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## **Colonial Legacies and Contemporary Struggles: The Paradox of Globalization as an Agent of Neocolonialism in the Caribbean**

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**Colonial Legacies and Contemporary Struggles: The Paradox of Globalization as an Agent  
of Neocolonialism in the Caribbean**

Fall 2023

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International Studies, Global Affairs

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## **Abstract**

This thesis examines the manifestation of neocolonialism in the Caribbean through the intersections of contemporary foreign investment and globalization. Historically, Western powers like the UK and the United States played a major role in shaping global power dynamics through colonialism. However, a shifting paradigm sees emerging nations from the East, notably China and Taiwan, exerting influence in the Western hemisphere and previously colonized regions like the Caribbean. Using qualitative comparisons and drawing from diverse sources, the study analyzes academic literature and reports from international organizations, critically evaluating theoretical frameworks in international relations and postcolonial studies. The research uncovers a pattern where globalization acts as an agent of neocolonialism, revealing intricate dynamics where economic interests intersect with geopolitical strategies, shaping the destinies of Caribbean nations. Beyond documenting current economic strategies, the study reveals enduring imprints of colonial histories resonating in the region's economic and social structures. The Caribbean, with its varied historical trajectories, political statuses, and economic landscapes, serves as an ideal arena for this inquiry. By shedding light on the intersections between foreign investments, globalization, and historical legacies, this thesis raises crucial questions for future examination. Contributing to ongoing dialogues about the impacts of foreign investment on identity, sovereignty, and geopolitics in the Caribbean, the study aims to enrich our understanding of the complex dynamics shaping the region's contemporary economic and political landscape.

**Introduction:**

In an era marked by unprecedented globalization and evolving paradigms of foreign investment, the Caribbean stands as an exemplar of economic intricacies, where the intersection between new age investment strategies and neocolonialism unfolds. This thesis aims to navigate through the complexities of foreign investment in the Caribbean, calling into question the extent to which globalization, driven by tax incentives, tourism-centric industries, and infrastructural imperatives, perpetuates neocolonial dynamics. Focused on case studies of Jamaica and Puerto Rico, the analysis also unravels the nuanced politics surrounding Chinese and Taiwanese investments in the region. Therefore the influence posed by Chinese and Taiwanese investments are a variable that I will examine or measure the effects on Jamaica and Puerto Rico in terms of economic and social ramifications.

The central question guiding this thesis is: How does new age foreign investment, coupled with the forces of globalization, manifest as a form of neocolonialism in the Caribbean? To address this inquiry, the research assesses the economic, political, and cultural implications of foreign capital in the region. The answers derived are rooted in a comprehensive examination of the economic structures, political motivations, and cultural transformations observed in the Caribbean, specifically honing in on Jamaica and Puerto Rico as illustrative case studies. This exploration emerges from ongoing academic debates surrounding globalization, foreign investment, and neocolonialism. As the Caribbean emerges as a hotspot for foreign investment, debates in international relations, economics, and postcolonial studies have intensified. Real-world events, such as the surge in Chinese and Taiwanese investments, underscore the urgency of understanding the multifaceted impacts on the socio-economic and political

landscapes of Caribbean nations. China and Taiwan represent an outsized contemporary influence on the region<sup>1</sup>. The relevance of this topic to the reader lies in its encapsulation of pressing issues affecting not just the Caribbean but also the broader global discourse on economic sovereignty and cultural preservation. The intersection of foreign investment, globalization, and neocolonialism in the Caribbean offers a microcosm of the challenges faced by nations grappling with the complexities of contemporary economic engagements.

This paper contributes insights by providing a comprehensive analysis of new age foreign investment in the Caribbean, offering an understanding of how economic paradigms intersect with historical legacies and political maneuvers. The case studies of Jamaica and Puerto Rico serve as examples, offering tangible illustrations of the broader trends observed in the region. Organized thematically, the thesis begins with an exploration of the theoretical underpinnings of neocolonialism and globalization. Subsequent sections delve into the specific factors that make the Caribbean an attractive hub for foreign investment, analyzing tax incentives, tourism-centric industries, and infrastructural necessities. The political dimensions of Chinese and Taiwanese investments as variables in the economic landscape are then dissected through the lens of Jamaica and Puerto Rico, providing a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics at play in the Caribbean's evolving economic landscape.

### **Methods and Limitations:**

To unravel the neocolonial dynamics of new age foreign investment in the Caribbean, a straightforward methodological approach was adopted. The research predominantly utilized

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<sup>1</sup> Yahuda, Michael. "The International Standing of the Republic of China on Taiwan." *The China Quarterly*, no. 148, 1996, pp. 1319–39, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/655526>.

qualitative comparisons, drawing on an extensive range of sources to provide a comprehensive understanding of the complexities at play. The qualitative component involves an in-depth analysis of academic literature and reports from international organizations. By critically engaging with theoretical frameworks in international relations and postcolonial studies, the aim is to develop an understanding of the neocolonial implications of foreign investment in the Caribbean.

The research encounters several limitations, primarily stemming from the availability and reliability of data. The transparency surrounding certain aspects of foreign investment deals, especially those involving China and Taiwan, poses challenges to accessing comprehensive and accurate information. Additionally, the evolving nature of geopolitical relations and economic policies in the Caribbean introduces an element of dynamism that may not be fully captured within the static confines of academic research.

The choice of Jamaica and Puerto Rico as case studies is analytically productive due to their differing historical trajectories, political statuses, and economic landscapes. Jamaica, an independent nation, contrasts with Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory. This comparative framework facilitates a deeper understanding of how geopolitical nuances shape the impact of foreign investment and globalization on nations with varied colonial histories and contemporary political statuses. The project is acutely aware of the dynamic nature of international relations and global economic trends. The ongoing geopolitical shifts, diplomatic realignments, and the rapidly changing nature of foreign investments, particularly those from China and Taiwan, shape the applicability and relevance of the findings.

