

FIVE FACES OF OPPRESSION

Iris Marion Young & Religion and Power

01.

EXPLOITATION

02.

MARGINALIZATION

03.

POWERLESSNESS

04.

**CULTURAL
IMPERIALISM**

05.

VIOLENCE

FIVE FACES OF OPPRESSION

EXPLOITATION

"the central insight expressed in the concept of exploitation, then, is that this oppression occurs through a steady process of the transfer of the results of the labor of one social group to benefit another" (49)

- Example: The labor of Nuns in the Roman Catholic church
- Justice in the face of exploitation requires reorganization of institutions, practices of decision making, and alterations of division of labor (53)

FIVE FACES OF OPPRESSION

MARGINALIZATION

"Marginalization is perhaps the most dangerous form of oppression. A whole category of people is expelled from useful participation in social life and thus potentially subjected to severe material deprivation and even extermination."

(53)

- Example: Women's exclusion from religious leadership
- To address it is necessary to change the cultural, practical, and institutional systems that reinforce marginalization (55)

FIVE FACES OF OPPRESSION

POWERLESSNESS

"The powerless have little or no work autonomy, exercise little creativity or judgement in their work, have no technical experience or authority, express themselves awkwardly...and do not command respect " (56-57)

- Example: Powerlessness of certain congregations vs. their church leaders
- Is often demonstrated in the class divide of professionals vs. non professionals / the working class

FIVE FACES OF OPPRESSION

CULTURAL IMPERIALISM

"To experience cultural imperialism means to experience how the dominant meanings of a society render the particular perspective of one's own group invisible at the same time as they stereotype one's group and mark it out as other." (59)

- Example: Proposals to ban Hijabs in some European countries
- Involves the paradox of experiencing both erasure and othering (60)

FIVE FACES OF OPPRESSION

VIOLENCE

"What makes violence a face of oppression is less the particular acts themselves, though these are often utterly horrible, than the social context surrounding them, which makes them possible." (61)

- Example: Exclusion of LGBTQ+ community from religious congregations
- Exists at an intersection with cultural imperialism
- Acts of violence, terror, sexual assault, harrassment, and ridicule

01.

EXPLOITATION

02.

MARGINALIZATION

03.

POWERLESSNESS

04.

**CULTURAL
IMPERIALISM**

05.

VIOLENCE

"Five Faces of Oppression" in Justice and the Politics of
Difference. PRINCETON; OXFORD: Princeton University
Press, 1990. Accessed June 2, 2021.
[doi:10.2307/j.ctvcm4g4q](https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctvcm4g4q).