

PLS 341  
Politics of Development

Week 1, Lecture 2:  
Development

# Recap

- Deprivation and plenty:
  - Geographic concentration
  - Uneven change

# Plan for today

- The concept of development
- Dimensions of development —> political development
- Development industry
- Development typologies

# The development of development

- Harry S. Truman's Four Point speech, 1949:
  - "We must embark on a bold new program for making the benefits of our scientific advances and industrial progress available for the improvement and growth of underdeveloped areas."



# The concept of development

- Multiple meanings
- Contested
- Ambiguous
- Elusive
- Complex

# The concept of development according to Myrdal

- "By **development** I mean **the movement upward of the entire social system**, and I believe this is the only logically tenable definition. This social system encloses, besides the so-called economic factors, all noneconomic factors, including all sorts of consumption by various groups of people; consumption provided collectively; educational and health facilities and levels; the distribution of power in society; and more generally economic, social, and political stratification; broadly speaking, institutions and attitudes. [...]  
This social system may stay stagnant, or it may move upward or downward."

- From Myrdal, Gunnar. 1974. "What Is Development?." *Journal Of Economic Issues* 8 (4): 729-730.

# The concept of development according to Myrdal

- Economic factors
- Noneconomic factors:
  - Consumption
  - Education
  - Health
  - Distribution of power
  - Economic, social, and political stratification
  - Institutions



# The concept of development according to Chambers

- “If development means good change, questions arise about what is good, and what sorts of change matter.”
  - Chambers, Robert. 1997. "Editorial: Responsible Well-being—A Personal Agenda for Development." *World Development* 25 (11): 1743-1754.





# Capabilities approach

- Expansion of freedoms as both the primary goal and the means of development
- Centrality of freedoms in development:
  - Evaluative reason
  - Effectiveness reason



# Capabilities approach

- Substantive freedoms:
  - Economic opportunities
  - Political freedoms
  - Social facilities
  - Transparency guarantees
  - Security



# Capabilities approach

- Sources of unfreedom:
  - Poverty
  - Lack of economic opportunities
  - Social deprivation
  - Intolerance
  - Tyranny



# Human development

- The process of widening people's choices and the level of wellbeing they achieve
- Three essential choices:
  - To lead a long and healthy life
  - To acquire knowledge
  - To have access to the resources needed for a decent standard of living
- Other choices:
  - Political, economic, and social freedom
  - Opportunities for being creative and productive
  - Self-respect
  - Guaranteed human rights
  - Income



Mahbub ul Haq

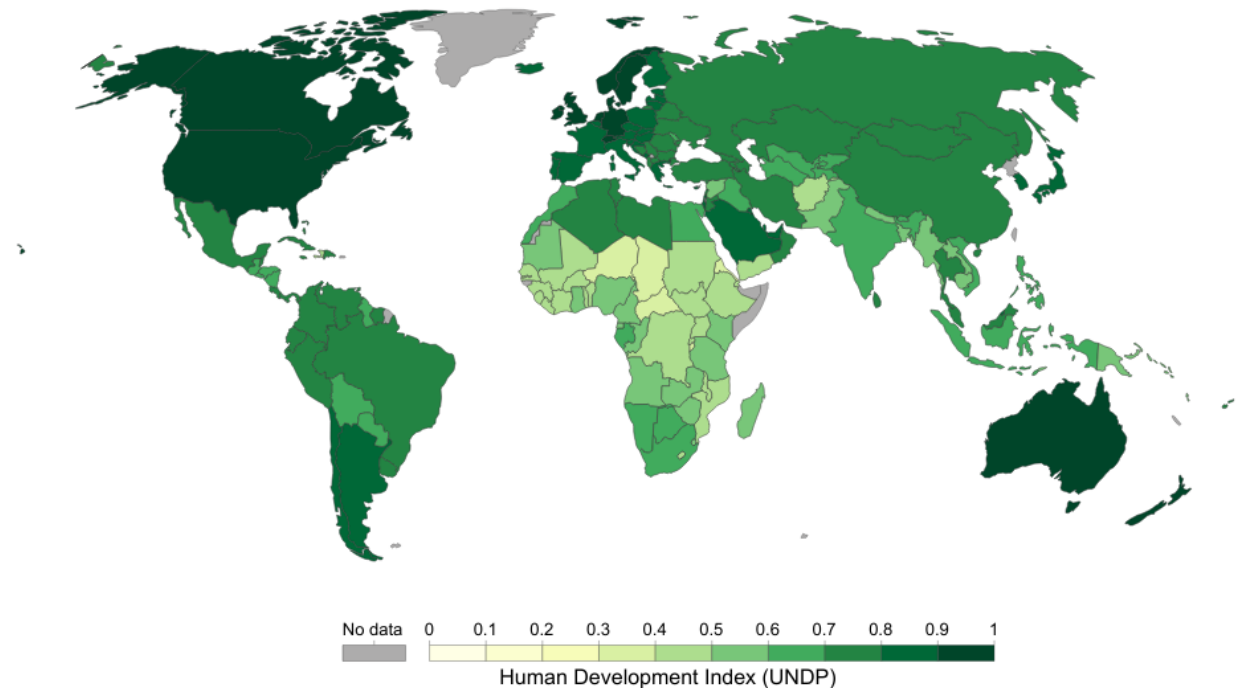
# Human Development Index

- Life expectancy
- Educational attainment  
(adult literacy and combined primary, secondary, and tertiary enrolment)
- Real GDP per capita  
(in Int.-\$)

## Human Development Index, 2014

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and having a decent standard of living. The HDI is the geometric mean of normalized indices for each of the three dimensions.

