

# **Terminology for Opposing, Colonial, Imperial, and Political Actors**

## **1. Modern Colonial Power or Colonizing Actor That Takes the Opposing Side in a War**

Depending on the exact meaning, several terms can describe a modern colonial power, colonizing actor, or external group that takes the opposing side in a war.

### **Counter-colonizer**

Suggests an actor opposing or attempting to reverse another colonizer's project.

### **Competing colonizer**

Describes a colonizing power seeking the same territory, population, resources, or political influence as another colonizing power.

### **Rival imperial power**

A historical or political term emphasizing competing empires or imperial systems.

### **Proxy colonizer**

Describes an actor advancing another power's colonial interests, particularly where the relationship involves outside sponsorship or direction.

### **Revisionist power**

A state or political actor seeking to alter an established territorial, political, or international order.

### **Opposing imperial power**

A straightforward term for an imperial or expansionist power positioned on the opposing side of a conflict.

### **Adversarial colonizer**

Emphasizes that a colonizing actor is operating against another party or colonial project.

### **Colonial opportunist**

Suggests an actor exploiting an existing war or political crisis to obtain territory, resources, influence, or political control.

## **Reverse-aligned colonizer**

Useful when a colonizing group supports the side opposite the one associated with its previous political or military alignment.

## **Fifth column**

This term has a much narrower meaning. It refers to people operating within one side of a conflict who secretly support or assist the opposing side. It should therefore be used only when clandestine internal support for an enemy is actually meant.

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# **2. More Historical or Academic Terms**

If the word "colonizer" is too specific, these broader terms can describe a powerful outside actor:

- Imperial power
- Imperialist
- Expansionist power
- Occupying power
- Foreign power
- External power
- Intervening power
- Rival power
- Competing power
- Hegemonic power
- Dominant power
- Foreign patron
- Proxy power
- Client power
- Sphere-of-influence power

These terms allow the writer to describe political or territorial behavior without automatically assigning a specific colonial classification.

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### 3. When the Main Point Is Taking the Opposite Side

When the central issue is alignment during a conflict, possible terms include:

- Opposing power
- Counterforce
- Rival faction
- Adversarial faction
- Opposition bloc
- Counter-aligned power
- Countervailing force
- Foreign-backed faction
- Enemy-aligned faction
- Opposing coalition

The appropriate term depends on whether the actor is a government, military force, political organization, faction, coalition, or population.

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### 4. When an Actor Enters a Conflict for Its Own Interests

If the emphasis is on entering an existing conflict to advance independent political, territorial, or economic interests, possible terms include:

- Opportunistic power
- Political opportunist
- Interventionist
- Power broker
- Foreign stakeholder
- External actor
- Strategic rival
- Geopolitical competitor

- Revisionist power

"Interventionist" is particularly useful when an outside government becomes involved in another country's conflict.

"External actor" is more neutral and can include governments, organizations, movements, corporations, or other entities.

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## 5. When One Dominant System Is Being Replaced by Another

When the issue concerns one political or territorial system replacing another, possible terminology includes:

- Successor power
- Replacement power
- Competing hegemon
- Rival hegemon
- Successor regime
- Foreign ruling power
- External ruling authority
- Political usurper
- Territorial usurper
- Imperial successor

These terms emphasize **replacement or succession of authority** rather than simply participation in a war.

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## 6. Terms for a Group Seeking Fundamental Political Change in the United States

If the subject is a group seeking to fundamentally alter or replace the existing U.S. political system, terminology should depend on the group's documented objectives.

### **Revolutionary movement**

A movement seeking fundamental transformation of the political or social order.

**Separatist movement**

A movement seeking to remove a territory or population from an existing state.

**Secessionist movement**

A specific form of separatism involving withdrawal from an existing sovereign state.

**Insurrectionary movement**

A movement challenging established governmental authority through rebellion or insurrection.

**Anti-state movement**

A movement that rejects the existing state structure or its legitimacy.

**Regime-change movement**

A movement seeking replacement of an existing governing regime.

**Revolutionary organization**

An organized political body pursuing revolutionary transformation.

**Replacement movement**

A broad term emphasizing the goal of replacing an existing political system with another.

**Political subversion movement**

Emphasizes efforts to undermine or weaken an established political system.

**Quasi-state movement**

Can describe an organized movement developing governing institutions alongside or in place of existing state institutions.

**Rival sovereignty movement**

Emphasizes a competing claim to political authority or sovereignty.

**Proto-state movement**

Can describe a movement developing institutions that could potentially form the basis of an alternative government.

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## 7. If the Intended Meaning Is Specifically "An Internal Group Seeking Political Replacement"

If the intended meaning is:

A group operating within the United States that seeks to dismantle the existing political order and establish a different governing authority in its place,

several formulations are possible:

### **Revolutionary movement seeking political replacement**

This emphasizes fundamental political transformation.

### **Rival sovereignty movement**

This emphasizes a competing claim to political authority.

### **Political replacement movement**

This emphasizes replacing the existing governing structure.

### **Insurrectionary movement**

This is appropriate only when the group actually engages in or advocates insurrectionary activity.

### **Anti-state movement**

This is appropriate when rejection of the existing state itself is a documented part of the group's position.

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## 8. Distinguishing the Terms

These concepts should not automatically be treated as interchangeable.

**Colonizer** primarily concerns colonization or the establishment of control over another territory or population.

**Imperial power** concerns broader political, territorial, or economic domination.

**Occupying power** concerns military control over territory.

**Interventionist power** concerns outside involvement in another conflict.

**Revisionist power** concerns attempts to change an established political or territorial order.

**Proxy power** concerns an actor operating with the support or interests of another power.

**Revolutionary movement** concerns fundamental transformation of an existing political or social order.

**Separatist or secessionist movement** concerns separation from an existing state.

**Rival sovereignty movement** concerns competing claims to political authority.

**Fifth column** concerns internal actors secretly assisting an opposing side.

Because these concepts describe different relationships, choosing the term based on the documented conduct or objective produces a more precise historical or political description.

*Colonizer, imperial power, occupying power, interventionist, and rival sovereignty.*

Communist, socialist, foreign PACs, race-based groups, radical activists, subversive movements, modern colonizers, and abolitionist or anti-state movements may apply.

**If you are America, remember this is the land of the brave, do not let people intimidate you, it is perfectly okay to draw the line at any form of harmful foreign influence.**