POVERTY, DEVELOPMENT, AND HUNGER
What does development mean?
POVERTY/DEVELOPMENT

- Interfaces with second generation human rights
- Core questions: What does development mean, and how is it achieved?
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
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❖ 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
Inequality Adjusted HDI: US is 20
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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Human Development Index (HDI)</th>
<th>Inequality-adjusted HDI (HDI)</th>
<th>Coefficient of Human Inequality</th>
<th>Inequality in Life Expectancy</th>
<th>Inequality-adjusted Life Expectancy Index</th>
<th>Inequality in Education</th>
<th>Inequality-adjusted Education Index</th>
<th>Inequality in Income</th>
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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
POVERTY/DEVELOPMENT

- 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
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.