

Chapter 1 : Public goods: A Glossary of Political Economy Terms - Dr. Paul M. Johnson

A Very Political Economy spares no political sensitivities in its dissection of the aid process, but also argues persuasively that without international assistance there would have been no Palestinian Authority left to negotiate with, and no peace process to revive.

Americans felt they deserved all the rights of Englishmen. They stressed being more of a Republic where the individual is sovereign as opposed to democracy where the sovereign is the group, the majority. Other Presidents would claim the right, courts would sometimes have to decide legality. Think NSA data spying. It would be the first of many fights concerning federal government taxes. Think The Tea Party. A few went to jail. It would be the first of many attempts to have a U. S President and Congress to ignore the Constitution. Think the Pentagon Papers and War on Terror. It included infrastructure improvements, a national bank to encourage productive Eastern enterprises and a national currency. The tariff caused the Nullification Crisis. It resulted with Adams to be a one term president. The fight was over tariffs which hurt middle America and helped business. It stopped payment of tribute to Mediterranean pirates. War on Terror Begins. Later we would use military force against Mexico to expand westward. By , the U. The battle of North East business interest vs. South and West rural interest continues today. Think long-term government financial liabilities being ignored to foster political harmony. It hoped to take political power from the established elites to ordinary voters. It supported the predominance of the Presidency over the other branches of the U. Democrats also opposed Whig sponsored modernizing programs which they felt would helped industry at the expense of the taxpayer. These battles continue today! Democrats fought Adams and Anti-Jacksonian factions which soon emerged as the Whig party. Think Middle East refugee problem. Taylor Impeachment attempt occurred because he had used his Presidential veto to over ride Northeast bank and tariff issues. Previous Presidential vetoes had been on Constitutional grounds not because the President did not like the bill.. It would be the first of a few politically motivated impeachment attempts. It increased the U. Slave Power accusations were common. England got British Columbia. Think postponing government budget problems. Massive wealth was created. Farm mechanism lowered the cost of food and this coupled with science made for a somewhat more prosperous middle class. The realigning election resulted in a Republican Party forged conservative coalition. It consisted of businessmen, professionals, skilled factory workers, and prosperous farmers. There would be much opposition resulting in two unsettled decades. It was a period of social activism and political reform that flourished from the s to the early s. One was eliminating corruption in government by exposing political machines and their bosses. This put election reform high on the agenda. Progressives also sought regulation of monopolistic trust corporations through antitrust laws. They were seen as a means of promoting fair competition which would benefit of consumers. A result was a public desire for a more peaceful Republican Party government. It would not be the last Red Scare. See 1 Panic of was caused by a low gold-backed money supply resulting from high consumption of European goods. Overbuilding by competing railroads and rampant Western land speculation caused speculative financial problems. Think Great Recession. Workers blamed cheap foreign labor. It would not be the last time immigrants were blamed for worker problems. Thus began the replacement of the spoils system in the federal hiring equation. The Scott Act of expanded the restrictions on Chinese immigration. Think current Muslim Immigration issues. Profits increased as did the price of consumers goods. The Supreme Court. The Gold Standard protected savers from inflation but its inflexible money supply caused hard times. Liquidity would be provided by the the Federal Reserve Act. The Revenue Act of substituted income taxes for lower tariffs and this lowered the price of consumer goods. The Federal Trade Commission Act of was a major effort to control business trusts. The Federal Farm Loan Act of increased credit to rural family farmers and the Keatingâ€™Owen Act of temporally lowered child labor abuses.. A Mexican Repatriation program help unemployed Mexican citizens return home. Think current immigration problems. It created the U. Army Corps of Engineers to watch over public infrastructure. It anchored in a coalition of specific liberal groups, especially ethno-religious constituencies Catholics, Jews, African Americans. White Southerners, well-organized labor unions, urban political machines, progressive

intellectuals, and populist farm groups were also courted.

Chapter 2 : Toward a Very Political Economy of Capitalism | Teivo Teivainen

A Very Political Economy has 5 ratings and 0 reviews. Well over \$2 billion in international aid has flowed into the West Bank and Gaza since the signing.

