

Health, Development & Human Rights

Global Inequality and Exploitation

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

- Richard W. Miller, “Globalization Moralized”.

Questions

1. According to Richard Miller, what does it mean for one person to “take advantage” of another? Why does doing this require justification? In international affairs, what gives developed countries the opportunity to take advantage of developing countries? What exactly is the example of the person dying of thirst supposed to illustrate?
2. What is the difference between the two senses of exploitation (“mere” exploitation vs. “immoral” exploitation) used by Miller? Why can immoral exploitation occur even if the exploited person voluntarily consents to the arrangement (e.g., the example of the leather-stitchers working in southern China)?
3. In cases of “mere” exploitation, what can managers and businesses do to avoid “immoral” exploitation? In general, what does Miller claim the affluent should do in response to this concern? Why does Miller ultimately believe that all this may actually do very little to help those in the greatest need?
4. What does Miller believe to be the proper baseline for assessing the justice of the current international trade and investment arrangements? Why does he believe these current arrangements below that baseline? What does Miller argue should be done about that? Why does he believe this too may not do enough to help those in the greatest need?