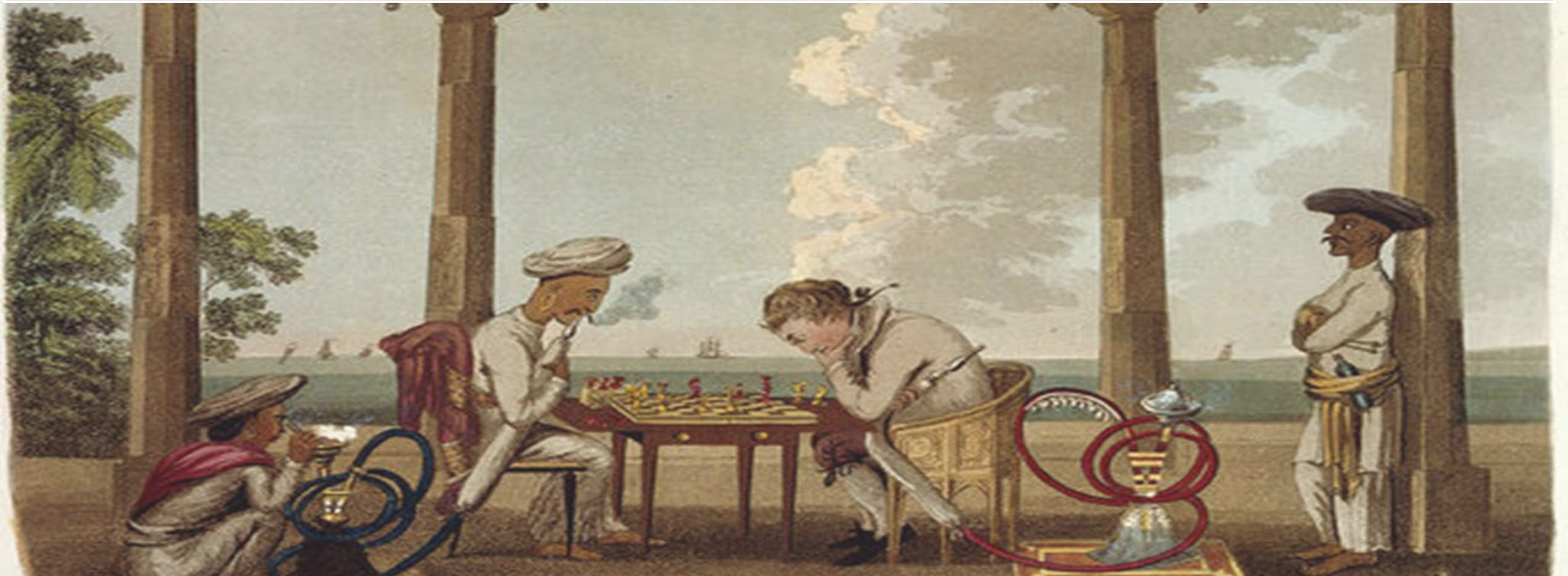
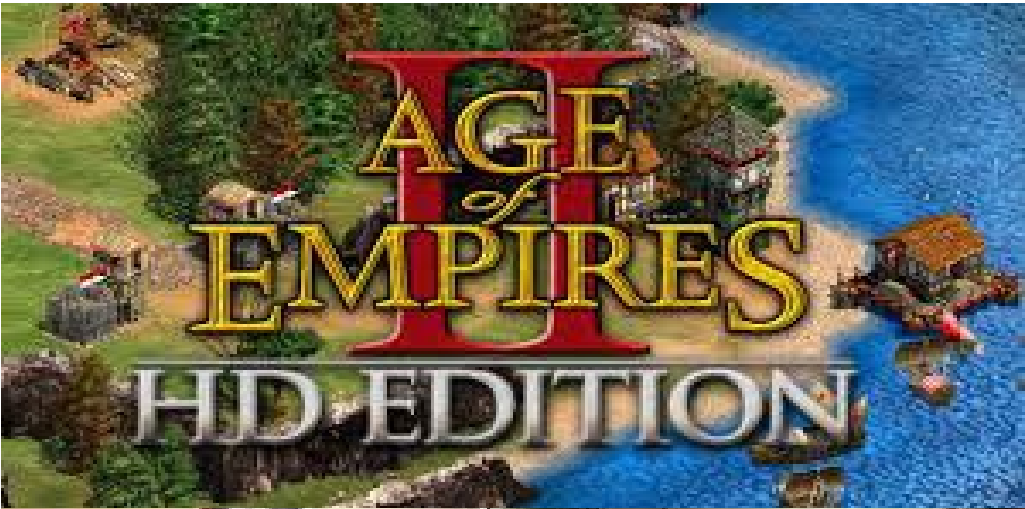
