

POVERTY, DEVELOPMENT, AND HUNGER



PEER DISCUSSION

- ◆ What does development mean?

POVERTY/DEVELOPMENT

- ❖ Interfaces with second generation human rights
- ❖ Core questions: What does development mean, and how is it achieved?



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POVERTY/DEVELOPMENT

- ❖ Two general approaches to issue of poverty, development, and hunger
 - ❖ Orthodox: rooted in neoliberal economic thinking
 - ❖ Critical: rooted in Marxist/Post-Colonial perspectives

POVERTY/DEVELOPMENT

- ❖ Orthodox approach to poverty
 - ❖ Poverty is unfulfilled material needs
 - ❖ Development follows a linear path to modernity (exemplified by US and Europe?)
 - ❖ Hunger is a product of poor food resources
 - ❖ Problem is 'out there' in the developing or 'Third' world.

POVERTY/DEVELOPMENT

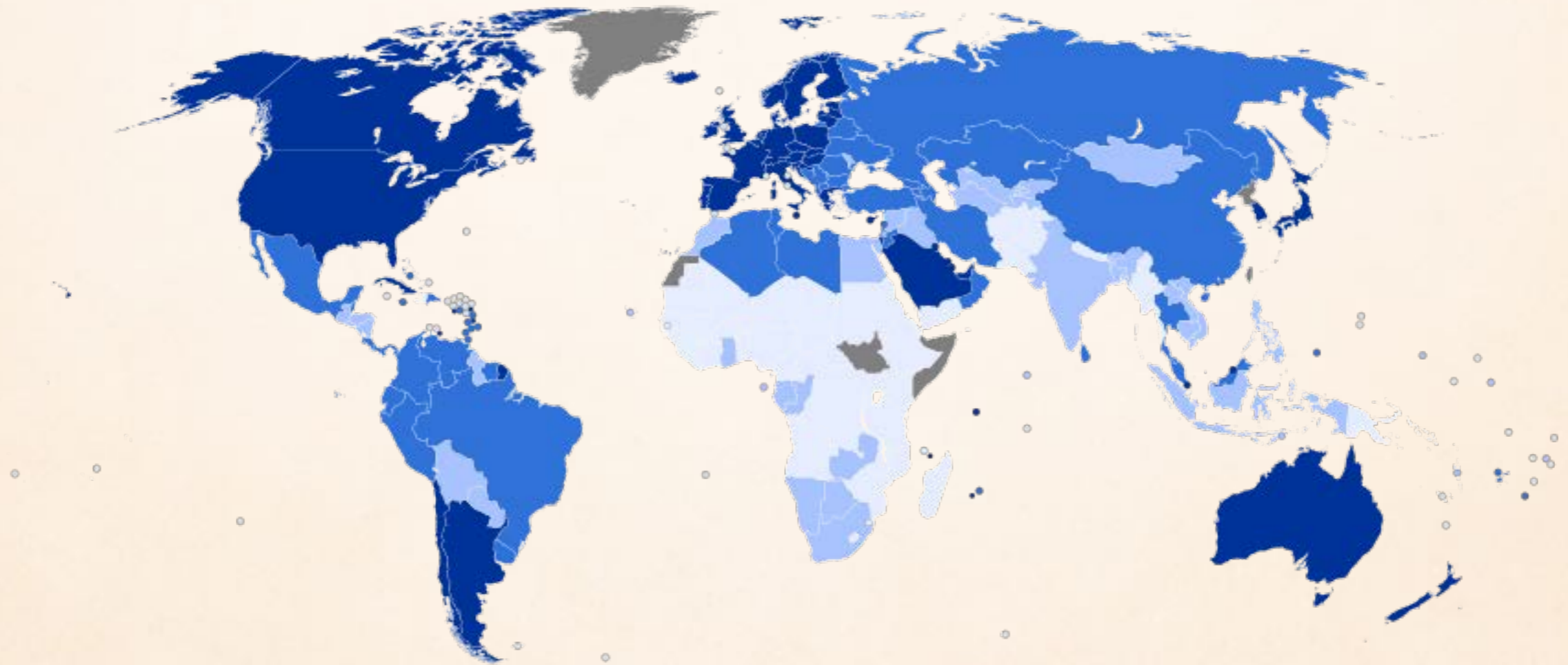
- ❖ Critical approach to poverty
 - ❖ Poverty has a non-material component
 - ❖ Development is diverse, locally driven
 - ❖ Hunger: sufficient resources, problem lies in power and distribution
 - ❖ Spiritual values, community ties, and availability of common resources in addition to material concerns
 - ❖ Emphasis on monetary values has led to the creation of 'a system of production that ravishes nature and a society that mutilates man'

