

New Global Learning



Globalisation, Wealth, and Poverty

Worksheet

Part I- Critical and analytical thinking skills- exercises

Exercise 1

Take the motion: "This House believes that the Global North should reduce barriers for economic migration from the Global South" (you can also use any of the other motions provided).

- Identify four different stakeholders
- Determine whether they would agree or disagree with the policy

Stakeholder 1:

Agrees/Disagrees, because ...

Stakeholder 2:

Agrees/Disagrees, because ...

Stakeholder 3:

Agrees/Disagrees, because ...

Stakeholder 4:

- Build an argument for two of the stakeholders. Give a claim, a justification, and an example.

Argument 1 Claim Justification Example
Argument 2 Claim Justification Example

Exercise 2

Take one of the arguments that you made in Exercise 1. Think of the underlying value that the argument shows. For example, if the argument is that “increased economic migration leads to less stability in receiving countries’, the value identified is “a country needs to be stable in the eyes of its citizens”.

My value is

Think of two competing values to the value that you identified.:

-
-

For one competing value, give a reason why that value is more important than the value that came from your argument.

Exercise 3

You are a policy maker of a European country who is asked to come up with solutions to help blue collar workers who have lost their jobs because the company they work for has moved to a country in Asia.

Brainstorm two possible solutions.

Think of the stakeholders involved both in the European country and in the Asian country Analyse how these solutions would affect both sets of stakeholders

Which solution would you prefer, and why?

My first solution is:

My second solution is:

These are the stakeholders affected:

in Europe:

in Asia:

Exercise 4:

Read the following article on FairTrade:

[NPR: FairTrade helps farmers, but not their hired workers](#)

Reflect on the following questions:

1. What is FairTrade?
2. What is the result of the study that NPR reports on?
3. What possible mechanisms can explain this study?
4. What is your evaluation of the effectiveness of FairTrade to help people be lifted out of poverty?
5. If the motion is: This House believes that countries in the Global South should remove trade barriers. Do you think FairTrade is a good alternative policy? Why, or why not?

Part II- Motions for further practice

This House Would prioritize global economic growth over environmental protection

This motion debates the trade-offs between economic growth and environmental sustainability. Possible stakeholders include multinational corporations, environmental activists, and government leaders. Concepts that are relevant include sustainable development, climate change, and economic inequality. Current affairs issues that are relevant include the climate crisis, the rise of green technologies, and the growing awareness of the need for environmental sustainability.

This House Would encourage multinational corporations to prioritize social responsibility over profit

This motion debates the role of corporations in shaping economic development. Possible stakeholders include corporate executives, shareholders, workers, and consumers.

Concepts that are relevant include corporate social responsibility, ethical leadership, and the role of business in society. Current affairs issues that are relevant include the growing divide between rich and poor, the impact of globalization on local economies, and the increasing scrutiny of corporate practices and accountability.

This House Would provide reparations to former colonies for the economic exploitation they experienced under colonialism

This motion debates the legacy of colonialism and its impact on economic development. Possible stakeholders include former colonizers, former colonies, indigenous peoples, and activists. Concepts that are relevant include reparations, historical injustice, and the impact of colonization on cultural and economic systems. Current affairs issues that are relevant include

the ongoing legacy of colonialism in many countries, the debate over reparations for slavery in the United States and the Caribbean, and the movement for indigenous rights and recognition.

This House Would prioritize Fair Trade over free trade in the Global South

This motion debates the trade-offs between fair trade and free trade policies. Possible stakeholders include small-scale farmers, multinational corporations, consumers, and government leaders. Concepts that are relevant include economic justice, global supply chains, and the impact of trade policies on workers and the environment. Current affairs issues that are relevant include the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on global trade, the ongoing debate over the benefits and drawbacks of globalisation, and the rise of ethical consumerism.

