

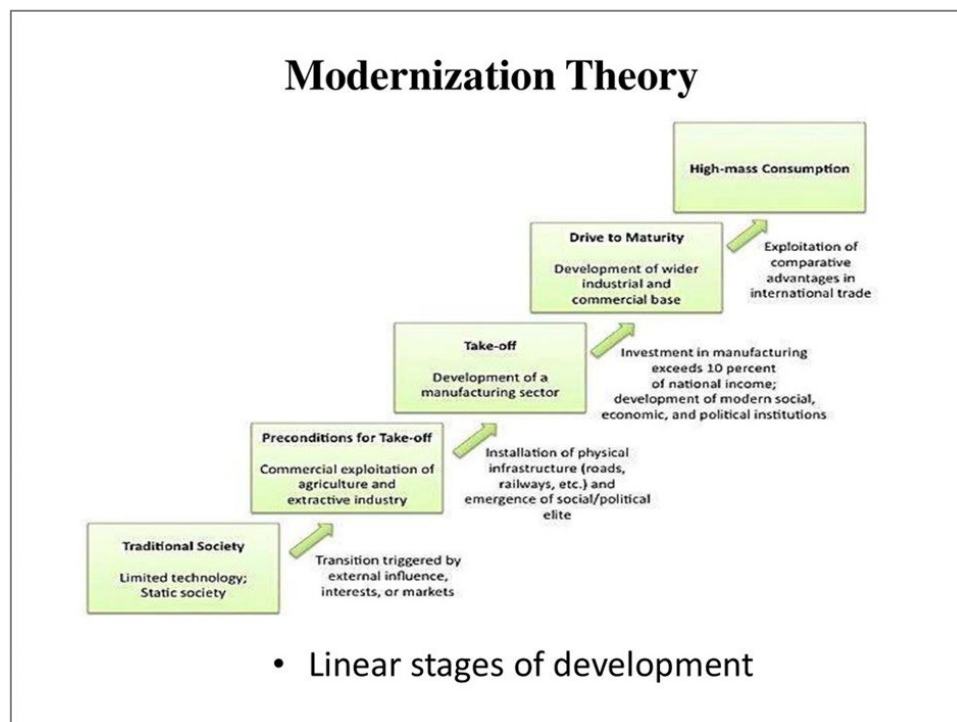
# 1950s - 1960s

## MODERNISATION THEORY

**Key Proponent:** Walt Rostow.

### Summary:

Modernisation Theory, developed by Walt Rostow, posits that societies develop in linear stages from traditional to modern phases. It emphasises the role of external investment and technology transfer in triggering economic growth and development.



### Challenges and Critics:

Critics argue that Modernisation Theory oversimplifies development processes and ignores the complexities of cultural and political factors. Dependency theorists, like Andre Gunder Frank, contend that external influence can lead to a cycle of dependency rather than genuine development.

Source: Rostow, W. W. (1960). "The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto." Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

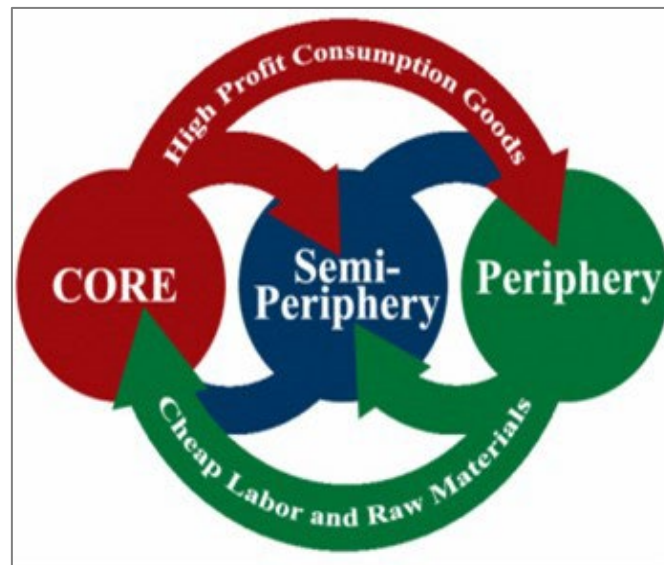
# Late 1960s – 1970s

## DEPENDENCY THEORY

**Key Proponents:** Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Enzo Faletto.

### Summary:

Dependency Theory challenges the view of Modernisation Theory, arguing that resources flow from a periphery of poor states to a wealthy core, trapping developing countries in a cycle of dependency. It emphasises the influence of international capitalism in creating unequal relationships.