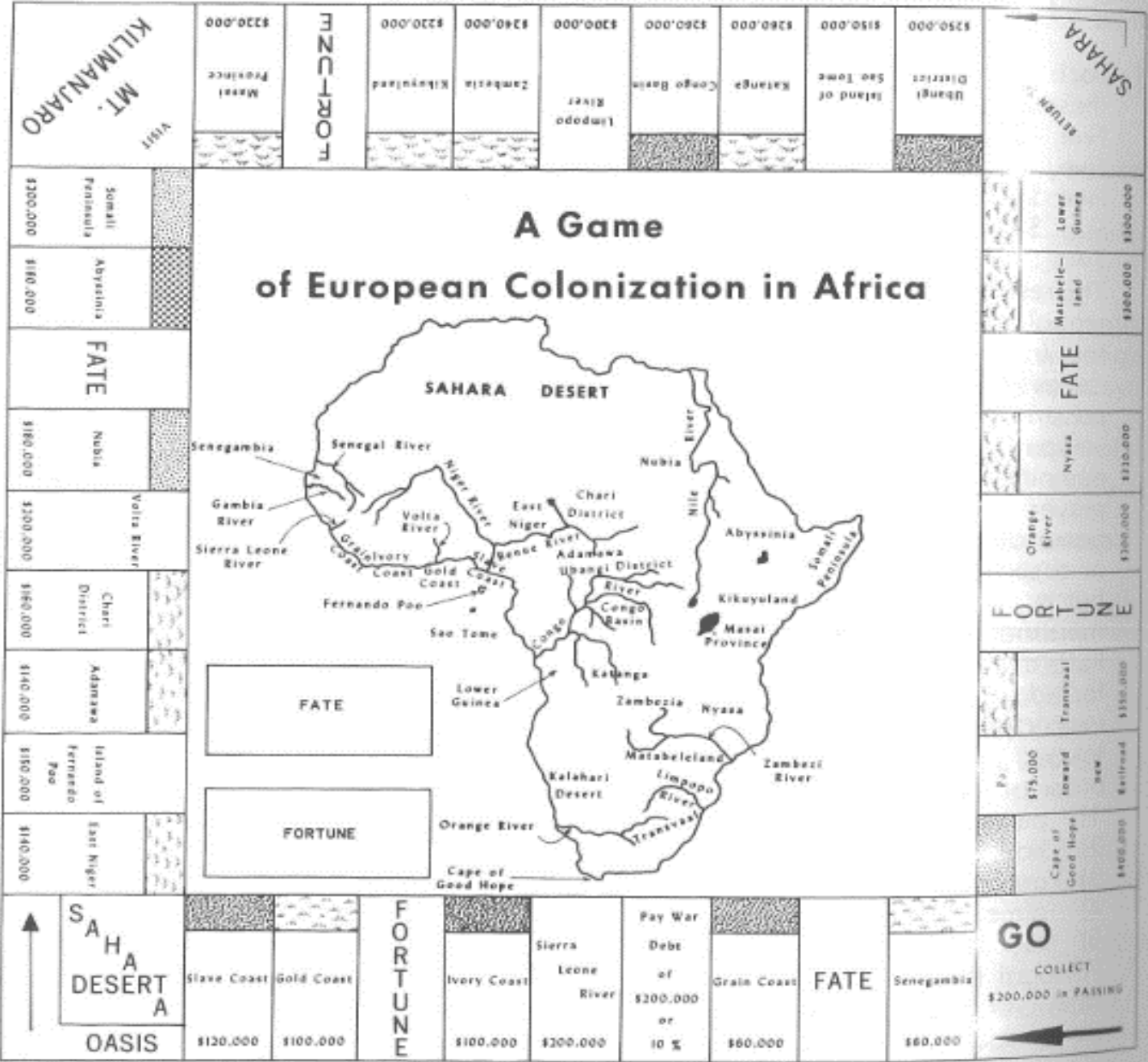