This House Believes that the World Trade Organization should prioritize environmental and labour standards over removing barriers to free trade and positive investment climates

This motion debates the role of the WTO in promoting sustainable and equitable economic development. Possible stakeholders include government leaders, labor unions, environmental activists, and multinational corporations. Concepts that are relevant include trade rules, global governance, and the impact of trade policies on the environment and workers. Current affairs issues that are relevant include the WTO's ongoing negotiations on issues such as e-commerce and fisheries subsidies, the increasing importance of environmental and social standards in global supply chains, and the rise of bi- and multilateral free trade deals with investor protections (often called "ISDS")

This House Would subsidise companies to localize their supply chains

This motion debates the impact of globalization on local economies and the potential benefits of localizing supply chains. Possible stakeholders include multinational corporations, small and medium-sized enterprises, consumers, and government leaders. Concepts that are relevant include economic nationalism, supply chain management, and the impact of trade policies on local economies and workers. Current affairs issues that are relevant include the ongoing debates over trade and globalisation, the rise of protectionist policies in many countries, and the impact of COVID-19 on global supply chains.

Motion

This House Supports free-market reforms in the Global South

Context

Note: debates such as these on international affairs can often feel very 'content-heavy'. The challenge we set for ourselves is to provide ways of accessing this debate with a minimum standard of knowledge. If you want to delve deeper into this topic, please use the different Module in this project as a primer, or read more about the examples provided in this case study.

In the World Bank's ranking of [ease of doing business](#), countries in the Global South consistently rank lower than high-performing OECD countries. This ranking includes availability of public infrastructure, contract enforcement, and corporate taxation. Many economists have argued that this harms the opportunity to achieve economic growth and lift people out of poverty by reducing the amount of available jobs in Global South countries. Critics argue that free market reforms end up being captured by crony elites or international business, who come into countries and exploit local communities and resources.

What is the problem or decision to be made?

Improving the Global South's economy and helping two billion people escape (severe) poverty is one of the most important challenges facing humanity today. Discovering in what way free markets are (a) feasible, and (b) help or hurt people living in poverty today is important to understand the right choices to be made to help poor people living in poverty. For this, it is important that debaters think of the (structural) causes of poverty, and how free market reforms

What are the burdens?

PROPOSITION needs to argue that the causes of poverty are best removed by free-market reforms in the South.

OPPOSITION needs to argue that either the causes of poverty are such that free-market reform is unlikely to do any good, or that free-market reforms create new challenges that hurt individuals. Opposition makes a choice: will they prefer a government-directed development path, or argue that the structural conditions in the Global South make free-market reforms unlikely to succeed?

What are the competing proposals?

	Free-market reforms (PROP)	Government-directed economies (OPP1)	Poverty traps and corruption (OPP2)
Who?	MNCs, local businesses, World Bank and IMF	Governments and state-owned companies	Corrupt elites, group-based conflict
What?	Pro-market reforms (infrastructure investment, low tax regimes, strong property markets) and lifting of trade barriers	Government-based economies (state-owned or state-preferred companies), protectionist trade barriers	Low levels of investment (FDI, state resources), high levels of corruption, crumbling infrastructure, conflict
When?	The debate takes place in today's world. Many countries are on pathways similar to above statements.		

What would it look like in practice?	The state removes trade barriers, lowers its corporate taxes, restrictions on movement of capital, labour, and goods	The state picks and chooses winners through industrial policy, protecting them via subsidies or trade tariffs	The state is ineffective in pursuing either policies mentioned previously
Exclude extremes	We don't think corporations should pay no taxes and let people work as modern-day slaves	We don't defend a clientelist communist government that gives state-owned companies to friends or family members	We don't think the entirety of the Global South is a war zone
Working examples or analogies Note: these examples can be contested or placed in different brackets!	Vietnam, Rwanda, Bangladesh, Indonesia (arguably China)	China, Ethiopia, Malaysia (arguably Vietnam)	Nigeria, Haiti, Malawi, Zambia, Phillipines

Possible Arguments

Proposition

Claim: Pro-market reforms can promote competition and innovation.

Justification: By liberalizing markets and reducing barriers to entry, pro-market reforms can create a more competitive environment for businesses. This competition incentivizes companies to innovate, improve their products and services, and operate more efficiently, ultimately leading to economic growth and job creation.

Example: The telecommunications sector in India has experienced rapid growth and innovation since the market was liberalized in the 1990s, leading to increased access to mobile services and internet connectivity for millions of people. This has helped a telecommunications and IT sector develop in India which brings in 72.5\$ billion annually, with an annual growth rate of 8.7%.

