Rorden Wilkinson and David Hulme (Eds.) The Millennium Development Goals and Beyond: Global Development after 2015. New York, NY: Routledge. 2012.

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Rorden Wilkinson and David Hulme (Eds.) *The Millennium Development Goals and Beyond: Global Development after 2015*. New York, NY: Routledge. 2012.

Rorden Wilkinson and David Hulme's anthology, *The Millennium Development Goals and Beyond, Global Development after 2015*, compiles twelve concise articles addressing the current state of the Millennium Development Goals[1] (MDGs) as the 2015 deadline for their completion grows increasingly near. First, Wilkinson and Hulme introduce their work, contextualizing each chapter through their interpretations of problems, current statuses, and future needs of the MDGs and related policies. The Johannesburg Statement on the Millennium Development Goals is included as an appendix item and is explained as a key document from which Wilkinson and Hulme have formed their consensus on the ideas, policies, targets, and plans that should be included in the establishment of future Global Development Goals (GDGs) as a continuation or elaboration of the current MDGs.

Wilkinson and Hulme briefly introduce each chapter, relating the ideas of each contributing author to their own understandings of the MDGs and future GDGs and concluding with their suggested approaches to the formation of future GDGs after 2015. Wilkinson and Hulme, like many of the authors in this text, echo the ideas presented in the Johannesburg Statement on the Millennium Development Goals, which call for GDG efforts to focus specifically on reducing inequalities through economic and climate change and increased implementation of human rights. After a brief introduction, each chapter continues with the analysis of a particular issue, such as the implementation of the MDGs, initiatives excluded from the MDGs that the authors consider fundamental for inclusion in the future GDGs, as well as a specific focus on the status of Africa. This book provides analyses of the MDGs and the GDGs first concerning "global context" and then addressing a "focus on Africa," specifically.

Margaret Joan Anstee's contribution considers the use of "targets" within the MDGs as both contributing to and detracting from their success. Anstee describes the historical background of the MDGs and argues that the articulation of specifically desired "targets" or outcomes to be met by a particular deadline has definitively changed the perception of global development. On the one hand, she says, having specific targets for global development has assisted in focusing international development energies on some of the most urgent matters. On the other hand, she asserts that many of the objectives will not be met by the imposed deadline and, as such, targets for development will have to be modified and included in future GDGs. Finally, Anstee stresses that the use of targeted goals in the articulating of the MDGs resulted in many unachievable objectives due to lack of political unity in these efforts.

According to Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, assessment of global development narratives is necessary in order to understand the importance of the MDGs in creating a global discourse for international development efforts. Fukuda-Parr argues that the MDGs were developed as a "narrative" intended to bring international development to the forefront of policy dialogue, rather than as a set of unachievable objectives. The fundamental use of the MDGs narrative, according to Fukuda-Parr, is the normalization and institutionalization of the idea that development should be focused on efforts to reduce and eliminate poverty on an international scale.

Ramesh Thakur's discussion emphasizes the need for a balanced and operational state structure prior to the successful implementation of development efforts. Thakur explores theoretical approaches to international development and related discourse, including modernization theory,

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[1] The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) refer to eight international development goals set by the UN to reduce or end poverty by the target date of 2015. The UN describes the goals as including "halving extreme poverty rates, halting the spread of HIV/AIDS, and providing universal primary education."

neoclassical economics, "trickle down" approaches, and the role of globalization. Thakur calls on wealthy nations to utilize economic approaches such as deregulation, which would reduce the impact of trade restrictions and constraints within the global economy, making international trade more accessible to developing world economies.

Sophie Harman argues that the MDGs' attempts to form approaches to development that specifically benefit women in developing countries unfortunately resulted instead in the reinforcement of gendered stereotypes of women as caregivers, prioritizing the role of women as mothers, family members, and community members over their personal wellbeing. Harman indicates that the "feminization of poverty alleviation" has resulted in women in developing countries contributing to development through unpaid labor in families and communities. The role of "vogue goal-setting" is introduced as the phenomenon of various policy priorities taking precedence over others according to what issues are considered important at a particular time, with women's issues sometimes considered urgent and other times considered less significant. Harman argues in favor of focusing on all women's needs in all stages of life, not just on their maternal health, and she asserts that such a broad focus is necessary in order for future GDGs to improve from the inadequately gendered policies and approaches of the MDGs.

