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**Assignment Title:** What is the Position of the developing countries in the present world order?
**Course Title:** Logic of World Order
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**ANSWER;**

In the current international system, the countries which are considered to be “developing” or “less developed” are countries which possess low or middle income economies and are ranked low in the world order. They are mostly characterized by being less developed industrially or possessing a low human development rates, a high birth rate, large populace and high levels of insecurity and poor leadership. The term refers to the current state of a nation and is not used to determine changing dynamics or future progress. “There are several characteristics that are commonly held throughout developing countries. This includes health risks such as having low access to safe water, as well as sanitation and hygiene problems. There may also be high levels of pollution and a high percentage of people with infectious diseases. Other common characteristics include widespread poverty, low education and literacy levels and government corruption. There are also challenges in energy and higher rates of violence against women.”

The current state of the international system is proving to be evolving over its former globalized form. According to Georg Sorensen in his book “What Kind of World Order?"The International System in the New Millennium”, he defines the current order as an interregnum; a new, stable order has not been established but significant elements of the old order remain in place. This analysis was made after carefully considering four major aspects of comprehensive analysis of the phenomenon; (a) the realist concern of the politico-military balance of war; (b) the liberal concern of the make-up of international institutions and the emergence of global governance; (c) the constructivist concern of the realm of ideas and ideology, with a focus on the existence or otherwise of common values on a global scale; and (d) the IPE (International Political Economy) concern of the economic realm of production, finance and distribution. . Scholars have argued that we are living in abnormal times and the global liberal order faces imminent meltdown. And as the world rapidly shifts from a uni-polar to a multi-polar system, the international arena itself is exposed to large instability. If the situation is not handled with extreme care, there is a likelihood of a major collapse in the international system. They pose a question of whether or not our world leaders are capable of fully understanding what is happening in real time and can muster the collective action to set new rules of the road.

When we talk about the developing or less developed countries, the current global order seems to elude their control completely and this is understandable given their current state and clear lack of economic might to actually phase the international system significantly. They have played a subservient role from the beginning of the original world order after the First World War. Even during the cold war, the cold war affected the insecurity and vulnerability of the Third World countries and the state of the North–South divide as it relates to the prospects for global cooperation and maintenance of order in the post‐cold war era. Underdeveloped countries were being used as pawns to achieve the goals of their western counterparts and just like colonization, under the guise of aid or assistance from the greater powers within the system.

The state of Africa is a scar on the conscience of the world. But if the world as a community focused on it, we could heal it. And if we don't, it will become deeper and angrier. (Tony Blair, 2001). Africa has been ignored and marginalized within the IR discipline as well as subjectively studied by being an object of generalization. As a non-Western actor, Africa is placed as the region at the periphery by mainstream IR studies (Brown, 2006; Cornelissen, Cheru, and Shaw, 2012; Acharya and Buzan, 2007; Dunn and Shaw, 2011; Warner and Shaw, 2018; Chipaike and Knowledge, 2018).

The current pace of globalization gives no choice to small developing countries: they must integrate into world markets if they wish to succeed. Africa has more than its fair share of small poor economies because of fragmentation that it inherited from European colonizers. .

Except for the two dominant economies––South Africa and Nigeria––the continent is made up of countries that have small domestic markets, limited economic diversification, and generally poor connectivity with neighboring countries, reducing proximity between economic agents within Africa, and between Africa and the rest of the world. Yet, the approach of the international community (specifically, developed countries and international financial institutions) to help Africa has so far been essentially country-specific, and putting out regional fires that threaten to become global: genocides, pandemics, religious conflicts. This approach has merits, but a continent suffering on a permanent basis from the triple disadvantages of low economic density, long distance to markets, and deep divisions needs a different strategy. My research indicates that it would benefit enormously from a regional approach, as argued by the World Development Report 2009..