Videogames and Orientalism: Ludic Discourse in a South-South Context



“The Orient was Orientalized not only because it was discovered to be “Oriental” in all those ways considered common-place by an average nineteenth-century European, but also because it could be—that is, submitted to being-made Oriental.” (Edward Said *Orientalism*)

French and Stanley, A Game of European Colonization in Africa 1974



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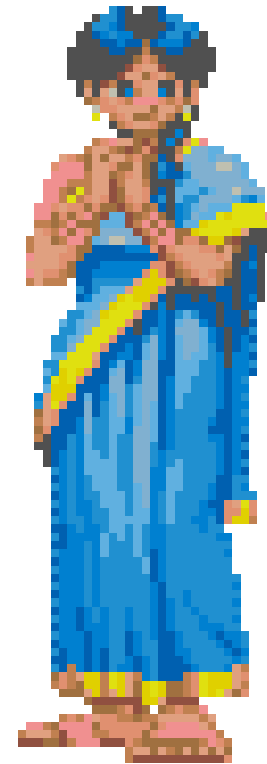
Colonial Cybertypes: Indians are just Indians!



Consider, for example, the history of India as told by *Age of Empires 3* which has Brahmin healers riding elephants and an infantry comprised of Rajputs, Gurkhas, and Sepoys. For those not familiar with Indian culture and history, this can be misleading: the Sepoy, unlike the Rajput and the Gurkha, is not an ethnic community but the standard name for a soldier in the East India Company's time. Finally, elephants were traditionally used by the warrior class or the *Kshatriyas*; Brahmins, or the priestly class, would seldom be seen near them

Ludo-Orientalism: Indians are just Indians!

His wife, of course, is called Sari!
She literally wears her name.



Dhalsim's (*Streetfighter* series) name literally means 'Lentils and Beans' (Dal and Seem) – the best name they could think of for the Indian superhero is after a kind of curry.

Far Cry 4 Walkthrough Part 7 - Chal Jama Monastery (PS4 Gameplay Commentary)



Hinduism as a terminal ailment, it also suggests that the insidious destructiveness of the ailment lies in the nature of Hinduism's "fabling," in the quality of its religious imagination. Here Hinduism is unlike the religion of the Mexicans which apparently surpasses the worst that India can offer. Southey finds it "beyond all doubt... the most diabolical that has ever existed" (Rajan 201).

The Orient was almost a European invention, and had been since antiquity 'a place of romance, exotic beings, haunting memories and landscapes, remarkable experiences. Now it was disappearing; in a sense it had happened, its time was over. Perhaps it seemed irrelevant that Orientals themselves had something at stake in the process, that even in the time of Chateaubriand and Nerval Orientals had lived there, and that now it was they who were suffering; the main thing for the European visitor was a European representation of the Orient and its contemporary fate. (Edward Said *Orientalism*)

In contrast to Southey, the famed Oriental scholar, Sir William Jones, is very sympathetic to Hinduism. In a letter written in 1784, Jones writes to his colleague, Charles Wilkins, that I am in love with the Gopia , charmed with Crishen, an enthusiastick admirer of Ram , and a devout adorer of Brihma . . . not to mention, that Judishteir, Arjen , Corno , and the other warriors of the M'hab'harat appear greater in my eyes than Agamemnon, Ajax, and Achilles appeared, when I first read the Iliad. (Johnson 48).

the patchwork religion created by combining various mythologies, rituals and religious practices from Indian religions and then reinterpreting it in terms of a Western paradigm is not something new. Such practices date back to the early Orientalist discourses on Indic religions.

2:01

1:25 / 19:15

Scroll for details



In Which *Civilization* is deeply hurtful to me:
Counterfactuality and the Persistence of Colonial
Stereotypes.



