

Tribhuvan University

Irony of Colonialism in Herbert George Wells' *The War of the World*

A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English, T.U.

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Arts in English

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Kirtipur, Kathmandu

May 2025

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Acknowledgements

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my research advisors Maheshwor Paudel, Assist. Prof. at Central Department of English for his intellectual guidance, critical comments, genuine suggestion, and providing essential materials. His supervision and inspiration suggestion helped me to prepare this research paper. I am grateful to him for his valuable suggestions and guidance. I would also like express my gratitude to other lectures and my colleagues who really motivated me while making my research paper.

Likewise, I must wholeheartedly acknowledge my deep gratitude to my valued parents, Mr. Tara Bahadur Mukhiya, and Jitmaya Mukhiya, younger brother and sister Sandip Mukhiya, and Susma Mukhiya respectively who encouraged me to work hard and excel in whatever I do.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank the Central Department of English, its faculty members, who have been standing by my side during my difficulties.

May 2025

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Abstract

This research analyses the forces of conflict, violence, destruction, technology as domination, vulnerability, moral contradiction of empire, and psychology of colonized people in H.G. Wells' The War of the Worlds. Wells echoes Martians as all dark and savage replications of brutal European colonizers and chaotic narratives related to cultural hegemony and domination over and subjugation of indigenous populations. So the study engages with the issues around irony of colonialism such as alien(Martians) invasion on Earth, reverse colonization, dominant imperial power and politics, use of advance technology, and dehumanization of that contemporary time and Wells stands as a witness of these all issues in his novel. This research also examines power dynamics, ecological aspects, apocalyptic scenario, hypocrisy of colonialism and existence of alien. The study employs theoretical insights related to post-colonialism particularly discussed by Frantz Fanon and Edward Said. The main aim of this research is to seek the issues of irony in the novel, applying the post-colonial lens. This research finally concludes that Wells' novel uncovers the moral and symbolic ironies within the text, challenging the justification of colonial violence, depicting the psychological state of colonized population, showing the rise and fall of power, moral failures of empire and exposing the fragility of imperial power when roles are reversed.

Keywords: Martians, irony, conflict, violence, destruction, technology, imperialism, power, alien

This research explores irony of colonialism in H. G. Wells' *The War of the Worlds*, arguing that the British initially represent the powerful imperial colonizers but later become victims of Martians invasion. In other words, the novel reverses

colonial roles, showing the colonizers experiencing fear and defeat. This research examines hypocrisy, critique of imperialism and the role reversal. Wells was a prolific English writer renowned for his groundbreaking contributions to science fiction genre. As one of the most prominent literary figures of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Wells explored social, scientific, and philosophical ideas in his works, reflecting his deep engagement with the rapid development of technological and cultural changes of his era. *The War of the Worlds* is known as one of Wells' masterpiece in science fiction genre. The novel is the dramatic story of humanity's first contact with an alien civilization, and humanity's vulnerability to far more advanced technology. It is an allegory of colonization, struggle and ambition against the real danger of scientific overreach and inventions. In the novel, the Martians symbolically represent colonizers and the British people as colonized. This research concludes the moral and symbolic ironies of colonialism, violence, the psychological state of colonized people, the rise and fall of power, moral failures of empire and exposing the fragility of imperial power when rules are reversed.

The War of the Worlds is a story of the Martians' invasion of Earth, human vulnerability, imperialism, survival and resistance to be alive, where the unnamed protagonist is as a kind of eyewitness account. Likewise, the narrator of the novel greatly highlights the struggle faced by mankind against an alien (Martians) invasion. In the novel Wells' trying to show human characteristics through the protagonist is manifested, thoughtful and reasoning. In the beginning of the novel, the narrator looks eager to understand the strange things happening around him, that is, a strange cylinder landing on Woking, Surrey in southern England. As the mysterious cylinder falls from sky, people, at first, believe they are meteors but later that is a Martians with advanced technology and the deadly heat-ray weapons. As the invasion unfolds,

his viewpoint changes, exposing his vulnerability and fear against a Martians from the Mars. The narrator's character can be seen as an embodiment of human pride and intellectualism, which is quickly shattered by the catastrophic events he witnesses. As the story progresses, his character evolves, showing a more introspective, survival-focused side. Despite his initial confidence, he becomes just one more vulnerable human trying to survive in a world turned upside down because of the Martians' high advance technology and attacked up on the people of British. The novel's exploration of both internal struggles and external threats during a crisis depicts the consequence of power, politics, technology and modernization. Martians start an invasion on Earth because their own resources are dwindling. This in turn represents the hegemonic dominance of technology and power because Martians have a more advanced technology than humans do. The novel mirrors the destruction and end of the world perspective brought about by a rapid growth of technology. At the end of the novel, the Martians have eventually been decimated by a flood of earthly pathogens and bacteria or environmental effect.

The characteristic of Martians in the novel is a blend of advanced intelligence, superior technology, and biological vulnerability. Their cold, detached nature and utter lack of compassion for humanity position them as a formidable symbol of alien invaders, unstoppable and relentless in their pursuit of domination. On the other hand, the Martians represent allegorically the British Empire, its power, politics, invention on technology and modernization. The novel depicts the practice of domination, which involves the subjugation of one people by another and one territory by another. In the novel Wells ironically presents the domination of the power and technology upon British territory by extraterrestrial race. The novel has adopted the Martians as an ironic critique of the British imperialism, conflict, violence, apocalypticism and

colonialism. Moreover, the crux of the novel is imperialism, survival, technological progress, and the fragility of civilization, offering a thought-provoking exploration of humanity's place in the universe. Through the Martian invasion, Wells critiques human knowledge, warns of technological hubris, and examines the harsh realities of war and conflict. The novel ultimately challenges readers to reflect on humanity's resilience and the unpredictable forces, both external and internal, that shape our survival. The invasion on Earth by Martians tries to dominate humankind as an act of colonialism. In the novel, the activity of Martians is shown devastating whereby human beings are defending their homeland, identity and territory. In relation to colonialism, Lutfi Hamadi writes, "The powerful colonizer has imposed a language and a culture, whereas those Oriental peoples have been ignored or distorted" (39). Unlike imposing language and culture, Martians in the novel have an advanced technology which could destroy all human's identity and territory in the Earth. Hence, by using their technological power people were suppressing on Earth. According to Shona N. Jackson colonialism refers "to a reorganization of space and to its peopling with foreigners, whose political loyalties remain external to the colonized space" (51-57). Colonialism involves the restructuring of land and its population by introducing foreign individuals whose political allegiance lies with their own country, rather than with the colonized land. This leads to the domination and control of the local space by external forces. So, in the novel Martians have represented power and politics through which they want to replace Londoners and get settled.

