Health, Development, and Human Rights

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Skepticism About Global Justice

As you read the material for the next class, keep the questions below in mind. To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages. Keep in mind that there are two basic kinds of information that you need to look for in the readings:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?

2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, *it is information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible conclusion about an issue, rather than another.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently to these issues in the next class meeting.

Readings

• Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom*, Chapters 7 and 9.

Questions

1. The title of Amartya Sen's book is *Development as Freedom*. Chapters 7 and 9 each present one way in which freedom encourages or otherwise reaches development goals. What are these two ways?

2. In chapter 7, Sen presents he famous analysis of famine. How do his answers to the following questions differ from those given by others:

   • What is the proper understanding of a "famine"?

   • What are the principle causes of famine?

   • What is the best way to protect again famine?

   What do you make of this analysis? Does it miss anything important?

3. On page 210, Sen presents three questions concerning the use of coercive solutions to tragedies in the commons. What are these three questions and how does he answer each of them with respect to over-population in chapter 9? How does this account differ from Hardin's? Who has the more convincing position?