

Home assignment

Economics of Underdevelopment (2024-2025)

Deadline: February 28, 2025

You will study a **country of your choice** in groups of 4. The country selection will be available on Moodle. There are four parts to the assignment; you need to hand in a single PDF document summarizing all four parts. Each time you use data, please document very carefully where it comes from and what you did with it. If you use R (or another statistical package), submit the code in a single file, plus add any necessary data files needed to run the code. If you use Excel, collect all the original data and all your calculation in a single file. The key requirement is that your work should be easily reproducible without any additional steps on my side. It is your task to find the relevant data. Feel free to use any of the major data sources: Penn World Table, World Development Indicators, Our World in Data etc. Whenever you encounter missing data, try to use alternative sources. If you still have problems, just use whatever is available and document your problems.

1. GDP per capita

Collect data on GDP per capita in two ways. First, use a chain linked volume time series and show how the country developed over the last 30 years. Second, compare your country to its immediate neighbors in 2019 using GDP per capita measured at purchasing power parity. Create plots, and provide a brief discussion of what you see, one paragraph for each plot.

2. Population

Collect data on overall population and its age structure over the last 300 years. Using one or two plots, briefly discuss the results in terms of the demographic transition.

3. Production structure

Collect data on the share of employment and value added for agriculture (A), industry (B-F), and services (G-U). Using plots, briefly discuss the results in terms of structural change along development.

4. Open economy

Collect data on the current account (% GDP), the trade balance (% GDP), and the net foreign asset position (also known as the International Investment Position, % GDP) over the last 30 years. Using plots, evaluate the country's external position in terms sustainable development. Be brief and keep it simple, I do not expect a detailed analysis.