In the novel, the Martians have represented power and even evolution of new advanced technology. The issues of colonialism have concerned politics, power and technology. Fanon's concept of colonial violence and psychological trauma connects directly here. The Martians invasion of Earth leaves humans not only physically

devastated but also mentally shattered, caught in a state of terror and helplessness. Fanon states, "Colonialism is not a thinking machine...it is violence in its natural state" (61). That's why, in the novel, the Martians try to control over the depended territory of British. Martians is trying to colonize British territory using their all forces. According to Ronald J. Horvath, the perspective of colonialism "it has either been a dirty business engaged in by evil people, or a praiseworthy endeavor undertaken by fine gentlemen for the noble purpose of saving the wretched, the savage, the unfortunate"(45-57). Colonialism is often viewed in two extreme ways: either as a morally corrupt activity carried out by evil individuals, or as a noble mission led by well-meaning people with the goal of civilizing and saving the oppressed and savage populations. Therefore, in the novel, Martians have been presented as evil characters, who are trying to colonize the territory of the British Empire and rule up on them.

Several critics, scholars, researchers, and reviewers have examined and reviewed Wells' *The War of the Worlds* through various lenses. Wells in his masterpiece science fiction novel has knitted multiple issues in a skillful and artistic way. *The War of the Worlds* is one of the most iconic works of science fiction ever written, and its impact on literature, media, and cultural discourse has been profound. The novel explores the harrowing experience of humanity as it faces an extraterrestrial invasion, symbolizing the anxieties and fears of the late 19th century regarding imperialism, scientific progress, and the consequences of unchecked technological development, through the conflict between humankind and the alien i.e. Martians. Wells presents a narrative that is both a cautionary tale and a reflection on the power dynamics, ecological relationships, and philosophical implications of human expansion. The themes of colonization, domination, the abuse of technology,

and the inherent frailty of human civilization are examined throughout the text. It is, thus, a rich source for postcolonial readings that engage with the implications of power, resistance, and survival in the face of a superior and foreign threat.

In Douglas Cowan's article, *The War of the Worlds*, which is scripted by Barre Lyndon and directed by Byron Haskin, Cowan reflects "the Christian religiosity with which many of these films charged humankind struggles to escape Earth"(1) where he has taught about "presentation of religion"(1) which was differ from the original text by Wells. It discusses the intersection of Christian religiosity and themes in films, particularly those dealing with human struggles to escape Earth. The theme of the article has presented for the purpose of Christian religion. Through this article Douglas shows religious aspect and its impact.

Jeremy Withers and Brendal Tyrrell have also examined Wells' novel as "the adverse environmental effects of warfare" and "an anthropocentrism by depicting the ecologically sophisticated idea that military violence might even be good for some forms of nonhuman life" (56). Their research focuses on environmental consequences of warfare in two seemingly contradictory ways, it acknowledges the destruction warfare brings to the environment, while also presenting an idea where the collapse of human civilization could potentially benefit certain nonhuman life forms by reducing human impact. Withers and Brendal has focused on wars' negative ecological effect and even how the war might be benefit for the some forms of nonhuman life have interpreted paradoxically.

Stephen Barter also deals with Wells' *The War of the Worlds* that reflects "a history of the 'age of hatred' of the twentieth century, showing how the Second World War was the climax of decades of savage warfare which scarred the globe from the 1930s to the 1950s" (3). Barter has taken the reference of twentieth century war then

relates with Wells' novel *The War of the Worlds* where "scenes like the ones Wells imagined became a reality in cities all over the world" (3). It has presented or even anticipated the kinds of global destruction that would occur in the 20th century, suggesting that his work is not only a critique of imperialism and humanity's self-destructive tendencies but also a prescient commentary on the future of warfare. So, Barter deals with war, history, and as a metaphor for the entire twentieth century.

Elfira Cahya Oktaviani addresses issues like nineteenth century, destroy, and sociological approach she accounts that *The War of the Worlds* displays "The Condition of the society in London found in the novel" (1) and "to describe the real events in 19th century London" (1).Oktaviani mirrors the real societal issues facing London in the 19th century. Through the Martian invasion, Wells illustrates and critiques the fragility of human civilization, the imperial anxieties, and the social inequalities prevalent at the time. Thus, Elfira aims to describe both the societal conditions in 19th century London as depicted in the novel and the actual historical events of the particular time through the perspective of Sociological Approach.

Shokhan Mohammed and Ismael Mohammed Fahmi, in "A New Historicist Reading of Reverse Colonization in HG Wells' *The War of the Worlds*," discuss how Wells' novel depicts the historical context of British imperialism, capturing the anxieties of invasion and colonization, "the novel is written during a time when The British Empire has invaded several countries. Thus, the idea of colonization has filled the British people with invasion and its consequences" (241-250). The novel reverses the colonial dynamic by depicting a Martian invasion of England, "through depicting a reverse colonization of England by aliens from Mars" (2). Shokhan and Ismael have subverted the colonial dynamic of the time by reversing the roles of colonizer and colonized. The novel, written during the height of the British Empire's colonization of

other countries, reflects the fears and anxieties that the British had about being invaded or colonized themselves. So, Shokhan and Ismael's study makes clear that Wells' novel is written through the lens of reverse colonization.

Ingo Cornils in his article "The Martians Are Coming! War, Peace, Love, and Scientific Progress in H. G. Well's *The War of the Worlds* and Kurd Labwitz's *Aut Zwel Planeten*," argues, "the invasion of peaceful Victorian England by technologically superior, unsympathetic Martians who wreak havoc in Surrey and London and almost succeed in wiping out the population with their heat rays and black poison gas before they are destroyed by Earth's bacteria" (24-41). Ingo portrays the invasion of Victorian England by Martians, who, despite their technological superiority, are ultimately defeated by a force far beyond their comprehension Earth's bacteria. However, their ultimate downfall is due to something as seemingly insignificant as bacteria, underscoring the vulnerability of even the most advanced civilizations. Ingo has mentioned Martians characteristic and influenced on human; he has emphasized upon the earth's environmental power and ecosystem. While doing this Ingo is unable to portray the conflict and clash between humankind and aliens.

According to Simon J. James in her article "Science Journals: The Worlds of H. G. Wells" Wells is "projecting either a utopian vision of a perfected future or dystopias revealing how the lessons of his work went unheeded [ignored]" (162-164). James explores two contrasting visions of the future one that is utopian (a vision of a perfect, idealized future) and another that is dystopian (a vision of a grim, destructive future). These opposing futures serve as warnings, suggesting that the lessons of his work, the insights about humanity's potential for self-destruction, misuse of science, and failure to address societal issues have been ignored or

unheeded by society. Hence, the article focuses on the vision of the writer and the text, where he analyzes the future world as utopian and dystopian.