In November, the first free general elections since the elections resulted in a victory for the National League for Democracy (NLD). However, continued military influence, persistent capacity problems in political parties and parliamentary politics, weak channels of political representation and problems of administrative capacity give rise to critical questions about the substance of democratization in Myanmar. The primary interest of the military has been to protect national sovereignty, unity and stability. With the change of government in 2011 came a series of political reforms in support of basic civil rights, electoral democracy and economic growth. From onwards, these reforms also created an opening for Western states to suspend or lift sanctions and engage in state capacity building, and for UN agencies and international NGOs to strengthen their engagement with Myanmar. Myanmar is thus a country with long and continued attention to statebuilding but the state has been dominated by the military, although some degree of power has been transferred to a civilian government headed by the NLD, and the authority, capacity and legitimacy of the state remain fragile. The persistence of military state capture. In Myanmar, the military is the foremost economic and political force in society. In particular, the autonomy of the state is circumscribed by the economic and political influence of the military. Transforming civil-military relations remains the core challenge for substantial conflict resolution, democratization and development. The core structure of military state power and the centralized nature of the state pose evident obstacles to the peace process. As civil-military relations are institutionalized through the Constitution, changing the constitution has become a requirement for substantive democratization. The contested authority of the unitary state. However, the sovereign authority of the state is contested by multiple ethnic armed organizations, resulting in a complex mosaic of territorial control and administration by state and non-state actors. Some non-state actors have de facto territorial control and provide public services, displaying a state-like character. This has an impact on state capacity in policy-making and public administration, and poses challenges for external engagement. Lack of authority or access may limit the effectiveness of political reforms and aid programmes. Building state authority has centred on the question of incorporation of ethnic minorities in the periphery: The challenges of policy-making and public administration. The shift to a democratically elected government has widened the space for more inclusive policy-making, but this appears to be hampered by an organizational culture of hierarchical decision-making within the ruling NLD, the government and the civil service. Moreover, there exists considerable mistrust between the NLD government and the civil service, due to the military background and loyalties of many bureaucrats. In addition, administrative departments are staffed by poorly-paid civil servants who must still rely on outdated technology and systems. All this means that the transformation towards democratic policymaking and bureaucratic professionalism may well seem slow. However, the devolved powers and responsibilities, as specified in the Region and State Hluttaw Legislative List, remain limited in scope. State fragility and legitimacy. In the Fragile States Index compiled by the Fund for Peace, Myanmar is persistently placed in the red category of high-risk countries. Most Myanmar citizens support democracy, although their knowledge and conception of the idea may vary. The opportunities for popular participation are limited a major challenge for the legitimacy of the state, despite the successful introduction of electoral democracy, with the electoral victory for NLD representing a strong show of support for democratization. People mainly engage in civil society organizations, and popular support is increasingly contingent on positive outcomes of democracy. The Tatmadaw has long been the most influential political actor. While its self-perception is that of a professional army that protects the sovereignty and unity of the Union of Myanmar, it is not under democratic political control. Rather, the Tatmadaw in its own right has become the basis for the formation of an economic elite, and has hence developed an economic self-interest in the continuation of military rule. Changing civil-military relations, i. After the Tatmadaw displayed some flexibility on issues not deemed to be its primary interests, but little flexibility on questions of the unity, sovereignty and stability of the Union. Matters

of economic development seem to fall somewhere between these two poles. Ethnic armed organizations EAOs. Myanmar has many different types of EAOs, highly diverse in ethnic identity, military strength and engagement strategies towards the Myanmar army and the government. The key questions among EAOs, in the past and today, are how to build ethnic alliances and engage with the state in order to achieve self-determination and equality within a federal state. Civil society organization CSOs. Myanmar has a multi-layered civil society with a great many types of CSOs, ranging from grassroots movements to more organized and professionalized NGOs. These engage in various roles in the context of limited state presence and capacity and armed conflict mutual self-help, humanitarian relief, public service delivery and political advocacy, and with complex relations between CSOs and the state. There has been considerable growth in CSOs, especially after Cyclone Nargis in and the expansion of political space since, but most CSOs still have limited political access and influence. Religious institutions have long traditions of providing important services in Myanmar society, especially in education, health services and welfare support, including humanitarian assistance to displaced persons. The strong and complex links between Buddhism and politics in Myanmar have underpinned the recent re-emergence of Buddhist nationalism. The period since has seen a wave of anti-Muslim rhetoric and violence, especially in northern Rakhine state. After the elections, China regained greater influence, not least through its active role in the Myanmar peace negotiations, accompanied by efforts at improving its image through corporate social responsibility programmes and engagement with a broad range of stakeholders. Economic and social situation Economy and society. Myanmar has one of the fastest-growing economies in Southeast Asia, with average economic growth of 7. Members of the urban middle class in areas dominated by the majority Bamar ethnic group have been the major beneficiaries of the new reforms, whereas the economic benefits for rural constituencies have been less noticeable, especially in conflict-affected ethnic states where land-grabbing has been widespread. FDI and sources of growth. Myanmar has a pressing need for foreign direct investment FDI. Among other things, Myanmar has the greatest power-sector investment needs among the countries of Southeast Asia. In 2012, investors became increasingly cautious and worried about the slow pace of economic reform Vakulchuk et al. Informal economy and corruption. This economy is upheld by informal elite pacts that were solidified under the military era, involving many who are members of the military and crony companies. For example, half of the multi-billion USD jade trade is illegal. The informal sector is linked to corruption, drug trafficking, smuggling, illegal migration and cross-border trade. Although Myanmar has gradually improved its ranking in the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index, moving from 113th place in 2006 to 103rd out of 177 countries in 2012, corruption remains widespread and pervasive. The lack of an efficient regulatory system and effective laws explains why the informal system has become so widespread. In addition, political instability and the Rakhine crisis create serious concerns for foreign investors. Hydropower generation is controversial in Myanmar. It feeds ethnic tensions in various parts of the country, and is likely to remain a major source of domestic social and political tension in the near future. Large-scale dam construction projects often cause discontent among the local population due to lack of proper stakeholder consultation and coordination, often leading to displacement and environmental degradation. With the NLD government in place, Chinese and other foreign companies are increasingly attempting to involve civil society in consultations, but with limited success thus far. Myanmar is rich in onshore and offshore hydrocarbon resources. The upstream petroleum business is open to foreign investors, whereas downstream is restricted. Due to limited local processing capacity, Myanmar continues to import a substantial share of its petrol and diesel, mainly from Singapore and Thailand. Gas reserves are more plentiful, with 1.5 billion cubic meters of proven natural gas, similar to the reserves of Thailand. Fish farming plays an important role in ensuring food security, employment and SME growth. But the fisheries remain underprioritized by the government and suffer from poor management as well as the lack of infrastructure, modern technology and impact assessments. The potential of coastal and ocean fisheries remain largely unrealized. Myanmar suffers from large-scale deforestation that has accelerated in recent decades. The forest industry has been grossly mismanaged: There are two main drivers: Land rights and land disputes also complicate forest management. The incentives behind deforestation are rooted in the opportunity costs related to different land uses and land tenure rights. A peace agreement could put additional

