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QUESTION: WHAT IS THE POSITION OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE PRESENT WORLD ORDER?

In a globalized world, countries are believed to have made some gains through interdependence and increasingly cooperation. However, developed countries still have a great deal to learn from that. Globalization has undeniably transformed the globe into one economy and encouraged the flow of money, commodities, knowledge and even workers across borders. However, the adverse consequences of globalization are troubling; Developed countries are overwhelming markets in developing countries with consumer and other goods for sale at reasonable prices for local products and safely taking back income, and many times their industrial activities have resulted in growing environmental pollution and greenhouse emissions without sufficient environmental compensation or cleaning, in the same vein, local companies are being shut down creating millions of unemployed because they are unable to stand up to competition and preferential access to markets in advanced countries is denied to goods of the least developed countries.

For the developing countries, the present world order remains bureaucratic, oppressive and no less imperial, with its neo-colonial trends in both economic, political and cultural terms, even at the end of colonialism. It's a disadvantaged order of trickling benefits for the developing countries, but not enough to place them in a dominant position in world affairs. The present world order puts developing countries in the position of poverty and oppression because of the systems put in place during the previous world order, systems that remain unchanged today.

Divisions between the rich industrialised North and the ‘majority world’ are a key and intensifying driver of global insecurity. While overall global wealth has increased, the benefits of this economic growth have not been equally shared. The rich-poor divide is growing, with a heavy concentration of growth in regions of North America and Europe in particular, and the ‘majority world’ of Asia, Africa and Latin America. These Western states, and small elites in Southern states, are attempting to maintain political, cultural, economic and military dominance in a world where emerging economies are gaining power.

Deepening oppression and political exclusion amongst communities in the South combine with poverty and discrimination to present an increasingly dynamic threat to national and international stability. The sense of increasing marginalisation is more keenly felt as improvements in education and modern technologies allow those ‘at the margins’ to witness the wealth and opportunities of elites (both in the North and in their own Southern nations). This leads to an increased likelihood of radicalisation and political violence.

Current responses to this radicalisation are in line with the control paradigm’s approach (dealing mainly with publically visible and immediate threats such as the al-Qaida movement), and sometimes actually work to increase support for extremist and violent groups.

Voices from the Global South are often found on the periphery of global political and economic dialogue, particularly at the negotiating tables of international institutions. This has already been subject to debate over many decades.

Though many African and Asian colonies gained independence from the 1940s onwards, their political and economic relationship with former colonial powers, managed by the ‘Bretton Woods institutions’ (the World Bank (WB), and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)), was often one of dependency. This resulted in the adoption of policies that many people now perceive as damaging to the welfare of the poor of the poorest nations; for example, through reducing the amount of money a state can spend on health, education and development, as debt repayment has to be made the priority. Most prominently, the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) – loans offered on the condition of the enforcement of free-market policies, such as the reduction of trade barriers.