In "*Science Fiction and the Victorian Crisis of Faith: secularization of Biblical Narratives in HG Wells' The Island of Doctor Moreau (1896) and The War of the Worlds (1898)*," Alfonso Olmo Gutierrez analyzes the Victorian crisis of faith, secularization, science fiction, Biblical narratives character of the text where, "their secularization of Biblical narratives and tropes with the intention of disclosing the latent ideological conflicts which underly these works and their relation to the Victorian crisis of faith; testing the hypothesis that this religious crisis had a definite impact in the development of the speculative novel" (3). Gutierrez explores the tension between religion and science during the Victorian era, a time when traditional religious beliefs were being increasingly challenged by scientific discoveries and intellectual shifts. The crisis of faith in the Victorian period influenced the evolution of the speculative novel, particularly in how writers like Wells used science fiction and speculative themes to explore and critique issues of faith, morality, and human nature. So, Gutierrez explores the text under the themes of Victorian crisis, secularism and science fiction.

Ercan Gurova considers Wells' text as the first literary depiction of an Earth invasion by outsiders, where "the invasion of Earth by outsiders and it is one of the first major literary texts that contain powerful apocalyptic imagery" (248-261). Gurova focuses on apocalyptic imagery in literature, framing a catastrophic, world ending scenario where humanity is nearly wiped out by alien invaders. In the novel, the Martians, who are coming from Mars have very advanced technology which can easily destroy human beings and earth, "*The war of the Worlds* fits the definition of an

apocalypse which describes the actual end of the world" (248-261). Gurova's research has focused on apocalypse, destruction and the end of the world.

Thus, meticulously considered and pondered by numerous critics, scholars, researchers, and reviewers, Wells' *The War of the Worlds* is examined from different perspectives including its profound impact on literature, media, and cultural discourse. The novel, which portrays a Martian invasion of Earth, explores themes of imperialism, technological advancement, religion, human frailty, identity and ecological destruction. The above reviews have focused regarding apocalyptic reading, ecological aspect, warfare, reverse colonization, religion, history, Victorian era and depicting a dystopian future. However, among all these different contemplations, the issue of irony of colonialism caused by alien invasion, power, politics and technology in Wells' *The war of the Worlds* has not been explored by the earlier researchers. Conducting in-depth research on this issue helps bridge the knowledge gap and deepens our understanding of colonial ethos, the ethics of empire, and the irony of colonialism, as portrayed through the conflict between human beings and the extraterrestrial race in Wells' novel. So, this study attempts to explore and examine how and why the concept of irony of colonialism is shown in the novel through the perspective of post-colonial lens.

This research explores the consequences of colonial activities and the devastating aspect of science and technology based on the incidents and action in the novel. In doing so, this paper examines the irony of British hegemonic thoughts, activities, and politics. Conflict is always disagreement and violent so it might have both positive and negative outcomes. Regarding conflict Lisa Ott and Urike Lune says, "It can consist of a broad range of activities from alternative dispute resolution or strengthening the rule of law, to meditation and the use of force" (7-13).The

conflict begins with the disagreement and use of force. In the novel Martians have such qualities where for their own purpose they used power and force to human beings and territory. The "conflict is the pursuit of contrary or seemingly incompatible interest-whether between individuals, groups or countries" (7-13). The novel has presented conflict between human groups and extraterrestrial group from Mars. It has destructive and apocalypse consequences and scenario in the novel. In the novel, Wells has presented Martians as power and technology because of Martians has an advanced technology more than humankind has on Earth. According to Neil Schaeffer, "Irony is generally conceived of as a form of communication in which the literal meaning is the opposite of, or more correctly different from the intended meaning" (178). In the novel Wells depicts symbolically Martians as a British Empire, power and evolves of technology, where, British is expanding their thoughts, logic, philosophy, and even territory rapidly all over the world by using their power, politics, knowledge, and technology in the name of modernization, thus, the Martians are presented as a colonizer very ironically.

Wells' *The War of the Worlds* has been interpreted in various ways as a critique of British imperialism and colonialism, Victorian superstitions, fears, power dynamics, technology, modernization, and social prejudices. At that time the rapid development of science and technology in Britain had a significant influence across the world. British people are embarked on global imperial expansion especially in Asia and Africa. They colonized the territory of the native people of Asia and Africa for economic, political, and ideological reasons. People in Asia, Africa, and other colonized regions resisted colonization through both violent and non-violent means. Their forms of resistance were influenced by local cultures, leadership, available resources, and the strategies employed by the colonizers. Like this, in the novel, after

Martians invade the Earth (British), two different races are fighting against each other, and human beings are defending their homeland. On the other hand, aliens (Martians) attempt to capture the humans and rule upon them. Through this conflict Wells tries to show the concept of power, technology, modernization and its impacts.

The novelist depicts the effect of political and technological hegemony through a clash between humankind and aliens. Wells begins the novel with some assumption by the narrator who is unnamed protagonist of the novel that "At most terrestrial men fancied there might be other men upon Mars, perhaps inferior to themselves and ready to welcome a missionary enterprise"(4). Here people of British are thinking of extraterrestrial race in the Mars, and they could be less powerful, intelligent and backward than the human beings who are living on the earth. But "Yet across the gulf of space, minds that are to our minds as ours are to those of the beasts that perish, intellects vast and cool and unsympathetic, regarded this earth with envious eyes, and slowly and surely drew their plans against us. And early in the twentieth century came the great disillusionment" (4-5).The extraterrestrial race is different, more intelligent and more powerful than the humans. Moreover, these extraterrestrial creatures have advanced technology and weapons.

In the novel, Wells portrays the narrator in a distinctive and complex manner. The narrator remains unnamed throughout the novel, which adds to the story's sense of universality and relatability, making it feel as though any person could be undergoing the catastrophic events. The narrator serves as both a personal witness to the events and a vehicle for the larger themes of the novel, such as the fragility of human civilization, the unpredictability of science, and the insignificance of mankind in the grand scheme of the universe. In *The War of the Worlds*, the relationship between the narrator and Ogilvy, an astronomer, is relatively brief but significant. The

Narrator first encounters Ogilvy when he observes the strange object which is Martian falling from the sky. Ogilvy, who is, "the well-known astronomer, at Ottershaw" (9) described as a highly regarded astronomer, is consulted by the narrator and others in the community to explain the strange event. Ogilvy's professional expertise adds credibility to the mysterious event. Ogilvy takes the object seriously and initially suggests that it might be a meteorite or a comet. He quickly deduces that it is something far more extraordinary when the object begins to open, revealing the alien Martians. Ogilvy's role is important because it marks the first moment when the human characters understand that the Martians are not simply some natural phenomena but are an externally dangerous force.