### Challenges and Critics:

Critics of Dependency Theory argue that it may be overly deterministic and pessimistic, not accounting for successful development cases in East Asia. It's also critiqued for not sufficiently recognising internal factors contributing to underdevelopment.

Source: Cardoso, F. H., & Faletto, E. (1979). "Dependency and Development in Latin America." Berkeley: University of California Press.

# Early 1970s

## BASIC NEEDS APPROACH

**Key Proponent:** International Labour Organization.

### Summary:

The Basic Needs Approach in development emphasises the importance of meeting fundamental human needs like food, shelter, health, and education as the goal of development policies. It argues for the prioritisation of programmes that directly benefit the poorest segments of society.



Credit: <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/82>

### Challenges and Critics:

Critics suggest that the Basic Needs Approach can be paternalistic and top-down. It's also critiqued for potentially leading to short-term fixes rather than addressing underlying structural problems.

Source: International Labour Office (1976). "Employment, Growth and Basic Needs: A One-World Problem." Geneva: ILO.

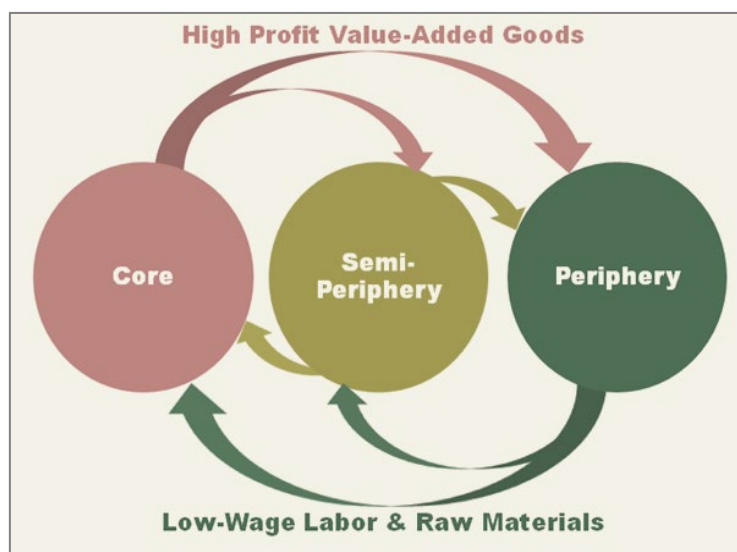
# 1970s – 1980s

## WORLD-SYSTEMS THEORY

**Key Proponent:** Immanuel Wallerstein

### Summary:

World-Systems Theory, proposed by Immanuel Wallerstein, views the world as a complex system characterised by a hierarchy of power, divided into core, periphery, and semi-periphery nations. It focuses on the economic and political dynamics of global inequality.



### Challenges and Critics:

Some critics argue that World-Systems Theory is too focused on economic factors and neglects the role of culture and ideology. It's also critiqued for its somewhat rigid categorisation of countries and for underestimating the agency of low-income countries.

Source: Wallerstein, I. (1974). "The Modern World System I: Capitalist Agriculture and the Origins of the European World-Economy in the Sixteenth Century." New York: Academic Press.

Image: <https://rb.gy/f0ykr7>

# 1970s to Late 1990s

## FEMINIST THEORY IN DEVELOPMENT EARLY STAGES

**Key Proponents:** Key Proponents: Ester Boserup, Diane Elson, Lourdes Benería

Feminist Development Theory, originating in the 1970s, critiqued traditional development models for marginalising women's roles. Key to this shift was Ester Boserup's 1970 work, which led to the Women in Development (WID) approach, focusing on integrating women into development. In the late 1970s, Gender and Development (GAD) emerged, broadening the perspective to include cultural, ethical, and social aspects of gender. This period marked a significant shift from viewing women solely in economic terms to understanding their roles in a broader socio-cultural context.



