

Health, Development & Human Rights

Global Health & National Security

As you read the material for our 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 about these issues at our next class meeting.

Readings

- National Intelligence Council, “Strategic Implications of Global Health”.

Questions

1. According to National Intelligence Council report, infectious diseases and other health conditions, create economic, governmental, and military problems for countries in which they occur. Why is that?
2. More interestingly, this report also suggests that these three types of problems (economic, governmental, and military) pose serious national security risks for the United States—even when they occur outside of the country. Why is that? The report seems to assume that the reader can make all the connections here, so you may need to think this through.
3. Does this report present sufficient prudential reasons for the United States government (and by extension, American taxpayers) to provide foreign aid to improve health conditions in developing countries? Or do you think the United State would be better off spending this money on other facets of national security?