

make inferences regarding the history of global development and offer recommendations for improvement in the efficacy of global development efforts.

The Theoretical Framework

- 4 The previous five decades have produced an abundant literature on global development. However, the most compelling theoretical frameworks on development can be found in the two approaches associated with the British historian Eric Hobsbawm and American social scientist Immanuel Wallerstein. While both authors are equally known for their left-leaning political inclinations, their deep insights into the problems of development produce rather different visions.
- 5 Let us first reference Eric Hobsbawm. In *The Age of Revolution: 1789-1848* (1962), Hobsbawm identified a dual revolution, which took place in Europe on the eve of nineteenth century, as the primary factor in precipitating the ensuing rapid development and modernization of Europe. The dual revolution, according to Hobsbawm, consisted of political and economic components. These were, respectively, the French Revolution of 1789 and the British Industrial Revolution, which began around 1780.
- 6 The most important context for the Industrial revolution, as Hobsbawm argues, was generated by the transformation of British agriculture. It became largely based on middle-sized private enclosures, which needed substantially less labor than was the case in earlier periods. As a result, substantial numbers of peasants were freed from the land. These land-deprived rural laborers were left with few alternatives but to seek employment in urban centers.
- 7 Since the seventeenth century, Britain's primary export product was wool. At the end of the eighteenth century, the country's surplus served to establish the basis for Britain's wool and cotton industry, while the peasants released from the land by the enclosures became the industry's main workforce. What was important in this regard is that the industry has not confined itself to the domestic market, but sought international expansion. This required, in turn, developing efficient means of international transportation. As a result, Britain undertook the building of railroads, steamships, ports, etc. Thus, as Hobsbawm pointed out, the revolutionary pace of change in economic development, triggered by the transformation of agriculture in Britain, became a norm, first in Great Britain and then in continental Europe. [3]
- 8 Another revolutionary process established a political framework for the Industrial Revolution. In general, it stipulated that economic development would be most effective if the state provides a political structure that is characterized by separation of power, transparency, accountability, enforcement of contracts, and freedom of enterprise. Since these conditions were to a certain extent already present in Britain before the French Revolution, the need to undertake such reforms was actually more relevant for the rest of Europe.
- 9 Let us now turn to Immanuel Wallerstein. In his three books on the modern world-system,[4] the author argued that the world economy, dating back to the mid-fifteenth century (the date when his analysis starts), has emerged via four major elements: 1) the "core," 2) the "periphery," 3) the "semi-periphery," and 4) the "external areas." [5] For instance, at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution the "core" has been composed of the most advanced European nations including Britain, France, Austria, Holland, and Prussia. The "periphery" included colonies and other parts of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The "semi-periphery" was comprised of some countries somewhere in the middle between the above two categories in terms of economic development, for instance, economically backward European Spain and Portugal, while the "external" group included parts of the world that had the least impact on global economic interaction, for example, Japan during its period of self-isolation.
- 10 The four-tier structure may not be present today, but the division along its two main elements, namely "core" and "periphery," continues to persist. The "core" of today is the developed countries of the North whereas the states of the Global South arguably constitute Wallerstein's "periphery," although this division today is not only and exclusively about states, but also about the modes of production. According to Wallerstein, this division is structurally entrenched. He argues that the world economy simply cannot produce a sufficient added value to ensure that 30-40 percent of the world population is living at the income level of a country like Denmark. [6] Therefore, the "core" is interested in its own capital accumulation and in preserving the "periphery's" subaltern position. This stance explains why economic development in the "core" remains capital intensive, while in the "periphery" it is overwhelmingly labor intensive.
- 11 Likewise, the "core" makes sure that it retains a monopoly on production of certain goods and services until it can become competitive, after which, production of these goods and services may be moved to the "periphery." It was indeed the fate of the

published by Allen Lane, 2010, p.224.

[47] Robert W.Cox, "Gramsci, Hegemony and International Relations: An Essay in Method," *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, 1983, Vol.12, No.2, pp.163-164.

[48] Robert W. Cox, "Social Forces, States and World Orders: Beyond International Relations Theory," *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, 1981, Vol.10, No.2, p.140.

[49] Joseph S.Nye, Jr., "American and Chinese Power after the Financial Crisis," *The Washington Quarterly*, October 2010, p.144.

[50] For more on Belarus' activities against human trafficking and on its vision in this area, see the article by Alyaksandr Sychov, "[Human Trafficking: A Call for Global Action](#)," *Globality Studies Journal*, No.14, October 22, 2009 (accessed 4 April 2011).

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