

Summaries

Aram Ziai: Development-Induced Displacement and its Legitimation. Comparing World Bank Projects in Sub-Saharan Africa. This article examines how displacement through infrastructure projects is being legitimized in development discourse. Three typical justifications are: the inevitability of progress, the greater common good, and property rights. They are closely linked to elements of development discourse, including: the transformation of geocultural differences into historical stages, Othering of allegedly backward peoples, the concept of trusteeship, and the assumption of the beneficial effects of investments.

Dustin Schäfer: The Inspection Panel of the World Bank. A Historical Outline of Development Induced Displacement and Institutional Accountability. It is currently estimated that around 20 million people are displaced each year through so-called “development projects”. This article examines to what extent development banks’ accountability mechanisms contribute to reducing development induced displacement. It is assumed that development induced displacement is a growing problem in current development cooperation. Based on document analysis, quantitative trends are identified and compared with a qualitative case study on the 98th case of the World Bank’s Inspection Panel. Despite the establishment of the Inspection Panel, the trends clearly point to an increase in development induced displacement. However, independent complaint processes can reveal the social and ecological consequences of development projects and transform them into political action on behalf of development banks. In addition, accountability mechanisms often offer the only possibility for those affected by development projects to defend themselves against the negative consequences of these projects.

Anne Tittor: The Momentum of Megaprojects. The Project to Build an Inter-Oceanic Canal in Nicaragua. Many megaprojects follow the same pattern: advocates present them not only as purely economically rational, but as an embodiment of modernity. This leads to a primacy of technological issues over politics. Anybody who raises critical questions of a technical, social or ecological kind are deemed retrograde sceptics hindering societal progress and development. Drawing on social-scientific debates on extractivism and megaprojects, it becomes apparent that civic rights are overridden and democratic principles are subverted repeatedly in favour of such megaprojects. On the American continent, this means sacrifice zones are established – especially in areas where indigenous and Black people have received territorial rights due to long struggles – in which people are expelled and zones of insecurities are formed. In pushing for the inter-oceanic canal project since 2013, the article shows that the Nicaraguan government of Ortega has repeated these patterns. The government vilifies protests against the construction, subverts efforts of indigenous groups to claim territorial rights, and disregards guaranteed rights of free,

prior, and informed consent. Further centralization of decisions and an intensification of authoritarian practices are the result.

Valerie Hänsch: Defying Development. A Mega-Dam Project in Northern Sudan and Local Resistance against Displacement. In the context of the new wave of large dam projects in Africa, this article deals with the construction of the Merowe Dam in Northern Sudan and the organisation of a local resistance movement against displacement into state-administered resettlement areas. Based on long-term ethnographic research, I analyse the struggle of peasants for self-determination, which is reflected in a social vision of staying around the future reservoir and challenges the state's justification of "resettlement as civilization". I argue that dam projects produce "open moments" (Lund 1998) in which power relations between state and society reconfigure, and new relations emerge between local and regional actors. During the confrontation with despotic forms of state rule, a provisional autonomous zone developed locally with state-like administrative characteristics. The dynamics, contingencies, and unpredictability of political processes call into question prevailing planning paradigms that aim to optimize and depoliticize resettlement processes.

Cora Rebecca Puk: High Tide Development. What Gudyna's Concept of Post-Extractivism Can Learn from Those Affected by a Dam Project in Chile. In the name of "development", infrastructure projects are being implemented all over the world. In the "Global South", they aim to enable at least parts of the population to enjoy a "good life" measured by Western standards. However, this happens at the expense of the local population, their lifestyles, as well as the surrounding nature. For decades, the expansion and intensification of extractivism has been presented as the only way to achieve "development" in Latin America. Nevertheless, within the framework of the concept "post-extractivism", in recent years a debate has arisen in Latin America that attempts to outline an alternative to this "development". This article summarizes how Gudynas' concept of post-extractivism could be enriched by incorporating the imaginaries and ideas of local communities; it focuses on a large-scale dam project in southern Chile and draws upon fieldwork with affected communities done in 2017. The dam project, which led to the expropriation of land from many families, has been legitimized by the government with reference to the need for rural development. In November 2018, the first people affected were evicted from their homes, which were then destroyed. Although this is now considered illegal by the judiciary, there is still a climate of insecurity in the community.

Daniel Bendix: An Everlasting Back and Forth. Resistance against Development-Induced Displacement in the Irrigation Scheme Office du Niger, Mali. This paper explores peasant resistance to displacement caused by the land grabbing activities of the *Office du Niger* in Mali, which was established during French colonial rule. The case under scrutiny is a decade-long dispute over agricultural land between small-scale farmers and a major Malian business operator. The paper identifies three strategies of peasant resistance (collective action, addressing the state, national and

international alliances) and their potentials and restrictions. It argues that the struggle for restitution of the dispossessed land and/or for compensation for the dispossessed land has so far been unsuccessful because there is no unity between the resisting actors and because the Office du Niger's administration acts like a "cunning" state within the state. The resistance is successful in so far as it persists; here, transnational alliances and reaching out to "donors" has proven particularly effective.