

TD 638: Development Perspectives

# Early Mainstream Development Theories

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# Main Approaches to Development: 1950s Onwards . . . 1

<i>Decade</i>	<i>Main development approaches</i>
1950s	<u>Modernization theories</u> : all countries should follow the European model <u>Structuralist theories</u> : Southern countries needed to limit interaction with the global economy to allow for domestic economic growth
1960s	<u>Modernization theories</u> <u>Dependency theories</u> : Southern countries poor because of exploitation by Northern countries
1970s	Dependency theories <u>Basic needs approaches</u> : focus of government and aid policies should be on providing for the basic needs of the world's poorest people <u>Neo-Malthusian theories</u> : need to control economic growth, resource use and population growth to avoid economic and ecological disaster <u>Women and development</u> : recognition of the ways in which development has differential effects on women and men

# Main Approaches to Development: 1950s Onwards . . . 2

<i>Decade</i>	<i>Main development approaches</i>
1980s	<p><u>Neo-liberalism</u>: focus on the market. Governments should retreat from direct involvement in economic activities</p> <p><u>Grassroots approaches</u>: importance of considering local context and indigenous knowledge</p> <p><u>Sustainable development</u>: need to balance needs of current generation against environmental and other concerns of future populations</p> <p><u>Gender and development</u>: greater awareness of the ways in which gender is implicated in development</p>
1990s	<p><u>Neo-liberalism</u></p> <p><u>Post-development</u>: ideas about 'development' represent a form of colonialism and Eurocentrism. Should be challenged from the grassroots</p> <p><u>Sustainable development</u></p> <p><u>Culture and development</u>: increased awareness of how different social and cultural groups affected by development processes</p>
2000s	<p><u>Neo-liberalism</u>: increased engagement with concepts of globalization</p> <p><u>Sustainable development</u></p> <p><u>Post-development</u></p> <p><u>Grassroots approaches</u></p>

# Early Thinking about 'Development': Keynes and Rostow

**W W. Rostow** (1950s):

*Addressed* concerns of US elites during *Cold War*:

Concern: whether *newly independent countries* in the Global South will side with USSR.

**Rostow proposal**: *US aid* to *developing countries* could help *newly independent countries*

to move rapidly through the *stages of economic development*

while keeping them in the *capitalist/Western sphere of influence*.

- **Rostow postulated** that economic development as done in Western industrialized countries
  - *could be replicated* in *developing world* by applying a *five-stage model* (Representative of *modernization theory*).

**Rostow's** theory and advice was *followed by* US and Western European governments in providing *Development Aid*

# Early Thinking about 'Development': Rostow's Model . . 1

- **W. W. Rostow** *postulated* that economic development as done in Western industrialized countries
  - *could be replicated* in **developing world** by applying a **five-stage model** (Representative of **modernization theory**).

## Rostow's Five-Stage Model of Development

### 1. **Initial Stage: Traditional State** of **economy, politics,** and **culture**

- **Economic: Developing societies** mostly **agricultural**, *focused on* **subsistence** (no surplus),  
and *employing* their **economic surpluses** for **military or religious goals** rather than for **economic improvement**.
- **Political:** Though liberated from colonial masters, native **Feudal interest groups** have strong political control
  - **Feudal interest groups** thriving on **agricultural rent** and not interested in development of industries or markets.
- **Socio-Cultural:** Social norms and cultural practices **restrict** political and economic freedom
  - And **restrict** development of **markets** or **industries**

# Early Thinking about 'Development': Rostow's Model . . 2

## 2. *Second Stage: Transition Stage:*

- *Subversion* of previous stage *through development of internal and external markets*
- *Markets allow the sale of agricultural commodities* and the *import of new goods*, along with *foreign technology*.
- This process *creates interest groups* in favour of *increasing production* and *accumulating wealth*
- for *secular* and *civil purposes* (and not for *military* or *religious* purposes).
- These *changes in economy* force *changes in traditional culture* *shake up* the *pre-existing political order*.
- The increased *economic activity*, presence of *interest groups*, and *loosening of political and cultural constraints*
  - create a *push toward more productive economic specialization in manufacturing*,  
and *interest in the diversification* of *economic* and *trading opportunities*
- These *developments*, in turn, *create* the *conditions* for the *third stage*.