Our World  
in Data



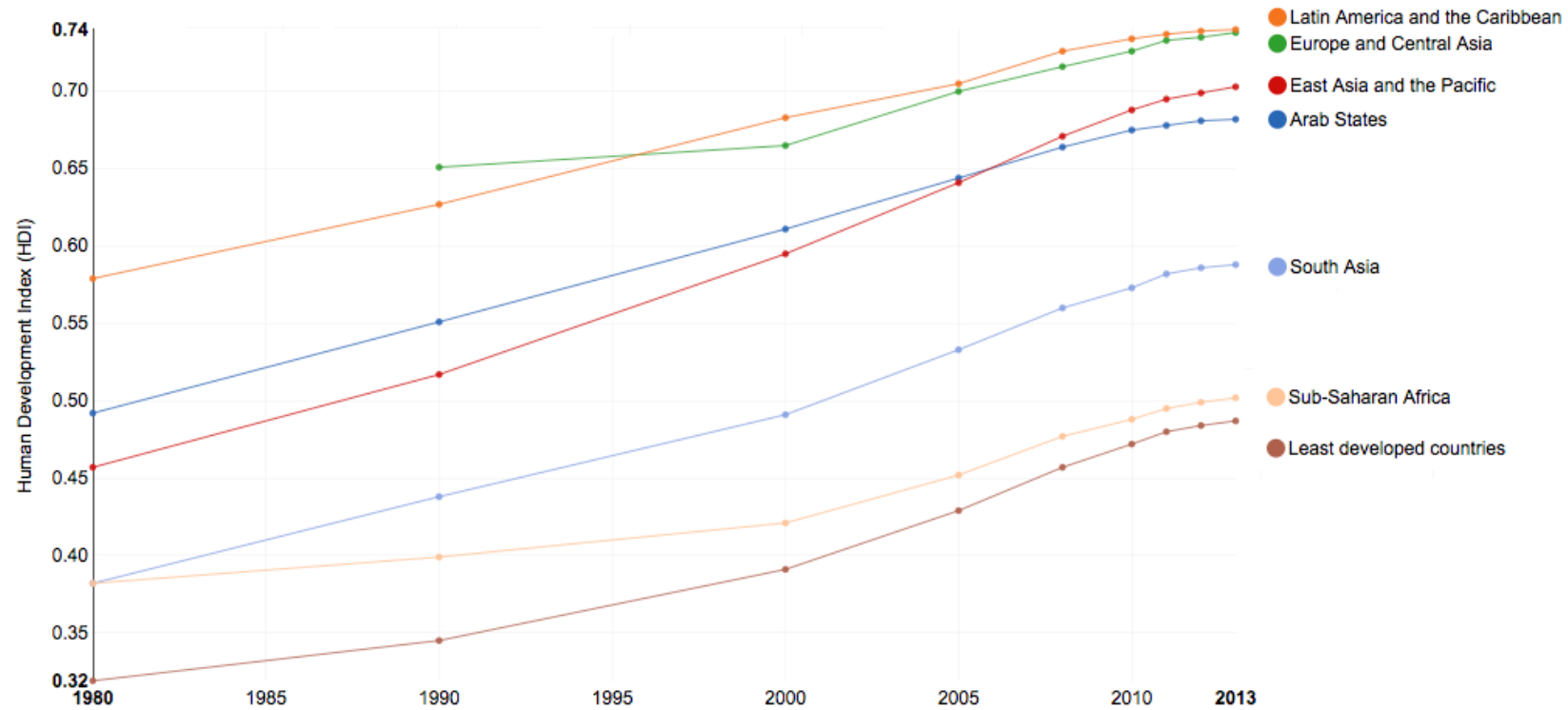
Source: Human Development Index (UNDP)

