

SOC 0150 – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Human societies have for a long time been developing at very uneven rates. In the pre-modern period, the classical civilizations of Egypt, India, Greece, Rome and Central America are well known examples of societies that developed faster than others around them. This pattern of uneven development is even more marked in the modern period. The societies of Western Europe, North America and most recently Japan have been growing at rates that have left their contemporaries far behind. How can we explain these processes of social change and development? Where are they taking human societies? Are they taking us to a more polarized world, or one that is better and more equitable for all? These are some of the issues that this course will explore. It will begin with a brief look at the process of economic development in the U.S., and then focus in more detail on the processes of development currently taking place in third world societies.

READINGS:

SECTION 1

Introduction: Pre-modern Societies and the Rise of Capitalism

Sonali Bhattacharyya, "Pirates of the Desert", p. 7-38; Eric Williams, *Capitalism and Slavery*, p. 30-84 & 98 107.

American Economic Development

- D. North, The Economic Growth of the U.S., p. 66-176
L. Hacker, The Course of American Economic Growth and Development,
p. 172-192 and 217-243.

Economic Theories of Third World Development

- Evsey Domar, "The Problem of Capital Formation," AER, 38, Dec. 1948.
Paul Baran, "On the Political Economy of Backwardness," in Robert Rhodes (ed)
Imperialism and Underdevelopment.
Arthur Lewis, "Economic Development with Unlimited Supplies of Labor,"
in A. Agarwala & S. Singh (eds) The Economics of Underdevelopment

SECTION 2

Sociological Theories of Third World Development

- B. Hoselitz, "Social Structure and Economic Growth" in B. Hoselitz,
Sociological Aspects of Economic Growth.
A. Inkeles, "The Modernization of Man" in Myron Weiner (ed)
Modernization: The Dynamics of Growth.
M. Levy, The Family Revolution in China, p. 308-317.

SECTION 3

Critiques of Modernization Theory

S. Eisenstadt, Tradition, Change and Modernity, p. 98-115.

Reformulations and Expansions of Modernization Theory

D. Rueschemeyer, "Partial Modernization," in Jan Lauber et al, (eds) Explorations in General Theory in Social Science, Vol. 2, p. 756-772.
E. Boserup, Woman's Role in Economic Development, p. 15-150.

SECTION 4

Dependency Theory

P. Evans, Dependent Development, p. 14-100
S. Amin, Unequal Development, p. 198-260

The Socialist Alternative

Alec Nove, The Economics of Feasible Socialism, p. 68-153

Lewis and Dependency Theory

A. Lewis, The Evolution of the International Economic Order

State and Dependency Theory

Paget Henry, Peripheral Capitalism and Underdevelopment in Antigua, p.141-167
Peter Evans, Dependent Development, p.213-273

Between Neo-liberalism and Keynesianism

G. Dumenil & D. Levy, Capital Resurgent, p. 7-37 & 110-127; J. Kambhu, T. Schuermann & K. Stiroh, "Hedge Funds, Financial Intermediation, and Systemic Risk"; Stephen Jen, "Sovereign Wealth Funds"; Charles Morris, The Trillion Dollar Meltdown, p.37-136; Robert Skidelsky, "Keynes in the Long Run"; Douglass North, Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance, p.3-69.