# Early Thinking about 'Development' : Rostow's Model . . 3

## Rostow's *Five-Stage Model of Development* [Continued]

3. *Third Stage: Take-off Stage: Crucial* because this is when *developing countries* start switching to *large-scale agriculture* and *industry*, thus causing *rapid urbanization* and *social change*.

The *pressures of urbanization* and *industrialization* create *demand* for

*significant investments* in *basic services* such as electrification, roads, and seaports

and *drastic improvements* in *education systems*.

For Rostow, *these* all were *areas* where *Western aid* and *advice* could and *should be employed*.

# Early Thinking about 'Development' : Rostow's Model . . 4

## Rostow's *Five-Stage Model of Development* [Continued]

4. *Fourth Stage: Drive to Maturity Stage*: Tendencies from the *Third Stage* deepen.

*Economic terms*: *Developing Countries* more diversified and less reliant on imports to cover necessities.

As *local firms* invest to increase the volume and quality of their *Industrial* and *agricultural production*,  
and adapt or create their *own technologies*.



# Early Thinking about 'Development' : Rostow's Model . . 5

## Rostow's *Five-Stage Model of Development* [Continued]

5. *Fifth and Last Stage: Mass Consumption Society Stage*: Stage *already attained* by *industrialized Western economies*.

*Economies* of *Developing Countries* completely *industrialized*,

with *productive capacity* enough to *satisfy* the *consumption needs* of citizens,

including *financing imports* with *exports* of goods and services

- While Rostow's *stages of growth model* is *rarely invoked* in *development policy analysis* today,
- It has *still remained* as an *influential undercurrent* for *Western policy-making toward the Global South*.

# Early Thinking about 'Development' : Rostow's Model . . 6

What are the **Main Drivers** of **Development**: Comparing Gerschenkron, Keynes, and Rostow

**Gerschenkron**: **premeditated planning** will transform **economy** of **newly independent countries** in short time

**Keynes**: The **state** needs to make **efforts** to jump **stages of development** by accelerating **economic growth**

**Rostow**: **International Aid** + **State's efforts** + **International trade** + **Domestic investments**

will be required for **development** of **newly independent countries**

**Core Keynesian idea** applied to **development**

**Jumping stages of development** by accelerating **economic growth** and **modifying economies**,  
using **forces other than the market**, namely, **the state**.

# Development Economics: New Disciplines in Development Thinking . 1

**Development Economics:** New discipline (in the late 1940s and lasted until the early 1960s)

**Paul Rosenstein-Rodan:** *“Big Push” Theory:*

- Concentrating **development efforts** in specific and large **industrialization** projects (*“Big Push”*)
- Projects with high capability **to create “ripple effects”** in the rest of the economy.
  - **“Ripple Effects”** = (Such projects) **enable technological development** and additional **economic activities**
    - in other **sectors** of **economy** and other **sections** of **society** (leading to **economic growth**).
  - **Measured by** number of jobs and new businesses **created** in primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors of economy.
- Example: **Creation of** heavy industries such as steel plants (also seaports, road bridges, and energy generation plants)
  - the output of which would later **be used** in the production of other goods,
  - such as rail cars and train tracks, ships, and heavy trucks.

## Development Economics: New Disciplines in Development Thinking . 2

**Development Economics:** New discipline (in the late 1940s and lasted until the early 1960s)

Paul Rosenstein-Rodan: ***“Big Push” Theory***: [Continued]

***Construction and operation*** of these specific and large ***industrialization*** projects

also ***require transfer of*** significant ***technology*** and ***skills*** to developing countries from developed countries.