pressure on forests and accelerate deforestation: Control over natural resources has been a major driver of conflicts in ethnic areas. The government has shown a commitment to adopt international standards in governing the mining sector, for instance by joining the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in 2012. However, there is a long way to go before real progress in governing the mining sector is achieved. Military-owned companies and their cronies are heavily involved in resource extraction, often in conflict-affected areas. Some areas that are contested or controlled by ethnic armed groups have parallel systems of resource governance. Wealth sharing in natural resources is thus a key concern for democratic decentralization and conflict resolution. After opening up in 2011, Myanmar attracted numerous international organizations and donors. The increasing involvement of foreign donors also involves risks, as the state has limited capacity to absorb assistance. Also, some local actors feel that not all international consultants who work in Myanmar have sufficient country expertise. Myanmar needs smart development aid that can take the many local factors into account. Despite attempts to improve donor coordination after the NLD government came to power, much still remains to be done.

Conflict and stabilization

Causes of ethnic conflicts. According to the major EAOs, there can be no real peace without political negotiations on the questions of ethnic self-determination and federalism. Core causes of ethnic conflict are political grievances related to ethnic self-determination, representation and equality, war-related security and development grievances, and the mistrust and resentment fuelled by failed peace initiatives. The various ethnic groups agree that only political negotiations on self-determination, federalism and ethnic equality can resolve the ethnic conflicts in Myanmar. The key question on process design concerns sequencing: Inclusivity in the process is essential. Without the participation and influence of the major EAOs, the political process is unlikely to yield substantive and lasting peace.

Migration, climate change and humanitarian needs

Migration. In Myanmar, there are three main general drivers of migration: As regards forced migration, the situation between 2011 and 2014 was actually worse than before the political thaw UNHCR For labour migrants, there could be some scope for return, and Myanmar needs people to fulfil the many new roles in its transitioning economy.

Chapter 3 : How Brazilians view their country's economic, political crises

Political failure and economic decline were embedded in the Oslo process from the beginning and deepened, over time, by donor unwillingness to challenge Israeli policy (e.g., closure and other restrictive measures), politically or economically, no matter how injurious to Palestinians or to the peace process.

Palace economy As long as someone has been making, supplying and distributing goods or services, there has been some sort of economy; economies grew larger as societies grew and became more complex. The ancient economy was mainly based on subsistence farming. The Shekel referred to an ancient unit of weight and currency. The first usage of the term came from Mesopotamia circa BC. For most people, the exchange of goods occurred through social relationships. There were also traders who bartered in the marketplaces. The economic discussion was driven by scarcity. Middle ages[edit] 10 Ducats , minted as circulating currency by the Fugger Family. In Medieval times, what we now call economy was not far from the subsistence level. Most exchange occurred within social groups. On top of this, the great conquerors raised venture capital from ventura, ital. The capital should be refunded by the goods they would bring up in the New World. The first enterprises were trading establishments. In , the first stock exchange was founded in Antwerpen. Economy at the time meant primarily trade. Early modern times[edit] The European captures became branches of the European states, the so-called colonies. The rising nation-states Spain , Portugal , France , Great Britain and the Netherlands tried to control the trade through custom duties and from mercator, lat.: The secularization in Europe allowed states to use the immense property of the church for the development of towns. The influence of the nobles decreased. The first Secretaries of State for economy started their work. Bankers like Amschel Mayer Rothschild " started to finance national projects such as wars and infrastructure. Economy from then on meant national economy as a topic for the economic activities of the citizens of a state. The Industrial Revolution[edit] Main article: Industrial Revolution The first economist in the true modern meaning of the word was the Scotsman Adam Smith " who was inspired partly by the ideas of physiocracy , a reaction to mercantilism and also later Economics student, Adam Mari. He maintained that the basic motive for free trade is human self-interest. The so-called self-interest hypothesis became the anthropological basis for economics. Thomas Malthus " transferred the idea of supply and demand to the problem of overpopulation. The Industrial Revolution was a period from the 18th to the 19th century where major changes in agriculture , manufacturing , mining , and transport had a profound effect on the socioeconomic and cultural conditions starting in the United Kingdom , then subsequently spreading throughout Europe , North America , and eventually the world. The onset of the Industrial Revolution marked a major turning point in human history; almost every aspect of daily life was eventually influenced in some way. In Europe wild capitalism started to replace the system of mercantilism today: The period today is called industrial revolution because the system of Production , production and division of labor enabled the mass production of goods. This was explored and discussed by Friedrich August von Hayek " and Milton Friedman " who pleaded for a global free trade and are supposed to be the fathers of the so-called neoliberalism. However, the prevailing view was that held by John Maynard Keynes " , who argued for a stronger control of the markets by the state. The theory that the state can alleviate economic problems and instigate economic growth through state manipulation of aggregate demand is called Keynesianism in his honor. In the late s, the economic growth in America and Europe"often called Wirtschaftswunder ger: In , John Kenneth Galbraith " was the first to speak of an affluent society. In most of the countries the economic system is called a social market economy. The term is also applied in philosophy to designate the fading of postmodernism in the late 90s and especially in the beginning of the 21st century. With the spread of Internet as a mass media and communication medium especially after , the idea for the Internet and information economy is given place because of the growing importance of ecommerce and electronic businesses, also the term for a global information society as understanding of a new type of "all-connected" society is created. In the late s, the new type of economies and economic expansions of countries like China, Brazil, and India bring attention and interest to different from the usually dominating Western type economies and economic models. Economic phases of precedence[edit]