POVERTY/DEVELOPMENT

- ❖ Orthodox approach to development
 - ❖ Poverty: a situation suffered by people who do not have money to buy food and satisfy other basic material needs
 - ❖ Purpose: Transformation of traditional subsistence economies defined as backward into industrial, commodified economies defined as 'modern. Production of surplus.
 - ❖ Core assumptions: the possibility of unlimited economic growth in the free-market system. Superiority of the 'Western' model and knowledge. Domination, exploitation of nature.
 - ❖ Measurement: economic growth, GDP per capita, industrialization (including agriculture)
 - ❖ Process: top-down; reliance on 'expert knowledge,' usually Western and definitely external; large capital investments; advanced technology; expansion of private sphere.

POVERTY/DEVELOPMENT

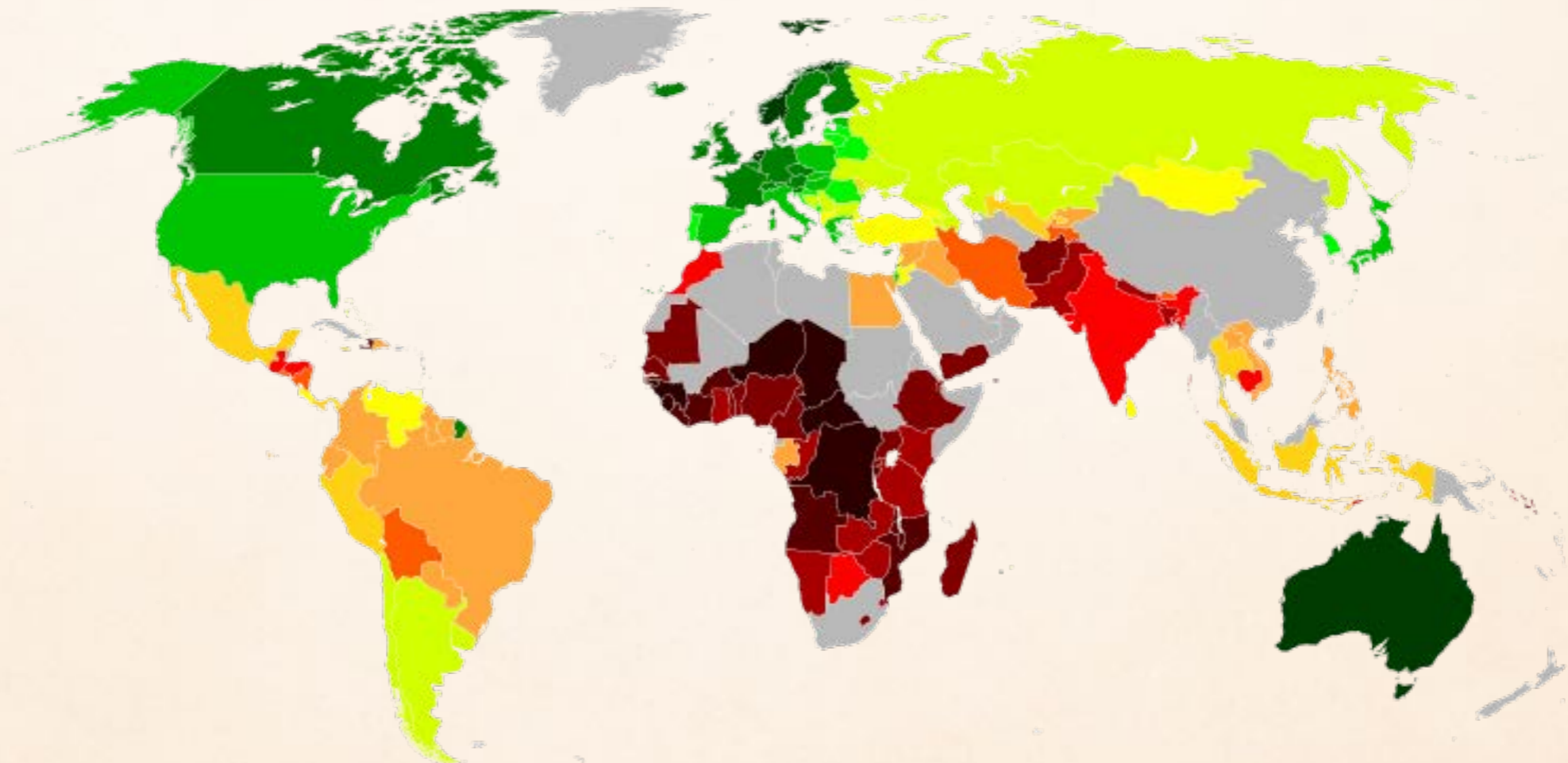
❖ UNDP Human Development Index: US is 10



