This talk focuses on Manabendra Nath or M.N. Roy, one of the greatest anti-colonial activist-intellectuals of the interwar era. Roy's views on the centrality of the colonies prefigure the emergence of the Third-World; his emphases on human reason and the interconnectedness of metropolitan and peripheral histories form key counterpoints to postwar theories of difference and affect. The talk explores how these formulations of an anti-colonial materialism resonate in a contemporary moment marked by deep global crisis.