[A]larming and also nauseating to see Mr Gandhi, a seditious Middle Temple lawyer, now posing as a fakir of a type well known in the East, striding half-naked up the steps of the Viceregal palace, while he is still organizing and conducting a defiant campaign of civil disobedience, to parley on equal terms with the representative of the King-Emperor. (Winston Churchill 1931)

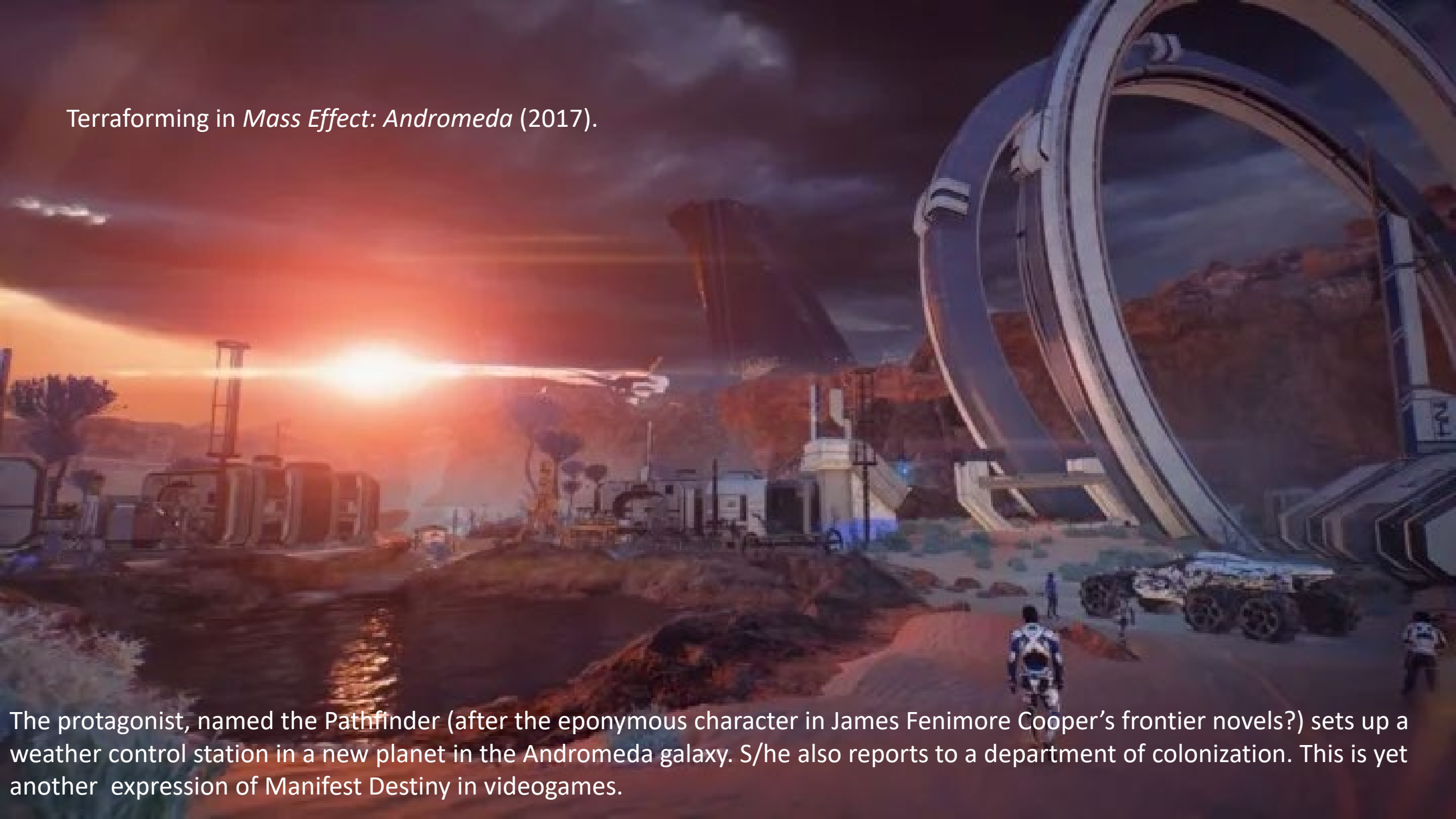
The SAME LOGIC as THEIRS!



Reverse colonialism in the Maratha victory over Europe: the code pure and simple is the fetishization of the imperial perspective.



Terraforming in *Mass Effect: Andromeda* (2017).



The protagonist, named the Pathfinder (after the eponymous character in James Fenimore Cooper's frontier novels?) sets up a weather control station in a new planet in the Andromeda galaxy. S/he also reports to a department of colonization. This is yet another expression of Manifest Destiny in videogames.

