

Structuralism: Dependency Theory and World Systems Theory

Structuralism arose from the debate of development vs underdevelopment.

I. The Context: The Development/Underdevelopment Debate

A. Walt Rostow, *Stages of Economic Growth* (1960) Argued that there was 5 stages of development 1. agriculture 2. early industrialisation >> to the age of mass consumption where society became oriented towards the consumption of consumer goods - model thought to be generalisable. All national economies were located somewhere on this continuum. Only question of time when countries would get to next stage. Produced notions LDC were somehow backwards of behind on their development process. **why?**

B. Samuel Huntington and 'Modernisation Theory' = Focused on internal factors in the country especially cultural factors. Argued that socio economic conditions for development depended on 1. Industrialisation 2. expansion of middle class 3. political culture Culture values and organisation of traditional societies were from this point of view a hindrance to economic and political advancement therefore you had to reject these. It was the refusal to reject these that resulted in under development.

Criticisms: Western Europe had developed in the particular historical circumstances in early capitalism - this could not be replicated in a very different time and context 2. by focusing on these internal factors modernisation missed importance of external environment in perpetuating under development. It is this second critique by:

Raul Prebisch and the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) =

Main processor of dependency school in structuralism. Although his own position was less radical Contrary to mainstream modernisation theory, it was the external env that perpetuated under d. Argued that it mattered very much what the countries area of specialisation was and the existing specialisation did not benefit the countries of the third world aka the periphery. The current specialisation was the thing that was driving under development. Because specialisation was in agriculture and raw materials that was sold at low prices to the north that used them to sell goods and sold them back to third world at much higher prices = constant state deficit.

Solution The 'Import Substitution Industrialization' (ISI) model. Stop importing goods from abroad and focus on production of goods at home. However, unlike the Dependency School he was not advocating a radical change of the system. Not revolution but development policy designed to improve standing of the south within the existing system.

I. Dependency Theory (more radical)

A. Scholars

Andre Gunder Frank, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Theotonio Dos Santos, Osvaldo Sunkel, Enzo Faletto, Peter Evans, Samir Amin (**most not EU/US**)

A. Main Arguments (Frank): underdevelopment is not a phase, but an inherent characteristic of global capitalism; continuously privileges some countries and disadvantages other constellation of cores and peripheries = rich exploit the poor, more than trading inequalities, these inequalities were inherent to the nature of capitalism, no way of escaping them as long as you remained in the system (**FRANK**)