Dimensions of Exploitation

Bankrupt Idealism: A Case Study on an Integrated Micro-Finance Program’s Cost-Effectiveness
Atalya Ben-Haim

Beyond the Oil Curse: Shell, State Power, and Environmental Regulation in the Niger Delta
Jonah Rexler

The Linkage Between Migration and Child Labor: An International Perspective
Sarah Flamm

The Iran-Syria Axis: A Critical Investigation
Jonathan Gelbart

Conversations with Dr. Francis Fukuyama and Ambassador Carlos Pascual
Mitul Bhat, Farbod Faraji, Katie White
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The Fall Issue of the Stanford Journal of International Relations examines different forms of child and environmental exploitation. There are many dimensions to exploitation, from the volatile relationship between two countries leveraging one another for their own gain to the more personal stories of privation linked to human trafficking and the like. This issue also includes an analysis of microfinance programs designed to aid those who are living in poverty and an analysis of the relationship between Syria and Iran.

First, Atalya Ben-Haim brings us her paper, entitled “Sustaining Social Development Training in Microfinance Programs”, which examines current microfinance programs that contain social components and their effectiveness, while looking specifically at the Intervention with Microfinance for AIDS and Gender Equity (IMAGE) program. Atalya finds that IMAGE, which included education on HIV/AIDS, domestic violence, and gender relations, in addition to cash loans, had the same effect on participant income as microfinance programs without social components.

Next, Sarah Flamm’s paper, “The Linkage Between Migration and Child Labor: An International Perspective”, discusses how youth who move within and between countries are at an increased risk of becoming involved in child labor. While there is no basis in international law to restrict internal or external migration, Flamm argues there should be more protection for the youth during their journey.

Jonah Rexler’s paper, “Beyond the Oil Curse: Shell, State Power, and Environmental Regulation in the Niger Delta”, reveals that multinational oil companies are attempting different initiatives to encourage development in the Niger Delta, after years of exploiting the land and the people who inhabit it. However, Rexler’s examination of one program reveals that the programs may be more harmful than beneficial.

This issue then launches into the complex relations that exist between Iran and Syria. Author Jonathan Gelbart critically analyses the alliance between Iran and Syria in light of strategic considerations and a shared ideology. The piece ingeniously explains the ramifications of this relationship on the Middle East as well as the rest of the world.

Finally, this issue features exclusive interviews with the United States Ambassador to Mexico, Carlos Pascual, and Francis Fukuyama, author of The End of History and the Last Man and a new addition to the Stanford Faculty. Ambassador Pascual shares his insight on the current problems in Mexico as well as the role the US should play in assisting with the current security situation. Professor Fukuyama reveals his opinion on current international affairs, the performance of the Obama administration, and answers criticisms leveled as his previous works.

It is our hope that further research will be taken on these subjects. We hope that you enjoy reading. You can also find us on the web at http://www.stanford.edu/group/sjir/.

Farbod Faraji and Katie White
Editors in Chief
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