

Supply Chain Decolonization: An Overview

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Abstract

This paper reports on recent work that focus on investigating the decolonization need in supply chain management. The definition of the term decolonization will be explored and will be followed by the characterization of current colonization practices and dynamics. More precisely the current value chain perspective will be analyzed to compare and contrast with the corporate valuation versus the people valuation in some supply chain industries. The research will rely on literature review as well as secondary data of published case studies. The results of this work will help pave the road for more work in this under-served research track in supply chain management especially regarding the underpinning dynamics of modern colonial practices in global south supply chains. In addition, the analysis will shed some light on the challenges facing practitioners and policy makers to better plan for and correct important issues of power, finance and labor in today's supply chains. Finally, it is hopeful that this work will reveal some ethical problems in the field of supply chain management that will open the door for further research and different scholastic and practical discussions.

Keywords

Decolonization; Supply chain; Global social issues

Biography

Ahmed Deif, Ph.D., P.Eng. is an Associate Professor of Operations and Supply Chain Management at the Department of Industrial Technology and Packaging at California Polytechnic State University. Before joining Cal Poly, he was an Assistant Professor at multiple universities (University of Regina, Canada, University of Windsor, Canada, and Nile University, Egypt). His current research interests are in innovation in supply chain management, optimal manufacturing, and service planning and control, lean and green manufacturing/service systems, and dynamic analysis of manufacturing systems. Dr. Deif has more than 75 publications in books, international journals, and refereed conferences. Dr. Deif have a diverse portfolio in his industrial experience ranging from the automotive industry where he worked at the R&D center at Chrysler Canada to the steel industry to electronic industry and finally assembly industry at various engineering and consultancy capacities. As a lean and six sigma certified expert, he helped various industries in improving their production performance and conducted various lean and six sigma trainings in the US, Canada, and the Middle East over the last 20+ years. Dr. Deif is a senior member of SME and member of IIE, APICS, ATMAE, and IEOM organizations. I am a fellow faculty of the Center of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE) at Cal Poly as well as an active member of the Central Coast Lean (CCL) center.