



Introduction to International Relations

Chapter Notes: Chapter 11

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Chapter Eleven:

Miracle and Missed Opportunity

Chapter Overview

Chapter 11 examines the concept of development, paying particular attention to the contrasting economic histories of Asia and Latin America. Development, which involves material, institutional, and human progress, is perceived differently by the three perspectives. While realist perspectives view it in mercantilist or relative terms, liberal perspectives see it in terms of interdependence and cooperation. Identity perspectives, meanwhile, emphasize the substantive aspects of development such as its ultimate political and social objectives. Asia and Latin America provide a clear illustration of the differences between the perspectives; while Latin America pursued revisionist or realist policies that hindered its economic development, Asian countries followed neoclassical or liberal prescriptions that transformed many of them into fully developed nations.

What is development?

- Growth of material resources
- Advances in specialization, technology, and institutions
- Improvements in human and social welfare

Development from the perspectives

- Realist: views development in mercantilist or relative terms.
- Liberal: views development in terms of specialization, competition, and markets.
- Identity: views development in terms of political and social objectives.

Measurements of development

- Growth of material resources, income, and consumption
- “Floor” of development, or absolute level of the poorest people
- Non-quantitative factors: quality of life, sense of community

Development in Asia

- After World War II, Asian countries were domestically stable, but substantial international unrest existed.
- Asian “tigers” pursued sound macroeconomic and microeconomic policies, providing foundation for their position in the global economy.
- Asian countries engaged in land reform, supported small- and medium-sized businesses, invested in housing and health services, and prioritized primary and secondary education.
- Asian “tigers” relied on export-led development, creating export zones for selected industries.

Development in Latin America

- Latin American countries—except for Chile—opted out of the GATT free market trading system.
- Latin America plagued by political instability; dictatorial rule characterized the region throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
- Latin America pursued import substitution policies and, aside from Chile, did not develop exports.
- Since 1980s, however, the region has started to follow market-oriented policies.
- In 1991, the regional free-trade community called Mercosur was created.
- Despite some progress, however, dramatic inequality persists in Latin America. Why? Land reform has been largely unsuccessful, primary school education lags behind that of other countries, and certain races are still discriminated against.

Thought Questions

1. How is development defined? What aspects of development are stressed most vigorously? Is this good or bad?
2. What is the identity perspective’s take on development? What does this add to—or detract from—the international dialogue about development?
3. What are some drawbacks to the way that development is measured today? What, in your opinion, is the best way to measure it?
4. What do you think are the most important factors in the Asian “economic miracle?” Why?
5. Of the World Bank’s four “syndromes” to explain Latin America’s poor development, which do you think is the most important? Why?