Topic 2

DEVELOPMENT AND THE VARIOUS PERSPECTIVE OF CHANGE
DEFINITIONS OF DEVELOPMENT
Important to first distinguish between:

- **Static**: Development as a state or condition
- **Dynamic**: Development as a process or course of change
(1) Todaro’s Definition of Development

“Development is not purely an economic phenomenon but rather a multi-dimensional process involving reorganization and reorientation of entire economic AND social system.”
Todaro’s 3 Objectives of Development

• Raising peoples’ living levels, i.e. incomes and consumption, levels of food, medical services, education through relevant growth processes.

• Creating conditions conducive to the growth of peoples’ self-esteem through the establishment of social, political and economic systems and institutions which promote human dignity and respect.

• Increasing peoples’ freedom to choose by enlarging the range of their choice variables, e.g. varieties of goods and services.
(2) Alternative Interpretations of Development

• Development as Modernization
  – emphasizes process of social change which is required to produce economic advancement; examines changes in social, psychological and political processes;
  – How to develop wealth oriented behavior and values in individuals; profit seeking rather than subsistence and self sufficiency
  – Shift from commodity to human approach with investment in education and skill training
• Development as Distributive Justice

  – view development as improving basic needs
  – Interest in social justice which has raised three issues:

1. Nature of goods and services provided by governments

2. Matter of access of these public goods to different social classes

3. How burden of development can be shared among these classes
(3) Marxist’s View of Development

- Emphasizes Mode of Production - elements and activities necessary to produce and reproduce real, material life.

- Capitalist (market economy) mode depends on wage labor whose labor power produces a surplus which is accumulated and appropriated by the employer-result is often class conflict in capitalist societies.
Neocolonial Dependence Model

• Outgrowth of Marxist thinking - Dos Santos

• Existence of underdevelopment due to historical evolution of an unequal international capitalist system of rich country-poor country relations

• Sets up center (developed countries) versus periphery (developing countries) contrast

• Attempts to become self-reliant and progressive are surpressed by this relationship
• Moreover certain elites in the developing world (e.g. landlords, entrepreneurs, merchants) enjoy high incomes, social status and political power and thus perpetuate inequality and conformity and are rewarded.

• They serve international power groups such as multi-national firms, assistance agencies (World Bank) and other agents.
Sustainable Development
THEORIES OF DEVELOPMENT
Modernization Theory

• This theory suggests that economic dimension alone is insufficient and adds theories on institutional and social change.

• Incorporates non-economic elements such as social practices, beliefs, values and customs.

• Diffusion and speed of change is critical as is removal of various cultural and social barriers.

• Backward internal structures-rather than external factors-cause underdevelopment.
Popular Development Theory

- Avoids ‘grand theories’ and emphasizes solutions viewed in context of development which is part of historical process.

- Context of development is constantly changing in scale and time.

- Accommodates geographical and historical diversity.

- Theory of little use to practitioners of development.

- Stresses local diversity, human creativity, process of social change through pragmatism, flexibility and context.

- Not extent of state intervention but comparative advantages of public and private sectors and their complementarity.
Popular Development and Environment

- Recognizes high “opportunity costs” associated with irreversible environmental damage.

- Dealing with environmental problems requires solutions sensitive to local social and ecological conditions.

- Society and nature relations are affected by variations in class, gender and ethnicity.

- “Reproductive squeeze” forces peasants to intensify production in fragile environments.
Popular Development, Space and Place

• Bottom up approaches (as opposed to top-down) to peoples’ participation are important in this view.

• How are various social groups and classes affected by rural-urban, core-periphery and other spatial interactions?

• Growing importance of “decentralization” of decision-making and authority from center to periphery.
Popular Development and Power

• How does the power structure affect development?

• Examine sources of empowerment, inequality and discrimination.

• Need to devise more people centered approaches which stress empowerment and participation.

• Empowerment as participatory development seeks to engender self-help and self-reliance but also effective collective decision-making.
Some Common ‘Theories”

• Old view that absence of development caused by certain physical environments, particular cultural traditions and value systems—environmental and cultural determinism.

• Lack of natural resources certainly impediment to development but not impossible—example of Japan.

• Why has Japan succeeded?
Reasons for Japanese Success:

• Strong cooperation between government and business.

• Able to adapt to spatial-physical situation and acquire a maritime prowess.

• Early development (Meiji restoration) of transport and banking systems.

• Highly literate population.

• Niche development- technology driven
Underdevelopment

In economics, underdevelopment is when resources are not used to their full socio-economic potential, with the result that local or regional development is slower in most cases than it should be.
What Causes Underdevelopment?

• Very easy to focus on characteristics of development.

• For example we know that underdevelopment is usually characterized by: low per capita incomes, low literacy and educational attainment, lack of basic services - water and power.

• But how do we EXPLAIN underdevelopment?
Other Common Explanations of Underdevelopment

• Instability and other adverse internal situations-political factors.

• Some truth to this as extended periods of turbulence are not conducive to development-central African nations with tribal rivalries and ethnic cleansing.

• Poor physical environment- lack of rainfall, poor soils also may pose barriers to development.
• Underdevelopment must be seen as a product of an array of complex and continuously changing interactions between:

1. Past and Present
2. Natural and Human Environments
3. External and Internal Conditions

• Multitude of obstacles to development vary with place and time.

• Critical to remember that the above theoretical ideas aid us in asking pertinent questions