While the narrator and Ogilvy are observing Mars through the telescope the Narrator sees:

Near it in the field, I remember, were three faint points of light, three telescopic stars infinitely remote, and all around it was the unfathomable darkness of empty space. You know how that blackness looks on a frosty star light night. In a telescope it seems far profounder. And invisible to me because it was so remote and small, flying swiftly and steadily towards me across that incredible distance, drawing nearer every minute by so many thousands of miles, came the Thing they were sending us, the Thing that was to bring so much struggle and calamity and death to the earth. I never dreamed of it then as I watched; no one on earth dreamed of that unerring missile. (10)

The War of the Worlds lies in the narrator's reflection on the vastness of space and the sense of impending doom brought by the Martian invasion. The narrator describes a moment of observation through a telescope, where he sees distant stars and the unmeasurable darkness of space, invoking a feeling of insignificance and isolation.

However, within this vast emptiness, something small and seemingly insignificant the Martian missile is making its way toward Earth, unknowingly heading towards a catastrophic encounter.

Day by day, the threat of the Martians rapidly increases among the people of Britain. The activities of the Martians have been unnatural for the past few days where:

Hundreds of observers saw the flame that night and the night after about midnight, and again the night after; and so for ten nights, a flame each night. Why the shots ceased after the tenth no one on earth has attempted to explain. It may be the gases of the firing caused the Martians in- convenience. Dense clouds of smoke or dust, visible through a powerful telescope on earth as little grey, fluctuating patches, spread through the clearness of the planet's atmosphere and obscured its more familiar features. (12)

The nature of the activities by Martian denizens continues to become more mysterious and alarming to Earth's inhabitants. The narrator mentions a sequence of flames witnessed on Earth for ten consecutive nights, implying some Martian movement or invasion. Given this evolution, it's curious the eventual withdrawal of the "shots" after night ten (which also has gone unexplained) opened a door to some uncertainty going forward. "And, all unsuspected, those missiles the Martians had fired at us drew earthward, rushing now at a pace of many miles a second through the empty gulf of space, hour by hour and day by day, nearer and nearer" (12). The growing mystery and tension carried out by the Martian invasion preoccupy the British, highlighting the limits of human understanding in the face of an advanced and unknown threat.

In *The War of the Worlds*, the relationship between the narrator and his wife is not deeply explored, but it plays a role in highlighting the emotional and personal

stakes during the Martian invasion. "My wife pointed out to me the brightness of the red, green, and yellow signal lights hanging in a framework against the sky. It seemed so safe and tranquil" (13). But their bond becomes secondary to the larger existential crisis posed by the invasion, highlighting the personal sacrifices and separation caused by the crisis. However, it is not a major focal point of the plot. The narrator's interactions with his wife reflect the broader theme of human vulnerability and the disruption of ordinary life by extraordinary events.

The fear of the Martian invasion gradually increases as people see falling stars in the sky. In the novel:

The Ogilvy had seen the shooting star and who was persuaded that a meteorite lay somewhere on the common between Horsell, Ottershaw, and Woking, rose early with the idea of finding it. Find it he did, soon after dawn, and not far from the sand pits. An enormous hole had been made by the impact of the projectile, and the sand and gravel had been flung violently in every direction over the heath, forming heaps visible a mile and a half away. The heather was on fire eastward, and a thin blue smoke rose against the dawn. (15)

The discovery of the Martian projectile that crashed on Earth, marking the beginning of the Martian invasion. The scene is one of awe and foreboding as the observer, initially believing the object to be a meteorite, but later finds a massive impact crater caused by the Martian craft. The violent and destructive force of the invasion, with the sand and gravel scattered over a wide area and a fire burning nearby. Fanon argues that colonialism always begins with violent intrusion, and "decolonization is always a violent phenomenon" (35). In the novel Martians are represented as a colonizer and invaded the British people violently. The imagery of the thin blue smoke rising against the dawn sets a haunting tone, symbolizing the beginning of a catastrophic

event, violence and conflict. The first physical evidence of the Martian threat, setting the stage for the unfolding disaster while also highlighting the scale of the destruction caused by the Martians' arrival on Earth.

The people of Britain are unaware of the Martians' existence until their arrival. The Martians send multiple cylindrical pods, which fall from their spaceship like flaming meteors. These solid metal objects eventually crash onto Earth, with one landing in Woking, England, serving as the central point of the story. People are thinking that the cylinder as a meteorite, "But it's something more than a meteorite. It's a cylinder —an artificial cylinder, man! And there's something inside" (18). A man from Mars inside the cylinder could create a conflict between human beings and aliens from Mars. People in Britain are still confused about whether there is a man from Mars or just a meteorite as a cylinder. The cylinder from Mars hasn't been opened yet, and many believe there might be a living creature inside.

The narrator returns home to Maybury from Woking station, where the cylinder had fallen. The next day, he visits the edge of the pit and meets a group of people, including Henderson, Ogilvy, and others, who are observing the cylinder. There has been no movement or activity from the cylinder so far, and no one knows what the Martians' next move might be. The narrator expects something possibly a little different from us terrestrial men from Mars but:

Those who have never seen a living Martian can scarcely imagine the strange horror of its appearance. The peculiar V-shaped mouth with its pointed upper lip, the absence of brow ridges, the absence of a chin beneath the wedge like lower lip, the incessant quivering of this mouth, the Gorgon groups of tentacles, the tumultuous breathing of the lungs in a strange atmosphere, the evident heaviness and painfulness of movement due to the greater

gravitational energy of the earth—above all, the extraordinary intensity of the immense eyes—were at once vital, intense, inhuman, crippled and monstrous.

(29)

It highlights the inhuman, monstrous, and alien features of the Martian, emphasizing its strange physical characteristics such as a V-shaped mouth, tentacles, and enormous eyes that evoke fear and horror. The Martian's appearance is not only physically different but also suggests vulnerability and struggle, as it suffers from the Earth's stronger gravity. It conveys the profound sense of dread and alienness that the Martian embodies. But the narrator and others observe, the Martians reveal themselves as tripod machines or vehicles that appear to be equipped with deadly weapons, such as heat rays, further intensifying the suspense and danger. The opening of the cylinder marks the beginning of the invasion and conflict that will change the course of human history. The Martians make their dramatic, terrifying entrance to Earth. The novel begins with alien burning objects tumbling down from the sky which are then revealed as Martian cylinders huge metal casks. These cylinders come down at various locations across the planet the first of them near London, in a place called Woking. Here, the Martians themselves can be interpreted as taking the role of imperial powers, coming from a technically superior civilization, comparable to nineteenth and early twentieth century European colonial powers. Such powers tended to regard less technology-driven regions of the globe as ripe for domination and plunder. The narrator feels "I was a battleground of fear and curiosity" (32). After the opening of the cylinder and the appearance of the Martians, the fear of conflict between humans and the extraterrestrial race on Earth emerges.

