

Summaries

Gerhard Hauck

Weak States – a dubious concept in development theory

For most theorists of development the peripheral states are weak by definition and their weakness is a significant factor in the syndrome of underdevelopment. Recently, especially the states of the African continent are seen as paradigmatically „weak“ or „failed“ or „collapsed“ or „decaying“ states. Therefore, the paper uses African case material to discuss the thesis of the structural weakness of the peripheral state. The conclusion is that African states are weak only insofar as their „regulative power“ is concerned; insofar as their power to guarantee the accumulation of riches in the ruling classes is concerned, in contrast, they are definitely strong states.

Bettina Gransow:

NGOs in China's Anti-Poverty Policy – Internationalization from Within?

The example of China's anti-poverty policy is used to show how more complex governance mechanisms become active in place of the state, incorporating on the institutional level multilateral development organizations as well as Chinese and international NGOs. These development trajectories in the field of anti-poverty policy can be interpreted along the lines of three different future scenarios, namely a *neo-liberal scenario*, in which the state abdicates its social responsibility in favor of (national and international) society; a *state-centered scenario*, in which new (participatory and internationalized) forms of governance serve primarily to strengthen the Chinese state; a *scenario of globalizing social policy*, in which the third sector, in cooperation with the state and the market, acts to promote socially and environmentally compatible globalization processes.

Henning Melber

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

A Preliminary Assessment

Since the beginning of the 21st century, the transformation of the Organisation for African Unity (OAU) into the African Union (AU) and The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) emerged as parallel and at times competing initiatives. They have in the meantime moved towards closer cooperation, with NEPAD as an integral instrument of the AU. This article takes stock of the NEPAD and critically examines the suggested goals and the (lack of) achievements. It summarises the background to NEPAD, and emphasises the alliance it illustrates between the Nigerian

and South African states as regional hegemonic powers. It further highlights the differences and commonalities with the AU and the underlying tensions with regard to another interest group among African states. It then explores the limits of NEPAD in terms of the political understanding originally formulated and the lack of implementation so far. This is followed by another investigation into the socio-economic programme and its potential to address the current imbalances within the global economic structures. The special role executed by South Africa is then summarised, before a concluding part questions, if NEPAD has more to offer than merely a new pact among transnational elites. Given the little concrete evidence of new ground in both the political sphere and the economic sectors within the continent and in terms of global interaction, it is suggested that the scepticism towards NEPAD could claim a certain degree of justification.

Sabah Alnasseri

**Imperial(istic) wars and Cantonisation or:
The internationalization of peripheral states**

Since the cantonisation of Bosnia and since the Kosovo war an old colonial concept, the so called nation building, promoted itself to a *conditio sine qua non* of the analysis of the peripheral state. Strengthened by the wars in Afghanistan and in Iraq this anachronistic concept was uncritically acquired, in order to mediate conceptually and to research empirically allegedly processes of „democratisation“, „state- and nation-building“. On the contrary to the thesis of „nation-building“, my argument is that we have to do heir with a form of the „internationalization of peripheral state“ and that the „cantonisation“ represents a specific form of this internationalization, which differs in principle from the forms of the internationalization of the metropolitan state. I discuss this problematic and illustrate my theses on the basis of the example of Iraq.

Erhard Berner & Ben Phillips

**Self-help or help denied?
Developmental states' withdrawal from public welfare**

It is nowadays rarely denied that the poor are active agents in the development process. Participation, once radical and controversial, is now mainstream management theory; harnessing self-help potentials is the order of the day. Properly ‘empowered’ or at least ‘enabled’, the poor are assumed to be able to overcome deficits of infrastructure and services and exhaust their tremendous entrepreneurial potential. Without altogether denying the validity of the self-help approach, the paper scrutinizes both its practical assumptions and ideological underpinnings. Does it work for all urban poor communities, and critically, for all people in such communities? And is it its efficiency, or rather the implicit justification of cutting subsidies and transfers, which make it so

popular with governments and international financial institutions? We conclude that self-help approaches can and should be supported by the state, but should be considered as complements, not as alternatives, to resource transfers and accessible public services. The idea that poor communities can develop under their own steam is not only unrealistic but politically harmful. It obscures gross injustice in the distribution of wealth and power in society, but also within the poor communities.

Pierre Bourdieu

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