslavement play?
Technology and inventions		
Energy (coal)		
Raw cotton		

To industrialize, Britain needed...	According to CORE Econ, how did Britain gain access to this?	What role, if any, did colonization or enslavement play?
Markets for British-made textiles		
Labor to produce raw cotton		
Labor to manufacture textiles		
Sugar (to feed laborers producing manufactured goods)		
Capital to reinvest and expand production		

Synthesis & Reflection

Look across your notes in the above table. Which factors in Britain's industrialization seem to have depended most on Britain's colonies and systems of enslavement? Which seem to have come primarily from developments within Britain?

What conclusion does CORE Econ reach about the role of colonies and enslaved labor in Britain's Industrial Revolution?

What evidence do they use to support that conclusion?

What questions do you still have about this source's conclusion? What additional sources or evidence would help you evaluate the conclusion?

Sources

"The British stole an estimated \$45 trillion from India between 1765 and 1938. Economist Utsa Patnaik explains how."

by AJ+ (September 22, 2022)

"Opinion: How Britain stole \$45 trillion from India" by Jason Hickel for Al Jazeera (December 19, 2018)

These sources explain economist Utsa Patnaik's research on the economic effects of British colonization in India. As you watch and read the sources, complete the first part of the chart below to track Patnaik's research and conclusions. Then, consider the questions in the second part of the chart to synthesize your understanding.

Viewing & Reading Notes		
	Source: "The British stole an estimated \$45 trillion from India between 1765 and 1938. Economist Utsa Patnaik explains how."	Source: "Opinion: How Britain stole \$45 trillion from India"
What resources or wealth did Britain gain?		
How did Britain gain the resources or wealth?		
What happened to the resources and wealth? • How did they contribute to industrialization? • How did they support the growth of capitalism?		

Synthesis & Reflection

What questions do you still have after exploring these sources? What additional evidence or perspectives would help you evaluate Patnaik's conclusions?

Based on the evidence presented, to what extent do you think words like "fraud," "plunder," "crime," and "scam" accurately describe Britain's actions in India? Explain your reasoning.

Reflect on All Three Sources

- Looking across all three sources, what role do recent historians and economists argue enslavement and colonization played in Britain's Industrial Revolution and the development of capitalism?
- If the research conclusions presented in the sources are largely accurate, how might they affect the way we understand Britain's Industrial Revolution and the development of capitalism?
- What questions do these sources raise for you about the relationship between capitalism's historical development and the economic system we live in today?
- In Episode 1, Ellen says that capitalism is "so pervasive, so much the water we swim in now, that we can have trouble seeing where it begins and ends, in our world and in our lives." After examining these sources, what features, parts, or aspects of capitalism feel more visible to you than they did before?
- After examining these sources, what questions remain unresolved? Which of those questions do you think are most important for historians, economists, and students of history to continue investigating? Why?