The Martians appear as sluggish, heavy, and grotesque creatures, uncomfortable with the Earth's environment and gravitational force, possessing quite

different characteristics. Though the Martians' appearance is accompanied using advanced weaponry, such as heat-rays and chemical weapons, which devastate human populations.

All I felt was that it was something very strange. An almost noise- less and blinding flash of light, and a man fell headlong and lay still; and as the unseen shaft of heat passed over them, pine trees burst into fire, and every dry furze bush became with one dull thud a mass of flames. And far away towards Knaphill I saw the flashes of trees and hedges and wooden buildings suddenly set alight. (36)

The Martians' silent flash of light that causes immediate devastation setting fire to trees, bushes, and buildings. The imagery conveys the clear power and terrifying effect of the Martian weaponry, as well as the helplessness of those witnessing the destruction. The reference to people and nature being instantly swallowed in flames emphasizes the unstoppable and destructive force of the Martians' technology. Igarape Institute regarding conflict, "conflict refers be a complex set of social interactions that are subject to escalation, eruption, transformation, and/or recurrence, and that therefore can also experience periods of "latency," in which underlying antagonisms and other root causes temporarily become less salient but remain essentially unresolved. In such settings, it may take only a small trigger for long-held resentments to rise to the surface and escalate into broad violence" (7). *The War of the Worlds* shows the conflict between humanity and the Martians mirrors the complex, non-linear nature of conflict. Initially, in the British there is a peace, but the sudden appearance of the Martians and their overwhelming power disrupts British people and their homeland. This creates tensions in human society and suddenly erupts into violence. The Martians' arrival triggers an escalation of violence, as their superior

technology and destructive force rapidly overwhelm Earth's defenses. While humans initially try to understand and coexist with the alien presence, the situation quickly transforms into a brutal and destructive conflict. Martians starts to attack upon the human beings and their homeland, "It was sweeping round swiftly and steadily, this flaming death, this invisible, inevitable sword of heat" (36). The Martians' technology is powerful and destructive, leaving little chance for survival or escape. It has begun killing the people of Britain.

As we know, the concept of post-colonial theory engages with the concept of Empire, invasion and the notion of Otherness. In the novel the Martians land on Earth, and their conquest of the planet is ruthless, technologically advanced and leaves no room for the humans they encounter. This mirrors what happened to colonized peoples as they were often invaded, subjugated, and exploited by European powers. Like the European colonizers who saw themselves starkly reflected in the people they met, the Martians are an alien, technologically powerful "Other." The invasion of Martians represents the behavior of imperial powers at their height, a profile that becomes more appealing as the mention of it becomes more frequent, just as when accounts of imperial powers were at their height, recalls the European colonization. The Martians see Earth as ultimately a territory to conquer and plunder and occupy, just as European empires saw native lands and people as assets to exploit. The way the narrative portrays their disregard for human life reflects the dehumanization that often defined colonial attitudes.

As the events unfold, the people of Britain defend their homeland and existence. The soldiers protect the British population, while the Martians gradually establish their presence on Earth. The Martians have started to occupy the territory of the people on Earth. Regarding colonialism Osterhammel and Frisch denotes,

"colonialism is the system of domination put in place to serve the interests of empire and is to be understood as the operational dimension of imperialism . . . conquest and resistance" (410). So, colonialism is a mechanism of control and exploitation. In the novel Wells portrays the Martian invasion as a metaphor for colonialism, where the Martians establish a system of domination over Earth to serve their own interests, similar to how empires historically used colonialism to exploit and control other lands. The Martians, like colonial powers, invade with the aim of conquering and exploiting the resources of Earth, treating humans as inferior beings to be repressed. And they started to kill the people using their heat ray. The Narrator address that, "the morning papers had contained only a very inaccurate description of the killing of Stent, Henderson, Ogilvy, and the others" (59). The Martian's heat-ray began to kill the people of Britain, "Apparently the Martians were setting fire to everything within range of their Heat-Ray" (64).The conflict between human beings and the Martians begins when the Martians invade Earth. The Martians begin their attack by using highly destructive weapons, such as heat-rays and poison gas, which are far more advanced than anything humans have. The human military is unable to defend against the Martian onslaught, and entire cities are devastated as the Martians continue their campaign to conquer Earth.

Furthermore, *The War of the Worlds* narrates the story of Martians trying to extend their empire and put themselves in control of this planet and resources. The empires that colonize and extract from the last habitable world, it's all driven by the desperate search for a new home, and the need to service that colony, because the ones that send the ships are desperate as their own planet has been stripped of resources. Their desire to expand their empire can be understood in a number of ways, all of which paralleled human imperialism of the nineteenth century, European

colonization more specifically. The lack of resource in Mars is the driving impetus behind the Martians' invasion of Earth. Their civilization begins on their home planet, which is portrayed as dying and depleted of the resources needed to sustain their civilization. When they arrive on Earth, they immediately start to seek the world's natural resources, mostly with increasingly sophisticated technology, like the heat-rays they use to kill human beings. The Martians' effort to extend their empire through the plunder of Earth's resources reflects the practices of colonial powers particularly European imperialists who invaded foreign lands to acquire natural resources, land, and labor. In the same way that European colonizers often perceived the people they encountered as inferior or as barriers to their imperial goals, the Martians see humans as at best, nuisances to be cleared away, at worst, resources to be extracted. They have no empathy or understanding for human life and culture. Instead, they view humans as if they are merely obstacles in the paths of their imperialistic ambitions, displaying the same attitudes that colonizers held of indigenous people as the sub-human or lesser beings that stood in their way.

As the Martians attack begins, the narrator's condition shifts dramatically. He is filled with fear and panic, particularly when the Martians use their powerful weapons like heat-rays and poison gas, decimating human populations and military forces. Fanon describes how colonization destroys the subjectivity and humanity of the colonized. He argues, "The colonized man is an envious man. What we see is that they are powerful, while he is the object of pity"(52). At the beginning of the novel, the narrator lives in the world where humans particularly the British believe they are the most advance species. But the arrival of the Martians destroyed the belief. The narrator sees Martians are powerful and high technological rather than British people. The narrator's condition evolves from one of curiosity to horror and then

witnesses of the conflict and violence between humans and Martians. He expresses the condition of the Martians invasion, "I was absolutely in the dark as to the course of the evening's fighting. I did not know even the circumstances that had precipitated the conflict" (66). Here the narrator protagonist of the novel shows the psychological fear during the colonial period. Fanon's idea of colonialism inflicts deep psychological fear, inferiority, helplessness and violence in the novel. The narrator frequently expresses overwhelming fear and disorientation, feelings of confusion, conflict, fear, and loss of control that the narrator experiences as Earth is suddenly plunged into war with a far superior alien force. Here allegorically British society's sense of superiority is shattered, much like how colonized subjects must confront their inferiority in the face of domination. The underlying confusion and loss of control experienced by the narrator in *The War of the Worlds* is intimately connected with the post-colonial themes, and represents how vulnerable, fearful and uncertain colonized peoples become when faced with a force greater than them. These novel invites deep consideration of the resemblances of invasion, power, and subjugation to the lives of post-colonial states healing in the aftermath of imperialism.

