

## **Gobal Inequality and Poverty**

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When discussing global inequality in relation to modernization theory and dependency theory, it's important to first define what these terms mean in reference to this topic. "In our world there is a vast difference between the lives of the majority, who are poor, and the minority, who are rich" (Tweedell, 2010, p. 152.) There are multiple theories as to why this happens though mainly the modernization theory and the dependency theory. "To greatly over-simplify these two theories, it can be said that dependency theory blames the world's rich for the problem of poverty, while modernization theory blames the poor." (Tweedell, 2010, p. 157) A lot of the advocates for modernization theory base their opinions on the belief that modern western beliefs and technologies were better than other nations which is where a lot of the critics of this theory disagree. Advocates for the dependency theory seem to agree that richer nations tend to exploit poorer nations, keeping them in poverty where critics doubt the ability of these nations in poverty to be able to take care of themselves independently.

Some causes of global inequality include culture, lack of education, and exploitation of poor countries (Andreas, 2020). There are many more reasons and each with their own complicated causes, effects, and most importantly, solutions. I personally believe that the most important solution available, would be to invest in better access to education. I believe that to improve your country, you must invest in your people. Though there are some societies that limit education based on sex, race, or financial status, these are cultural issues that need to be revised in order to improve global poverty. Some societies may be in deserts where focusing on farmed exports for example may not be beneficial to that nation's economy, but with the use of modern technology, education can be developed anywhere. With assistance from other nations, and a focus on education, most nations in poverty could probably be resuscitated.

“The major impetus for the creation of national education systems lay in the need to provide the state with trained administrators, engineers and military personnel; to spread dominant national cultures and inculcate popular ideologies of nationhood; and so to forge the political and cultural unity of burgeoning nation states and cement the ideological hegemony of their dominant classes” (Green 1990:309).

There is also a common ideology that to make genuine change in your life (specifically against persistent problems) that one needs a strong support system. For example, addicts in rehabilitation for their active addiction are taught to build a dependable and healthy support system to help them along their journey. New parents are commonly told that it takes a village to raise children and taught that it’s okay and necessary for them to rely on friends and family for support. When we’re looking at potential solutions for global inequality, I think it’s important that we start with the individual. Powerful individuals build powerful nations. Where investing directly into the individual, as with the betterment of educational outreach, is important, I believe it is also important to learn from the examples we have of healthy communities. Communities where strong support systems are built. Following the example of addicts in recovery, I believe it is also important for recovering nations to build reliable support systems as well. These are international issues that require international solutions.

These are also ways that the United States could help with global poverty both in Americas lower class and throughout the world. If our nation’s top 1% attempted to help promote more scholarships or educational opportunities, we could help reduce poverty on an international level. This is something that is not just possible, but that should be a moral priority for the top 1% around the world, as well as for the rest of the world highest political leaders.

Christian leaders should take all of this into consideration when trying to bring about more equality in how nations are treated in the global economy. Growing up in Sunday school I was always taught to treat my neighbors as I would want to be treated and I sincerely believe that instilling someone with an excellent education can provide them with all the opportunities they would need to become successful. Following that line of thought, I genuinely believe that instilling those in poverty with a solid education can only help on an individual level, as well as nationally and globally. That being said, I'm not Christian, and I don't believe that this is purely a Christian responsibility. This is the responsibility of everyone in every nation and every position to help (as are all other issues). Poverty, global inequality, education, and every other issue is not just for those in power or with the means' calling. These are issues that everyone all over the world need to take seriously. We need to all work together as a common people against our issues to make lasting, and effective changes.

## References

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