

Health, Development & Human Rights

Defending 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

- Mathias Risse, "Do We Owe the Global Poor Assistance or Rectification?"

Questions

1. Based on Mathias Risse's claims, what is a "harm"? Why is a benchmark needed to assess whether a harm has been done?
2. What three benchmarks does Risse examine? Why does he conclude that these benchmarks fail to demonstrate that the global order harms the global poor?
3. Apart from that, what reasons does Risse give for rejecting the claim that the global order provides incentives for despots to seize power?
4. Given that they reach opposite conclusions concerning the impact of the global order on the global poor, Thomas Pogge and Risse cannot both be right. Who has the strongest and most compelling argument?