



Chapter Twenty

Global Justice and Globalization

Moral Arguments about Global Poverty

- Globalization: growing interconnection of local and national economies from all corners of the world
- Global justice: moral question of the underlying fairness and justice of the current globalized situation

Moral Arguments about Global Poverty, cont.

- Moral obligation to help the poor?
- Pogge: international system violates the rights of the poor, rigged against them
- Singer: duty to give
- Hardin: natural boom and bust process

Moral Arguments about Global Poverty, cont.

- Self-interest might dictate helping to lessen the wealth gap:
 - Trade
 - Stability
 - Environmental impact
- Justice requirements must tell us why we ought to care for poor:
 - Process
 - End State
 - Fairness
- Rights

Practical Considerations

- Global inequality
 - Gross economic differences across the world
- Levels of international aid
 - Insufficient amounts of aid given to poor countries
- Causes of Global Poverty
 - Colonialism
 - Farm subsidies and other trade barriers
 - Institutional issues: economic decisions made by those without concern for interests of people.

Globalization and Its Critics

- Has brought greater connection and tolerance
- Economic impacts: outsourcing and offshoring
- Cultural diversity: fitting into Western values, clash of civilizations

Singer: The Singer Solution to World Poverty

- “Central Station” movie – We would condemn character if she chose not to rescue the boy, but we do not do what is necessary to rescue those in need when we have the power to do so.
- Utilitarianism
- “Bugatti” example – Bob chooses to save his car instead of a child.
- Giving income to aid organizations
- Luxury goods vs. the needs of the poor
- Difficulty of living an ethical life

Hardin: Living on a Lifeboat

- Spaceship metaphor
- Incrementalism counterproductive
- Alternative metaphor – lifeboat
- How shall we respond to calls of those in the water if we are on the lifeboat?
 1. Brother's Keeper
 2. Admit 10 – but who we exclude?
 3. Admit no one and ensure survival of those on the boat

Hardin: Living on a Lifeboat, cont.

- Tragedy of the commons
- Responsibility to care for one's own property
- Blame and punishment are irrelevant.
- Population grows and needs to be controlled and equilibrated; food banks act as ratchet.
- Difficulty of “giving back” what was taken – we are all descendants of thieves.
- Immigration polity of flexible control