

Preston

# Development The

AN INTRODUCT

# Development Theory

P. W. Presto

In this invaluable introduction to the major post-1945 theories of Third World development, Peter Preston takes as his focus the strategies used to analyse change in the Third World and examines the ways in which different conceptions of the nature of change have led to different lines of policy advice. In doing so, the author demonstrates how the various contemporary approaches to development draw upon strategies of enquiry which are lodged deep within the intellectual traditions of the modern world. The author's approach is based on the premise that the reader can only fully grasp the live issues and debates surrounding development through an understanding of the linkages with the broader frameworks of social theory.

The volume is organized into four major sections:

- an introduction to the nature of social scientific analysis
- a review of the work of the major social scientific figures of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and their impacts in the twentieth
- a comprehensive discussion of the post-1945 theories of Third World development
- a prospective study of the current debates within the field of development theory about global structures and agent responses

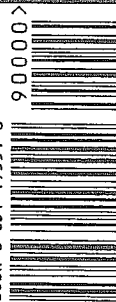
*Development Theory* is designed to appeal to students across a wide range of disciplines, who are taking courses dealing with aspects of development.

Peter Preston is presently Senior Lecturer in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Birmingham, England and has taught at the National University of Singapore and the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. He has held numerous research fellowships, most recently a Canon Research Fellowship at the Institute of Comparative Culture, Sophia University, Japan.

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## **An Introduction**

P. W. Preston

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# Contents

List of Figures	x
Abbreviations and Acronyms	xii
Preface	xiii
Acknowledgements	xvi
<b>Part I: The Nature of Social Theorizing</b>	<b>1</b>
1 Arguments and Actions in Social Theorizing	3
Overview of the general nature of social theorizing	3
Approaches to theorizing	4
Ernest Gellner's theorizing	11
Peter Worsley's theorizing	15
Analysing change	19
Arguments and actions about development	25
Chapter summary	27
<b>Part II: Classical Social Theory</b>	<b>29</b>
2 The Rise of a Social Science of Humankind	31
Overview of the history of the social sciences	31
The rise of a science of humankind	32
Theoretical issues	42
Chapter summary	47
3 Adam Smith and the Spontaneous Order of the Marketplace	48
Overview of the work of Adam Smith	48
The historical context of Smith's work	48

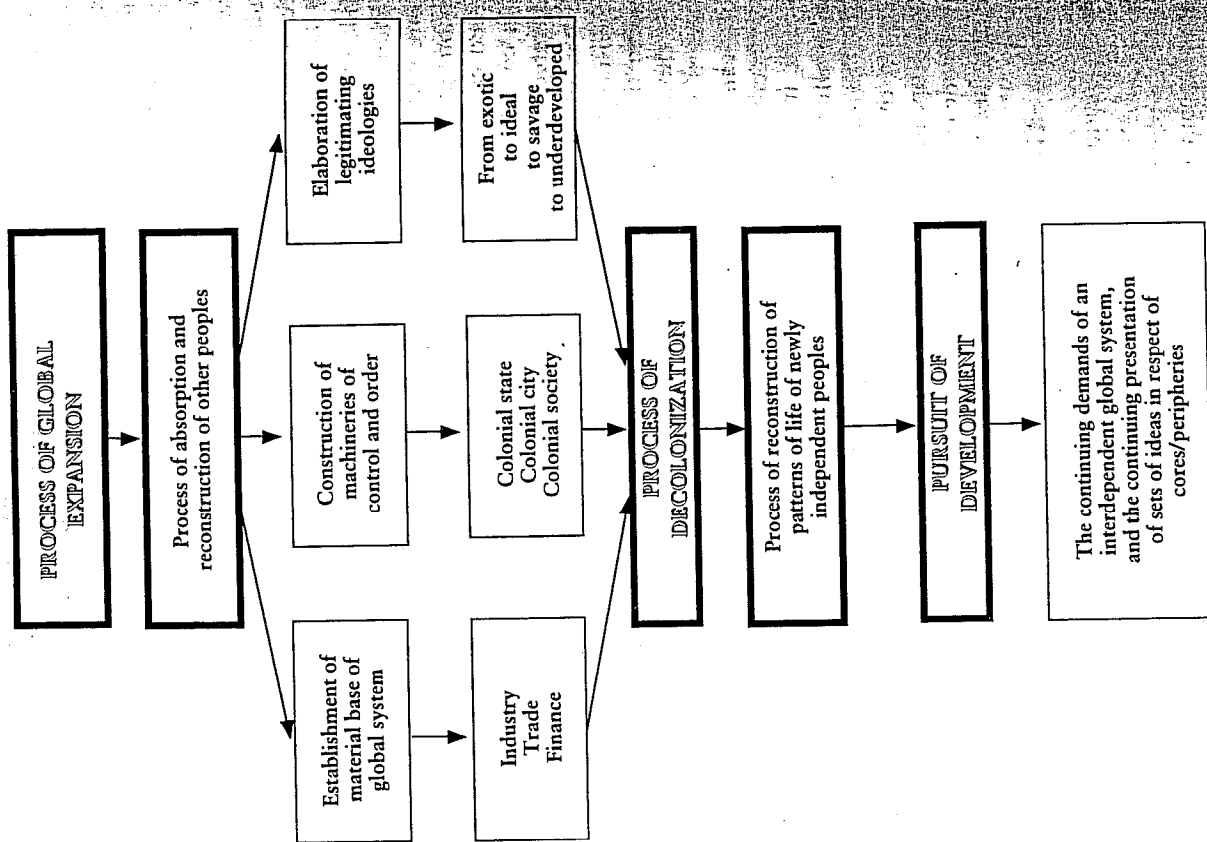
The debate on basic needs	245
Global development approaches in retrospect and prospect	248
Chapter summary	250
<b>14 The Affirmation of the Role of the Market: Metropolitan Neoliberalism in the 1980s</b>	251
Overview of the position of the New Right	251
The eclipse of the liberal-democratic orthodoxy	252
The logic of the New Right position	253
The overall record of the New Right	257
New Right ideas on state, market and economy	260
The New Right episode in retrospect	268
Chapter summary	269