The responsibility governments have for creating an enabling environment for investors. This responsibility lies with individual country governments, because there is no supranational
body that could take it from them. If country governments shoulder their responsibilities
and create better conditions for private finance, the money will come to build
infrastructure and grow businesses out of global capital markets.
There are some similarities between the rise of Africa now as a priority investment destination and that of China three decades ago, when that country began opening its economy to global forces. Africa is set to achieve growth levels that will empower its nearly one billion citizens and enable the continent to elevate millions from poverty. As a continent possessing a majority of under developed and developing countries, Africa has become a large focal point in the global market. From global efforts being made to improve its trade opportunities, to continued investorship on its lands, Africa has become the poster child of developing economies globally and aid efforts.

This is the question facing Africa’s fifty-four countries: how can we rapidly realize the economic promise of the continent and do so in a way in which hundreds of millions of poor and marginalized people have jobs, move out of poverty, and fulfill their potential? The BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China. And South Africa). Formation offers interesting trajectories for an alternative economic model that ensures job-creating growth and different forms of inclusivity and equity. But the African miracle will be distinct and will need to be based on home grown formulas tailored to the continent’s conditions, strengths, and specific needs. The key will lie in unlocking the huge entrepreneurial potential of the continent. The inclusion of South Africa as the fifth member of the BRICS group and its seat on the UN Security Council for 2011–12 ensure that Africa has a voice in all key global forums and will accelerate reform of the UN and global financial, developmental, and trade architecture.

There is ample evidence of Africa’s potential to leap-frog constraints, In a world in which there is growing consensus that future wars will be fought over food and water resources—rather than territory or ideology—Africa enjoys the advantage of huge water reserves and vast tracts of arable land. It is also rich in largely unexploited mineral and natural resources. Africa, also possessing nearly one billion people, represents the world’s third-largest market after China (1.3 billion) and India (1.2 billion). But in a country with high unemployment and underdevelopment, we must continually weigh the dictates of environmental management with those of developmental priorities. In global governance, the ‘tipping point’ could well be with Africa.

When n talking a proffering of solutions to Africa and most other developing countries, Souleymane Coulibaly, a leading economist at the world bank suggests; the international community could shift to a “contract with African neighborhoods” involving leading and lagging countries of the neighborhoods as well as the donors’ community providing the right incentives to ensure developmental regional cooperation initiatives. The governments of East, Central, South, and West African neighborhoods could commit to:

1. Establishing “African Economic Areas” that would tie the economic interests of leading and lagging countries in each regional neighborhood tightly together.
2. Allowing and maintaining the free movement of labor, capital, goods, and services within these areas.
3. Maintaining and protecting access routes between land-locked countries and outlets for trade, and providing the political space to support investment in regional infrastructure.

In exchange for these actions, bilateral and multilateral development partners could commit to:

1. A big increase in aid for improved social services and other life-sustaining infrastructure aimed at raising living standards and creation of portable human capital in lagging countries.
2. Increased financial support for growth-sustaining infrastructure—ports, transport links, information and communication technology—in the leading countries where economic takeoff is most likely, as well as infrastructure to link the markets of large leading countries with labor, capital, goods, and ideas in smaller neighbors.
3. Preferential access to the markets of high-income countries for sub-Saharan Africa’s exports, without strict rules of origin or eligibility criteria that impede rapid growth of trade in intermediate inputs with other developing economies.

Of all the research analyzed in the development of this study, these seemed the most preferential not just for Africa but also if taken and applied to most other developing countries, would prove successful. This would not only lift them out of their developing status but also provide them with internal means of self development and growth rather than a dependent and subservient outlook.

Speaking on the position which developing countries hold in the current international world order, it is a clear bottom rank because not only are they unable to compete with the developed countries and great powers economically, should a war erupt in the current world order on the basis of a power struggle for dominance in the international system. Africa and the other developing countries do not possess the man power, military ability or nuclear capability to join this fight and as such developing countries will seek a backseat approach to it leading to a cold war debacle all over again. A preaching of non-alignment and exemption from involvement, where as in reality; Sides will be taken and secret deals and negations will come into play by the great powers at war looking to one up the other. Proving the inability of developing countries to fend for themselves, heeding to the calls of their colonial masters and answering to their every desire and whim because of their inability to do anything on their own.

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