The economy may be considered as having developed through the following Phases or Degrees of Precedence. The industrial revolution phase lessened the role of subsistence farming, converting it to more extensive and mono-cultural forms of agriculture in the last three centuries. The economic growth took place mostly in mining, construction and manufacturing industries. Commerce became more significant due to the need for improved exchange and distribution of produce throughout the community. In the economies of modern consumer societies phase there is a growing part played by services , finance , and technology – the knowledge economy. In modern economies, these phase precedences are somewhat differently expressed by the three-sector theory. Involves the extraction and production of raw materials , such as corn , coal , wood and iron. A coal miner and a fisherman would be workers in the primary degree. Involves the transformation of raw or intermediate materials into goods e. A builder and a dressmaker would be workers in the secondary degree. At this stage the associated industrial economy is also sub-divided into several economic sectors also called industries. Their separate evolution during the Industrial Revolution phase is dealt with elsewhere. Involves the provision of services to consumers and businesses, such as baby-sitting , cinema and banking. A shopkeeper and an accountant would be workers in the tertiary degree. Involves the research and development needed to produce products from natural resources and their subsequent by-products. A logging company might research ways to use partially burnt wood to be processed so that the undamaged portions of it can be made into pulp for paper. Note that education is sometimes included in this sector. Other sectors of the developed community include: Economic measures[edit] There are a number of ways to measure economic activity of a nation. These methods of measuring economic activity include:

Chapter 4 : Growth theory: A Glossary of Political Economy Terms - Dr. Paul M. Johnson

To begin, an ironclad prediction: whatever happens in , China's economy will get off to a better start than it did a year earlier. On the first trading day of , stocks plunged by 7%. Over the next week, as investors rushed for the exits, the yuan hurtled lower, triggering global panic.

Over the next week, as investors rushed for the exits, the yuan hurtled lower, triggering global panic about the state of the economy. China will avoid a similarly stomach-churning start to , not least because it has learned important lessons. Regulators are better at managing financial markets and more attuned to emerging problems. They have earned the credibility that comes from staring down a possible crisis and delivering stable growth instead. China has also acquired more weapons to fend off extreme financial stress in . One of the main worries of the past year was that the central bank would burn through its foreign-exchange reserves, forcing it into a big yuan devaluation. But with tighter capital controls and a more flexible currency regime, that extreme scenario is improbable. And with an array of liquidity-injection tools now firmly in place, regulators will be ready to douse flames in the banking system. Nevertheless, several big worries loom in . A boom in the property market will end, depriving the economy of its biggest driver. But authorities realised towards the end of the year that price gains were getting out of hand, especially in big cities, and started to tap on the brakes. This sets up a slow-moving chain reaction for . When the housing market went wobbly in the past, China supported growth by splurging on infrastructure. It will do so again in but the extra kick from all that spending will be smaller, because it already splashed out on railways and roadworks in . As both property investment and infrastructure investment slow, GDP growth is bound to weaken, too. China will probably set itself a growth target of 6. But unlike its performance in , when it comfortably hit that range, it will fall below it in . A slower expansion, by itself, could be good news, suggesting that the government is focused on the quality rather than the quantity of growth. But in two important areas, reforms will go backwards. First, China will create more big state champions. The number of centrally managed state-owned enterprises will fall below in , down from more than just a decade ago. That is not because the government is breaking them up and selling off. Instead, it is combining under-performing companies, creating bigger groups that are even more insulated from competition. Second, talk of deleveraging will again ring hollow. Increases of that scale usually presage a major slowdown, if not a crisis. For the time being, China will keep a lid on these problems. The government will order banks to lend to troubled companies and will accelerate a debt-for-equity swap that alleviates their burdens. But all the while, the debt mountain will grow twice as fast as GDP, a fearsome sight looming ever larger over the economy. Under the Communist Party, the Chinese economy has long been a political affair. In that will be especially true. With Xi Jinping, the president, gearing up for an autumn congress in which he will consolidate his power, officials high and low know their overriding task is to preserve economic stability. All signs thus point to being a calm, if slightly slower, year for the economy. That will allow Mr Xi to stride assuredly onto the stage after the congress.