Claim: Pro-market reforms can lead to lower prices and greater choice for consumers.

Justification: By encouraging competition and reducing the dominance of state-owned enterprises or monopolies, pro-market reforms can result in lower prices, better quality products, and a wider range of choices for consumers. This can improve the standard of living and overall well-being of the population, including middle-class and poorer people in the Global South.

Example: In many African countries, the liberalization of the mobile telecommunications sector has led to increased competition, resulting in lower costs and greater access to mobile phones and services for middle-class and poorer people. This has enabled them to access vital information, services, and opportunities, such as mobile banking, healthcare, and education, which were previously out of reach or unaffordable

Claim: Pro-market reforms can attract foreign investment and foster economic growth.

Justification: It is often assumed that governments in the Global South should play a central role in directing economic activities. However, by adopting pro-market reforms, governments can create a business-friendly environment that attracts foreign investment, boosts economic growth, and generates tax revenue for public services. Moreover, this can lead to technology transfers and knowledge spillovers, improving the overall productivity of the economy.

Example: Vietnam has attracted substantial foreign investment in recent years, following the implementation of pro-market reforms such as trade liberalization and the easing of restrictions on foreign ownership in certain sectors. This has contributed to the country's rapid economic growth and industrial development.

Opposition

Claim: Pro-market reforms can lead to the displacement of local industries.

Justification: By opening markets to global competition, pro-market reforms can put local industries, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), at a disadvantage against more efficient, well-established foreign companies. This can lead to job losses and economic dislocation, particularly for middle-class and poorer people in the Global South who rely on these industries for their livelihoods.

Example: Following the liberalization of the Mexican corn market under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), many small-scale farmers faced increased competition from heavily subsidized American corn, which contributed to rural poverty and the displacement of local producers.

Claim: Pro-market reforms can erode state capacity and limit the provision of public goods.

Justification: Pro-market reforms often involve the privatization of state-owned enterprises, deregulation, and reduction of government spending, which can weaken the state's ability to provide essential public services, such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure. This can disproportionately affect middle-class and poorer people in the Global South who rely on these services for their well-being and upward mobility.

Example: In some countries that underwent structural adjustment programs in the 1980s and 1990s, such as Zambia, cuts to government spending on education and healthcare led to reduced access to essential services and a decline in social indicators for the most vulnerable populations.

Claim: Pro-market reforms can result in negative environmental and social impacts.

Justification: In pursuit of economic growth and attracting investment, pro-market reforms can prioritize short-term profits over long-term sustainability, leading to the exploitation of natural resources, environmental degradation, and the displacement of local communities. These negative consequences can disproportionately affect middle-class and poorer people in the Global South who depend on natural resources for their livelihoods and well-being.

Example: In some regions of the Amazon rainforest, the liberalization of land and resource policies has led to increased deforestation and environmental damage, threatening the livelihoods and cultures of indigenous communities and exacerbating climate change impacts.

Claim: Pro-market reforms may be undermined by corruption and cronyism, limiting their effectiveness.

Justification: It is often assumed that pro-market reforms will lead to more efficient and competitive markets. However, in countries with high levels of corruption and cronyism, these reforms may be captured by powerful elites or well-connected businesses, preventing genuine competition and market efficiency. As a result, the expected benefits of pro-market reforms, such as increased investment, economic growth, and poverty reduction, may not materialize, leaving middle-class and poorer people in the Global South with limited opportunities for upward mobility.

Example: In Nigeria, despite efforts to liberalize the economy and attract foreign investment, widespread corruption and cronyism have hindered the equitable distribution of wealth and resources, particularly in the oil sector. This has led to a situation where a small number of politically connected individuals have benefitted disproportionately from the country's oil wealth, while the majority of the population continues to face poverty and inadequate public services.

Motion

This House believes that the Global North is justified in pursuing protectionist measures to prevent off-shoring of blue collar jobs to the Global South

Context

Note: debates such as these on international affairs can often feel very 'content-heavy'. The challenge we set for ourselves is to provide ways of accessing this debate with a minimum standard of knowledge. If you want to delve deeper into this topic, please use the different Module in this project as a primer, or read more about the examples provided in this case study.

