The Resource Curse

Name: Vanessa Gonzales

**Sweet Crude Worksheet**

This week we are focusing on the Dependency Theory of development with a focus on the resources of minerals and oil. Use the readings and lectures for this week, as well as the film Sweet Crude to answer the following questions.

**1. Briefly, what is your understanding of the “Resource Curse”?**

Unfair resource control that the government prohibits the people to be a part of. Although there are abundant rich resources there is still no wealth or any income generated to the people or community.

**2. The “Rentier Effect” and “Dutch Disease” are two aspects of the resource curse. Define each one briefly below.**

Rentier Effect- “the rentier effect has often been known as the “resource course,” the argument being that a state with an abundance of natural resources tends to govern in undemocratic ways, and achieve less growth than those lacking resources. “

Dutch Disease-”Dutch disease is an economic term for the negative consequences that can arise from a spike in the value of a nation’s currency It is primarily associated with the new discovery or exploitation of a valuable natural resource and the unexpected repercussions that such a discovery can have on the overall economy of a nation.”

**3. What is the name of the region of Nigeria that the film Sweet Crude focuses on?**

Oporoza, Niger Delta, Nigeria.

**4. What are the names of two oil companies based there?**

1. Chevron
2. Shell

**5. Describe in detail 1-2 of the environmental and social impacts of oil exploration in this region that are described in the opening ten minutes of the film.**

Within the community there are many buildings and houses that are deteriorating due to the crude oil pollution and have affected many people as well as their living, security, and health. The film showed what looked like an abandoned school followed by the community homes where roofs look like they are falling apart. The wells filled with water are being polluted and therefore not letting people have clean water a basic need. The aquatic life which people use for food, transportation, and other needs is affected as well.

**6. The film describes a number of (past and present) leaders of the resistance movement against the Nigerian Government. What is the name of one of these?**

One leader was Adaka Boro who declared republic and saw people from other regions felt superior, saw it in different forces such as the police and wanted a republic for their beliefs and fought for what he thought the community deserved. He also led a 12 year revolution, but was thrown to jail. Ogoni struggle where Ogoni was being taken advantage of which was led peacefully and wanted revenue or some type of compensation for the destruction and extraction of oil. Military regime would hang people environmental activists such as Wiwa who wanted international attention, but were executed. Later the youth came together and formed the Kaiama Declaration.

**7. Briefly, what are the main points raised about the colonial history of Nigeria by Michael Watts in the film?**

Nigeria is a product of british imperialism and Africa was part of the partition of the scramble and imperial rule. Nigeria was the product of partition and there were close to 33 ethno-national groups During colonial rule in the 1960s it was a bundle of many different cultures which ended up being a very unstable federation.

**8. In which decade did the oil companies enter the scene?**

1950s specifically 1956

**9. At one point, the film describes the role of women in the resistance movement. How did women get involved? Why do you think they were well positioned to do so?**

Women were abused by the military who were paid to protect chevron companies ..Women were nonviolent protesters and were very peaceful. Women were tired, having no basic needs, but they were beaten, killed, and not given the right attention.Although they came with dialogue they suffered by violence despite peaceful protesting.

**10.50 minutes into the film we learn about the connections between this case study and our readings and lectures on the securitization of development (week 13) and the US role in this.**

**1) What US government body was key here that we also learn about in class in week 13?**

**2) What role did they play? Detail this below.**

1. U.S Federal Government; Government the president and U.S foreign policy
2. Implemented AFRICON and the U.S supplied more military.

**11.The film follows an interview between a representative of MEND and the US television channel ABC. 1) What does MEND stand for?2) What were the key differences between the actual interview and the way it was represented? 3) In what ways is this similar to the Single Story/Orientalist representations of Africa?**

1) Movement for the emancipation Niger Delta

2) There was terrorism or terrorists, but in the actual interview it seems that they are represented as terrorists. . I think the key differences between the actual interview and representation was the twist of words and saying certain fearful words such as hostages, capture, and bombs.

1. A single story / orientalism is shown in the media ABC report where they went and portrayed people protesting and having weapons as a terrorist group. Any fight for their rights was automatically assumed to involve violence. Therefore it began to connect ties with Al-Qaeda and African countries emerging as terrorists.

**12.Which scene was most memorable for you? How did this make you feel? What is the most important issue/fact/idea that you take from the movie? What questions are you left asking?**

The beating of the youth on the ground and the assault on one of the young men made me feel sad even when taking evidence of the beating to the government and no one doing anything is awful. I felt very disgusted and appalled that ABC would use words such as bombs, terrorists, hostages to paint an illegitimate picture of people who struggle in the Niger DELTA. I do not see the point of making these lies to harm the people there even more when they have enough to deal with. I think the visuals of the clip of the news was most memorable because we had just watched what was true and of course they were twisted at the end. It is important to investigate and not trust the media rather than trusting anything the media says we should reflect and take time to do research. I do not think it is fair that the oil produced harms the homes of future generations and because we do not see it here we tend to turn the cheek away. What would Abrahamsen say about the Sweet Crude Film and how does this Jhobo character complicate the situation?