

References: The development imperative

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APPENDIX 1: RESOURCES FOR STUDENT USE AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER READING

With every passing day, there are more resources available containing data and other information on the situation of nearly every country in the world. Of course, the internet has opened up possibilities for research and data collection and analysis beyond what could have been imagined even a decade or so ago. Every year the data become somewhat more comprehensive and reliable—but also at times they are more than a bit overwhelming. It is possible to find information on everything from income to levels of education of women, to kilometers of roads, to the number of doctors and nurses, to the percentage of dwellings with indoor plumbing. Most college and university library collections are likely to have one or more of the publications, should they not be located on the internet.

The statistical data included in the lectures this semester is but an insignificant fraction of the data to be obtained from the available sources. You are urged to peruse the sources listed here and others in your library. Learning how to “read” statistics, that is, attempting to determine the meaning and implications of data presented in statistical tables without reading the text accompanying such data, will vastly improve your powers of economic and social analysis. The following sources should be of great help in studying the problems of economic development.

■ World Bank, *World Development Report*, by year. Issued annually, this is an invaluable resource tool. Besides the statistical tables at the end of every volume, which, unfortunately, have been reduced in recent years, each report has a “theme” that is explored in detail. All recent *World Development Reports* are available online in pdf format, as well as numerous publications of the Bank on an impressive range of topics. All this is thanks to the intercession of former World Bank president Robert Zoellick (2007–12). A perusal of <http://www.worldbank.org> will quickly demonstrate the impressive range of materials available. Many of the problems at the end of the chapters in this text ask you to access the World Bank data.

■ United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report*, by year. Also issued annually, this report is complementary to the *World Development Report* in that it covers a broader range of development indicators and issues (available online at <http://www.undp.org>). The focus is more on people and the changes in economies that impact on “human development,” as opposed to focusing on the economic side of the ledger. This is an important, evolving source of information, having been published only since 1990. The next chapter examines in greater detail some specific information on human development published in the *Human Development Report*. Larger university libraries are also likely to have this publication in hard copy in their international documentation section, but the full report is available electronically.

■ The United Nations also publishes various kinds of data, mostly economic in nature, via its several regional Economic Commissions. One can find statistical and interpretive data published by: the UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific; the UN Economic Commission for Africa and the Middle East; the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; and the UN Economic Commission for Europe. If you can locate these volumes,

interesting and often quite detailed statistical data may be discovered, though it may be more difficult to work with than data from either of the above two sources, since different assumptions or definitions may be used in assembling the data. At a more general level the annual volume *World Economic Situation and Prospects* is important in understanding current context.

■The intergovernmental organization South Centre, with representation from 51 developing nations, is an important source for research and analysis from an often-absent “South–South” perspective. Formed in 1995, the South Centre presents analyses of the current economic conjuncture, the impact of climate change on developing nations, and the problems faced by commodity producing/exporting nations. The South Centre publishes the useful monthly, *South Bulletin*, and has available on its website over 400 research papers in English at: <http://www.southcentre.org>

■The Institute for Development Studies at Sussex University has, for nearly 40 years, “covered the major themes and influenced debates within international development.” See more at: <http://www.ids.ac.uk/publications/ids-series-titles/ids-bulletin#sthash.y9AtY7qH.dpuf>. The IDS publishes the important *IDS Bulletin* (unfortunately available only by subscription), and numerous “working papers” and research reports.

■The US-based Global Development and Environmental Institute at Tufts University, founded in 1993, places central focus on issues of ecology and development. They have produced numerous analytical studies on topics relating to globalization and sustainability. Their material is available at: <http://www.ase.tufts.edu/gdae/publications/overview.html>

■Non-governmental organizations focusing on development issues are numerous, and the quality of their research and analysis varies. Oxfam, operating anti-poverty programs in over 90 nations, is perhaps the best-known NGO focused on developmental issues. Oxfam offers access to over 3,000 reports, case studies, and policy papers—many on agricultural issues—at: <http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications>

■Foreign aid and issues related to this topic have been critically debated for decades. Useful in maintaining focus and accuracy on aid-related issues as well as poverty (and development issues in Africa) is the UK- and Kenya-based independent research center Development Initiatives, which also makes publicly available its clear, concise, well-documented, and well-presented findings at: <http://www.devinit.org/>

■There are a number of scholarly journals related to the study of economic development which often present recent empirical research, as well as more “cutting-edge” theoretical articles. The most widely distributed are *World Development* (monthly), *Economic Development and Cultural Change* (quarterly), *Journal of Development Economics* (quarterly), and the *Journal of Development Studies* (quarterly). Less “economistic” is the *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*. Also, as part of its role as a “knowledge institution” as well as a formulator of official development policy, the *World Bank Economic Review* (thrice annually) and the papers of the *Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics* are available on the World Bank website: <http://www.worldbank.org>

■If you have not visited or lived in a less-developed country, it is often difficult to fully comprehend what it means to be extremely poor. To convey a sense of the deprivation which absolute poverty entails, Robert Heilbroner, in *The Great Ascent*, [Chapter 2](#), transforms a middle-class family in a developed country into an impoverished family in a “typical” less-developed nation. For gaining a sense of empathy short of traveling to a less-developed nation, this is an excellent resource.

As an alternative, there are also short vignettes scattered throughout Jeffrey Sachs’s powerful *The End of Poverty* that drive home the reality of living with poverty daily.