## Literature Review

The Caribbean is tethered to a rich history of colonialism that has resulted in a complex sociocultural landscape. As a region, it stands as an emblematic case study for examining the persisting legacy of colonialism on contemporary challenges and industrial development. As it stands, there is extensive work published on the topic of colonialism's impact on the Caribbean. However, there lies a gap in the research when we bring the conversation into a neocolonial space. Marked by infrastructure necessities, tax incentives, and tourism dominant industries, the Caribbean has become a haven for foreign investment and industrialization. Globalization and industrialization have told us that smaller, developing countries need the support of larger international superpowers. However, what happens to the domestic nationalism of these smaller nations, as a result? This literature review seeks to explore the intersection of historical colonialism, cultural and economic nationalism in the Caribbean, and the evolving dynamics within the context of globalization. The objective is to examine the point at which globalization impinges on the preservation of the economic and sociocultural identity of nations, a phenomenon witnessed in the past. By delving into the historical roots of colonialism and its enduring impact on the Caribbean's cultural and economic nationalism, this review aims to unravel the intricate threads that connect these aspects. The investigation into these interconnected themes lays the groundwork for the subsequent analysis in this thesis, offering insights into the dimensions of Caribbean development and the persistent influence of colonial legacies in the contemporary era.

The Caribbean's colonial history has left an indisputable mark on the region, shaping its socio-economic and political landscape in ways that make it susceptible to the forces of



globalization. This oftentimes manifests as a form of neocolonialism. The European colonial powers, including Britain, Spain, France and the Netherlands, exploited the Caribbean for its abundant resources, primarily sugar, tobacco, and later, tourism. The enduring consequences of historical exploitation have created an intricate network of economic and social dependencies that endure in the present day. The advent of European colonization in the 15th and 16th centuries laid the groundwork for plantation economies built upon slave labor. This not only inflicted severe harm on indigenous populations but also gave rise to a profoundly hierarchical and unequal social structure.<sup>2</sup> The extraction of wealth from the Caribbean fueled the economic prosperity of the colonial powers, leaving the region economically depleted and socially fragmented.

In the postcolonial period, Caribbean nations confronted the task of establishing independent states on unstable foundations shaped by their colonial history. The lingering effects of colonialism, marked by economic reliance on limited export commodities, fragile institutional structures, and a historical backdrop of social inequality, rendered the region especially susceptible to the impacts of globalization. Neocolonialism, as a manifestation of globalization, is characterized by the continuation of economic exploitation and control, albeit through more subtle and indirect means<sup>3</sup>. Globalization, with its emphasis on free trade, market-oriented economic policies, and the dominance of multinational corporations, has perpetuated the Caribbean's vulnerability to external influences. The region often finds itself locked into economic relationships that favor more developed nations, leading to a continued extraction of

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<sup>2</sup> Blackburn, Robin. "The Old World Background to European Colonial Slavery." *The William and Mary Quarterly*, vol. 54, no. 1, 1997, pp. 65–102. JSTOR, <https://doi.org/10.2307/2953313>.

<sup>3</sup> Uzoigwe, Godfrey N. "Neocolonialism Is Dead: Long Live Neocolonialism." *Journal of Global South Studies*, vol. 36, no. 1, 2019, pp. 59–87. JSTOR.

resources and wealth<sup>4</sup>. Additionally, the cultural and social impacts of globalization can further erode local identities and traditions, contributing to a neocolonial dynamic where external forces shape the trajectory of Caribbean nations. The colonial history of the Caribbean has created a legacy of economic and social vulnerabilities that make the region susceptible to neocolonialism through the processes of globalization. Addressing these challenges requires a holistic understanding of historical contexts and a commitment to fostering sustainable and equitable development within the Caribbean nations.

### ***Infrastructure Necessities:***

Infrastructure development emerges as a crucial catalyst for foreign investment and industrialization in the Caribbean. While the region's geographical location and abundant natural resources have historically made it an attractive destination for investment, the lack of proper infrastructure has been a limiting factor in realizing its full economic potential. A substantial body of research emphasizes the pivotal role of infrastructure investments in creating a conducive environment for economic growth in the Caribbean. These investments not only enhance regional accessibility but also facilitates the movement of goods, services, and people, thereby significantly increasing the region's attractiveness to foreign investors. This does not come without consequence though. According to Wilfred David, Caribbean investments have disproportionately focused on the non-tradable sector, specifically in building construction. While this has spurred growth, it has also led to a deterioration in the structural balance of payments, creating, in some instances, persistent disequilibrium issues<sup>5</sup> (246).

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<sup>4</sup> Ülgen, Sinan. "Rewiring Globalization." *Carnegie Europe*, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Publications Department, Feb. 2022, <https://carnegieeurope.eu/2022/02/17/from-local-to-global-politics-of-globalization-pub-86310>.

<sup>5</sup> David, Wilfred L. "Public Savings and Investment in the Caribbean: A Study of Selected Caribbean Economies." *Caribbean Studies*, vol. 10, no. 1, 1970, pp. 52–82, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25612194>.

Research in this realm highlights the imperative role of a well-established infrastructure network in alleviating the historical logistical challenges faced by the Caribbean. This has led to significant endeavors aimed at constructing and enhancing ports, roads, airports, and telecommunications systems. While these initiatives are portrayed as contributing to the competitiveness and overall economic development of Caribbean nations, a critical examination reveals the pervasive influence of foreign investment, often reminiscent of neo-colonialism. Ludeña and De Groot, for instance, point out that electricity services in the Caribbean are predominantly controlled by either state-owned monopolies or, in many cases, involve significant foreign company participation. This phenomenon raises concerns about the extent to which foreign interests may be shaping the infrastructure development in the region, potentially perpetuating a form of modern-day colonialism. <sup>6</sup>(23)

The infrastructure necessities of the Caribbean contribute significantly to the region's vulnerability to globalization and the neocolonial dynamics associated with external investment. The demands for robust infrastructure, including transportation networks, ports, and energy systems, create a scenario where the Caribbean becomes dependent on foreign capital and expertise, exposing the region to the influences of globalization in a manner reminiscent of neocolonial exploitation.

Firstly, the development of infrastructure in the Caribbean often requires substantial financial investment that exceeds the economic capacity of individual nations. In an effort to bridge the funding gap, Caribbean countries often turn to international lenders and foreign

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<sup>6</sup> Ludeña, Miguel Pérez, and Olaf De Groot. *Foreign Direct Investment in the Caribbean*. 2014.

investors.<sup>7</sup> This reliance on external financing can expose the region to conditions imposed by these investors, shaping the direction of infrastructure projects in ways that prioritize the interests of foreign entities over the long-term developmental needs of the host nations. The terms and conditions attached to loans or investments may include stringent repayment schedules, high-interest rates, or clauses that allow external actors significant control over the planning and execution of infrastructure projects.

