

SOS POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC  
ADMINISTRATION  
M.A POLITICAL SCIENCE IV SEM  
CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL  
POLITICS (404-A)  
UNIT-II

Topic Name-North–South Problem

## NORTH SOUTH PROBLEM

- The **North-South problem** is a general term signifying various **problems** relating to the economic and social development of the developing countries, particularly the **problems** of trade and aid. The strong expectations of the developing nations towards the third UNCTAD appear everywhere throughout this Charter

## WHAT IS NORTH SOUTH DEBATE?

- International climate change discussions often include a **debate** between developed countries (referred to as the **North**) and developing countries (referred to as the **South**). These practices helped the **North** to grow its economies and advance its technologies so that it is developed today.

## WHY IS THERE A NORTH SOUTH DIVIDE?

- The origin of dividing countries into the **North-South Divide** arose during the Cold War of the mid 20th century. This **division** left out many countries which were poorer than the First World and Second World countries. The poor countries were eventually labeled as Third World countries.

## WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GLOBAL NORTH AND SOUTH?

- **Global Northern** countries are those nations that are economically developed such as the USA, the UK, Canada, Western European nations and developed parts of Asia; **Global Southern** countries are those that are less economically developed such as nations in Africa and some parts of Asia

## WHERE IS THE NORTH AND SOUTH DIVIDE?

- Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. In Great Britain, the term **North–South divide** refers to the economic and cultural differences between **Southern** England and the rest of Great Britain (**Northern** England, The Midlands, Wales and Scotland). The **divide** cuts through the English Midlands.

## WHAT COUNTRIES ARE IN GLOBAL NORTH AND SOUTH?

- For the purposes of our discussion, the **Global North** includes Australia, Canada, Israel, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore, **South** Korea, the United States and all of Europe (including Russia).

## HERE ARE SOME INTERESTING FACTS WHEN COMPARING THE WORLDS NORTH TO SOUTH

- THE NORTH HOLDS 1/4 OF THE WORLD POPULATION, AND CONTROLS 4/5 OF THE INCOME EARNED ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD
- 90% OF THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES ARE OWNED BY AND LOCATED IN THE NORTH
- THE SOUTH HOLDS 3/4 OF THE WORLD POPULATION, AND HAS ACCESS TO 1/5 OF THE WORLD INCOME
- THESE FACTS REPRESENT HOW MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE THERE IS
- ALTHOUGH THE SOUTH (OVERALL) IS LESS DEVELOPED, THERE ARE MANY COMPLEX REASONS WHY, AND ONE BEING THAT THE NORTH (DEVELOPED COUNTRIES) WASN'T/ISN'T ALWAYS ENTIRELY FAIR
- DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAVE MANY PROJECTS TRYING TO HELP THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, AND THE POLITICIANS ARE RECOGNIZING THAT THEY AREN'T DOING ENOUGH
- THE DEVELOPED WORLD HAS USED THE DEVELOPING WORLD FOR ITS OWN GAIN AND CHEAPER RAW MATERIALS AND LABOUR
- NOW, LARGE BRANDS (MOSTLY IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES) ARE PAYING VERY LOW WAGES TO YOUNG CHILDREN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO PRODUCE CLOTHES AND THEN SHIP THEM TO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHERE WE GET SUPER CHEAP DEALS AND WANT TO BUY MORE THAN WE NEED TO (FAST FASHION)
- THESE BRANDS NEED TO INCREASE THE WAGE AND IMPROVE THE WORKING CONDITIONS IN THESE FACTORIES/SWEATSHOPS



## NORTH-SOUTH DIVIDE IN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES

- So in the entire world we have a divide, however, almost all individual countries have a North-South Divide
- It's a kind of trend
- Many countries have top-bottom rather than side-side
- In England, ever since the Vikings invaded the North, and gradually spread to the South, the two sides have viewed each other with suspicion
- The USA has the Mason-Dixon Line
- New Zealand's North and South Islands hate each other
- Italy has a vicious economic North-South divide

## CHALLENGES

- The accuracy of the North–South divide has been challenged on a number of grounds. Firstly, differences in the political, economic and demographic make-up of countries tend to complicate the idea of a monolithic South. Globalization has also challenged the notion of two distinct economic spheres. Following the liberalization of post-Mao China initiated in 1978, growing regional cooperation between the national economies of Asia has led to the growing decentralization of the North as the main economic power. The economic status of the South has also been fractured. As of 2015, all but roughly the bottom 60 nations of the Global South were thought to be gaining on the North in terms of income, diversification, and participation in the world market. Globalization has largely displaced the North–South divide as the theoretical underpinning of the development efforts of international institutions such as the IMF, World Bank, WTO, and various United Nations affiliated agencies, though these groups differ in their perceptions of the relationship between globalization and inequality. Yet some remain critical of the accuracy of globalization as a model of the world economy, emphasizing the enduring centrality of nation-states in world politics and the prominence of regional trade relations.

## WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF THE NORTH SOUTH DIVIDE?

- The Centre for Cities is a charity that measures economic growth and change in 64 UK cities. In 2015, it found that for every 12 jobs created since 2004 in southern cities, only one was created in cities elsewhere. Cities like London and Milton Keynes in the south have seen a large growth in the number of jobs available, whilst Blackpool and Hull in the north have seen a large decline.
- **Causes of the north-south divide**
- There are many, often complex, causes of the north-south divide.