Starting in the 1990s, and reaching its zenith with the election of Donald Trump as President of the United States in 2016, countries in North-America and Europe have been worried about a decrease in industry jobs. The chief mechanism for this loss of jobs in the Global North is outsourcing to lower-wage countries in the Global South, primarily in China and South-(East)-Asia. Mechanisation has also played a role. Proponents worry about the loss of a stable income and sense of community by blue-collar workers who were often employed by a single employer all their lives in industry towns such as Detroit, Manchester, or Lille. They also cite national security or stability concerns, sparked by diverse topics such as the supply chain disruption during the Covid-19 pandemic and Chinese-backed corporate espionage. Opponents to onshoring policies suggest that these policies are unlikely to be effective and carry a large cost to consumers. Some opponents argue that blue collar workers have found other gainful means of employment, such as moving into construction jobs in the Sunshine Belt States ; or that limiting the development potential of workers in the Global South is ethically suspect.

What is the problem or decision to be made?

Proposition and opposition teams first need to establish a moral framework for state action: should states care about their citizens only, or do they carry some moral responsibility for people living abroad? Secondly they need to engage in the effectiveness of this policy: will a protectionist trade policy bring back blue collar jobs in the Global North? What will its effects be on domestic economies, quality and price of goods?

What are the burdens?

PROPOSITION needs to argue that governments have an obligation towards its domestic blue-collar workers and that this policy fulfills that obligation

OPPOSITION needs to argue that either (1) governments have some form of an obligation to the development of the Global South, (2) that the policy will not work as intended, (3) that there are negative consequences for economies in the Global North that override the benefits of increased employment for blue-collar workers.

What are the competing proposals?

	Protectionist policies (PROP)	Status Quo (OPP)
Who?	Governments, blue-collar workers, Global North industry firms	Governments, blue-collar workers, Global South workers and industries
What?	Trade barriers for products from the Global Souths, subsidies for firms onshoring work	Free trade

When?	Some policies are already ongoing in the real world, the policy introduced in this debate will be implemented near-instantaneously.	
What would it look like in practice?	It becomes more expensive to import goods from the Global South (either direct-to-consumer goods or goods that serve a value chain), companies get subsidies to cover payroll or set up factories	There are limited to no tariffs on goods coming into the Global North, no specific policies to protect blue collar jobs ; re-education and job placement programs to help blue collar workers find new jobs are likely to be in place
Exclude extremes	We are not supporting complete state-owned companies and blocking all trade with the Global South	We are not supporting bringing in products from abroad without any quality control and letting blue-collar work
Working examples or analogies	<p>The French “Industrie du Futur” program subsidises the development of advanced manufacturing technologies and worker skills training;</p> <p>The USA TAA program provides workers with job skills training, and financial support for income loss and reallocation (example can be used for both sides)</p>	<p>Germany’s Kurzarbeit scheme allows companies to partially lay off workers during hard economic times with the government paying part of the workers’ income;</p> <p>China’s economic development model since the 1980s was premised on using its large labour force to attract foreign manufacturing and build its own manufacturing industry; this model lifted 800 million people out of poverty.</p>

Possible Arguments

Proposition

Claim: Governments in the Global North have a primary obligation to their own citizens.

Justification: It is the primary responsibility of governments to protect the welfare and well-being of their citizens, including ensuring job security and economic stability. Governments are elected by their citizens, who are dependent on governments setting the rules that enable them to live a meaningful life. Globalisation has hurt the livelihoods of blue collar workers without giving them the opportunity to reap the benefits, which has gone to corporate elites and service workers.

Example: the Elephant Curve (compiled by economist Branko Milanovic) shows that blue collar workers’ wage growth has stagnated compared to the wage growth of workers in the Global South and elites in the Global North.

Claim: Protectionist measures can help maintain social cohesion and stability in the Global North.

Justification: Offshoring of blue-collar jobs can lead to unemployment, income inequality, and social unrest, as workers in affected industries struggle to find new employment or adapt to the changing job market. By preventing offshoring, protectionist measures can help preserve social cohesion and stability in the Global North, benefiting both workers and society as a whole.