(technology and skills building, planning, and project management)

Due to their very high costs and ***requirements*** for technical knowledge,

these projects typically ***needed to be*** funded through ***foreign aid***,

thus establishing another powerful argument and agenda for official ***development assistance /aid*** .

# Development Economics: New Disciplines in Development Thinking . 3

Albert Hirschman (economist and Advisor to World Bank): Also *supported* the *idea*:

Big *industrial* projects in *strategic industries* and *large infrastructure investments* *triggering economic modernization*

Hirschman pointed out *another gain* from *injections* of *foreign technology* and *capital*, through *international aid*

Create *linkages* with the rest of the economy

*Linkages* (Concept) *emphasizes* that a given *strategic industrialization* *can stimulate* the *development* of *other industries*,

including *some local industries* that *provide* inputs (*backward linkages*)

and *other industries* that *process* outputs (*forward linkages*) for these new *strategic industrialization* projects.

*Backward* and *forward linkages* *could jumpstart* *multiple sectors* of an underdeveloped economy

*Condition*: Such *linkages* *would develop* only if *state policies* *required*

*utilization* of *locally made inputs* and *local processing of outputs* *before exporting*.

## Development Economics: New Disciplines in Development Thinking . 4

- **Arthur Lewis**: Another *critical link*: *Theory of Surplus Labour*
- **Arthur Lewis**: *Pointed out* that *industrialization* could be promoted in developing countries
  - by *encouraging labour to move from rural areas*, where they worked in *subsistence farming* or *plantations*,
  - to *urban areas to work in industry*, *without raising* wages.
  - which *would generate* significant *surplus*.
- *Theory of Surplus Labour* implied that such *industrialization*
  - *could achieve large profits* in its early stages,
    - which *could later be reinvested* in *technology adaptation* or *endogenous innovations*,
    - *making economic development* a *self-sustaining project* (Lewis 1954).

# Development Economics: New Disciplines in Development Thinking . 5

**Ragnar Nurske: Theory of Balanced Growth** (of Industries and Agriculture) through State Investment,

**Export Pessimism:** *Observed* that much of the growth of imports in developing countries was wasteful.

*consisted of* luxury and superfluous consumption

**Nurske advocated** (instead) for increased taxation of commodity exporters and the wealthy

*to finance state-led industrial and agriculture projects* that *would diversify* the *economy*,

*substitute* for *imports of manufactured goods*, and *repress* demand for luxury items.

Such thinking dovetailed with

- Rosenstein- Rodan arguments for “big push” projects, and ripple effect
- Hirschman’s ideas of “linkages,”
- and Rostow’s stage sequencing of growth.

## Development Economics: New Disciplines in Development Thinking . 6

### *Import Substitution Industrialization (ISI):*

**Premise:** By *protecting* or *shielding* them from foreign competition,

*local infant industries* in developing countries *could grow significantly*

*Allowing them* to *earn great profits* in local markets

that *would be later invested* in *new industries* and *technologies*,

*gradually creating* a *more industrialized economy*

with *higher value-added production* than one based on *unprocessed commodities*.



## Development Economics: New Disciplines in Development Thinking . 7

Rosenstein-Rodan arguments for “*big push*” projects, Hirschman’s ideas of “*linkages*” and *state intervention*, and Rostow’s *stage sequencing of growth*, Nurske idea of *heavy taxation*.

All involved *departures* in *development economics* from *traditional free-market Economics* (*Liberal Economics*)

This *departures* Quite common in the 1940s to 1960s, since many economists of this period

*did not accord international trade* a significant role in strategies for development.

Their recent experience had been formed by

the *Great Depression*, with its fall in international trade flows,

the *Second World War*, when *international trade* had pretty much *stopped*,

and the early *post-war period*, when *international trade* remained *heavily regulated*

while *Marshall Plan* worked as *State-State Collaboration* for *Reconstruction of Europe* .

Thank You