Emerging From Poverty?

Foreign Aid and the "Big Push" Theory
Farah Abuzeid

A Conversation with King Kigeli V
Adrienne Bryan and Otis Reid

Debt Relief but at what Cost?
Jonathan Canel

Saving the Golden Goose: Why the Export-Driven Growth Model Still Works For Malaysia
Jin Tik Ngai
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The Fall/Winter 2010 issue of the Stanford Journal of International Relations entitled “Emerging From Poverty?” examines different viewpoints on how countries can achieve economic growth. It emphasizes the different paths that countries can take, while also looking at how the global community can affect economic outcomes. In addition, this issue continues the Journal’s emphasis on great papers dealing with questions of how the relationships between countries are shaped by forces other than purely state action.

First, this issue examines the question of debt relief. In his piece, Jonathan Canel raises important questions about how conditions for debt relief should be set. He argues that the current efforts, including those of the IMF, which prefers structural adjustment, and those of debt-relief NGOs, which prefer no conditionality, need to be synthesized into a country-specific set of conditions. Only by considering country-specific factors can a balance of growth and poverty eradication be achieved.

Next, in her work on foreign aid in Sub-Saharan Africa, Farah Abuzeid challenges us to rethink the “big push” model of global development and argues that foreign aid may actually undermine the effective governance necessary for growth.

Jin Tik Ngai then makes a compelling case for why Malaysia should continue on the path of export-driven growth rather than switching to a consumer model. His exploration of why this is the case for Malaysia may also inform us about other major export-driven economies, most notably China.

Third, this issue examines the conflicting roles of state interest and citizen initiatives in shaping American policy in today’s world. Elizabeth Bagot makes a compelling argument that the interests of the United States precluded the US from taking serious action against Russian aggression in Chechnya despite public outcry and media attention. In contrast, David Kessler gives us a vision of how individual citizens have helped to improve US-Iran relations in spite of difficulties at the state level through tourism and international sports.

Finally, for this issue’s special section, Editors-in-Chief Adrienne Bryan and Otis Reid interviewed King Kigeli V of Rwanda, discussing his view on the Rwandan genocide and how colonialism has shaped the experience of African countries over the last 60 years.

With this issue, we are continuing to solicit reader responses to our articles. Our readership includes research centers and universities across the globe, ranging from scholars to students. We welcome your commentary on our work at SJIR.Submit@gmail.com. Letters may be published in our forthcoming issue with response from the relevant author or SJIR staff member.

Otis Reid & Adrienne Bryan
Editors in Chief
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US Ambivalence and the Russo-Chechen Wars: Behind the Silence
   By Elizabeth Bagot

The Citizens’ Affair: Sports and Tourism in Post-1998 United States-Iran Relations
   By David Kessler

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