Katherine Marshall explores the role of religion as a significant potential factor of inclusion for future GDGs. Arguing that religions throughout the world generally include an assumption that it is not possible to eliminate poverty, Marshall indicates there has been a sluggish response of many religious affiliations to become involved in MDGs approaches, although increasing efforts of religious sectors to engage in development dialogues and efforts have been noted. Marshall believes that those who undertake the implementation of future GDGs should utilize the efforts of religious leaders and community members when working on international development objectives, thereby making use of a valuable resource of assistance and support.

A discussion of the role of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in the MDGs and GDGs is provided by Thomas G. Weiss. Weiss argues for the expansive involvement of ECOSOC in the production of knowledge and research of international development and related issues. ECOSOC's role in the GDGs, according to Weiss, should include informing policy efforts through academic work embracing autonomous publication.

The latter half of this text emphasizes information and discussion specific to Africa as the fundamental area of the world affected by and in need of MDG and GDG efforts. Craig N. Murphy's work analyzes the historical background of MDG efforts in Africa, detailing needs for future efforts. Murphy explains that Africa's status as a region in particular need of development efforts is related to the continent's need for infrastructure, healthcare systems, and economic redistribution. Murphy's discussion leads into Chimhowu and Hulme's explanation of the current state of Africa's successes and disappointments regarding MDG objectives, supported by current data on poverty and development. According to Chimhowu and Hulme, the elimination of "good enough governance" is one of the most fundamentally significant steps necessary towards achieving greater success in meeting development goals in Africa.

Frances Stewart explains problems associated with compiling accurate information to determine measures of success or lack thereof in Africa, due to such issues as lack of data and inconsistent methods of collecting and analyzing accessible data. Examining "failures" in Africa, Stewart forms suggestions for what is necessary for Africa to achieve further economic, political, and social development. Her suggestions include the need for (1) the reduction of internal conflicts, (2) increased and sufficient access to international aid, (3) grants for development purposes, and (4) the empowering of women and increasing women's access to sufficient healthcare.

The devastation caused by HIV/AIDS in Africa is considered of utmost importance for future development plans by Regondi and Whiteside, who indicate future GDGs should consider intersectional approaches when developing policy, since one measure of development or need often

interacts with and impacts others. Regondi and Whiteside emphasize the need to incorporate initiatives of HIV/AIDS activism into efforts to support international development, since both objectives are complementary and interconnected.

Bangura's discussion of development in Africa highlights the need for employment as a central requirement of progress. Similarly, Botman's approach emphasizes the education of its citizens beyond primary levels as fundamental to the ability of African nations to gain support through "global partnership," which he says, is only possible as part of involvement in research and knowledge production. While Bangura argues that Africa requires "productive employment" and economic redistribution, Botman calls for the establishment of universities and policies supporting education beyond the primary level and the prevention of "brain drain,"[2] which detracts from Africa's ability to maintain a population of highly skilled individuals, particularly in the sciences as producers of knowledge. Both authors' arguments for the need for social and economic development in Africa allow for those living in developing countries to engage in efforts to reduce poverty in their own lives while contributing to the overall development of structural support for Africa as a whole. Institutional level development through labor and education is argued to be fundamental to the future success of Africa in the GDGs.

The arguments and analyses of the MDGs and GDGs presented in Wilkinson and Hulme's book provide a complex understanding of the current problems surrounding the MDGs, popular discourse regarding what might change in the formation of future GDGs, and theoretical approaches contributing to these objectives. Each contributing author provides sufficient evidence to support his or her arguments through statistics, theory, or other explanation. While this dialogue does provide a thorough examination of current MDGs and GDGs discussions, some of the arguments would benefit from more substantial explanations. For example, the role of neoliberal economic policies and approaches in developing countries and the impact of these on the global economy and development strategies could be more thoroughly examined. Additionally, most of the discussions in this text lack consideration of the significance of ethnicity and the role of different racial groups within developing nations. Both topics would contribute to the holistic approach Wilkinson and Hulme strive for in studying global poverty and the MDGs and GDGs. As a whole, this text provides extensive understandings of the current state of the MDGs and the outlook of the formation of future GDGs beyond 2015 and emphasizes the need to consider both the successes and the disappointments of the MDGs as a foundation for building global development goals in the future.

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[2] Brain drain refers to "the departure of educated or professional people from one country, economic sector, or field for another, usually for better pay or living conditions." Brain drain is often associated with de-skilling of emigrants in their country of destination, while their country of origin experiences the loss of skilled individuals.