

HEALTH, DEVELOPMENT & HUMAN RIGHTS

Defending the Global Order

Instructions

When doing the reading for this class, there are the two basic kinds of information you need to understand:

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 position on an issue, rather than another.

Reading

Risse, M. (2005, March). Do We Owe the Global Poor Assistance or Rectification? *Ethics and International Affairs*, 2(1), 9–18.

Questions

1. Based on Mathias Risse's claims, what is a "harm"? What is a "benchmark", and why is one 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?

To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages.

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.