Osterhammel and Frisch in their research define, "Colonization has two dominant approaches: seeing the colonizer as on a civilizing mission or seeing the colonizer as nothing but invaders to be resisted" (140). They identify these two dominant ways of conceptualizing colonization, one as a benevolent mission, and the other as an act of violence and oppression. The Martians, like colonizers, invade Earth with overwhelming force and advanced technology, seeing humanity as inferior and good for exploitation. Martians destroy entire cities, lay waste to human infrastructure, and systematically eradicate the human population. This destruction represents the way colonizers often disrupted and erased the cultures, economies, and

social structures of colonized people. After Martians attacks in the homeland of Britain the Narrator experience, "And this was the little world in which I had been living securely for years, this fiery chaos! What had happened in the last seven hours I still did not know . . ." (77). The British people suddenly felt very fragile and helpless as the Martians invaded. The Martians' use of advanced technology such as the heat-ray and chemical weapons mirrors the technological superiority that colonizers often had over indigenous populations. This technological advantage allows them to dominate and subdue the Earth without much resistance, symbolizing how colonizers used military technology to overpower and oppress colonized people. It represents the reverse and ironic state of colonization through the novel.

As the invasion progresses, London becomes a key target as the Martians aim to conquer and colonize the Earth. As we know, the colonizer always seeks to extend their empire through forceful invasion or conflict, aiming to subjugate one race by another. In the novel, "London in danger of suffocation! The Kingston and Richmond defences forced! Fearful massacres in the Thames Valley!" (127). People of London are in the terror and helplessness of the human population in the face of an unstoppable alien (Martians) threat. The novel depicts an invasion of Earth by Martians in a fashion similar to the way in which European colonial powers once invaded and dominated lands in Africa, Asia and the Americas. Even the Martians are technologically advanced over the humans who inhabit Mars, just as colonial powers had superior technology over the native peoples they colonized. In the novel a Martian invasion leads to widespread devastation in London. As the Martians advance from their initial landing sites, they use their towering tripod machines to eliminate anything in their path. These machines are equipped with heat-rays and other powerful weapons, which cause widespread fires and destruction across London. In

the novel the narrator expresses the condition of the London's people, "it was a stampede—a stampede gigantic and terrible—without order and without a goal, six million people unarmed and unprovisioned, driving headlong. It was the beginning of the rout of civilization, of the massacre of mankind" (166). So it shows depiction of the chaotic and uncontrollable panic among the people of London during the Martian invasion. The civilization and homeland of the people of London are under threat due to the Martian invasion. Here, the Martians treatment and invasion of humans using them as resources and trying to dominate the Earth mirrors the way colonizer exploited native populations for labor and natural resources.

The story picks up with Martians' invasion beginning to take more devastating shape. In the novel, where the initial excitement and curiosity about the Martian arrival turns into very terrifying scenario. The Earth is totally under the Martians from Mars. The invading Martians, later revealed to be both highly intelligent and grotesquely unearthly, are superior technologically to humans. They have deadly weapons, including a heat-ray that they use to instantly incinerate anything in their path. The heat-ray is first used to wipe out human civilization and stop human settlements and infrastructure in an instant. The narrator expresses, "I have an impression that many of the houses here were still occupied by scared inhabitants, too frightened even for flight" (185). Here, the narrator of the novel is under the power dynamics between the colonizer (Martians) and the colonized (British People). The impacts of a Martians invasion on the people of British are overwhelmed, paralyzed by fear, and unsure of how to defend to the superior, terrifying advance force that has arrived on the earth. This is particularly relevant in the early stages of colonization when indigenous populations often lack the means, knowledge, or unity to mount an effective defense. In *The War of the Worlds*, this refusal to fight parallels the reactions

of many colonized peoples when faced with invading forces often, they do not resist because they are too scared or demoralized by the might of the invading force. Far from simply being invaders, the Martians are technologically superior giants, towering over their human target in both size and psychological impact much like how they were viewed by indigenous populations in relation to European imperial powers.

The destruction of identity, imprisonment, and humanity's vulnerability are all integral states of colonialism. The novel depicts the invasion, conflict and eradication of the recognizable, comfortable British world. The Martians' invasion shatters British society; its infrastructure is obliterated, its citizens plunged into survival mode. In the novel the narrator saw that, "the Martians had taken away the excavating machine, and, save for a fighting-machine that stood in the remoter bank of the pit and a handling-machine that was buried out of my sight in a corner of the pit immediately beneath my peephole, the place was deserted by them" (218). It shows the scenario of the British after the Martians' invasion, where the Martians begin their attack with their highly advanced technology, aiming to erase the identity of human beings on Earth. It reflects the destabilization of colonized nations, when colonial powers destroy existing structures and new worlds are implemented, leaving native peoples discomfited and vulnerable. The novel critiques the notion of colonial powers being too big to fail or immortal through the very defeat of British civilization.

In the novel, the narrator describes a moment of extreme fear and desperation after the Martian invasion where the narrator expresses, "I lay all the tenth day in the close darkness, buried among coals and firewood, not daring even to crawl out for the drink for which I craved. It was the eleventh day before I ventured so far from my security" (226). The narrator hides in a dark, cramped place, probably a cellar, among

coal and firewood. This conveys the total matter of isolation and vulnerability he is feeling. He is so frightened of the Martians, who are wreaking havoc that he does not even dare to venture out of his hiding place to get water for his desperate thirst. The narrator's sense of helplessness, fear, and psychology shows the crisis of human identity and vulnerability. It also echoes the themes of imprisonment, human vulnerability and survival that run throughout the novel, as the narrator tries to stay alive in a conflict and chaos world.