Secondly, the expertise required for the planning, design, and execution of complex infrastructure projects is often sourced from foreign firms. While the involvement of international expertise can contribute to the successful implementation of projects, it also raises concerns about the control and ownership of these critical assets. In many instances, foreign companies may dominate the construction and management of infrastructure, limiting the extent to which local communities and governments benefit from the knowledge transfer and skill development that should ideally accompany such projects. This concentration of expertise in the hands of external actors reinforces neo colonial patterns, where control over key aspects of the economy remains in foreign hands.

Moreover, the development of infrastructure in the Caribbean is closely tied to the interests of global trade and investment. Ports and transportation networks, for example, are designed not only to meet local needs but also to facilitate the efficient movement of goods and people in and out of the region.<sup>8</sup> This emphasis on catering to global economic interests can lead

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<sup>7</sup> Fay, Marriage, et al. "Rethinking Infrastructure in Latin America and the Caribbean." *World Bank*, 2017, <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/pt/676711491563967405/114110-REVISED-Rethinking-Infrastructure-Low-Res.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> Dookeran, Winston. "The Caribbean on the Edge: An Anthology of Ideas and Writings." *Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC Washington Office)*, United Nations, 2018, <https://repositorio.cepal.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/bcc5048a-27f6-4f54-8d58-609f237ea2ae/content>.

to the prioritization of projects that serve external actors, potentially at the expense of addressing pressing local needs. The result is a situation where infrastructure development becomes skewed in favor of those who hold economic power on a global scale, perpetuating a neocolonial dynamic where external forces shape the development agenda of the Caribbean.

The infrastructure necessities of the Caribbean, while essential for the region's growth, also expose it to neocolonial dynamics associated with globalization. The reliance on external financing, the dominance of foreign expertise, and the alignment of infrastructure projects with global economic interests contribute to a scenario where the control over critical assets remains in the hands of external actors. Addressing this vulnerability requires a careful consideration of the terms of engagement with foreign investors and a strategic approach to infrastructure development that prioritizes local needs and sustainable long-term growth.

***Tax Incentives:***

Tax incentives, including tax holidays, low corporate tax rates, and special economic zones, stand out as powerful tools employed by Caribbean nations to lure foreign investment. The literature reveals how these incentives have successfully attracted foreign capital to the region, with research dissecting the effects on government revenues, economic development, and income inequality. Investments in market seeking activities concern investments by companies that want to make use of the customer base in the Caribbean. While the individual economies may be relatively small, more and more companies consider the region as a whole and are thus able to target the larger consumer base altogether. These market seeking investments are mostly limited to a small number of sectors however. They include banking, utilities,

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telecommunications and retail. Ludeña and De Groot go on to note that the Caribbean boasts a highly dynamic banking sector, featuring the presence of numerous major international entities operating across the region. Interestingly, Canadian banks exert control over the three largest banks in the English-speaking Caribbean <sup>9</sup>(22).

While the allure of these tax incentives is undeniable, research raises questions about their long-term sustainability and effectiveness in promoting equitable growth and sustainable development. Concerns have been expressed regarding potential revenue loss for governments, as well as the risk of intensifying income disparities within host countries. As such, there is ongoing debate regarding the ideal balance between attracting foreign investment through tax incentives and ensuring the fair distribution of economic benefits.

Tax incentives play a pivotal role in shaping the Caribbean's vulnerability to globalization and the neocolonial dynamics associated with it. In an effort to attract foreign investment, Caribbean nations have frequently utilized tax breaks, concessions, and favorable fiscal policies as a means to entice multinational corporations to invest in various sectors, particularly in the lucrative tourism industry. <sup>10</sup> While these incentives may initially seem advantageous for fostering economic growth, they often contribute to a neocolonial relationship, reinforcing the dominance of external entities and perpetuating patterns of economic exploitation.

One key aspect of the neocolonial impact of tax incentives lies in the trade-off between short-term economic gains and long-term fiscal sustainability. In a bid to attract foreign investors, Caribbean governments may offer reduced corporate tax rates, exemptions, and other

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<sup>9</sup> Ludeña, Miguel Pérez, and Olaf De Groot. *Foreign Direct Investment in the Caribbean*. 2014.

<sup>10</sup> Lent, George E. "Tax Incentives for Investment in Developing Countries". *IMF Staff Papers* 1967.002 (1967), A003. <https://doi.org/10.5089/9781451947250.024.A003>.

financial incentives. While this strategy may stimulate immediate foreign direct investment (FDI) and job creation, it can simultaneously compromise the ability of local governments to generate sufficient revenue for public services and infrastructure development<sup>11</sup>. This overreliance on external investment through tax incentives creates a precarious situation, where Caribbean nations become increasingly dependent on the preferences and decisions of foreign corporations.

Furthermore, the implementation of tax incentives can exacerbate existing socio-economic inequalities within Caribbean societies. Multinational corporations, taking advantage of these incentives, may engage in profit-shifting practices and other financial maneuvers to minimize their tax obligations in the host country<sup>12</sup>. This often results in a scenario where a significant portion of the profits generated within the Caribbean is repatriated to the home countries of these corporations, leaving local communities with limited resources to address pressing social issues, such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

The neocolonial impact is further heightened when considering the negotiating power of Caribbean nations in the formulation of these tax incentive policies. In many instances, smaller nations may find themselves in a disadvantaged position, facing pressure from more economically powerful foreign entities to offer increasingly favorable terms. This power imbalance perpetuates a dynamic where external actors hold significant sway over the economic policies of the Caribbean, shaping the fiscal landscape in ways that prioritize the interests of foreign investors over the long-term development needs of the host nations. While tax incentives

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<sup>11</sup> David, Wilfred L. "Public Savings and Investment in the Caribbean: A Study of Selected Caribbean Economies." *Caribbean Studies*, vol. 10, no. 1, 1970, pp. 52–82, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25612194>.

<sup>12</sup> Bernard, Jean-Thomas, and Robert Weiner. "Taxation in the Global Economy National Bureau of Economic Research." *National Bureau of Economic Research*, University of Chicago Press, Jan. 1990.

may be employed with the intention of stimulating economic growth and development in the Caribbean, they also contribute to the region's susceptibility to neocolonial forces associated with globalization. The trade-offs involved in offering these incentives, including compromised fiscal autonomy, increased dependency on external investment, and exacerbation of socio-economic inequalities, underscore the complex dynamics at play and highlight the need for a refined approach to economic policy in the region.