Chapter 5 : All That Is Solid The Political Economy of Scapegoating

-Very political economy explores the inherently political nature of things that are commonly defined as economic. It is opposed to the kind of political economy that merely analyzes the interaction between the political and the economic.

His is a comprehensive, intensely researched, and well-written study that is rich in technical detail and thoughtful in analysis. This is then followed by four meticulously detailed chapters dealing with the mobilization, coordination, delivery, and allocation of assistance and many of the problems and complexities thereof. His research addresses the following questions among others: What were the shortcomings of aid, whether in terms of resource mobilization, donor-donor and donor-PA coordination, or project selection and implementation? To what extent were these shortcomings unavoidable--that is, structurally and largely unalterably embedded in the social, economic, and political context of the territories--and to what extent might more effective models and mechanisms be found? What trade-offs have been involved? And what are the social and political--as well as economic and developmental--implications of all this? Brynen does a very good job of answering these questions and raising others of equal significance. He correctly concludes his study by saying, "Without international assistance it is doubtful whether the Palestinian Authority--or the peace process--would have been around to see the day" p. There should be no doubt that without foreign aid, the weakened Palestinian economy would have grown even weaker than it did during the post-Oslo period, and the terrible crisis currently engulfing the area might have begun sooner. In the earliest days of the Oslo process, the donor community clearly believed this to be true. I do not agree. Oslo failed for many reasons but fundamentally because Israeli occupation continued structurally unaltered, with Israel retaining full control over Palestinian life and the economy: This was as much the case if not more under Labor governments as it was under Likud. Oslo was not about peacebuilding or transitioning to peace; it was about finding a better way to insure Israeli security and preserve Israeli interests in the occupied territories. One illustration of this is the dramatic expansion of Israeli settlements and a near doubling of the settler population in the West Bank and Gaza between and Political failure and economic decline were embedded in the Oslo process from the beginning and deepened, over time, by donor unwillingness to challenge Israeli policy e. At best, and despite internal protests to the Israeli government pp. Failure was made even more inevitable by various constraints within the Palestinian sector, which Brynen addresses, and perhaps more importantly by a strategy enshrined in the interim agreements that pursued economic change ahead of a political settlement. Hence, donor efforts directed at promoting peace through development assistance, a Sisyphean task under the best of circumstances, were bound to fail within the Oslo construct. It is a study from which a great deal can be learned. The Political Economy of De-development, 2d ed. Institute for Palestine Studies,

Chapter 6 : A Very Political Economy: Peacebuilding and Foreign Aid in the West Bank and Gaza by Rex E

Campus Watch demands academic integrity in North American Middle East studies (MES) programs. It reviews and critiques MES bias with the aim of improving education - keeping watch on scores of professors at hundreds of universities.

The Political Economy of Scapegoating Immigration and benefits. One might say that this is no surprise, seeing as they are both hot button issues for the public - though it might be said these issues are fabricated and amplified by those with vested interests to do so. Left critics of this kind of pernicious scaremongering rightly call it out for what it is: That, however, is as far as it goes. Too often the deeper political economy, the economic pressures of which politics is but a concentrated impulse, either remain unexplored with regard to these matters or, when they are analysed, they tend toward crude conclusions and deeply problematic politics. As it happens, the Marxist critique of political economy offers a sturdy foundation for understanding the deeper reasons for benefits bashing and anti-immigration rhetoric. In his books with Bob Sutcliffe, the late Andrew Glyn elaborated the notion of the politics of labour supply. It rests on a basic proposition. In order to carry on accumulating capital, business in general has to secure two things. They need ready supplies of raw materials out of which things can be made, and require people who can do the making. This latter input is employed by capital in return for a wage. For a set number of hours each day, an employee works under the direction of their boss to secure the money they need to reproduce themselves and their dependents as physical beings with a certain level of competency, education, and skill. For Marxism this is the antagonism on which capitalism depends and cannot escape, that the wealth of contemporary advanced industrial societies is socially, collectively produced; but is privately appropriated is the stuff of class struggle. They generally desire higher wages, control over their work, control of their lives outside of work, and most importantly, have an interest in facing their employer as a united collective to best prosecute these and other interests. Employers have diametrically opposed sets of interests. They are compelled to keep as much of the surplus value generated as possible, as well as tightly monitoring and controlling their workers, to retain the power to set work time, institute speed-ups to intensify the labour process, have a range of flexible labour contracts commensurate with the needs of the business, and ensuring the latent collective power of workers only ever remains that. Business in general has a very clear and keen interest in the lives of its employees in general. It would rather not have representatives of labour sit across the bargaining table backed up by the strike weapon. The labour movement was a collective threat to its workplace sovereignty and the irrepressible necessity to accumulate. What Thatcher had succeeded in doing, regardless of her personal motivations, was to ensure the politics of labour supply could be more readily shaped around the needs of British capital. The "barriers" to accumulation represented by uppity workers, strong trade unions, and the threat of industrial action were worn smooth under the hobnail boots of paramilitary police units at Orgreave. Hence the situation we have today. An official politics in which business necessity trumps all, one where inequality is rampant and growing, and the national scandals of food bank dependency and zero hour contracts remain peripheral to public discourse. Assuming the present equilibrium struck in the politics of labour supply wishes to be maintained by the powers that be, then why do the two mainstream parties who, between them, represent the interests of capital in general wish to crack down on immigration? Since , Britain has experienced the largest wave of immigration in its history. Whole sectors of the economy have seen labour costs drop through the floor thanks to a ready supply of labour from Eastern Europe. This has plugged some of the skill gaps in the economy - remember the early 00s shortage of plumbers? It lowers labour costs, means British business is effectively subsidised by the education and training programmes of other states, generates some antipathy among the host population, and creates more competition between workers for scarce jobs - making those infrequent instances of collective challenges to capital even rarer. Indeed, some so-called anti-globalists argue the left should oppose immigration on these very grounds. Why, if mass immigration suits the interests of capital are the main parties falling over themselves to appear tough on it? Is it yet another instance of ruling class decadence? Part of it is short term political pressure, certainly. The second, in the longer view, is that immigration may

