

Health, Development & Human Rights

Systematic Injustices in the Global Order

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

- Thomas Pogge, "Eradicating Systematic Poverty: Brief for a Global Resources Dividend".

Questions

1. What does Thomas Pogge mean by "radical inequality"? How is it impervious, pervasive, and avoidable?
2. What is the difference between having a positive duty to assist others versus having a negative duty against harming others? Why does Pogge believe it may be difficult to justify a positive duty to fight radical inequality? How does his example of the hypothetical people on Venus illustrate this point?
3. What are Pogge's three arguments justifying that the global poor are owed rectification because of past and ongoing injustices caused by the global order?
4. What is Pogge's solution for addressing radical inequality and why does he think it is both modest and realistic?