

An introduction into politics of exploitation and underdevelopment' Or: Why are the 'richest' countries in the world the 'poorest' countries in the world?

15136 Proseminar
Thursday, 12-2pm (online)
First session: October 21, 2021
Sara Dehkordi
Otto-Suhr Institute of Political Science
Freie University Berlin
email: sara.m.dehkordi@gmail.com

Seminar description: In order to find answers for the question raised in the title of this seminar, we will attempt to create a conversation between the experiences of historical and present-day exploitation of different geographies and nation states. One of our aims in this regard will be to understand the relation between the exploitation of natural resources, of the local work force and systematic underdevelopment and civil war. Just as in the other seminars, we will need to include a critical review of epistemologies and methods that produce and perpetuate different categories of violence.

Seminar plan: In the first five sessions, we will concentrate on the issue of Capital Flight, its interrelation with natural resources extraction and the complex international networks that enable it. The next five sessions will be dedicated to the demystification of development aid and the dominant discourse on development and underdevelopment. Having read bits and pieces of different concrete examples by now, in the last third, we will deepen our understandings of the effects of exploitation and underdevelopment in various so-called 'developing countries' in the Americas, the Caribbean and the African Continent.

Requirements: Reading notes, short presentation (10-15 minutes), and for those who plan to obtain the full credits, a term paper/ term project

Course material / bibliography

- Abbas, Hakima and Niyiragira, Yves (eds.): *Aid to Africa – Coloniser or Redeemer?* Cape Town 2009

- Amin, Samir: *Unequal Development - An Essay on the Social Formations of Peripheral Capitalism*. Sussex 1976

- Bond, Patrick: *Looting Africa: The Economics of Exploitation*. London 2006

- Boyce, James K. and Ndikumana, Léonce: *Capital Flight from Sub-Saharan African Countries: Updated Estimates, 1970 – 2010*. Research Report October 2012. In: PERI – Political Economy Research Institute. University of Massachusetts, Amherst 2012

De Rivero, Oswaldo: *The Myth of Development: The Non-Viable Economies of the 21st Century*. London 2001

- Freire, Paulo: *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*. Introduction, Preface and Chapter 2. New York and London 2000. Originally published in 1970

- Galeano, Eduardo: *Open Veins of Latin America*. New York 1973

- Igwe, Isaac O.C.: *History of the International Economy: The Bretton Woods System and its Impact on the Economic Development of Developing Countries*. In: Athens Journal of Law. Volume 4, Issue 2 – Pages 105-126. 2018

- Mittal, Anuradha: *Land Loss, Poverty, and Hunger - Does Globalization Help the Poor?* In: International forum on Globalization. 2001

- Rodney, Walter: *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*. London and Dar Es Salaam 1972

- Roy, Arundhati: *Capitalism a Ghost Story*. Preface and Section one. Chicago 2014

- Tandon, Yash: *Demystifying Aid*. Cape Town 2011

- Tandon, Yash: *Development and Globalisation: Daring to Think Differently*. Cape Town 2009

- Tandon, Yash: *Ending Aid Dependence*. Cape Town 2008

- Torres Wong, Marcela: *Natural Resources, Extraction and Indigenous Rights in Latin America*. London 2021

- Uche, Chibuike: *Oil, British Interests and the Nigerian Civil War*. Journal of African History. Volume 49. Issue 1. 2008