

Globalization and Social Change



Development Failure in Africa: Sorting out the Factors

- Some Facts & Statistics
- Film: *Drowning in Oil (Equatorial Guinea)*
- *Debating the Reasons and What Needs To Be Done*

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Basic Facts & Statistics

850 million people; 705 million in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)

- Life expectancy 46 in SSA, 70 in North Africa (NA)
- Secondary school enrollment 26% in SSA, 69% in NA
- 34 of 48 poorest countries in the world are in SSA
- Between 1981 and 2001, the number of Africans living in absolute poverty almost doubled, from 164 to 314 million.
- Over 1 in 10 children die in their first year
- 25.2 million Africans have HIV/AIDS; malaria kills 2,800 Africans each day

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Basic Facts & Statistics

- Africa's share of world trade has fallen by almost 60%
- Only \$9 billion in foreign investment (2003) went to SSA, half of which went to three oil-producing countries

- Genocide continues in Sudan
- Civil wars still rage in a number of countries, with formerly-prosperous countries like Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Ivory Coast just beginning to recover
- Avian flu has reached West Africa

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... but some hopeful signs too:



- More countries have some degree of democracy
- Many SSA countries reported economic growth in last few years
- The debt burden has been finally reduced substantially
- Some countries have developed promising approaches to the AIDS problem
- NGO's and other civil society institutions have been getting stronger

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Equatorial Guinea

- Oil discovered in 1996—third largest supplier to US in Africa
- Sixth highest per capita income in world, but ranks 121st in human development
- Watch the film: *Drowning in Oil* to see how this happens

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Why Is Africa Still Poor?

What are the two positions that Andrew Rice lays out in his article?

How does Rice respond to Jeffrey Sachs' position?

What do you think? Are there other factors that should be brought into the discussion?

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What does Rodrik say in “Trading in Illusions”? What does he mean when he says...

“Global integration has become, for all practical purposes, a substitute for a development strategy. But globalization is not a shortcut to development.”



“The rules for admission into the world economy not only reflect little awareness of development priorities, they are often completely unrelated to sensible economic principles....a strategy of “globalization from above” crowds out alternatives that are potentially more development-friendly.”

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“In other words, the globalizers have it exactly backwards. Integration is the result, not the cause, of economic and social development.”

Question: what implications does Rodrik’s argument have for what needs to be done to promote African development?

The case of US cotton subsidies and their effects on West African farmers...

<http://www.pbs.org/now/shows/310/index.html>
