

Political Science 246 - Peace Studies

Dr. Kille - Fall 2007

Discussion questions for Economic Development

Note: I realize that there is a lot of reading for this section. So that you can work through it relatively quickly, focus on getting a basic understanding of the key themes and arguments made by the different authors. We will focus on certain specifics in class discussion where applicable. This reading is also designed to be an important reference for your strategy paper if you decide to employ economic development as a peace tool for your case.

1. How are economics linked to violence? Consider this question in relation to both direct and structural violence.

Reading ideas:

- Revisit Alger's tool chest on economic development as a tool
- Jeong on imperialism and foreign aggression
- Pilisuk on division of wealth
- What does it mean to be "poor"? (see Bryant and Kappaz pp. 13-19 and 21-24 and link this to structural violence)
- How do you react to Figure 1.1 of Bryant and Kappaz on interdependencies between drivers of poverty and war?
- Do civil conflicts present particular situations of violence that we need to consider? Do you accept Collier's arguments regarding the importance of greed over grievance?

2. How can economics and violence be overcome to promote peace?

Reading ideas:

- Jeong's contrast of Liberalism, Marxism, Dependency Theory, and Pilisuk's view of globalism regarding what causes poverty (and his emphasis on localism as a better approach) and, therefore, what needs to be done to overcome poverty (for Jeong, think about his critique of modernization or growth-oriented development model and what alternative strategies could be employed).
- Similarly, what do Bryant and Kappaz see as the reasons for poverty (see pp. 19-21) – how do they extend their ideas on the relationship between poverty and war to address “a framework for poverty reduction” (28-30)?
- What is the New International Economic Order and what do you think of this as a path to peace? (see Jeong 248-251 and Alger 24)
- How would an NIEO approach compare to Collier's policy suggestions for addressing the economic causes of civil conflict? Is the distinction that Collier makes between policies for conflict prevention versus policies for postconflict peacebuilding an important one?

3. In answering the first two questions, do you find it most valuable to focus on economics at the international system level, at the domestic level within states, or do we need to examine both levels?

*Think about how you answer this question not only from a personal perspective, but in relation to the case of peacelessness that you are researching this semester.