lose its efficacy as a disciplining mechanism on the politics of labour supply. In the short and medium range, managing the politics of labour supply requires a row back on mass immigration to what, by general consent, is regarded as necessary flows. Yet capital still needs a ready supply of bodies and brains. If immigration is to be limited, from whence will it come? According to government statistics, of the 65 million people who live in the UK, somewhere in the region of 30 million of them are officially in work. Around 13 million residents are under 16, and around 11 million are aged over. Only a tiny sliver of these missing millions are the officially unemployed dependent on social security payments. Often, the Tory attack on the unemployed and disabled people is seen as pure malice driven by spite. Remember, in this topsy-turvy world, joblessness is caused by lifestyles of worklessness, not lack of jobs. Yet, regardless of the "noble" intentions of our evangelical DWP minister, what their policies are doing is draw more of the "invisible" millions into the labour pool. The existing unemployed, being around a sixth of the total, are small beer. The Work Capability Assessment, the New Labour policy none of the current leadership candidates are bothered to disassociate themselves from, has forcibly declared large numbers partially work fit and capable of some job roles. Simultaneously, these moves have opened a new front of divide and rule too. Scrounger rhetoric is particularly pernicious because it plays the negative politics of class - it hails its audience as workers, but sets them up against the pool of surplus labour by positioning them as unworthy layabouts paid for out of their taxes. And on this score, as polls often note, the young are particularly sceptical of social security and are generally supportive of draconian crackdowns. Looking at the policy shifts on immigration and social security from a politics of labour supply point of view, we can see a certain continuity: It has to analyse this movement to keep it at heel, search for openings, exploit them, and work against it being the plaything of an opposing power. That is much, much easier said than done. But a good starting point would be to resist, not go along with these moves. Posted by Phil at

Chapter 7 : Myanmar: A Political Economy Analysis - Myanmar | ReliefWeb

Principles of Political Economy, book iii. chap. vi. sec. i. l. This definition occurs at the beginning of a carefully prepared summary of the principles of the theory of value. This definition occurs at the beginning of a carefully prepared summary of the principles of the theory of value.

