

# Quick Review

# The Columbian Exchange



# Review: Colonialism, Environment and Modern World

- Colonialism □ Commercial capitalism □ commodification of nature (3 C's)
- Utilitarian views of nature prevail
- Effects of commodified nature on environment and people—sugar and silver
- Silver
  - Coerced indigenous labor
  - Land and water poisoning—enters blood streams of people
  - deforestation
- Sugar
  - Enslavement and fierce exploitation
  - Deforestation and mass land clearing

Question:

Does colonialism leave any legacies that shape our world today? That shape the nations that were once colonies, or is this all in the past?

Is the third world still the third world because of colonialism, or because of other historical and social forces at work?

What was the Columbian Exchange?

- A. A now defunct clothing company
- B. The crossing of pathogens, plants, and people from Old World to New and New World to Old
- C. A coffee cooperative that sold premium dark roast coffee to elite European consumers starting in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- D. The name Columbus gave to the slave trade

# Energy, Mining, and the Industrial Revolution

Fossil capitalism

Capitalism and Endless accumulation

Energy transition or energy aggregation

Old energy regime

Geography of coal and Great Divergence

Transport costs

Social power and profit

James Watt and the steam engine

Coal and 1<sup>st</sup> Industrial Revolution

Poverty and Inequality

Endless Growth

Labor wars

Carbon democracy

Oil's advantages

Second Industrial Revolution

Mass destruction mining

Demystifying commodities

Sacrifice Zones

How did fossil capitalism come about and what is its significance for the global environment?

- Endless quest for accumulation of wealth driven by increased production
- Bringing raw materials (nature) into productive process



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Transition to fossil fuels (coal) did not happen everywhere simultaneously

- Geography of coal and transport costs
- A calculated economic and political decision in one part of England
- Why abandon water and introduce steam power (steam engines) using coal?

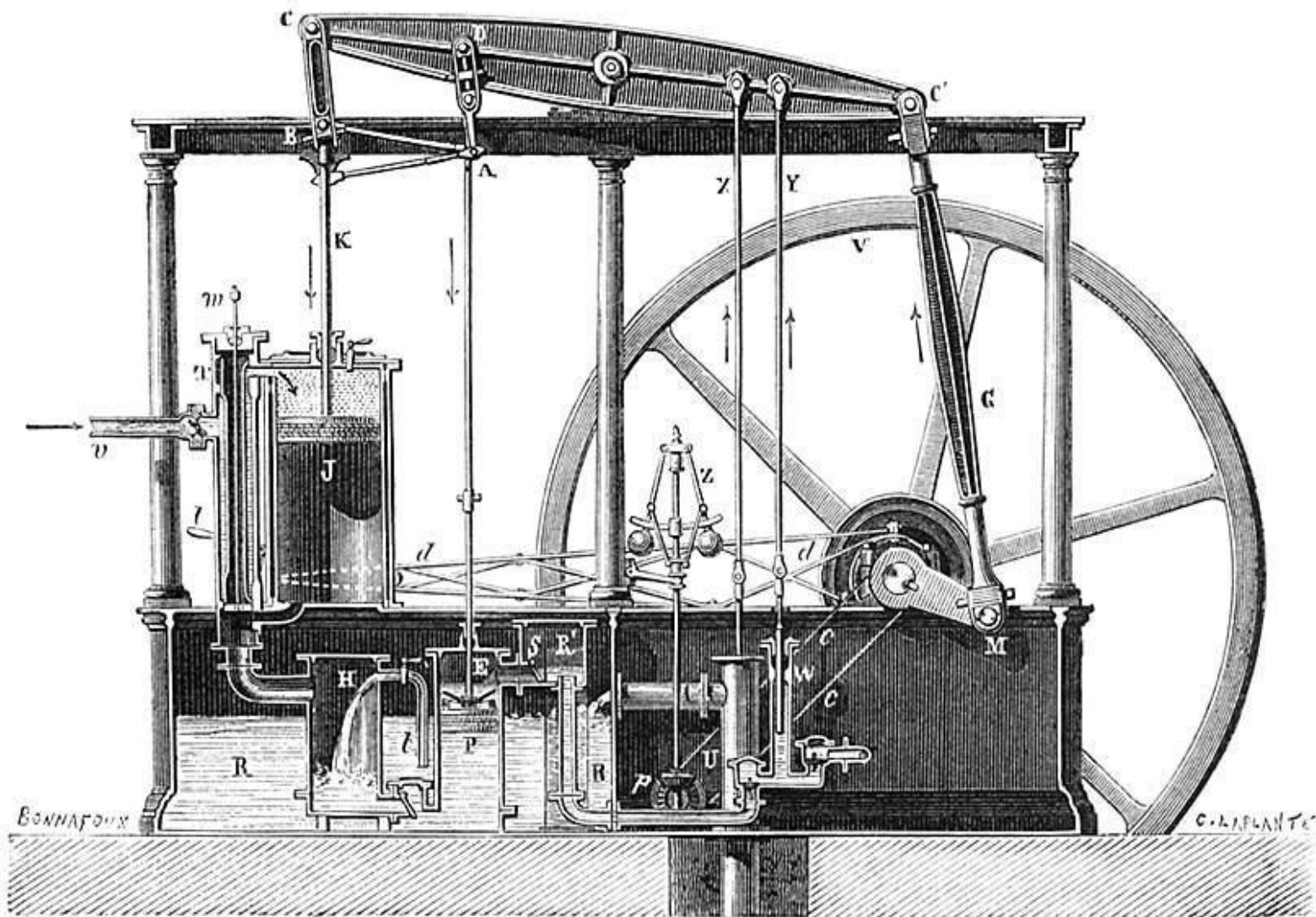


Fig. 59. — Machine à balancier de Watt.

v. Tuyau de prise de vapeur; T, tiroir; J, cylindre; H, condenseur; PE pompe d'épuisement; WY pompe alimentaire de la chaudière  
 UX pompe d'alimentation de la bûche R; p Z régulateur; dd excentrique; ABCD parallélogramme; GM bielle et manivelle; V volant.

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# Coal and 1<sup>st</sup> industrial Revolution: some consequences

- Railroad, iron, and steel
- Profits reach new levels
- A small but growing middle class
- Produced widespread poverty in cities and air pollution
- The idea of endless growth (no energy bounds)



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# Coal, labor wars, and Carbon democracy

- Coal workforce and potential disruption
- The power and the threat of the worker strike
- The promise of social democracy or socialism
- Oil's advantages to capitalist investors and political elites around the world
  - Larger profits, more powerful and cleaner
  - More widespread and more easily transported
  - Political power and labor conformity







ARMED STRIKERS IN THE TRINIDAD DISTRICT IN COLORADO

# Oil and second industrial revolution: some effects

- Resources and raw materials from distant places (in colonized worlds, other parts of Global South. More and more sought to bring into ind. Production
- Environmental and social effects enormous—readings
- Mass destruction mining
- New products on market as a result of this production
- Mystified products and the need to demystify
- Sacrifice zones (continue to this day)



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