Example: The backbone of Germany’s strong economic performance and social cohesion in industry towns such as Wolfsburg lies in strong protections for its Mittelstand, medium-sized companies that provide components for the car and electronic appliance industries in Germany

Claim: Protectionist policies can support domestic industries and promote economic self-sufficiency.

Justification: Preventing offshoring can help maintain a strong manufacturing and industrial base in the Global North, supporting domestic industries and promoting economic self-sufficiency. This can help create a more resilient economy, less dependent on foreign suppliers, and better able to weather global economic disruptions.

Example: Japan's protectionist policies in the post-World War II era, such as import restrictions and subsidies for domestic industries, helped to rebuild and strengthen the country's manufacturing sector, leading to a period of rapid economic growth.

Opposition

Claim: The Global North has a moral obligation to let the Global South economically prosper, and individual citizens carry some of that burden.

Justification: Historically, many countries in the Global North have benefitted from colonization, exploitation, and unequal trade relations, which have contributed to the underdevelopment of the Global South. Given this historical context, the Global North has a moral obligation to support the Global South's economic development, as a means of redressing past injustices and promoting a more equitable global economic system. Individual citizens in the Global North, as members of their respective societies, share in the collective responsibility to address past wrongs and work towards global equity. By supporting policies and initiatives that promote development in the Global South, citizens can contribute to alleviating global poverty, improving living standards, and fostering peace and stability in the world, which benefits everyone trading relationships.

Claim: Blue-collar workers have been able to adjust to the reduction in blue-collar jobs in the Global North since the 1990s.

Justification: While the offshoring of blue-collar jobs has undoubtedly affected some workers, many have been able to adapt by transitioning to new industries or acquiring new skills through retraining programs. As economies in the Global North continue to shift towards service and knowledge-based sectors, it is possible for blue-collar workers to find new employment opportunities and adjust to the changing job market.

Example: In the United States in the 2000s many people living in the industrial towns in the Rust Belt have moved on to construction jobs funded by the housing construction boom in the Sunshine States, with the unemployment rate change having been minimal during this decade.

Claim: Protectionist policies are unlikely to be successful and increase costs to consumers.

Justification: Protectionist measures, such as tariffs and import restrictions, can lead to higher costs for consumers due to reduced competition and increased production costs. Moreover, such policies may not necessarily lead to a significant increase in domestic blue-collar jobs, as companies may choose to automate production or shift to higher-value-added activities. Consequently, protectionist policies may have limited success in preserving blue-collar jobs while imposing higher costs on consumers.

Example: The United States' tariffs on imported washing machines in 2018 led to higher prices for consumers, as domestic manufacturers increased their prices in response to the reduced competition. At the same time, the policy did not result in a significant increase in domestic

manufacturing jobs, as companies continued to invest in automation and other cost-saving technologies.

Motion

This House believes that the Global North should reduce barriers for economic migration from the Global South

Context

Economic migration refers to the movement of people from one country or region to another in search of better economic opportunities, such as higher wages, improved living standards, and greater job prospects. This is distinct from refugees, who flee their countries in fear of political persecution or violence.

Advocates argue that the Global North should reduce barriers for economic migration from the Global South for several reasons. Firstly, it can help alleviate poverty and improve living standards for migrants and their families. Remittances, or money sent back home by migrants, play a crucial role in supporting families and communities in the Global South. In 2020, remittances to low- and middle-income countries reached \$540 billion, surpassing foreign direct investment and official development assistance

Secondly, economic migration can benefit the Global North by addressing labor shortages and contributing to economic growth. For example, in the United States, immigrants make up 17% of the workforce and are overrepresented in industries such as agriculture, construction, and healthcare. In Germany, the arrival of refugees during the 2015 crisis led to an increase in the labor force and a reduction in the country's skills shortage.

However, critics argue that reducing barriers for economic migration may lead to brain drain in the Global South, as skilled workers leave their home countries, and social tensions in the Global North, as communities struggle to integrate newcomers.

One challenge in this debate is that currently existing policies that limit economic migration have come under continued scrutiny from both human rights organisations as well as the United Nations for breaching fundamental rights as well as existing immigration laws.

What is the problem or decision to be made?

