



Development and Social Change: A Global Perspective

By Philip McMichael

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In this new **Sixth Edition** of **Development and Social Change: A Global Perspective**, author Philip McMichael describes a world undergoing profound social, political, and economic transformations, from the post-World War II era through the present. He tells a story of development in four parts—colonialism, developmentalism, globalization, and sustainability—that shows how the global development “project” has taken different forms from one historical period to the next. Throughout the text, the underlying conceptual framework is that development is a political construct, created by dominant actors (states, multilateral institutions, corporations and economic coalitions) and based on unequal power arrangements. While rooted in ideas about progress and prosperity, development also produces crises that threaten the health and well-being of millions of people, and sparks organized resistance to its goals and policies. Frequent case studies make the intricacies of globalization concrete, meaningful, and clear. **Development and Social Change: A Global Perspective** challenges us to see ourselves as global citizens even as we are global consumers.

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Editorial Review

Review

“The book does a fantastic job of laying out the history of development, and does so by dividing up different development eras into projects. It is packed with excellent and important information. The "case studies" in the book bring occasionally dry issues to life. And I value the book's overarching attention to inequality at all levels as a way to understand the world.” (Leif Jensen)

“I wanted one book that contained everything that I want my students to know. This book contains it all. The historical continuity woven across chapters allows me to teach development exactly like I want to...I like the emphasis on the environment and climate change, and land grabs / land-based investment.” (Cynthia Caron)

“The book is very well structured. Difficult concepts are well explained. McMichael makes it very clear what the stages of development are, and brings examples that help students recognize those stages in their own social environment. While reading, students easily find connections between the theory and their observations.” (Olena Leipnik)

About the Author

Philip McMichael grew up in Adelaide, South Australia, and is an International Professor of Development Sociology at Cornell University. His book *Settlers and The Agrarian Question: Foundations of Capitalism in Colonial Australia* (Cambridge University Press, ©1984) won the 1995 Social Science History Association's Allan Sharlin Memorial Award. He has also edited *The Global Restructuring of Agro-Food Systems* (Cornell University Press, ©1994), *Food and Agrarian Orders in the World Economy* (Praeger, ©1995), *New Directions in the Sociology of Global Development* (Emerald, ©2005), and *Contesting Development: Critical Struggles for Social Change* (Routledge, ©2010). He has served as Director of Cornell University's International Political Economy Program, as Chair of the American Sociological Association's Political Economy of the World-System Section, and President of the Research Committee on the Sociology of Agriculture and Food for the International Sociological Association. And he has recently worked with the FAO, IATP and UNRISD, the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty, and the international peasant coalition, La Vía Campesina.

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