It might also be added that the political effects of variations in long range economic growth rates tend to be substantially different from the political effects of the booms and busts of the business cycle. In a recession, hundreds of thousands or even millions of people may become unemployed and suffer dramatic declines in their incomes for the duration of the crisis -- usually for a period of somewhere between six months and one-and-a-half years before more normal economic conditions return again. Yet over the long haul, even rather small increases or decreases in the trend rate of economic growth will have much more profound and enduring effects on economic production and hence on the material living standards of the population. As an illustration, consider the following: Assuming that the typical undergraduate student reading this text was born in , the growth rate of the US economy over his or her lifetime has averaged a slightly lower 2. But if the US had been able to maintain the same average growth rate from to that it had enjoyed during to about 3. Explaining differences between countries in their long term economic growth rates is a complex matter, and the scientific literature on the subject is filled with controversies both technical and ideological in nature. Many of the theoretical determinants of long term growth rates are difficult to measure very adequately and many of the least imperfect measurements available for testing the various theories have been systematically collected in much of the world only for a relatively recent historical period -- roughly the last 20 to 30 years. There is broad support in virtually all empirical studies for a strong positive impact on economic growth by the investment rate especially the rate of investment in plant and equipment and by various measures of human capital such as the literacy rate, school enrollment ratios, and average life expectancy. Although it is difficult to measure separately from investment and improvement of human capital, there is also substantial support for the positive contribution of continuing technological innovation and improvement in sustaining the process of economic growth by improving productivity. Various kinds of public policy variables also seem to make a difference in growth rates. Countries with relatively "open" economies that is, those which allow relatively free movement of goods and capital in and out of the country without high tariffs, protectionist import quotas, foreign exchange controls or major restrictions on foreign investment have tended to maintain higher growth rates than countries with more restrictive policies. Some of the most emotion-laden and ideologically -tinged debates on economic growth theory deal with two questions on which no broad consensus seems likely in the near future: What sort of mixture of government planning and control versus the free market is most conducive to economic growth? And what are the effects of different cultures especially differences in religious and ethical values on promoting or retarding economic growth? Taking the second question first, it should be noted that many of the earliest theories about what causes economic growth were largely cultural in nature. Many of these values are fostered and reinforced or possibly denigrated and condemned in different measure within different cultural traditions, and an especially important role in this is played by organized religion. It is not surprising then that nowadays we still see a lot of more or less informed speculation about the role of this religion or that in fostering or inhibiting economic growth, especially in less developed regions of the world. Two or three decades ago, the prevalence of Roman Catholicism in southern Europe and Latin America and its alleged anti-commercial social and economic values were often invoked as a part of the explanation for the relative economic backwardness of these regions compared to mainly Protestant northern Europe and North America. In much more recent times, the influence of Islam in fostering fatalistic attitudes and anti-commercial or anti-materialist values such as the condemnation of all lending at interest is often invoked as part of the explanation for the relative economic backwardness of the Moslem countries, despite the huge advantages many of them enjoy in the form of rich endowments of natural resources like petroleum. The problem with such explanations is that all major religious traditions contain some elements that can encourage economic activity along with other elements that inhibit it, and determining

which influences will predominate in any particular place and time is a game that tends to be played with far too many wild cards, with the theorist opportunistically seizing upon whichever elements of the local religious tradition best seem to fit with what he already knows has been happening lately. A more promising approach is for researchers to go out periodically and directly sample the distributions of particular "pro-growth" and "anti-growth" attitudes among the populations of various countries perhaps by survey research polling methods rather than simply assuming the presence of these values and attitudes on the basis of formal religious doctrines. Only then does it make sense to begin gingerly pronouncing upon how the prevalence or lack of particular values correlate with actual long-term economic growth performance in subsequent years. As to the first question, socialist and communist economists used to argue that a totally government controlled and planned economy would enjoy more rapid economic growth than a capitalist economy, primarily basing their case on the idea that a planned economy would maintain a steadier and higher rate of investment, free of the periodic slowdowns of investment caused by periodic financial crises in the capitalist business cycle. It was also assumed that a more egalitarian socialist educational policy would be much more successful in promoting widespread education for the masses, greatly enhancing the supply of what we would today call human capital. Economists more favorably inclined toward the free market system acknowledged that the total amount of investment in both non-human and human capital was indeed very important to rapid economic growth but cautioned that the efficiency with which these resources were allocated was also of extreme importance. A capitalist economy, they argued, has a much better system of incentives for encouraging the most efficient allocation of economic resources, whereas the socialist economy would tend to get bogged down in bureaucratic waste and misallocation of resources that would lead to even more waste than the "anarchy of the market. During that same period, countries at the extreme socialist end of the scale, especially the countries of the Communist bloc and their third world client states, have seen their initially fairly high rates of economic growth dwindle away gradually to zero and then plunged rapidly into full-scale economic collapse in the late s. Since then, only those relatively few former Communist countries that moved most rapidly and radically to adopt capitalistic institutions and practices have resumed respectable rates of economic growth such as Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Estonia, while the vast majority of them have stagnated for about a decade in a kind of Never-never land where government bureaucrats have largely lost their power to plan, finance and administer state-owned enterprises but most of the legislation necessary to legalize and unleash private business still remain on hold. Many of the non-Communist countries of the world that formerly had relatively large public sectors and extensive government controls over the economy have enacted reforms to privatize some of their state-owned enterprises and to open up their economies to more foreign trade and outside investment - and most but not all of them have since experienced at least modest improvements in their economic growth rates although it is still too soon to tell whether these improvements represent changes in the long term trend or only temporary cyclical upswings. Clearly the advocates of the free market have been scoring a lot of points in the debates over the past decade or two and have won over some of the skeptics, but their remaining opponents have by no means lost all of their intellectual ammunition. Die-hard advocates of full-scale socialism can and do still argue that socialism has not failed economically because "true" socialism has never been fully implemented the Soviets and their former comrades in Eastern Europe and the Far East went ideologically wrong somewhere in the beginning - and if it were really to be tried in the future, surely it would painlessly combine social justice, perfect democracy and the most rapid possible economic progress. Less fanciful socialists can argue that there have actually been at least a few relatively successful growth stories in countries that retain many of the trappings of old fashioned state socialism mainland China being the most telling example, since about one-third of the human species lives and works there. Some elements of the political left including the economists among them reluctantly accept the idea that more government control of the economy might lead to somewhat slower economic growth but then go on to say that low or no growth in GDP would be worth it if it was required in order to promote greater social justice. Still others on the left, especially the "Greens," believe that an end to economic growth would be a positive good because people should reject excessively materialistic consumerist values and because it seems to them to be necessary in order to save the planet from environmental

