

GEOG 370

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Midterm Q1

Why Optimism faded away by the end of the first Decade (1960s)? Give 4 examples from peer reviewed articles.

The United Nations Development Program was established in the 1960's which marked the start of the first development decade. This happened just 15 years after the end of World War II. Countries that are developing were supported by the international community which included finance, capital, technology, industrialization, training, scientific knowledge, and development experience. Otherwise known as the development theory or modernization theory. At the start they were very optimistic. During development they carried out large scale agricultural projects and light industry. This resulted in development and environmental problems. And in agriculture the main sector of economic development also known as top-down suffered from the poor performance and the lack of investment in small holdings. While the idea was good, it essentially collapsed and by the end of the 1960's a lot of the optimism was lost.

Agriculture has resulted in environmental degradation such as desertification, deforestation, over-cultivation, water pollution. Specifically in highlighting Sudan, the lack of rainfall in the late 1960's contributed to the desertification. "This decline in rainfall results in the familiar pattern of vegetation degradation, soil erosion, and decreased crop yields and livestock productivity coupled with an increase in migrations of people. Generally, a marked and progressive deterioration of rainfall has occurred since the mid-1960s culminating in the mid-1980s" (Abdi et al., 2013). Deforestation was another issue in the late 1960's and the major cause of this was the growth of the population in places like Africa, Latin America and Asia (Barnes and Allen, 1985)

In Africa and Latin America there were severe inequalities between and within the countries. This is still an issue in developing countries. Social development was also slow in these countries during the 1960's. "Inequality is highest in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America, and lower in industrialized countries and South Asia" (Sprout and Weaver, 1992).

A large number of the developing countries were unable to achieve 5% of annual

economic growth as well as slow growth of social development. This was a factor that contributed to the fading of optimism during the end of the 1960's. The profits from mining, cash cropping and industry were appropriated through unequal trade relationships that favored colonial powers and multinational corporations rather than African states and their people (Stock, 2012).

References

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