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Introduction to International Development: Approaches, Actors,  
and Issues. Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2009.**

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**Paul A. Haslam, Jessica Schafer, and Pierre Beaudet (Eds). *Introduction to International Development: Approaches, Actors, and Issues*. Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2009.**

Paul A. Haslam, Jessica Schafer, and Pierre Beaudet deserve praise for this ambitious collection of essays. As they note in the book's preface, development studies used to fall mainly within the domain of graduate programs but is now increasingly present in mainstream undergraduate instruction. Their edited textbook addresses development studies' newly expanded audience, seeking to provide first- and second-year students with "a conceptual toolkit" on current thinking and practice. It emphasizes "multi-disciplinarity," featuring contributors from a wide array of disciplines and perspectives. The textbook also highlights "praxis," connecting critical theory and ethical concerns to real-world actions and situations. These are laudable priorities, reflecting prevailing notions of development professionalism. A generous supply of information boxes, photographs, figures, tables, and other illustrative materials supports the essays, enhancing the flow of ideas. Each chapter also contains a set of learning objectives, discussion questions, suggested readings, and a list of internet sites for follow-up. Both teachers and students alike will find this a user-friendly book in its layout. The strength of this textbook, however, firmly rests in its essays, which offer students a solid foundation in major aspects of the field. As with most collections, unevenness exists in the quality of individual chapters, and a few key issues such as energy and urbanization receive only light coverage. Additionally, despite deep empathy with the global poor, the textbook still features some of the paternalism typical of international development professionalism. Nonetheless, the text generally succeeds in attaining the goal of creating a resourceful and durable toolkit.

The editors organized the book into three parts, starting with six chapters on "approaches" to the context, concept, and theories of development. Schafer, Haslam, and Beaudet open with a review of definitions and measures of development. Their chapter stands out for its sensitive attention to moral concerns. For example, they explore the issue of global redistributive justice by examining the cosmopolitanism-comunitarianism debate, furnishing insights into how cultural boundaries and human rights define social obligations. Eric Allina-Pisano follows with a compact history of European imperialism, highlighting its colonial legacy. This background helps contextualize the rest of the book, which emphasizes Western domination. Unfortunately, the editors did not extend their vision of global interactions further into the past to demonstrate that China, India, and other regions have also served as active agents of development, instead of being simply its victims (see Sen, 2002). Radhika Desai and Eunice N. Sahle appraise theories of development in their respective essays. Desai's analysis starts with the rise of capitalism through the present-day, while Sahle focuses on recent "post-development" thought. Neither author holds a high opinion of neo-liberalism or other "hegemonic" discourses. Students may require assistance from instructors in navigating these challenging theoretical currents. Andrea Martinez provides a compelling study of the role of gender and women in development theory and practice. Her chapter delivers in its stated aim of providing readers with an understanding of "why women have failed to benefit to the same extent as men" from development interventions (p. 83). Beaudet closes the section by reviewing the relationship between development and globalization. Beaudet's presentation of globalization is concise and forceful, illuminating the strengths, limitations, and uncertainties regarding this increasingly popular concept. Globalization as an academic specialty has made inroads into development studies' territory, a trend that will likely continue. As this first section of the textbook makes

clear, development is a concept deeply laden with ideological connotations. Although the same may be said of globalization, globalization may offer a more serviceable framework for analyzing global political economy and people's striving for a better life.

Part II presents the "actors" who supposedly "shape developmental outcomes" (p. xiv): the state (Anil Hira); national aid agencies (Stephen Brown); World Bank-International Monetary Fund (Marcus Taylor); the United Nations and other multilateral entities (David Sogge); multinational firms (Paul Alexander Haslam); and civil society (Henry Veltmeyer). These chapters furnish a great deal of useful information on their respective topics, yet the section falls short of its overall potential due to the absence of a major category of actors: the global poor. Of course, poor people appear throughout the textbook, even getting their own chapter by David R. Morrison in the "issues" section (although technically, the chapter examines poverty and exclusion, rather than 'the poor' per se). One might argue that the editors' choice is appropriate, since it reflects the long-standing conventional wisdom of international development regarding the assumed marginality of the poor. Yet, as substantial literature (including the writings of Morrison and others in this textbook) documents, poor people possess significant agency, which they exercise through individual and collective efforts. As such, the omission of the poor as main "actors" reveals more about the self-importance, myopia, and paternalism of hegemonic development professionalism than it does about poor people's capacities for shaping their own lives (Chambers, 2005). One hopes that the editors will rethink their assumptions when opportunity arises for the textbook's revision.