As the story progresses, the Martians, despite their advanced technology and power, were ultimately defeated not by human weapons or strategies, but by the simplest and most humble forces disease causing bacteria. In the novel while the narrator is returning to the Leatherhead to find his wife he saw, "the Martians—DEAD!—slain by the putrefactive and disease bacteria" (273). The death of the Martians was an ironic and humbling turn of events. Despite their advanced technology, their overwhelming power, and their apparent superiority over the human race, the Martians meet their end not from human weapons or tactics, but by something far simpler, bacteria that cause disease here on Earth. This is one of the points of *The War of the Worlds*, the Martians are vulnerable to the microorganisms that humans have evolved over the millennia to resist. For the Martians, the Earth is a new and different environment. In the novel Wells expresses that, "there are no bacteria in Mars, directly these invaders arrived, directly they drank and fed, our microscopic allies began to work their overthrow" (273). It notes that Mars has no bacteria, which are essential for life on Earth, and therefore suggests that the Martian invaders arrived and immediately began munching and drinking, with no biological resistance in their way. Gradually the Martians are doomed, dying and rotting, caused by the earth's ecological effect. Wells' *The War of the Worlds*, the Martians are

defeated by Earth's bacteria and microorganisms. The Martians, despite their advanced technology and powerful weaponry, have no natural immunity to microbes and diseases endemic to Earth. These microscopic creatures are harmless to humans but can deliver fatal infections to the Martians. This biological component, for which they have no preparation, kills them, and their invasion fails not because of humanity's resistance, but because they are beset by the planet's unseen, natural defenses.

This research engages with the issues of conflict and irony of colonialism viewing through the post-colonial lens. To generalize the views of irony and post colonialism in the text need to have certain theories, philosophy and ideas. As we know, conflict refers to a situation where two or more parties have opposing values, needs, desires, or interests, leading to a disagreement or struggle. Regarding the conflict Kenneth W. Thomas states, "conflict as the process which begins when one party perceives that another has frustrated, or is about to frustrate, some concern of his . . . the point when other social processes switched over into conflict" (265). That is because, in the novel, the conflict between the humans and the Martians starts when they (Martians) can no longer find enough resources on their own planet to sustain themselves and look for alternatives on earth. Their arrival is an affront to the concerns of humanity, above all the concern for survival and sovereignty. Until they realize the Martians' true intentions, the humans are taken by surprise at the vast technological superiority of the attackers. When the Martians start leveling cities and killing people indiscriminately, the conflict is clear, prompted by the humans' perception that their very existence is threatened. The Martians view Earth and its resources as a source of potential life, thus sparking the so-called war. The novel depicts this process as a series of incidents in which human preoccupations are

thwarted by the Martians, culminating in the evolution of a larger conflict. The humans, fighting back and struggling to stay alive, come to the high point of their conflict with the aliens, which is then resolved by the aliens' surprising inability to survive exposure to the bacteria on Earth, a biological factor they never anticipated.

In the novel, the Martians are allegorically portrayed as the British, reflecting the British Empire's power, technological advancements, and rapid expansion. Just as the British Empire extended its territory, knowledge, philosophy, and political influence across the world in the name of modernization, the Martians similarly embody this notion of progress and dominance. Regarding colonialism Margaret Kohn and Kavita Reddy express, "Colonialism is a practice of domination, which involves the subjugation of one people to another" (np). In Wells' *The War of the Worlds*, a post-colonial reading of the clash between humanity and the alien Martians mirrors the relations of colonialism. The Martians show off superior technology and infiltrate Earth the way the imperial powers of the 19th century, Britain being a case in point, invaded foreign territories. Similarly, just as colonial powers attempted to overtake and subjugate indigenous peoples, the Martians see humans as subservient, dense, and disposable, as colonizers would view the colonized people. In the way that the Martians treat humans using them to carry out experiments, enlisting them as a resource, the colonial powers treat indigenous people as dehumanized others to exert control over land and management of resources. This view also has to do with the panic and dread that colonized peoples might have experienced in the presence of powerful foreigners, it recalls the impotence and defenselessness that humans feel during the Martian invasion. These activities shows the irony of colonialism up on British people.

Hence, in the novel *Humans versus Martians* conflict echoes an irony of colonialism caused by power dynamics. The Martians, reminiscent of colonizers, invade the Earth with a sense of superiority, aiming to take control of the planet and plunder its resources. This is similar to the actions of European colonizers especially British, who invaded foreign lands in the name of greed and control over land. Martians' careless barbarism and high technology represent the conqueror's overconfidence and belief in superiority over the "other." The conflict and fighting were brutal but the humans early on have almost no offensive weapons against the Martians and are pretty much helpless and the Martian with their advanced civilization wins out initially. But the completely unanticipated victory that occurs as a result of the Martians' failure to withstand terrestrial bacteria is a pivotal moment that showcases the unpredictable nature of colonialism that colonizers often overlook, much like the inability of colonizers to comprehend or dominate the civilizations, ecosystems, or people that are the focus of their imperialistic desires.

In analyzing the novel, Fanon argues that colonization is violent and dehumanizing force. By reading *The War of the Worlds* through Fanon's decolonial theory, the novel becomes a powerful critique of imperialism, showing the psychological and physical violence of colonization from the perspective of the colonized transforming a science fiction invasion into a postcolonial allegory. In the novel, Wells' represents the Martians as the colonizers (foreign) and human beings as colonized (Native population). The British historically colonizer suddenly experience what it's like to be colonized by a more powerful alien force. As the novel unfolds, the imbalance of power between the two groups (Humans and Martians) results in a volatile and destructive fight and conflict, but also an oversight on part of the colonizers the real-life failure of many colonizers to anticipate the resilience of

indigenous peoples and environments. Regarding Violence Frantz Fanon expresses that, "if violence began this very evening and if exploitation and oppression had never existed on the earth, perhaps the slogans of non-violence might end the quarrel. But if the whole regime, even your non-violent ideas, are conditioned by a thousand-year-old oppression, your passivity serves only to place you in the ranks of the oppressors" (25). In the novel, Wells tells the story of Martians invading Earth, bringing destruction and domination upon humanity. Though the Martians are fictional aliens, their role mirrors that of European colonial powers arriving with superior technology, viewing the local population (humans) as inferior, and exerting ruthless control over them. Fanon's view can reframe the Martian invasion from the purely sci-fi disaster of the cultural imagination and make it a metaphor for colonial domination. Humanity, used to playing the role of colonizer, is now the colonized, feeling for the first time what it means to be violently dominated by an outside force stronger than you are. Fanon contends that colonization is a violent dehumanizing phenomenon. Because in Wells' novel, the British power is the historical colonizer and now the colonized, experiencing the penetration of a more advanced colonial alien force. This narrative reversal is a metonym for the experience of the colonized by Others (Martians) who arrive with crushing technological superiority. They invariably wreck human infrastructures of every kind, acting much as European empires once ravaged colonized societies. This is how Fanon explains the colonization subject, who is muted, terrorized, dominated and brutalized in colonized status.