### ***Tourism-Dominant Industries:***

Tourism stands as a vital pillar of the Caribbean's economy, playing a key role in attracting foreign investment. The region's natural beauty, cultural diversity, and historical attractions position it as a premier tourist destination. Academic exploration in this domain focuses on unraveling the intricate connection between the tourism sector and foreign investment. It delves into how investments in hospitality, infrastructure, and related industries contribute to job creation and economic diversification. Given that tourism serves as the economic backbone for most economies in the region, the global economic downturn, which has severely impacted the tourism sector, has presented significant challenges. It's worth noting that investments in the tourism sector, especially for new projects, may not appear as substantial when compared to sectors like natural resource extraction or processing. However, according to Ludeña and De Groot, in recent years, several of the Caribbean economies have received significant tourism-related investments. With respect to announced projects, Jamaica has received the greatest portion of investment, with several multi-million dollar investment announcements over the years <sup>13</sup> (26).

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<sup>13</sup> Ludeña, Miguel Pérez, and Olaf De Groot. *Foreign Direct Investment in the Caribbean*. 2014.



The Caribbean's tourist industry serves as a pivotal factor contributing to the region's vulnerability to globalization, often taking on the characteristics of neocolonial exploitation. The allure of the Caribbean as a tourist destination, characterized by its pristine beaches, vibrant cultures, and historical landmarks, has made it an attractive target for outside investment. This influx of international capital, however, often perpetuates a neocolonial dynamic, whereby the control and benefits of the tourism industry remain largely in the hands of external actors.

Firstly, the dependence on tourism as a primary economic driver renders Caribbean nations susceptible to the whims of global market forces. The region's economies have become heavily reliant on the revenue generated from tourism, creating a precarious situation where fluctuations in global travel trends or economic downturns in major tourist-generating countries can have severe repercussions. As a result, Caribbean nations are compelled to align their economic policies with the preferences of the global tourism market, leaving them vulnerable to external pressures and influence.

Secondly, the structure of the tourist industry often reinforces patterns of economic inequality. Major multinational corporations wield significant influence in the tourism sector, overseeing critical elements like hotel chains, travel agencies, and tour operators. This concentration of economic power in external hands sustains a neocolonial dynamic, with the bulk of industry profits repatriated to foreign investors instead of being reinvested locally. Local enterprises, frequently under foreign ownership, may contribute to socio-economic imbalances by exploiting the regional workforce through low wages and limited employment benefits. This underscores the comprehensive impact of external control on the economic and social landscape of the destination.

Moreover, the reliance on tax incentives to attract foreign investment in the tourism sector compounds the neocolonial dynamics. Caribbean governments, eager to stimulate economic growth, frequently offer tax breaks and other incentives to lure multinational corporations. However, these concessions often come at the expense of local tax revenues, limiting the funds available for public services and infrastructure development.<sup>14</sup> In this way, the Caribbean becomes entangled in a cycle of dependency on external investment, with local governments making concessions that ultimately perpetuate the neocolonial patterns of wealth extraction.

In essence, the tourism industry in the Caribbean, while providing economic opportunities, also exposes the region to neocolonial forces associated with globalization. The unequal distribution of benefits, economic dependencies, and the reliance on external investment for development contribute to a dynamic where the control over the tourism sector remains largely in the hands of foreign actors, reinforcing historical patterns of exploitation and leaving the Caribbean vulnerable to the impacts of globalization.

### ***Consequences of Foreign Investment and Industrialization:***

The Caribbean's trajectory toward increased foreign investment and industrialization has yielded both positive and negative consequences. Heightened foreign investment in the Caribbean has been associated with economic growth, job creation, and improved living standards, according to some studies. However, concerns have been raised about environmental degradation, social inequality, and the risk of economic dependency on foreign capital. The impact of industrialization on local cultures and traditions is also scrutinized in the context of

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<sup>14</sup> Lent, George E. "Tax Incentives for Investment in Developing Countries". *IMF Staff Papers* 1967.002 (1967), A003. <https://doi.org/10.5089/9781451947250.024.A003>.

globalization and tourism development, raising questions about cultural preservation. The Caribbean's shift toward greater foreign investment and industrialization has produced both positive and negative consequences, leaving a lasting imprint on the region's socio-economic and environmental dynamics.

Numerous studies underscore the positive impact of heightened foreign investment in the Caribbean. Chief among these benefits is the notable economic growth experienced by several countries in the region. Increased foreign capital inflows have driven economic expansion, diversification, and innovation. Foreign investment diversification, extending beyond tourism to sectors like manufacturing, technology, and finance, stimulates job creation, elevating overall employment rates and enhancing living standards. This influx of resources also contributes to improved infrastructure for the local population. Additionally, foreign investment plays a role in advancing crucial sectors such as education, health, and social services through corporate social responsibility initiatives.

Yet, the rise in foreign investment and industrialization in the Caribbean brings forth pressing concerns and challenges. Environmental degradation is a key issue, as accelerated industrialization can result in heightened pollution, deforestation, and habitat destruction. The delicate ecosystems of the Caribbean, including coral reefs and rainforests, face threats from expanding industries and infrastructure development. These environmental challenges prompt critical considerations about the region's long-term sustainability and resilience in the context of climate change. International actors and forces, coupled with national development strategies,

play a vital role in the exploitation, management and conservation of a country's physical landscape.<sup>15</sup>

Another concern revolves around social inequality. While foreign investment can create jobs and boost economic growth, it may also exacerbate income inequality. Foreign corporations, aiming to maximize profit, might not always ensure equitable wealth distribution. This can lead to disparities in income and living standards between the local population and expatriate workers or foreign investors. Additionally, the potential risk of economic dependency on foreign capital looms large. In analysis of capital dependence theory, Kentor and Boswell offer that the dependence of less developed countries (LDC's) on global investment, "disarticulates" the host economy, separating foreign and domestic sectors with poor linkages between them. As a result, state policies are often left disorganized and are often held hostage to foreign interest<sup>16</sup> (301). In terms of the Caribbean, as the region increasingly relies on foreign investments to fuel its economic growth, it may become vulnerable to global economic fluctuations. Economic downturns in the countries of origin of foreign investors can impact the Caribbean's economy, leading to economic instability and potential austerity measures.

Cultural preservation also comes to the fore as a vital issue. A significant portion of cultural identity can be attributed to external factors, often rooted in historical events, encompassing colonial and neocolonial influences, slavery, monocultural plantation practices, dependence on influential Northern hemisphere nations, and patterns of migration in and out of the region. These external influences have contributed to molding perceptions of the area,

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<sup>15</sup> Torres, Rebecca Maria. "Introduction: Globalization, Development and Environmental Change in the Caribbean." *Southeastern Geographer*, vol. 45, no. 2, 2005, pp. 165–73, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/26222203>.