catastrophe. More conventional moderate socialists and social democrats more often take the line that they now accept the importance of retaining many elements of the market economy but still insist that a "middle way" with considerably larger amounts of government ownership, regulation and control than now exist in the United States or much of Western Europe could maintain or even improve upon present economic growth rates if done carefully and in the right way. Only a few of these arguments are susceptible to proof or disproof by reference to numbers in the historical record since they contain value judgments as well as empirical assumptions. And it must be acknowledged that the limited amount of data we have amassed over just the past few decades is still a very long way from what one would like to have for decisively resolving even the more tractable empirical disputes over just how economic growth rates get determined.

Chapter 8 : Brynen: A Very Political Economy | The Institute for Palestine Studies

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Kleptocracies are generally associated with dictatorships , oligarchies , military juntas , or other forms of autocratic and nepotist governments in which external oversight is impossible or does not exist. This lack of oversight can be caused or exacerbated by the ability of the kleptocratic officials to control both the supply of public funds and the means of disbursal for those funds. Many kleptocratic rulers secretly transfer public funds into hidden personal numbered bank accounts in foreign countries to provide for themselves if removed from power. Such export incomes constitute a form of economic rent and are easier to siphon off without causing the income to decrease. A specific case of kleptocracy is Raubwirtschaft, German for "plunder economy" or "rapine economy", where the whole economy of the state is based on robbery, looting and plundering the conquered territories. Such states are either in continuous warfare with their neighbours or they simply milk their subjects as long as they have any taxable assets. Arnold Toynbee has claimed the Roman Empire was a Raubwirtschaft. Multiple interlocking networks of anonymous shell companies may be created and nominee directors appointed to further conceal the kleptocrat as the ultimate beneficial owner of the funds. Third, financial transactions conducted by the kleptocrat in a Western country complete the integration of the funds. Once a kleptocrat has purchased an asset this can then be resold, providing a legally defensible origin of the funds. Research has shown the purchase of luxury real estate to be a particularly favored method. In a forensic study of grand corruption cases, the World Bank found the United States was the leading jurisdiction of incorporation for entities involved in money laundering schemes. First, the absence of a beneficial ownership registry means that it is the easiest country in the world in which to conceal the ownership of a company. The United States produces more than 2 million corporate entities a year, and 10 times more shell companies than 41 other countries identified as tax havens combined. Currently, there are only around 1, money laundering convictions per year in the United States and money launderers face a less than five percent chance of conviction. Kleptocratic governance typically ruins prospects of foreign investment and drastically weakens the domestic market and cross-border trade. As kleptocracies often embezzle money from their citizens by misusing funds derived from tax payments , or engage heavily in money laundering schemes, they tend to heavily degrade quality of life for citizens. In early , the German anti-corruption NGO Transparency International released a list of what it believes to be the ten most self-enriching leaders in the past two decades.

Chapter 9 : Q4 Market Overview: A Very Political Economy | CBIS US

Changing civil-military relations, i.e. strengthening the autonomy of the state vis-à-vis military economic and political movements, is a key challenge for political reform in Myanmar.

In academic jargon, it is an abstract, starting with a couple of conceptual clarifications. A full paper will be available later. I post these short lines here with the hope that someone might care to give me constructive criticism or any other comments. Various key people of our academic discipline or however one wants to call IR are speaking here. It was a real honor to be included in that list, also because I have wanted to come to Sussex University and the cool town of Brighton since a long time. Some of the words I might be playing with today are: It is sometimes used in wildly different meanings, which helps obscure debates about it. On the former see e. The politicization of the economic may open new possibilities for democratic transformations of capitalism. Politicization is by no means a sufficient condition for democratization, but it can be considered its necessary condition. Attention to gender-related issues is one of them, but there are also other lessons for strategies of democratizing the world. Without such politicization, subsequent democratic reforms concerning intra-family violence or childcare would have been difficult, if not impossible, to achieve. Even if the impact may not have been particularly revolutionary, it was an example of politicization practiced by theorists and activists that contributed to social change. Even if political aspects of corporate power are recognized, the political tends to be derived from the state. The corporations tend to be considered political either because the state intervenes in their actions or because they influence the state. Thus, the inherently political nature of the corporation itself is left without sufficient attention. This limits the usefulness of state-centric IR in both explaining and transforming global capitalism. When something is politicized, the legitimacy of making democratic claims about it increases. In the paper I will explore the possibilities for a global politicization of non-state actors in general and capitalist corporations in particular. Examples of the global political will be located in intra-firm trade and other instances of corporate planning and command. The role of anti-corporate social movements and corporate social responsibility claims will also be analyzed. In the paper I will suggest an analogy with earlier feminist strategies of claiming that the personal is political. What kinds of implications will there be for IR theory and for democratic strategies if we take seriously the claim the corporation is political?