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- ❖ Inequality Adjusted HDI: US is 20



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- What is going on with HDI adjusted for inequality (US report: http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/USA.pdf)?

TABLE 3

Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index

HDI rank	Human Development Index (HDI)	Inequality-adjusted HDI (IHDI)		Difference from HDI rank ^b	Coefficient of human inequality	Inequality in life expectancy	Inequality-adjusted life expectancy index	Inequality in education ^a	Inequality-adjusted education index	Inequality in income ^a	Inequality-adjusted income index	Income inequality			
	Value	Value	Overall loss (%)		2015	(%)	Value	(%)	Value	(%)	Value	Quintile ratio	Palma ratio	Gini coefficient	
	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2010–2015 ^c	2015	2015 ^d	2015	2015 ^d	2015	2010–2015 ^e	2010–2015 ^e	2010–2015 ^e	
VERY HIGH HUMAN DEVELOPMENT															
1	Norway	0.949	0.898	5.4	0	5.4	3.3	0.918	2.4	0.834	10.4	0.892	3.8	0.9	25.9
2	Australia	0.939	0.861	8.2	-1	8.0	4.3	0.921	1.9	0.921	17.7	0.753	6.0	1.4	34.9
2	Switzerland	0.939	0.859	8.5	-4	8.4	3.8	0.934	5.7	0.840	15.7	0.808	4.5	1.2	31.6
4	Germany	0.926	0.859	7.2	-1	7.0	3.7	0.905	2.6	0.891	14.8	0.797	4.6	1.1	30.1
5	Denmark	0.925	0.858	7.2	-2	7.0	3.8	0.894	3.0	0.896	14.3	0.799	4.5	1.0	29.1
5	Singapore	0.925	..	..	..	..	3.0	0.943	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7	Netherlands	0.924	0.861	6.9	2	6.8	3.7	0.914	4.2	0.859	12.4	0.812	4.2	1.0	28.0
8	Ireland	0.923	0.850	7.9	-2	7.7	3.7	0.905	3.0	0.883	16.3	0.799	5.3	1.3	32.5
9	Iceland	0.921	0.888	5.8	6	5.7	2.9	0.937	2.5	0.894	11.7	0.799	4.0	1.0	26.9
10	Canada	0.920	0.839	8.9	-7	8.7	4.7	0.912	3.9	0.856	17.4	0.755	5.8	1.3	31.7
10	United States	0.920	0.796	13.5	-10	12.9	6.1	0.855	5.6	0.850	27.0	0.692	9.1	2.0	41.1
12	Hong Kong, China (SAR)	0.917	..	..	..	..	2.8	0.953	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

TABLE 3

POVERTY/DEVELOPMENT

- ❖ Critical approach to development
 - ❖ Poverty: people who are not able to meet their material and non-material needs through their own effort
 - ❖ Purpose: creation of human well-being through sustainable societies in social, cultural, political, and economic terms.
 - ❖ Core assumptions: sufficiency. The inherent value of nature, cultural diversity, and the community-controlled commons
 - ❖ Measurement: fulfillment of basic material and non-material human needs of everyone; condition of natural environment; political empowerment of marginalized
 - ❖ Process: bottom-up; participatory; reliance on appropriate knowledge and technology, small investments in small-scale projects; protection of the commons.