From a post-colonial perspective, Wells' novel can be read as a critique of imperialism, invasion, conflict, power dynamics and the brutal subjugation that accompanies it. Where the Martians are a metaphor for colonizers and their ruthless invasion of Earth is an allegory of all that is horrible about colonial conquest.

Colonization may seem like an unstoppable force in much of this novel, but the final word is that it can be defeated. The Martians, however, are ultimately defeated by germs from Earth, despite the fact that they appeared to have the superior force. In the end, it is the culture of the world, the culture of the colonized, perhaps that proves much stronger.

While analyzing Wells' *The War of the Worlds* through the lens of post-colonialism, Edward Said's theory of Orientalism is equally pertinent. According to Said, "The Orient was almost a European invention, and had been since antiquity a place of romance, exotic beings, haunting memories and landscapes, remarkable experiences" (1). Said examines, the "Orient," or the East, was not simply a location, but a concept and one that was largely fabricated in the West. Europe invented the "Orient" and expressed it according to exoticism, romanticism with Eastern cultures were frequently depicted as mysterious, inferior and dangerously strange. This was used as a rationale to provide colonial domination and control. Likewise, "the Orient" was built as the land of mystery, backwardness and barbarism in order to justify its imperial management and domination. In this framework, the "Orient" is described as exotic, irrational, and inferior, with Western civilization being simply more superior, rational, and civilized. In a nutshell, 'Orientalism' refers to the study of how the East is viewed, stereotyped, and dominated by the West. Applying this in the novel, we can see many similarities when it comes to colonial domination and the representation of the Martians. The Martians in the novel are depicted as advanced extraterrestrial creatures who are seemingly superior in the same way the West saw itself at the time compared to the colonists. The Martians invading Earth mimic the gradual colonization efforts of imperial powers by seeing humans as both inferior and the subjects of exploitation and domination. As a discourse was constructed around the

“Orient” in the West to be conquered, so the Martians build up Earth as such to be conquered and dominated. In that sense, the Martians are very much colonizers and invaders, they come with superior technology, they consider humans inferior, and they methodically eradicate the human population, just as colonizers might see natives as a hindrance to their imperial designs. In the novel this is the irony of colonialism.

Edward Said’s theory of Orientalism can be applied to the Martians as symbols of the so called “West” or colonizers attempting to dominate the “Other,” which is Earth (British), and by association, the human race. Colonial powers often considered the lands they invaded as “the Orient,” as Said points out countries to dominate and exploit, which appeared inferior or “savage” compared to their own civilization. Just as colonizers see their colonies as labor and resource extraction on which they can survive, Martians see Earth (especially British) in this way in *The War of the Worlds*. The relationship between the Martians and the humans parallels Said’s idea of an aspect of “the West” creating an identity in contrast to the “Orient.” The Martians’ view of humans as weak and inferior mirrors the way colonialists constructed narratives that made their perceived objectives of domination over colonized peoples seem justifiable. The Martians’ eventual defeat, due to an invisible biological agent they never predicted, also underscores how colonial powers misjudged the societies they set out to dominate, resulting in their own undoing.

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak’s idea of the subaltern in which she refers to those who despite their numbers are excluded from the conversation and must submit to dominant powers is also relevant to the human reaction to the Martian invasion. The humans, exclusively for most of the early parts of the novel are the subaltern, they find themselves at the mercy of the Martians, who can decimate the humans even if

they don't have the physical appearance of us from Earth, without any hope that they'd be able to retaliate, due to the overwhelming technological superiority of their colonizers. The humans are silenced, hushed, unheard as colonized populations so often were, as if their agency or even their voices were theirs to use.

This is where Wells' *The War of the Worlds*, illustrating the power dynamics of science fiction, ends up being relevant to humans, in terms of how they confront the Martian invasion, serve as the subaltern. The Martians in the novel embody a sophisticated, technologically advanced race that enslaves both the Earth and its people. Humans, who were the dominant species on Earth, find themselves cast into subjugation, vulnerable to an alien (Martians) force. Finally, within this vein, the humans in *The War of the Worlds* serve as a metaphor for the subaltern voices that are drowned out, marginalized, and ultimately rendered impotent when facing a greater power. The ultimate failure of the Martian imperialist project reinforces a key post-colonial idea that colonialism can often be undone by forces that the colonizers cannot help but contain or predict. The Martians, for all their technological and militaristic superiority, go down because they don't know about Earth's microbial life. This is characteristic of the post-colonial idea that imperial sovereignty is weak and often untenable against local forces, whether biological, cultural or political, that elude the colonialists' comprehension.

In this light, the novel challenges colonial powers' belief they can dominate and reform any environment according to their own plans. Colonialism is inherently violent, not just physically but also psychologically and structurally. The colonized are subjected to systematic oppression, exploitation, and dehumanization. It also suggests the very power of the colonized, even in their seeming powerlessness. The

Martians' ignorance and inability to adapt mimic the eventual downfall of imperial powers oblivious to the agency, strength and resilience of subjugated peoples.

In the end, after long engagement with Wells' novel *The War of the Worlds* is more than a science fiction story, which shows an ironic reflection of colonialism and the ethics of the empire. The conflict between humankind and an extraterrestrial race presented in the novel's narration is analogous to the hierarchical relationship between the colonizers and the colonized. By placing humans (British people) in the position of the colonized, Wells forces readers especially a Western people to confront the brutality, violence and moral emptiness of colonial conquest, at that time who are deeply engaged to colonize the Asian and African territory. Therefore, it engages with the issues of irony caused by violence, power, politics, domination, technology, and colonialism. Significantly, Wells draws the image of irony on colonialism allegorically, where Martians are symbolized as British and British people are other people. The text is set in the late Victorian era, where British Empire is going through political reforms, colonial antagonism, war, industrial supremacy and global imperial expansion particularly in Asia and Africa. In the novel, the conflict, violence and fight between humankind and an extraterrestrial race are portrayed by the protagonist, the narrator. In doing so, *The War of the Worlds*, through the clash between humankind and the Martians, serves as a poignant lens through which to explore post-colonial theories. Through the framework derived from the works of Said, Fanon and Spivak, discreet the novel serves as a critique of the law of colonialism and this is shown precisely through the tension between the colonizer and the colonized, the master and the slave. The Martians' initial superiority and ultimate fall parallel the fragility of imperialism, while humanity's survival and resistance signify the resilience of the colonized. In the end, the invasion sends us

deeper into the politics of the world rather than space, the novelist employs the Martian invasion as a metaphor for wider colonization, resistance and the invisible forces that shape history, a theme detailed by the post-colonial theorist. Hence, the novelist in his novel attempts to show the irony of colonialism which is created by the power, politics, technology and the extraterrestrial race.

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