Fourth World Conferences on Women, Beijing September 1995

### Criticisms:

Early approaches like WID faced criticism for their narrow, often top-down implementation, occasionally leading to unintended negative outcomes.

### References:

- Benería, L. (1992). "Accounting for Women's Work: The Progress of Two Decades."  
Boserup, E. (1970). "Women's Role in Economic Development."  
Elson, D. (1991). "Male Bias in the Development Process."

# 1980s – Present

## NEOLIBERALISM

**Key Proponents:** Various, including Milton Friedman and Friedrich Hayek.

1980s-present, with peak influence in the 1980s-1990s

### Summary:

Neoliberalism advocates for free-market capitalism, reduced state intervention, privatisation, deregulation, and global trade liberalisation. It posits that economic freedom leads to political freedom and overall development.



### Challenges and Critics:

Neoliberalism is critiqued for increasing inequality and neglecting social welfare. Critics like Joseph Stiglitz argue that unchecked market freedom can lead to economic crises and social injustice.

Source: Friedman, M. (1962). "Capitalism and Freedom." Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Image: Mary Parsons

[https://prospect.org/downloads/10185/download/neolib\\_art.png?cb=907c974d3f7607877b27ee89fdad9682](https://prospect.org/downloads/10185/download/neolib_art.png?cb=907c974d3f7607877b27ee89fdad9682)

# 1980s - Present

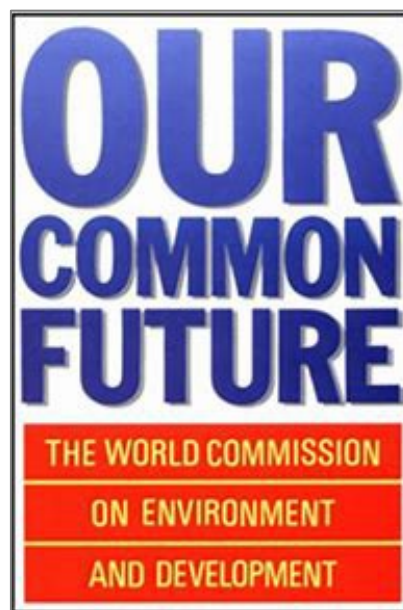
## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1980s-present, gaining prominence after the 1987 Brundtland Report.

**Key Proponents:** United Nations.

### Summary:

Sustainable Development is defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It integrates economic development, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability, emphasizing the balance between these three pillars.



### Challenges and Critics:

Critics of Sustainable Development argue that the concept can be too broad and ambiguous, leading to varied interpretations and implementations. There are also concerns that the focus on sustainability can sometimes sideline urgent socio-economic issues in developing countries.

Source: World Commission on Environment and Development (1987). "Our Common Future." Oxford: Oxford University Press.

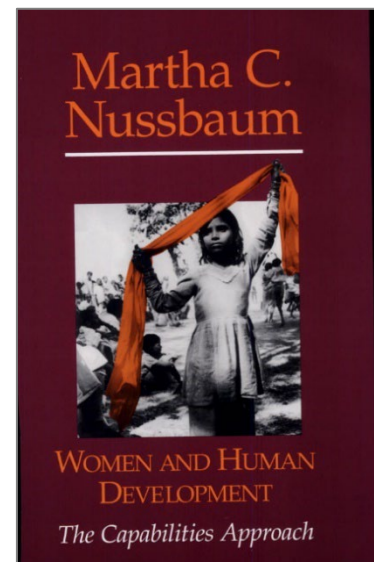
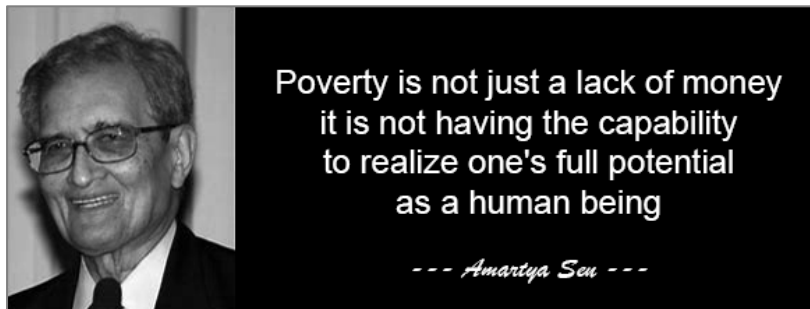
# 1980s - Present

