

Forum: Commission On Science And Technology for Development (CSTD)

Issue: The question of the use of science to advance economic and financial growth in third world countries.

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Introduction

Science is always advancing and developing, finding new ways to improve our means of production and ensure a constant development of economies. For many third world countries, this production of raw materials is vital to have a stable and successful economy. However, many third world countries are often exploited and therefore sell their raw materials at a lower price, leading to a lack of income, and in the long run, an unstable economy. This will often push LEDCS to expand production to produce more, leading to soil degradation etc. Advancing previous methods and developing new methods of production can avoid many of these problems and economic growth can once again begin to develop.

Definition of Key Terms

Third World Country - Although originally used as a term to describe countries that were not allied with the USA or USSR, the term has now changed meaning to an undeveloped country especially those with widespread poverty. These countries usually have low levels of education, poor infrastructure, improper sanitation and poor access to health care. In relation to economy, the country typically has large exports of raw materials and a weak economy.

First World Country - The industrialized capitalist nations of the world. Describes a developed country with a wealthy economy and high overall standard of living. Tends to have high levels of education, good sanitation and healthcare.

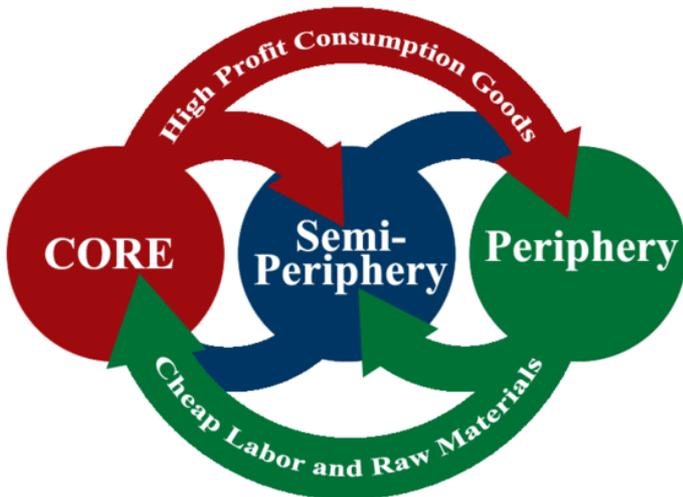
Unfair Trade Rules – Countries subsidizing their own producers by investment, causing imports from thirds world countries to seem more expensive, support trade rules made by the EU and America.

Primary Sector - the sector of an economy producing natural resources and raw materials.

LEDC – Less economically developed country (Third World Country)

MEDC – More economically developed country (First World Country)

Wallerstein's World Systems Theory – The Wallerstein World System theory is based on the idea that all countries are split into 3 categories: Core, Semi-periphery, and Periphery. These three systems are co-dependent, and work together for economic stability. With the Core providing high-profit consumer goods for the semi-periphery and periphery, and the periphery providing cheap labor and raw materials for the core and semi-periphery.



Wallerstein's World System Theory Model ¹

History

After the Second World War, some developing countries such as India, Pakistan, Brazil, and Iraq had been educated to be scientists in the industrialized world. Their main goals revolved around project-type enterprises in nuclear energy, electronics, pharmaceuticals and space research, as they believed this would allow them to greatly improve the low level of development in their countries. However, what they did not realize was that all these things did not necessarily relate to development. Development requires advances in agriculture, education and industrial systems. What many LEDCs through the years have failed to understand is that they cannot follow the development methods of for example the US. They need to develop and adapt technology to fit local circumstances, invest time and money into education, and improve communication between the governments and industry. This is something many LEDCs have struggled with, and still do, but without it their economies will never become stable.

Key Issues

Key issues regarding this topic include;

¹ Taken from: <https://sites.google.com/site/tacosandmascara01/home/wallerstein-s-world-system-theory>

- Exploitation of third world countries due to lack of equality. Many third world countries are being exploited due to their need to accept any offer for raw materials, in order to survive
- Lack of proper education giving producers the correct techniques needed. This prohibits the spread of new scientific research actually being applied and used by a country
- The importance of proper scientific research and testing is not realized by many governments and citizens
- Improper methods of production will lead to destruction of soil leading to inability to produce raw materials

Major Parties Involved

USA – USA has scientific technology in the fields of production, which are already in use in the US. This means that the US is becoming less dependent on raw materials from third world countries, ultimately meaning they will pay even less to receive them.

Members of the EU – Trade rules ensure that many members of the EU would rather receive raw materials from other members of the EU instead of third world countries. Countries in the EU therefore often underpay producers from third world countries.

Generally – Third world countries² such as, but not limited to;

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| -Afghanistan | -Guinea-Bissau |
| -Angola | -Liberia |
| -Bangladesh | -Madagascar |
| -Cape Verde | -Malawi |
| -Cambodia | -Mali |
| -Central African Republic | -Mozambique |
| -Chad | -Niger |
| -Democratic Republic of Congo | -Rwanda |
| -Equatorial Guinea | -Somalia |
| | -Tanzania |
| | -Uganda |

² Based on a combination of Low-income criterion, Human resource weakness criterion, and Economic vulnerability criterion.

List taken from: http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/least_developed_countries.htm

- Ethiopia
- Gambia

Evaluation of Previous Attempts

Previous and current attempts to address this issue include UN resolutions, specifically the efforts made by The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). Also internal attempts done by governments in third world countries to help farmers with

Possible Solutions

Possible solutions should include;

1. Ways to adapt scientific advances into local circumstances
2. Ways to incorporate new science into education
3. Cooperation between the government and scientists
4. Suggestions on how to ensure equality and

Bibliography

“Trade ∴ Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform.” United Nations, United Nations, sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/trade

“World Systems Theory.” *ReviseSociology*, 5 Dec. 2015, revisesociology.com/2015/12/05/world-systems-theory/

Appendices

- I. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/V17/029/28/PDF/V1702928.pdf?OpenElement>
Recent UN report by the Commission on International Trade Law
- II. <http://www.sciencemag.org/careers/2002/09/science-developing-world-building-partnerships-future>
- III. <https://feedthefuture.gov/article/using-modern-agricultural-technology-increase-production-food-security-and-profitability>