POVERTY/DEVELOPMENT

- ❖ Orthodox approach to hunger
 - ❖ Shortage of calories/nutrients; techno-material response emphasizes innovation to produce food (Golden Rice)
- ❖ Critical approach to hunger
 - ❖ Focuses on entitlement and distribution; role of globalized food distribution networks and local production



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❖ Another approach: Amartya Sen and Development as Freedom

- ❖ Unfulfilled elementary needs
- ❖ Famines
- ❖ Hunger
- ❖ Violations of elementary political freedoms
- ❖ Neglect of the interests and agency of women
- ❖ Threats to environment

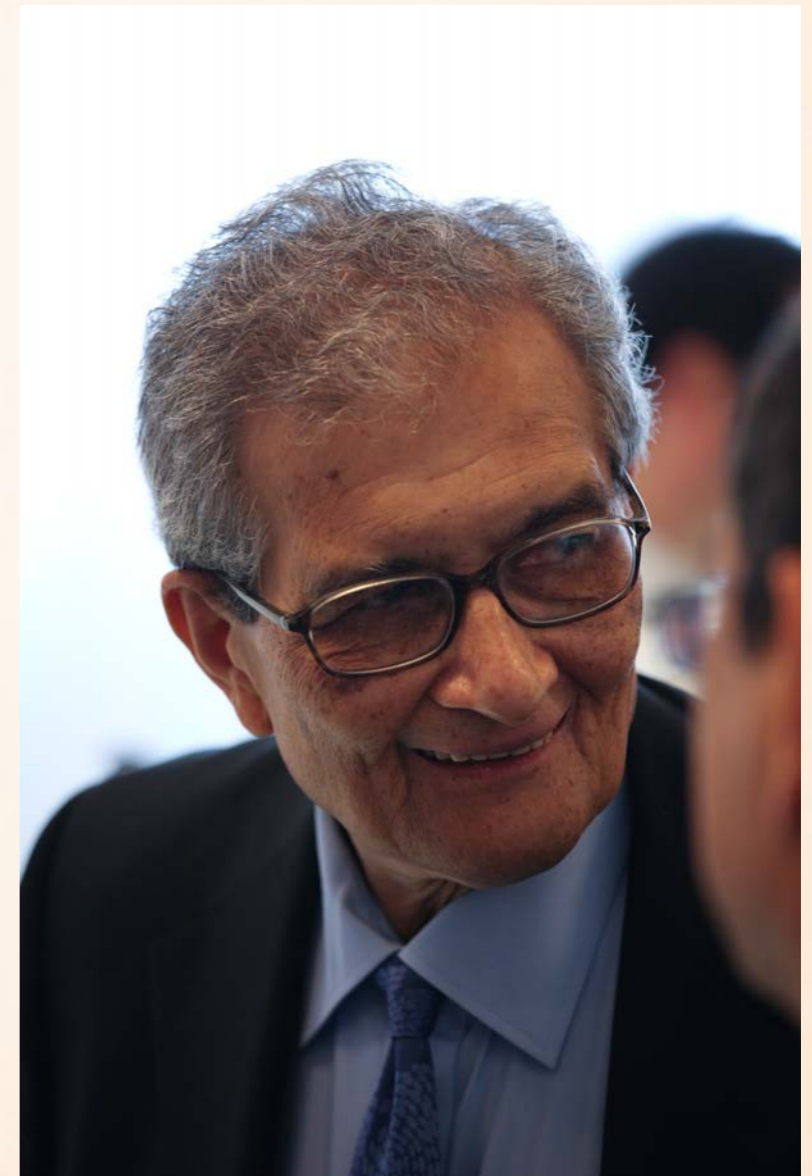


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POVERTY/DEVELOPMENT

- ❖ Sen: expansion of freedom both as the primary end and the principal means of development.
- ❖ This in contrast with typical measures of development like GDP

POVERTY/DEVELOPMENT

- ❖ Sen argues that freedoms support each other. True development comes with the realization of five freedoms:
 - ❖ economic opportunities
 - ❖ political development
 - ❖ social facilities (education, health care)
 - ❖ transparency guarantees
 - ❖ protective security.

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