## HUMAN CAPABILITIES APPROACH

**Key Proponents:** Amartya Sen, Martha Nussbaum.

### Summary:

The Human Capabilities Approach, developed by Amartya Sen and expanded by Martha Nussbaum, focuses on expanding the freedoms and capabilities of individuals. It emphasises the importance of enabling people to live lives they have reason to value, rather than merely focusing on economic growth.



### Challenges and Critics:

While widely influential, the approach has been critiqued for its abstractness and the difficulty of operationalising its concepts. Critics also argue that it may not adequately address the structural and systemic barriers to expanding capabilities.

Source: Sen, A. (1999). "Development as Freedom." New York: Anchor Books.

# 1990-Present

## HUMAN DEVELOPMENT THEORY

**Key Proponents:** United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

### Summary:

Human Development Theory, introduced in the UNDP's first Human Development Report, shifts the focus from traditional economic measures of development, like GDP, to broader measures of wellbeing. It emphasizes life expectancy, education, and income as key indicators of a country's development.



<https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-is-the-human-development-index.html>

### Challenges

Critics argue that while more comprehensive than GDP, the Human Development Index (HDI) still fails to capture the full complexity of human wellbeing, such as cultural and environmental factors. Some also criticise its reliance on quantitative data, which may overlook qualitative aspects of development.

Source: UNDP. (1990). "Human Development Report 1990." New York: Oxford University Press.

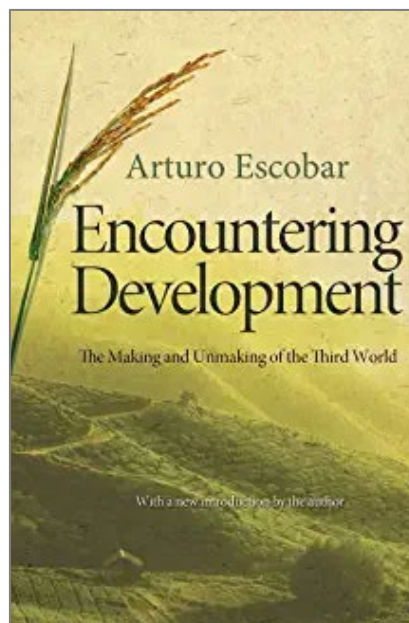
# 1990s - Present

## POST-DEVELOPMENT THEORY

**Key Proponents:** Various, including Arturo Escobar and Majid Rahnema.

### Summary:

Post-Development Theory critiques the entire concept of development, arguing that it is a Western construct that perpetuates inequalities. It suggests alternative ways of thinking about progress and wellbeing, often drawing on indigenous knowledge and practices.



### Challenges and Critics:

Critics argue that Post-Development Theory can be overly relativistic and may fail to offer concrete alternatives to address global inequalities. There are also concerns that it might overlook the real improvements made in many developing countries under traditional development models.

Source: Escobar, A. (1995). "Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World." Princeton: Princeton University Press.

# 1990s - Present

## GLOBALISATION THEORY

**Key Proponents:** Thomas L. Friedman, Joseph Stiglitz, Manuel Castells

**Summary:**

Globalisation Theory examines the increasing interconnectedness and interdependence of the world through economic, political, cultural, and technological exchanges. It focuses on how these global interactions influence local and national conditions. Key aspects include the integration of global markets, the spread of information and communication technologies, cultural exchanges, and the role of international organizations.



**Criticisms:**

Global economic inequality; Cultural Homogenisation; Impact on National Sovereignty; Environmental concerns.