#### **Part IV: New Analyses of Complex Change**

<b>15 Global System Interdependence: The New Structural Analyses of the Dynamics of Industrial-capitalism</b>	271
Overview of new structural analyses	273
The postmodernist theory of the global cultural marketplace	273
The reconstruction of global industrial-capitalism	274
The claims to a logic of ever greater global interdependence	280
Chapter summary	292
<b>16 Agent-centred Analyses of the Diversity of Forms-of-life</b>	293
Overview of agent-centred analysis	294
Agent-centred analysis	294
The contribution of social movements	296
Chapter summary	304
	314
<b>17 The Formal Character of a New General Approach to Development</b>	315
Overview of the new general approach	315
The decline of First World theory	316
The pursuit of effective nationstatehood	319
The spontaneous order of the marketplace	321
The legacy of dependency theory	322
Restating the modernist project	324
Towards a new general approach to development	326
End-note	326
Chapter summary	332

<b>18 A New Substantive Focus: Elucidating the Dynamics of Complex Change</b>	334
Overview of the new substantive focus	334
Changes in development discourses	335
The formal commitments of the discourse of the public sphere	337
The substantive commitments implied in the discourse of the public sphere	339
The presently discussed changes in the global system	342
Chapter summary	348
<b>Bibliography</b>	349
<b>Index</b>	361

Figure 9 Legacies of the colonial era



System, agent and theory

The European capitalist system underwent a dual process of expansion and intensification from its inception in the fifteenth century (taking the Italian city states of the Renaissance as a nominal start point) through to its apogee in the early years of the short twentieth century. The expansion was geographical, firstly within Europe and thereafter across the globe. The intensification process has been characterized by many social theorists in terms of the ongoing development of the rationality of the system. In the modern world the demands of the capitalist system extend to many areas of human life.<sup>3</sup>

The geographical expansion of the European capitalist system which began in the sixteenth century and continued through to a high point in the years before the Great War took place in a series of phases, and with multiple conflicts between the European powers and between European powers and indigenous peoples: firstly, the Americas; secondly, Asia; and thirdly, Africa.

The expansion of the capitalist system took place via a series of agents: traders, soldiers, missionaries, settlers and so on. All these agents would have had particular reasons for becoming involved with non-European peoples. The range of agents involved in the particular case of the expansion of the British into the Far East involved the following:<sup>4</sup> (a) traders, who would have travelled out as mariners in very small numbers, enduring long voyages, who set up factories with very small staffs, and who acted routinely in complex and shifting alliances/relationships with indigenous groups and other European and non-European traders; (b) mariners, running sailing ships prior to the 1840s over long distances and with many risks, who were an elite whose technology was superior to that of indigenous groups, and who could make handsome profits on early voyages; (c) soldiers and sailors, deploying force in garrisons, police actions and not infrequent wars (against other Europeans as well as indigenous peoples), often with small numbers and more advanced technology than indigenous groups; (d) administrators, following the traders and establishing bureaucracies that expanded slowly as trading turned into colonialism with its authoritarian paternalism, along with families and transplanted aspects of home-life as expatriates in settlements having various quarters for the different races; and (e) the adventurers who worked along a line parallel to the traders and bureaucrats.

All these agents both read and ordered their activities in the light of particular sets of expectations and ideas. The sets of ideas brought to bear on a given situation would of course be very particular. In the period of expansion the activities of the various agents provided a rich stock of new

<sup>3</sup> The long process of the global expansion of capitalism has been a particular concern of neo-marxist theorists; see I. Wallerstein 1974 *The Modern World System*, New York, Academic.

<sup>4</sup> G. Woodcock 1969 *The British in the Far East*, London, Weidenfeld.