<sup>16</sup> Kentor, Jeffrey, and Terry Boswell. "Foreign Capital Dependence and Development: A New Direction." *American Sociological Review*, vol. 68, no. 2, 2003, pp. 301–13, <https://doi.org/10.2307/1519770>.

underscoring characteristics such as fragility, vulnerability, division, and dependency.<sup>17</sup> The rapid pace of industrialization and globalization can challenge the authenticity of local cultures and traditions. The increased presence of foreign influences and the commercialization of local culture for the tourism industry bring forth inquiries regarding cultural identity and the safeguarding of indigenous practices in the Caribbean. Numerous scholars contend that the region faces the imperative task of finding a harmonious equilibrium between economic development and cultural preservation. This delicate balance is seen as crucial for the maintenance of the Caribbean's distinctive identity and heritage in the face of evolving global dynamics.

### ***Chinese and Taiwanese Investment***

The Caribbean is emerging as a significant arena for foreign investment, drawing attention from nations like China and Taiwan. Their active involvement in the region's economic development has substantial implications for the nationalistic sentiments of host countries and the governments of China and Taiwan. The diplomatic dynamics and economic competition in Chinese-Taiwanese relations, particularly concerning foreign investments in the Caribbean, add complexity to their interactions. Both Taiwan (officially the Republic of China, ROC) and the People's Republic of China (PRC) claim to represent China. This contest over sovereignty has led to a situation where many countries must choose to recognize either Taiwan or the PRC, and this decision affects foreign investment opportunities in the Caribbean.<sup>18</sup> Taiwan and China are

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<sup>17</sup> Edmonds, Kevin. "An elusive independence: Neocolonial intervention in the Caribbean." *International Socialism: A Quarterly Review of Socialist Theory* 146 (2015).

<sup>18</sup> Maizland, Lindsay. "Why China-Taiwan Relations Are So Tense | Council on Foreign Relations." *Council on Foreign Relations*, 18 Apr. 2023, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/china-taiwan-relations-tension-us-policy-biden>.

locked in a diplomatic tug of war, with both nations actively seeking diplomatic recognition from countries around the world, including those in the Caribbean. The Caribbean countries have often been caught in the middle of this diplomatic dispute, as they must choose whether to recognize Taiwan (ROC), China (PRC), or maintain unofficial ties with both.

The Caribbean stands as a poignant illustration of the exploitative nature of globalization, particularly evident in the realm of foreign investment and neocolonial dynamics. Using China and Taiwan as illuminating case studies amplifies the broader discussion on the sometimes exploitative nature of global economic forces. The vulnerability of Caribbean nations to numerous foreign actors highlights the intricate balance they must strike between economic development and potential exploitation. The strategic competition between China and Taiwan for influence in the region exemplifies how smaller nations, grappling with historical legacies and economic dependencies, navigate the complexities of global power dynamics. By examining the impact of these two nations on the Caribbean, we gain valuable insights into the broader discourse surrounding the exploitative tendencies inherent in certain facets of globalization, shedding light on the multifaceted challenges faced by smaller economies in this globalized era.

The Caribbean has become inadvertent collateral damage in the geopolitical tug of war between China and Taiwan, as both nations vie for influence and recognition through strategic investments in the region<sup>19</sup>. Chinese and Taiwanese investments, driven by a desire to secure diplomatic allegiance, have intensified competition as each nation offers economic incentives to Caribbean countries willing to recognize its sovereignty. This economic diplomacy has created a scenario where host nations find themselves entangled in a complex game of incentives, with

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<sup>19</sup> “China vs. Taiwan: Battle for Influence in the Caribbean – COHA.” *COHA*, 13 Mar. 2012, <https://coha.org/china-vs-taiwan-battle-for-influence-in-the-caribbean/>.

infrastructure projects, financial aid, and trade agreements serving as the stakes.<sup>20</sup> The collateral damage in this struggle for recognition is borne by the Caribbean nations themselves, as they navigate the delicate balance between economic benefits and potential political repercussions. The competitive investments from China and Taiwan underscore the broader global dynamics at play and emphasize how the Caribbean, while welcoming external investment for development, is inadvertently caught in the crossfire of broader geopolitical conflicts.

Both Taiwan and China have actively pursued the expansion of their economic influence in the Caribbean, leading to a surge in foreign investment and development projects in the region. Caribbean nations have become recipients of investments spanning infrastructure, agriculture, technology, and more, emanating from both Taiwanese and Chinese entities. Taiwan's foreign investments in the Caribbean primarily serve diplomatic objectives, aiming to strengthen relations, secure allies, and foster economic development. These investments are notable for their emphasis on technology transfer, capacity building, and initiatives promoting social and cultural exchanges. On the other hand, China's investment in the Caribbean is frequently aligned with its broader Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), focusing on extensive infrastructure development, including ports, roads, and telecommunications<sup>21</sup>. This strategic move by China is perceived by some as an extension of its economic and geopolitical agenda.

China's economic engagement in the Caribbean has witnessed substantial growth, particularly through the Belt and Road Initiative. This initiative has manifested in significant investments across various sectors, promising economic growth and development. However, the

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<sup>20</sup> Crane, George T. "China and Taiwan: Not Yet 'Greater China.'" *International Affairs (Royal Institute of International Affairs 1944-)*, vol. 69, no. 4, 1993, pp. 705–23. JSTOR.

<sup>21</sup> "China vs. Taiwan: Battle for Influence in the Caribbean – COHA." *COHA*, 13 Mar. 2012, <https://coha.org/china-vs-taiwan-battle-for-influence-in-the-caribbean/>.

acceptance of these investments comes with political conditions that, at times, challenge the sovereignty of the host countries.<sup>22</sup> The infusion of Chinese capital into Caribbean economies may create economic dependencies, leading to a potential loss of economic nationalism. Caribbean nations face the potential challenge of dependency on Chinese investments, loans, and aid, a situation that can curtail their autonomy in making independent economic decisions. An influential dimension of Chinese presence in the Caribbean is its adeptness in persuading certain countries to transition their diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to China. This diplomatic shift, often incentivized by Chinese investment, carries far-reaching implications for the preservation of national identity.<sup>23</sup> The realignment of diplomatic ties may be seen as a compromise to the sovereignty of nations in the region, introducing complexities in their pursuit of political autonomy and self-determination.