## THEORIES EXPLAINING THE DIVIDE

- The development disparity between the North and the South has sometimes been explained in historical terms. Dependency theory looks back on the patterns of colonial relations which persisted between the North and South and emphasizes how colonized territories tended to be impoverished by those relations. Theorists of this school maintain that the economies of ex-colonial states remain oriented towards serving external rather than internal demand, and that development regimes undertaken in this context have tended to reproduce in underdeveloped countries the pronounced class hierarchies found in industrialized countries while maintaining higher levels of poverty. Dependency theory is closely intertwined with Latin American Structuralism, the only school of development economics emerging from the Global South to be affiliated with a national research institute and to receive support from national banks and finance ministries. The Structuralists defined dependency as the inability of a nation's economy to complete the cycle of capital accumulation without reliance on an outside product. More specifically, peripheral nations were perceived as primary resource exporters reliant on core economies for manufactured goods. This led the Structuralists to advocate for import-substitution industrialization policies which aimed to replace manufactured imports with domestically made products.

## THEORIES EXPLAINING THE DIVIDE

- Uneven immigration patterns lead to inequality: in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries immigration was very common into areas previously less populated (North America, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Australia, New Zealand) from already technologically advanced areas (Germany, United Kingdom, France, Spain, Portugal). This facilitated an uneven diffusion of technological practices since only areas with high immigration levels benefited. Immigration patterns in the twenty-first century continue to feed this uneven distribution of technological innovation. People are eager to leave countries in the South to improve the quality of their lives by sharing in the perceived prosperity of the North. "South and Central Americans want to live and work in North America. Africans and Southwest Asians want to live and work in Europe. Southeast Asians want to live and work in North America and Europe begin.
- New Economic Geography explains development disparities in terms of the physical organization of industry, arguing that firms tend to cluster in order benefit from economies of scale and increase productivity which leads ultimately to an increase in wages. The North has more firm clustering than the South, making its industries more competitive. It is argued that only when wages in the North reach a certain height, will it become more profitable for firms to operate in the South, allowing clustering to begin.

## DIGITAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL DIVIDE

- The global digital divide is often characterised as corresponding to the north–south divide however, Internet use, and especially broadband access, is now soaring in Asia compared with other continents
- This phenomenon is partially explained by the ability of many countries in Asia to leapfrog older Internet technology and infrastructure, coupled with booming economies which allow vastly more people to get online

## STRATEGIES TO RESOLVE REGIONAL DIFFERENCES

- Resolving regional differences is a difficult task. The government has agreed devolution measures, which gives additional power and money to councils in the north. An example is the election of a mayor for Greater Manchester, who has been given £1 billion of **devolved** funds to spend on improving the city's infrastructure in order to attract new businesses. This will mean that fewer decisions about the city are made in London and more decisions are made by the people of Manchester. Other local councils are demanding the same control.
- In Wales, a similar sum of money has been provided to help create new jobs and attract new businesses to set up. For example, the car company Aston Martin has moved some of its productions to a newly-built site at St Athan, south Wales. The **positive multiplier effect** may lead to other similar companies locating close by. The new plant in south Wales will provide 750 highly skilled jobs

## IS THERE A NORTH SOUTH DIVIDE WITH REGARD TO HEALTH INEQUALITY?

- The **north–south divide** in the UK, and in England in particular, is made up of economic and **health-related disparities**, among other socio economic factors. This has been linked to increases in unemployment, associated with poverty, inferior social welfare, educational attainment, and poorer **health** outcomes. Clearly, reports commissioned by the UK Government have not been an incentive for hard action.
- The 2010 Fair Society, Healthy Lives review identified six policy actions that could be implemented from central and local governments and the National Health Service (NHS) to reduce health inequality. These include creating fair employment and ensuring healthy living standards. Although this report states what changes need to be made—and in which sectors expenditure should be increased—how these changes can be brought about is less certain.



## IS THERE A NORTH SOUTH DIVIDE WITH REGARD TO HEALTH INEQUALITY?

- The UK Naylor review published in March on NHS property and estates earmarked 117 active clinical or medical sites of the 543 NHS plots of land recommended for sale throughout the country, and highlighted that there were more superfluous sites in the north of the country. The question is now whether the increase in funds and the potential decrease in resources from the sale of these sites will reduce—or increase—the gap in health care between the north and south of England.

## FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

- Some economists have argued that international free trade and unhindered capital flows across countries could lead to a contraction in the North–South divide. In this case more equal trade and flow of capital would allow the possibility for developing countries to further develop economically.
- As some countries in the South experience rapid development, there is evidence that those states are developing high levels of South–South aid.<sup>[21]</sup> Brazil, in particular, has been noted for its high levels of aid (\$1 billion annually—ahead of many traditional donors) and the ability to use its own experiences to provide high levels of expertise and knowledge transfer. This has been described as a "global model in waiting".
- The United Nations has also established its role in diminishing the divide between North and South through the Millennium Development Goals, all of which were to be achieved by 2015. These goals seek to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve global universal education and healthcare, promote gender equality and empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, ensure environmental sustainability, and develop a global partnership for development

**THANK YOU**