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# Human Development Index

Our World  
in Data

Human Development Index by World Region 1980-2013 – Max Roser

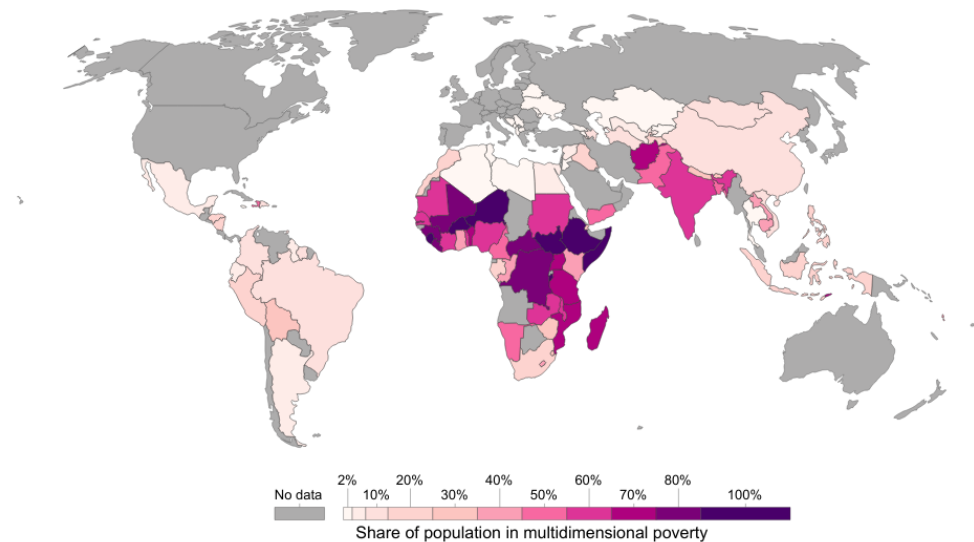


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Data Sources: United Nations Development Programme

# Multidimensional Poverty Index

## Share of population living in multidimensional poverty

Proportion of people who are poor according to the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). The MPI weights ten indicators of deprivation in the context of education, health and living standards. Individuals are considered poor if deprived in at least one third of the weighted indicators (see source for more details). Since some observations for 2014 are not available the map displays the closest available data (2005 to 2014).



Source: OPHI Multidimensional Poverty Index (2016)

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Dimensions of poverty	Indicator	Deprived if...	Weight
Education	Years of Schooling	No household member has completed five years of schooling.	1/6
	Child School Attendance	Any school-aged child is not attending school up to class 8.	1/6
Health	Child Mortality	Any child has died in the family.	1/6
	Nutrition	Any adult or child for whom there is nutritional information is malnourished.	1/6
Living Standard	Electricity	The household has no electricity.	1/18
	Improved Sanitation	The household's sanitation facility is not improved (according to MDG guidelines), or it is improved but shared with other households.	1/18
	Improved Drinking Water	The household does not have access to improved drinking water (according to MDG guidelines) or safe drinking water is more than a 30-minute walk from home, roundtrip.	1/18
	Flooring	The household has a dirt, sand or dung floor.	1/18
	Cooking Fuel	The household cooks with dung, wood or charcoal.	1/18
	Assets ownership	The household does not own more than one radio, TV, telephone, bike, motorbike or refrigerator and does not own a car or truck.	1/18

# Agency and structure in development

- Amartya Sen:
  - “[I]ndividual agency is, ultimately, central to addressing these deprivations.
  - On the other hand, the freedom of agency that we individually have is inescapably qualified and constrained by the social, political, and economic opportunities that are available to us.”



# Institutions

- “Stable, valued, recurring patterns of behavior”
  - Huntington, Samuel. 1968. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. New Haven, Connecticut, United States: Yale University Press.
- “Humanly devised constraints that structure political, economic, and social interaction”
  - North, Douglass. 1990. *Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- “*First*, an institution is a set of rules that structure social interactions in particular ways. *Second*, for a set of rules to be an institution, knowledge of these rules must be shared by the members of the relevant community or society.”
  - Knight, Jack. 1992. *Institutions and Social Conflict*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- “Rules of the game”
  - North, Douglass. “Institutions and Credible Commitment.” *Zeitschrift Für Die Gesamte Staatswissenschaft* 149, no. 1 (1993): 11-23.

# Political development according to Fukuyama

- “Change over time in political institutions”
  - Fukuyama, Francis. 2014. *Political Order and Political Decay*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.
- The institutions of political development:
  - The state
  - Rule of law
  - Mechanisms of accountability



# Getting to Denmark

- Strong rule of law
- Competent state
- Democratic accountability



# Should other countries be Denmark?



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## An Island for 'Unwanted' Migrants Is Denmark's Latest Aggressive Anti-Immigrant Policy



Mjølnerparken, a housing project in Copenhagen, is classified as a "ghetto." Mauricio Lima—The New York Times/Redux

<https://time.com/5504331/denmark-migrants-lindholm-island/>



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## The dark side of the Nordic model

*Scandinavian countries may top every ranking on human development, but they are a disaster for the environment.*



Jason Hickel

Dr Jason Hickel is an academic at the University of London and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

6 Dec 2019



<https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2019/12/6/the-dark-side-of-the-nordic-model/>

Why aren't other countries  
Denmark?



# Two dimensions of development

- Immanent process
- Intentional practice



# Development typologies

- Developed vs. undeveloped / underdeveloped / developing / less (and least) developed / newly industrializing (NICs) countries
- Global North vs. South
- First/Second vs. Third World
- Core vs. periphery
- World Bank: Low, Lower-Middle, Upper-Middle, and High Income countries
- UNDP: High, Medium, and Low Human Development levels



# Takeaways

- Development as a multifaceted phenomenon
- Capabilities approach, HDI, etc. as efforts to capture development's many facets
- The importance of institutions in development and political development