Taiwan has also played a role in Caribbean investment, providing aid and economic support to countries that maintain diplomatic relations with Taipei. However, as Taiwan's international recognition diminishes, its investments in the region face increasing challenges. Chinese efforts to suppress Taiwan's international recognition can lead to diplomatic pressure on Caribbean nations that maintain relations with Taiwan. As these countries face pressure to switch allegiance to China, it may be perceived as a surrender of national sovereignty in exchange for economic benefits<sup>24</sup>. The economic support provided by Taiwan, while welcomed by Caribbean nations, may also create a form of dependency. The potential loss of this support, due to

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<sup>22</sup> “China vs. Taiwan: Battle for Influence in the Caribbean – COHA.” *COHA*, 13 Mar. 2012, <https://coha.org/china-vs-taiwan-battle-for-influence-in-the-caribbean/>.

<sup>23</sup> “China Regional Snapshot: The Caribbean - Committee on Foreign Affairs.” *Committee on Foreign Affairs*, 14 Nov. 2022, <https://foreignaffairs.house.gov/china-snapshot-project-the-caribbean/>.

<sup>24</sup> Yahuda, Michael. “The International Standing of the Republic of China on Taiwan.” *The China Quarterly*, no. 148, 1996, pp. 1319–39, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/655526>.



diplomatic shifts, poses economic vulnerabilities that may affect the host countries' nationalistic pride.

The loss of nationalism in Caribbean nations due to Chinese and Taiwanese investments is a nuanced and multifaceted issue. While these investments offer economic opportunities, they often come with political conditions that challenge national sovereignty. The shifting diplomatic allegiances of Caribbean countries can result in perceptions of vulnerability and dependence, affecting the preservation of national identity. The influence of Chinese and Taiwanese investment in the Caribbean on their respective governments' nationalism is also notable. These investments are part of broader geopolitical strategies, and the competition for influence in the Caribbean can lead to a complex interplay of nationalism and international relations. The growing involvement of China and Taiwan in the Caribbean has brought into focus the tension between economic development and the preservation of nationalistic sentiment. As the Caribbean nations navigate this delicate balance, it is imperative to consider the evolving dynamics of Chinese and Taiwanese investments and their potential implications on the national identity and sovereignty of both host countries and the investors themselves.

## **Case Studies**

### ***Jamaica***

Jamaica's history is marked by a legacy of colonialism, with British rule spanning over 300 years. The nation gained its independence in 1962, but the echoes of colonialism continue to reverberate. Post-independence, the economic and political structures left by the colonial powers have persisted, setting the stage for external influences that manifest as neocolonialism.

Globalization, characterized by increased economic interconnectivity, trade liberalization, and foreign investment, has been presented as an opportunity for growth. However, it has also exacerbated the legacy of neocolonial economic control. Jamaica, an island nation in the Caribbean, serves as a compelling case study in this context. Having undergone colonization by both the Spanish and the British, the enduring impact of British colonialism is evident in the island's economic structure, social institutions, and cultural norms. Despite achieving independence in 1962, Jamaica contends with economic dependency on foreign powers and multinational corporations. The roots of this reliance can be traced back to the export-oriented agricultural sector, predominantly established during the colonial era.

Jamaica, akin to many Caribbean nations, faces a heightened vulnerability to neocolonialism through globalization, stemming from historical legacies, economic dependencies, and geopolitical factors. The country's colonial past, marked by European exploitation and the lasting effects of slavery, has led to persistent socio-economic inequalities and structural vulnerabilities. In the contemporary landscape, Jamaica's dependency on select industries, notably tourism and mining, renders it susceptible to global market fluctuations. The inflow of foreign investment, often steered by multinational corporations, perpetuates patterns of economic extraction, where profits are repatriated rather than reinvested locally. Additionally, the conditions attached to international loans and economic partnerships may compromise the nation's autonomy, shaping policies in ways that prioritize external interests. Jamaica's susceptibility to globalization as a form of neocolonialism is exacerbated by its economic dependencies, historical context, and the intricate web of global economic forces that influence its development trajectory.

### *Economic Dynamics:*

In the late 20th century, Jamaica found itself indebted to international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. These institutions imposed structural adjustment programs that demanded austerity measures and market liberalization.<sup>25</sup> While these measures were intended to foster economic stability, they resulted in the privatization of key industries, cuts in social spending, and increased external control over the Jamaican economy. The result was a persistently fragile and dependent economic system. Jamaica's reliance on foreign investment to stimulate economic growth has left it susceptible to the whims of multinational corporations. These corporations, often representing global economic interests, dictate the terms of investment, potentially exploiting the local labor force, resources, and markets. In a discussion of Jamaica's economic health as a result of foreign investment, Harris says, In this scenario, the assumption is that the expansion of foreign exchange earnings for acquiring necessary imports is restricted by demand and other factors in export markets. Simultaneously, constraints such as limited domestic productive capacity, rigidity in the production structure, and shortages of specific skills prevent domestic production.<sup>26</sup>(149). This dynamic perpetuates neocolonial structures as foreign capital retains a significant hold on the nation's economy. The globalization-driven emphasis on trade liberalization exposed Jamaican industries to intense global competition. While this can foster efficiency and innovation, it also places local industries at a disadvantage, leading to deindustrialization and the country's dependence on imports. This structural adjustment has contributed to a neocolonial

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<sup>25</sup> United Nations. *Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean 2010*. 2011.

<sup>26</sup> Harris, Donald J. "SAVING AND FOREIGN TRADE AS CONSTRAINTS IN ECONOMIC GROWTH: A STUDY OF JAMAICA." *Social and Economic Studies*, vol. 19, no. 2, 1970, pp. 147–77, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/27856421>.

economic structure where Jamaican resources are extracted and processed elsewhere, often at the expense of local development.

### ***Socio Political Consequences***

Another crucial aspect to consider in Jamaica's case is the tension between economic globalization and the preservation of cultural identity. As foreign investments and transnational corporations have established a significant presence in Jamaica's economy, concerns have arisen about the potential erosion of Jamaican cultural identity. The tourism industry, which plays a central role in the country's economic landscape, often presents an idealized version of Jamaica to cater to international tourists, thereby diluting the authentic local experience. The globalization-driven economic policies in Jamaica have exacerbated income inequality. Multinational corporations, attracted by the availability of cheap labor, frequently pay lower wages to Jamaican workers, leading to a growing income gap between foreign corporate executives and local employees. The cultural impact of globalization in Jamaica is marked by the commodification of Jamaican culture for the tourism industry. This process has led to cultural erosion as local traditions and practices are often presented in a distorted manner to cater to global tourism preferences. The result is a loss of cultural authenticity. Neocolonial dynamics often extend to political control, with external actors influencing domestic policies and decisions through economic pressure and international agreements. Jamaica's limited autonomy in its economic policies, largely influenced by global institutions, has undermined its sovereignty.