Teams need to look at the consequences of legal labour migration for both the Global North and Global South, and make value tradeoffs between the consequences if one proves to be positive and another proves to be negative. Furthermore, teams need to contrast legal migration with the current existence of illegal immigration.

What are the burdens?

PROPOSITION needs to argue that (a) this is a better alternative than illegal migration, (b) that economic migrants can successfully find work and integrate in host societies, and/or (c) that this is net positive for both countries in the Global North and Global South;

OPPOSITION needs to argue that (a) economic migrants do not successfully find work and integrate in host societies, (b) that harms in the Global North and Global South override its positive impacts, and (c) that either illegal migration can be curbed or that its harms are not outweighed by the harms of this policy.

What are the competing proposals?

	Legal labour migration (PROP)	Status Quo (OPP)
Who?	Governments in the Global North, specifically the US and the EU ; economic migrants from the Global South, local populations in the Global North, communities left behind in the Global South	Governments in the Global North, specifically the US and the EU ; economic migrants from the Global South, local populations in the Global North, communities left behind in the Global South
What?	Removing visa restrictions for entering countries and finding work ; possibly local training and assistance (such as language and skills learning)	Limited migration based on points-based visas for knowledge workers ; border controls to combat human smuggling (such as Frontex in Europe)
When?	This policy would be implemented immediately, with a horizon stretching into the next few years	
What would it look like in practice?	Proposition would argue that its model would lead to (a) successful economic growth in host nations, (b) Global South development through remittances and eventually re-migration of upskilled workers, (c) a decline of human tragedy due to human trafficking-assisted illegal migration	Opposition would argue that the proposition model look like a large amount of low-skilled workers coming in, finding it difficult to get a job, and disrupting local communities by (a) driving down wages ; (b) overburdening social services and housing supplies, and (c) lowering community trust and social cohesion
Exclude extremes	We don't support lifting each and any regulation, and dumping people here without adequate information, language training, and/or housing	We are not supporting barbed-fence electric-wire border walls, military patrols, rounding up illegal immigrants on the streets, and criminalising illegal migration
Working examples or analogies	The European Union's internal freedom of movement, especially the post-2004 economic migration from Eastern-European to Western-European nations Germany's "wir schaffen das" response to the 2015 refugee crisis and its successful integration of 1.5 million refugees	The "brain drain" of the Caribbean healthcare sector towards the United States; The social tensions in Europe after the 2015 refugee crisis and the rise of far-right populist parties

Possible Arguments

Proposition

Claim: Barriers to migration are morally unjustified

Justification: Economic migrants from the Global South have the right to pursue better economic opportunities and improve their lives. They did not chose or consent to being born into impoverished conditions, just like citizens of the Global North do not deserve by mere fact of birth the benefits accrued to them for having been born in the Global North. This is the consequence of an arbitrary "lottery of birth", and people should have the right to maximally change the hand they were dealt with at birth.

Example: if a citizen of the Global North is born into impoverished conditions, the state provides public education and a strong social safety net to help them be lifted out of poverty.

Claim: Removing barriers for economic migrants from the Global South can help address labor shortages and increase diversity in the Global North workforce.

Justification: Removing barriers for economic migrants can increase the pool of available workers and address labor shortages in certain industries. Especially with aging populations, and lack of available labour in physical-intensive industries (such as construction and agriculture) and healthcare, a fresh workforce is needed to help Global North economies survive and thrive.

Example: in Germany the healthcare sector is facing a shortage of healthcare workers in every Bundesrepublik, with the average age of an healthcare worker being over 45. With a large group of workers retiring, increased healthcare consumption due to aging populations and longer life expectancies, Germany has already moved to increasing the share of healthcare workers from foreign populations.

Claim: Removing barriers for economic migrants from the Global South can have a positive economic impact on both the Global North and the Global South.

Justification: Economic migrants can contribute to the economy of the Global North through increased productivity and purchasing power, while also sending remittances back to their home countries that can contribute to economic development. These remittances are used for families for daily purchases, as well as covering investments in improving quality of life, such as purchasing new transport options or investing in local infrastructure or housing.

Example: According to the World Bank, remittances from migrants in the Global North to the Global South totaled over \$554 billion in 2019, contributing significantly to the economies of many developing countries. For example, for Nepal remittances form 22.6% of its GDP.

