Iris Marion Young, “Five Faces of Oppression” (2004)

FIVE FACES OF OPPRESSION

EXPLOITATION
Act of using people’s labors to produce profit while not compensating them fairly, creating a system that perpetuates class differences.

MARGINALIZATION
Act of relegating or confining a group of people to lower social standing or outer limit or edge of society. Overall, it is a process of exclusion.

POWERLESSNESS
Some people “have” power while others “have-not”. Causes an inhibition to develop one’s capacities, lack of decision-making power, and exposure to disrespectful treatment because of the lowered status.

CULTURAL IMPERIALISM
Involves taking the culture of the ruling class and establishing it as the norm. The groups in power in society control how the people in that society function and communicate.

VIOLENCE
Most obvious and visible form of oppression. Members of some groups live with the knowledge that they must fear random, unprovoked attacks on their persons or property.