### *Chinese and Taiwanese investment:*

In the realm of foreign investment, concerns surface regarding potential neocolonial implications, where external powers wield influence over a sovereign nation's economic and social landscape. Examining Jamaica's case, economic ties with China and Taiwan prompt a reassessment of the nation's identity, sparking inquiries into the sustainability of its cultural and economic autonomy. Robust Chinese and Taiwanese investments in Jamaica span infrastructure projects to resource extraction endeavors, fostering economic growth yet triggering apprehensions about the extent of foreign influence and control. Notably, the financing and execution of pivotal projects by foreign entities often result in a disproportionate level of control, exemplified in strategic infrastructure ventures like ports and highways. This asymmetrical power dynamic can lead to economic dependency, limiting Jamaica's ability to set its own economic agenda and fostering a neocolonial relationship reminiscent of historical colonialism.

The economic ties forged through foreign investment have social and cultural ramifications that extend beyond the boardrooms. The infusion of foreign capital can bring an influx of expatriate workers, altering the demographic makeup and contributing to cultural shifts within local communities. Additionally, the adoption of foreign business practices and management styles may contribute to the erosion of traditional social structures, causing a dilution of Jamaican identity. The entry of multinational corporations into a region typically brings with it the concurrent introduction of foreign products, technologies, and lifestyles. This phenomenon has the potential to overshadow local traditions and values, as external influences may reshape or dilute the indigenous cultural landscape.

One of the critical aspects of neocolonialism is the loss of economic autonomy. Chinese and Taiwanese investments, while providing short-term economic benefits, may create a situation where Jamaica becomes reliant on external actors for sustained growth. This dependence can limit the nation's ability to make independent economic decisions, undermining its sovereignty in economic matters.<sup>27</sup> The adoption of foreign policies, such as loan conditions and trade agreements, can influence Jamaica's economic trajectory, potentially diverting it from a path aligned with its national interests. In Jamaica's engagement with foreign investments, notably from China and Taiwan, a crucial assessment is needed to understand the lasting effects on national identity. Balancing the economic advantages against potential risks, including the erosion of cultural heritage and economic autonomy, is essential. To address these challenges effectively, a nuanced understanding of the dynamics is necessary, advocating for a balanced approach that fosters economic development while safeguarding the nation's identity and sovereignty.

### ***Puerto Rico***

As a U.S. territory, Puerto Rico is highly susceptible to neocolonialism through globalization, primarily owing to its colonial status and historical legacies. Operating as an unincorporated territory of the United States, Puerto Rico lacks the full autonomy of sovereign nations. This status renders the island vulnerable to decisions and policies imposed by external entities, notably the U.S. federal government and multinational corporations. The imposition of U.S.-centric economic policies, coupled with limited representation in the decision-making processes that affect the island, reinforces neo colonial power play. Puerto Rico's economic

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<sup>27</sup> Torres, Rebecca Maria. "Introduction: Globalization, Development and Environmental Change in the Caribbean." *Southeastern Geographer*, vol. 45, no. 2, 2005, pp. 165–73, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/26222203>.

reliance on mainland investment, tax incentives, and external economic forces further deepens its susceptibility to globalization. The complex interplay of Puerto Rico's colonial history and its current political status underscores the ongoing challenges the island faces in navigating neocolonial dynamics within the context of a globalized world.

Within the Caribbean context, Puerto Rico's distinctive position as an unincorporated territory of the United States provides valuable insights into the persistence of colonial legacies in the 21st century. Despite not being an independent nation, Puerto Rico possesses a distinct identity, culture, and a history marked by colonization. The intricate relationship with the United States has placed Puerto Rico in a state of territorial neocolonialism. The Puerto Rican case serves as a compelling illustration of neocolonial dynamics camouflaged within the globalization narrative. The historical colonial ties between Puerto Rico and the United States, alongside economic dependencies, socio-political constraints, and cultural challenges, highlight the convergence of neocolonialism and globalization. This case study underscores the imperative of critically evaluating the impact of globalization on territories with limited political sovereignty and economic autonomy. It calls for a reassessment of Puerto Rico's relationship with the United States within the context of neocolonial exploitation. Recognizing these challenges is pivotal for envisioning a more equitable and self-determined future for Puerto Rico. Since 1898, Puerto Rico's historical trajectory as an unincorporated territory of the United States has positioned it at the nexus of U.S. imperial interests and the dynamics of globalization. The economic structures and political dynamics forged during this history form the backdrop against which globalization, marked by increased cross-border trade and investment, has unfolded.

### ***Economic Dynamics:***

For an extended period, Puerto Rico has served as a hub for tax incentives designed to allure U.S. corporations aiming to reduce their tax burden. The implementation of Section 936<sup>28</sup> tax incentives, offering substantial tax benefits for U.S. companies operating in Puerto Rico, resulted in a significant influx of foreign investment. However, as globalization advanced, U.S. corporations also pursued offshoring, resulting in the exploitation of Puerto Rican labor, low wages, and limited labor rights<sup>29</sup>. This has perpetuated the neocolonial narrative by reducing Puerto Rico to a low-cost labor market. Globalization has deepened Puerto Rico's dependence on U.S. aid and economic subsidies. The island's inability to set its trade policies, due to its territorial status, leaves it vulnerable to the economic interests of the United States<sup>30</sup>. This dependency on external aid and the precarious state of its economy have perpetuated Puerto Rico's neo colonial economic structure. The debt crisis in Puerto Rico, intensified by a lack of control over its economic policies, prompted the implementation of austerity measures. These measures, frequently endorsed by global financial institutions and foreign creditors, had a disproportionate impact on the Puerto Rican population and public services. This scenario further solidified the perception of neocolonial economic exploitation in Puerto Rico.

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<sup>28</sup> Greenberg, Scott, and Gavin Ekins. "Tax Policy Helped Create Puerto Rico's Fiscal Crisis | Tax Foundation." *Tax Foundation*, <https://www.facebook.com/taxfoundation>, 30 June 2015, <https://taxfoundation.org/blog/tax-policy-helped-create-puerto-rico-fiscal-crisis/>.

<sup>29</sup> Dick, Diane Lourdes. "U.S. Tax Imperialism in Puerto Rico – American University Law Review." *American University Law Review*, <https://aulawreview.org/blog/us-tax-imperialism-in-puerto-rico/>.