Opposition

Claim: the Global North does not have the capacity to absorb a large number of economic migrants

Justification: An influx of economic migrants can increase competition for jobs and put downward pressure on wages for native-born workers. This can particularly affect low-skilled workers who may face increased competition from economic migrants. Furthermore, the Global North may not have the capacity to accommodate these migrants, such as housing, healthcare, and education. This can lead to increasing resentment in host communities, who are worried about government financing and available housing. This can then lead to these communities being more receptive towards voting for xenophobic politicians.

Example: In the United States, the influx of economic migrants has been blamed for putting downward pressure on wages for low-skilled workers, particularly in certain industries such as construction and hospitality.

Claim: Removing barriers for economic migrants from the Global South can lead to brain drain and a loss of skilled workers for Global South countries.

Justification: Economic migration can lead to a loss of skilled workers in Global South countries, which can hinder economic development and exacerbate existing inequalities.

Example: There is a significant outflow of medical personnel in Puerto Rico to the United States after hurricane Maria hit, which has made healthcare less accessible.

Claim: Economic migrants from the Global South may face challenges in finding meaningful work and integrating into host societies in the Global North.

Justification: Economic migrants often face a range of challenges when they arrive in host countries, such as language barriers, lack of qualifications recognition, and discrimination. These challenges can make it difficult for economic migrants to find meaningful work and integrate into host societies. Furthermore, there may be cultural differences that migrants must adapt to, which can also present challenges.

Example: For example, in the United States, many economic migrants from the Global South work in low-paying jobs such as agriculture or hospitality, which can limit their upward mobility and economic prospects. They may also face language barriers and discrimination, which can hinder their ability to integrate into American society.

Motion

This House believes that Chinese investment in the Global South does more good than harm

Context

Following China's emergence as a global economic powerhouse, Chinese investment in the Global South has seen a significant increase in recent years. In contrast to Western development policies, which have often emphasized liberal economic reforms, democratic governance, and social and environmental safeguards, China's approach to development assistance is often seen as more pragmatic and non-interventionist. China does not typically impose political or economic conditions on its aid recipients, which can be seen as an attractive alternative for countries that do not wish to comply with Western policy prescriptions

However, critics argue that the rise of China in the Global South may have negative consequences, including the risk of creating a new form of economic dependency. Some countries that have accepted large amounts of Chinese investment have found themselves heavily indebted, raising concerns about debt sustainability and potential loss of sovereignty. For example, Sri Lanka had to lease its strategically located Hambantota Port to China for 99 years after struggling to repay Chinese loans used to build the port.

Furthermore, China's growing presence in the Global South has raised environmental and social concerns. Critics argue that some Chinese-backed projects have resulted in environmental degradation, displacement of local communities, and poor labor practices. For instance, the proposed construction of the Myitsone Dam in Myanmar, financed by China, has been criticized for its potential environmental impact and displacement of local communities, leading to the project's suspension.

What is the problem or decision to be made?

Chinese investment in the Global South can be characterised as a trade-off between increased capital investment and infrastructure development in the Global South with reduced incentives for human rights and liberal governance reform in these countries. Teams need to balance these concerns as well as look at other spillover effects of Chinese investment. Teams also need to balance these concerns with the Western approach to the Global South.

What are the burdens?

PROPOSITION needs to argue that Chinese investment is a net good for the citizens of the Global South;

OPPOSITION needs to argue that Chinese investment is a net negative for the citizens of the Global South, or precludes the option of an even better form of economic development

What are the competing proposals?

