

Chapter 29: Poverty, hunger, and development

- The monetary-based conception of poverty has been almost universalized among governments and international organizations since 1945.
- The \$1.25 poverty line includes people who do not have sufficient income to satisfy their basic material needs in the marketplace, leaving out non-material poverty.
- Developed countries see poverty as an issue that affects and defines the less developed: integration into the global economy is the solution to poverty
- Under conditions of economic globalization, poverty is found in both the wealthy North and the less developed South.
- A critical alternative view of poverty places more emphasis on lack of access to community, resources, community ties, and spiritual and cultural values.
- In recent decades global food production has burgeoned, but, paradoxically, hunger and malnutrition remain widespread.
- The orthodox explanation for the continued existence of hunger is that population growth outstrips food production.
- An alternative explanation for the continuation of hunger focuses on lack of access or entitlement to available food. Access and entitlement are affected by factors such as the North–South global divide, particular national policies, rural–urban divides, class, and gender.
- Globalization can simultaneously contribute to increased food production and to increased hunger.
- Development is a contested concept.
- Development policies since the mid-twentieth century have been dominated by the mainstream approach— embedded liberalism and, more recently, neoliberalism.
- The last two decades of the twentieth century saw some movement towards alternative conceptions of development—emphasizing participation, empowerment, and sustainability—with NGOs, grassroots movements, and some UN organizations taking the lead.
- Whether the mainstream approach’s attempt to incorporate some of the language and ideas developed by the alternative approach will actually bring real change is questionable.