<sup>30</sup> Dick, Diane Lourdes. "U.S. Tax Imperialism in Puerto Rico – American University Law Review." *American University Law Review*, <https://aulawreview.org/blog/us-tax-imperialism-in-puerto-rico/>.



***Socio Political Consequences:***

The lack of political autonomy has made Puerto Rico susceptible to decisions made in Washington, often driven by global economic interests. The Promesa Act of 2016, which established a fiscal control board to oversee Puerto Rico's finances, exemplifies how the island's political autonomy is curtailed under the guise of economic stabilization. Globalization has led to increased emigration from Puerto Rico in search of better economic opportunities.<sup>31</sup> The emigration of skilled workers and professionals has played a significant role in a "brain drain," detrimentally affecting Puerto Rico's long-term economic prospects. Simultaneously, the commercialization and commodification of Puerto Rican culture, particularly in the tourism sector for the global market, have raised apprehensions about the potential erosion of cultural authenticity and identity. This cultural erosion underscores the way globalization can distort local traditions and practices for economic gain.

***Chinese and Taiwanese Investment:***

The economic metamorphosis of Puerto Rico in recent years has been marked by a significant influx of foreign capital from Chinese and Taiwanese sources. Chinese and Taiwanese investments in Puerto Rico have taken shape in various sectors, from infrastructure projects to manufacturing initiatives. While these investments have injected capital and stimulated economic growth, they have concurrently triggered concerns about an asymmetry in power dynamics. Major projects executed by foreign entities often come with conditions that may grant these external forces an undue level of control. This dynamic raises questions about Puerto

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<sup>31</sup> Tirú Vega, Carolina. "End to 'Unincorporated Territory': The Pseudonym For Puerto Rico's Second Class Citizenship." *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*.

Rico's economic agency and whether the island is inadvertently slipping into a neocolonial relationship, reminiscent of historical patterns of external influence.<sup>32</sup> Beyond the economic realm, the social and cultural consequences of foreign investment are palpable in Puerto Rico. The arrival of foreign capital often brings an influx of expatriate workers, altering the island's demographic makeup. Simultaneously, the introduction of foreign business practices may contribute to the erosion of traditional social structures, potentially diluting Puerto Rican identity.<sup>33</sup> Multinational corporations, as part of their operations, can also introduce foreign products, technologies, and lifestyles, raising concerns about the preservation of local traditions and values amid the wave of globalization.

In examining Puerto Rico's economic landscape, it is crucial to acknowledge the persistent colonial ties with the United States. Despite its status as a territory, Puerto Rico lacks the full autonomy enjoyed by sovereign nations. The island's relationship with the United States shapes its economic policies, trade agreements, and legal frameworks. This dual struggle – grappling with foreign investment from superpowers like China and Taiwan while still under the binds of colonialism with the United States – places Puerto Rico in a unique and challenging position. The confluence of external investment with Puerto Rico's existing colonial ties creates a dual struggle for the island's national identity. The risk of economic dependency and cultural dilution posed by foreign investment must be analyzed within the broader context of Puerto Rico's historical relations with the United States. As Puerto Rico strives for economic

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<sup>32</sup> *The San Juan Daily Star*; and John McPhaul. “US Should Wake up to China’s Looming Influence in PR, Author Says.” *San Juan Daily Star*; San Juan Daily Star, 28 Feb. 2022, <https://www.sanjuandailystar.com/post/us-should-wake-up-to-china-s-looming-influence-in-pr-author-say> s.

<sup>33</sup> *The San Juan Daily Star*; and John McPhaul. “US Should Wake up to China’s Looming Influence in PR, Author Says.” *San Juan Daily Star*; San Juan Daily Star, 28 Feb. 2022, <https://www.sanjuandailystar.com/post/us-should-wake-up-to-china-s-looming-influence-in-pr-author-say> s.

development, it is imperative to navigate these complex dynamics to preserve its cultural heritage and foster sustainable autonomy.

**Conclusion:**

The exploration of contemporary foreign investment in the Caribbean serves as a comprehensive investigation into the geopolitical, economic, and regional transformations that shape the region's role in the global economic landscape. The convergence of tax incentives, dominance in tourism-centric industries, and strategic infrastructural development collectively forms the historical legacy and current economic dynamics of the Caribbean. Each facet of this convergence not only reveals present economic strategies but also echoes enduring imprints of colonial histories that influence the region's economic and social structures.

The examination of the politics surrounding Chinese and Taiwanese investment in the Caribbean is a crucial element of this exploration. By foregrounding this geopolitical dimension, the research unveils intricate power dynamics underpinning economic engagements. The intersection of economic interests with geopolitical strategies adds complexity to the narrative, reinforcing the argument that foreign investments are deeply embedded in broader historical and geopolitical contexts. The revelation of the geopolitical power play in foreign investments amplifies the enduring relevance of colonial histories and external influences in shaping the destiny of Caribbean nations.

The case studies of Jamaica and Puerto Rico serve as pillars of this argument, presenting living narratives of the complexities of neocolonial forces. Navigating the overlapping intersections of economic, political, and cultural dimensions, the research provides insights into the multifaceted ways in which historical legacies continue to shape the contemporary

Caribbean. Beyond being products of modern economic considerations, the economic policies of these nations are embedded in a historical trajectory marked by exploitation and external influence.

The Caribbean, often relegated to the periphery in discussions of global economic dynamics, emerges as a key assessment of contemporary geopolitical relations. This research fills a critical gap in the literature and transcends conventional narratives. The examination of geopolitics surrounding Chinese and Taiwanese investments adds depth to the broader literature on the global influence of rising powers, delving into the interplay of strategies and motivations underpinning these investments. This scholarly contribution invites further dialogue about the impacts of foreign investment on identity, sovereignty, and geopolitics, challenging researchers to expand analytical frameworks to incorporate the unique dynamics of the Caribbean.

As this research expands conversations about Caribbean neocolonialism, it lays the groundwork for future scholarship. A promising avenue involves an in-depth exploration of the socio-cultural impact of foreign investments on local communities. Understanding how these investments mold cultural identities and social structures becomes pivotal for a holistic assessment of neocolonial dynamics. Future research endeavors could venture into the evolving role of regional organizations and alliances in mediating the influence of global powers in the Caribbean, offering insights into the mechanisms shaping the geopolitical landscape. Above all, this thesis aims to illuminate the intersections between foreign investments, globalization, and historical legacies, raising crucial questions for future examination.

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