

Example of an exam essay

GEOG 370 Geography of Sustainable Development

Name -----

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Midterm Q1

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

In the 1960s, the United Nations Development Programs was forming, creating the first development decade. This was the earliest formal effort of international development after World War II. At that time, there was a sense of optimism among the nations and international community. There was hope that developing countries could be supported by the international community through transferal of; finance, capital, technology, industrialization, training, scientific knowledge, and development experience. This process was coined as the Development or Modernization Theory. Although, good in theory this top-down approach had begun to collapse. Through the end of the first decade, optimism in development had faded in many developing countries.

In the 1960s, a few of the developing countries were independent states while other were fighting for independence. A majority of development assistance was limited to low-tech agriculture such as dams. Dams were used to irrigate agricultural fields, mainly large-scale farms. The dams also provided hydro-power electricity that were used for domestic and industrial use. Large dams were built for power on the Zambezi, Orange, and Cunene Rivers in southern Africa from the mid 1960s due to demands for electricity in regional mining, industry, and municipally expansion (Showers et al., 2001) Most large-scale farms were government owned where the local people were used as partners or seasonal agricultural labors. For this, large-scale farming was established in areas occupied by a sizable peasant farmers and herder population. This shift in a modern agriculture dominated the place of the earlier small-scale farming. Both peasant farmer and herders had become agriculturalists in these large-scale farms. Hence, both of them were subjected to a radical change in their life style.

The mode of production was changed from a subsistence to a commercial economy. Besides agriculture, development took the form of less skilled labor. This included the light industry and other industries of textile, cookies, candles, glasses, furniture, canning beverages, and light metal industries. However, industry was subjected to many problems such as lack of capital, political instability, lack of transportation, over taxation, administration, storage facilities and international monopoly.

The main objective of the development program was to achieve a minimum of 5% annual economic growth rate by the end of the decade. Despite generous support of the developed countries to the developing countries, by the end of the 1960s, development theory has achieved little success. In addition, it has resulted in many development and environmental problems. In

agriculture, the main sector of economic development, it had suffered from poor performance and the lack of investment in small holdings. The green revolution in Southeast Asia was one of the few areas to benefit from support. In South Korea, rapid economic development was attained largely due to a tight alliance between strong development state and big businesses (Kim, 1999). There was a lack of transportation, over taxation, lack of storage facilities and monopoly of the international market that results in low prices of crops. Agricultural has resulted in environmental degradation such as desertification, deforestation, over-cultivation and water pollution. In twenty-eight developing countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America there was a correlation between deforestation, population growth and agricultural expansion (Barnes and Allen, 1985). On the other hand, industry suffers from the lack of capital investment, international competition and contributed to environmental degradation such as air and water pollution and global warming.

By the end of the 1960 there were three key signs of a failed development theory. Severe inequalities of income and wealth between and within countries of African and Latin American countries. In Peru, the evolution in development and inequality has been positive as in other Latin American countries of Columbia and Chile (Noejovich, 2012). A large number of the developing countries were unable to achieve the 5% economic growth as well as a slow growth of social development. Additionally, signs of environmental degradation were observed, such as water and air pollution and desertification. Therefore, by the end of the 1960s, optimism had faded due to the number of concerns that had arisen in the developing world.

References

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