**References:**

Friedman, Thomas L. (2005). "The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century."  
Stiglitz, Joseph E. (2002). "Globalization and its Discontents."  
Castells, Manuel. (1996-1998). "The Information Age: Economy, Society, and Culture."

Image: Representing "Globalization Theory", generated by OpenAI's ChatGPT with DALL-E, January 19, 2024.

# Late 1990s-Present

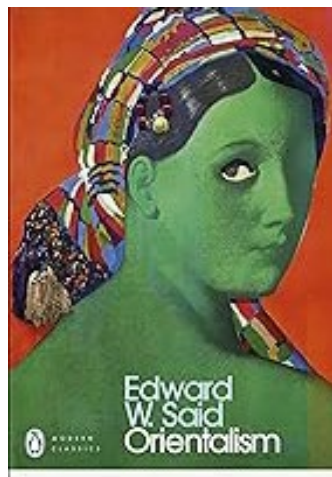
## POST-COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT THEORY

### Key Proponents:

Frantz Fanon, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Edward Said.

### Summary:

Post-Colonial Development Theory critically examines the impacts and legacies of colonialism on the development of former colonies. It emphasises understanding development through the lens of historical and ongoing colonial relationships and power structures. It proposes the decolonisation of knowledge; examines how colonial legacies have shaped cultural identity; focuses on challenging Western-centric views and incorporating indigenous and local perspectives in development; and analyses how colonial history has influenced current economic and political systems in former colonies, often leading to inequalities and dependency.



### Criticisms:

Practical Application Challenges; Overemphasis on the Past; Potential for cultural Relativism and rejection of universalism, thus hindering the identification of common development goals.

### References:

Fanon, Frantz. (1961). "The Wretched of the Earth."; Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty. (1988). "Can the Subaltern Speak?"; Said, Edward. (1978). "Orientalism."

# Late 1990s-Present

## CONTEMPORARY FEMINIST THEORY

Since the late 1990s, feminist development theories have evolved to emphasise intersectionality, acknowledging how gender intersects with race, class, and ethnicity. Contemporary approaches advocate for inclusive, equitable development policies that address systemic gender biases and empower women in diverse cultural contexts. This period has seen a deeper understanding of gender dynamics and a move towards integrating gender considerations into all aspects of development planning.



Image of Feminism Theory in Development." Created by OpenAI's

### Criticisms:

Contemporary theories, including GAD, are sometimes critiqued for risking the imposition of Western feminist ideals in various cultural settings and for potentially oversimplifying complex gender dynamics.

Reference: Momsen, A.C., Leslie Gray, Janet (Ed.), 2015. The Routledge Handbook of Gender and Development. Routledge, London.

# 2010s to Present

## CURRENT DEVELOPMENT THEORIES

**Key Proponents:** Various, reflecting contemporary thinkers in development.

**Sustainable Development:** Emphasising the need for development that meets present needs without compromising future generations, focusing on environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

**Globalisation and Development:** Exploring the impact of global interconnectedness on economic growth, inequality, cultural exchanges, and the environment.

**Human Development Approach:** Prioritising improvements in people's well-being rather than focusing solely on economic growth. This includes health, education, and quality of life.

**Participatory Development:** Emphasising the involvement of local communities in the planning and execution of development projects to ensure sustainability and effectiveness.

**Technology and Development:** Examining the role of technological advancements in accelerating development, reducing poverty, and addressing global challenges.

However, the reality is that the traditional growth model, often characterised by its emphasis on economic expansion and increased production, continues to coexist and, in many ways, compete with more contemporary development models that prioritise sustainability, inclusivity, and equity. This competition reflects a tension between different development priorities and approaches.



### Criticisms:

Critiques of contemporary development theory often focus on the challenges of implementing sustainable development goals in the face of political and economic constraints. Concerns are also raised about the unequal benefits of globalisation, with some regions and populations still being left behind. The effectiveness and ethical implications of technology-driven development are also debated, particularly regarding the digital divide.

### References:

For instance: Sen, A. (1999). "Development as Freedom." Stiglitz, J. (2002). "Globalization and its Discontents." Nussbaum, M. (2011). "Creating Capabilities: The Human Development Approach." The SDGs (UN 2015).