	China-backed investment (PROP)	Western model of investment (OPP)
Who?	China, its state-owned companies, investors, and consultants; the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI); governments and citizens of the Global South, companies and workers in the Global South	The World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF), its economists and consultants ; western multi-national corporations (MNCs) and governments ; governments and citizens of the Global South, companies and workers in the Global South

What?	Direct investment in local infrastructure and manufacturing hubs, leased from or owned by China ; no restrictions on funding based on non-economic indicators	Investment packages based on economic and non-economic conditions (such as good governance, anti-corruption, free and fair elections, achievement of Millenium Development Goals)
When?	This is a debate that takes place in the world as currently exists	
What would it look like in practice?	China invests in infrastructure projects (railroads, roads, ports) ; resource extraction (i.e. mines) ; and setting up firms. The loans are not conditional on governance or human rights indicators ; China can repossess ownership if countries default on their debt payments	Western governments give conditional development aid based on a host of indicators, often tied to the Millennium Development Goals, ease of doing business, good governance, and free or fair elections. The IMF gives funds to countries as lenders of last results when countries are struggling to provide for their needs.
Exclude extremes	China does want to make good business cases ; we don't think they fund economically insolvent projects or let countries go bankrupt easily	We are not supporting the worst forms of Western aid, where they outsource aid to Western firms with almost no follow-up and require punitive economic adjustment packages that wrecked the post-Soviet states in the 1990s
Working examples or analogies	The Mombasa-Nairobi railway; The Coca Codo Sinclair hydroelectric plant in Ecuador was made possible by Chinese financial investment and constructed with know-how from Chinese firms, and supplies 35% of Ecuador's electricity needs	The Green Revolution: Western research, funded by charities such as the Ford and Rockefeller Foundation, and rolled out by Western institutions in the Global South, developed crops that were disease-resistant and offered higher yields, combatting food poverty; Micro-credit: a Bangladeshi-originated idea heavily backed by Western institutions that provide small loans for small entrepreneurs in the Global South

Possible Arguments

Proposition

Claim: Chinese economic investments contribute to infrastructure development in the Global South.

Justification: Chinese investments prioritize infrastructure projects, such as transportation networks and energy production, which are critical for economic growth and development. Infrastructure development can stimulate local economies, create jobs, and improve living standards. They often require large-scale capital funding, which is something the Global South finds hard to access and which Western governments are reticent to give directly rather than believe in capital provisions by private actors.

Example: The Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway in Kenya, financed and constructed by Chinese companies, boosted trade and increased regional connectivity.

Claim: Chinese investments offer an alternative to Western aid, which may come with political and economic conditions.

Justification: Chinese investments generally adhere to a non-interventionist approach, without imposing political or economic conditions on recipient countries. In contrast, Western aid often comes with conditions that may limit the autonomy of Global South governments in managing their development process. For example, on fighting corruption or free-market reforms. These are sometimes seen by local governments as neo-colonialist. The provisions are often also hard to fulfill, which means that projects that would be net-positive even if not fully executed don't come off the ground at all.

Claim: Chinese investments can help foster trade and economic cooperation between China and the Global South, creating new market opportunities.

Justification: Chinese investments often lead to increased trade and economic cooperation between China and recipient countries, which can stimulate local businesses and create jobs. This diversification is important, as China is growing to be the largest economy in the world. Being able to trade with this large resource-hungry economic actor can help economies in the Global South grow.

Example: Chinese investments in Angola's oil sector have led to an increase in exports from Angola to China, creating new revenue streams and economic opportunities for Angola.

Opposition

Claim: Chinese investments may prioritize large-scale infrastructure projects over social and environmental concerns.

Justification: Some Chinese investments in the Global South have been criticized for not adequately addressing social and environmental concerns, which can negatively impact local communities and ecosystems.

Example: The construction of the Myitsone Dam in Myanmar, financed by Chinese investment, faced criticism for displacing local communities and causing environmental damage.

Claim: Chinese investments can lead to debt sustainability issues and economic dependency.

Justification: Some countries that have received large amounts of Chinese investment have faced difficulties in repaying loans, leading to concerns about debt sustainability and potential loss of sovereignty.

Example: Sri Lanka had to lease the Hambantota Port to China for 99 years after struggling to repay Chinese loans used to build the port.

Claim: Chinese investments may not always prioritize local capacity building and employment as much as some successful Western aid projects do.

Justification: While Chinese investments can create jobs, they sometimes involve the use of Chinese labor and resources, which can limit the employment opportunities for local workers. In contrast, some Western aid projects focus on local capacity building and promoting local employment.

Example: The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), a U.S. foreign aid agency, has funded projects in countries like Ghana that prioritize local employment and capacity building, such as the Agriculture Development Project aimed at improving the agricultural sector and increasing the income of smallholder farmers.