The third section spans 14 chapters covering specialized "issues" regarding people, places, sectors, and themes. It constitutes the textbook's strongest and most lively unit, with tightly organized essays. Morrison deals with the poor and poverty alleviation, concluding that neo-liberalism needs to be replaced by pro-poor strategies involving democratic decentralization, increased public sector spending, and related reforms. Joseph Hanlon explains how national debt emerged as a major concern (though his chapter does not tackle the world's financial crisis that emerged in 2008). Gavin Fridell clearly summarizes the "free trade" versus "fair trade" debate. Cédric Jourde expertly explores questions about the nature and dynamics of democracy. Deborah Sick examines the political ecology of sustainability, covering academic and policy debates in an accessible manner. Unfortunately, energy's relationship to development never gets fully treated here or in other chapters, and the word energy is not even included in the index. Similarly, Joshua Ramisch's informative chapter on rural development begs the question of why the text includes no such counterpart on urban development. After all, as Ramisch points out, more than half the world's population now resides in urban areas. Urbanization receives brief mention in several chapters, but is largely conspicuous by its absence.

Human capital concerns are explored in Ted Schreker's analysis of public health and Richard Macclure, Refaat Sabbah, and Daniel Lavan's study of educational policies and practices. Both chapters excel in their presentation of trends, current practices, and policy dilemmas, revealing that public investments in both sectors lag far behind social needs. Astri Suhrke and Torunn Wimpelmann Chaudhary convincingly demonstrate how and why conflict constitutes an integral aspect of development processes and practices. They also look at the complex connections between peacebuilding, development, and security. Khalid Koser succinctly summarizes major issues regarding international migration, including the significance of remittances in the global economy. After reading Koser's analysis, the reader is left to wonder whether international migrants should be placed in the "actors" section as well. The same can be said about indigenous people, whose characteristics and concerns are ably handled by Natacha

Gagné. Erwin A. Alampay explores the digital divide and other information technology (IT) issues. The recent use of social networking by protestors in North Africa and the Middle East underscores the growing importance of the IT sector. Nissim Mannathukkaren offers a spirited but occasionally flawed analysis of culture's place in development. He skillfully handles some aspects, yet falters on others, such as in his treatment of the concepts of mass and popular culture. Mannathukkaren defines the former as "something that is imposed from above," and the latter as belonging to "oppressed classes" (p. 472). These statements strike the reviewer as reflecting romantic academic values rather than the social realities of everyday life. As Grant McCracken (2009) observes, corporate purveyors of cultural product anxiously follow the masses to see what will emerge as the cool new trends. Samir Amin's epilogue presents a passionate critique of the current Chinese market-based miracle. He claims that the country's "struggle for socialism" has been neither won nor lost, and his essay explores future scenarios for the country. Amin's positive assessment of Maoism may surprise readers who recall the millions of deaths associated with the communist leader's failed Great Leap Forward initiative or the massive human rights abuses that occurred during the Cultural Revolution. Nonetheless, Amin is correct in identifying China's rising inequality as a probable source of future instability.

Once again, the editors and contributors deserve praise for creating such an ambitious and effective toolkit. This textbook covers a broad spectrum of development issues in an accessible manner. The overall quality of writing and presentation greatly outweighs its conceptual and other limitations. Academics and professionals who do not offer undergraduate courses in international development may still want to obtain a copy, as the essays provide state-of-the-art reviews of their subject matter.

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