

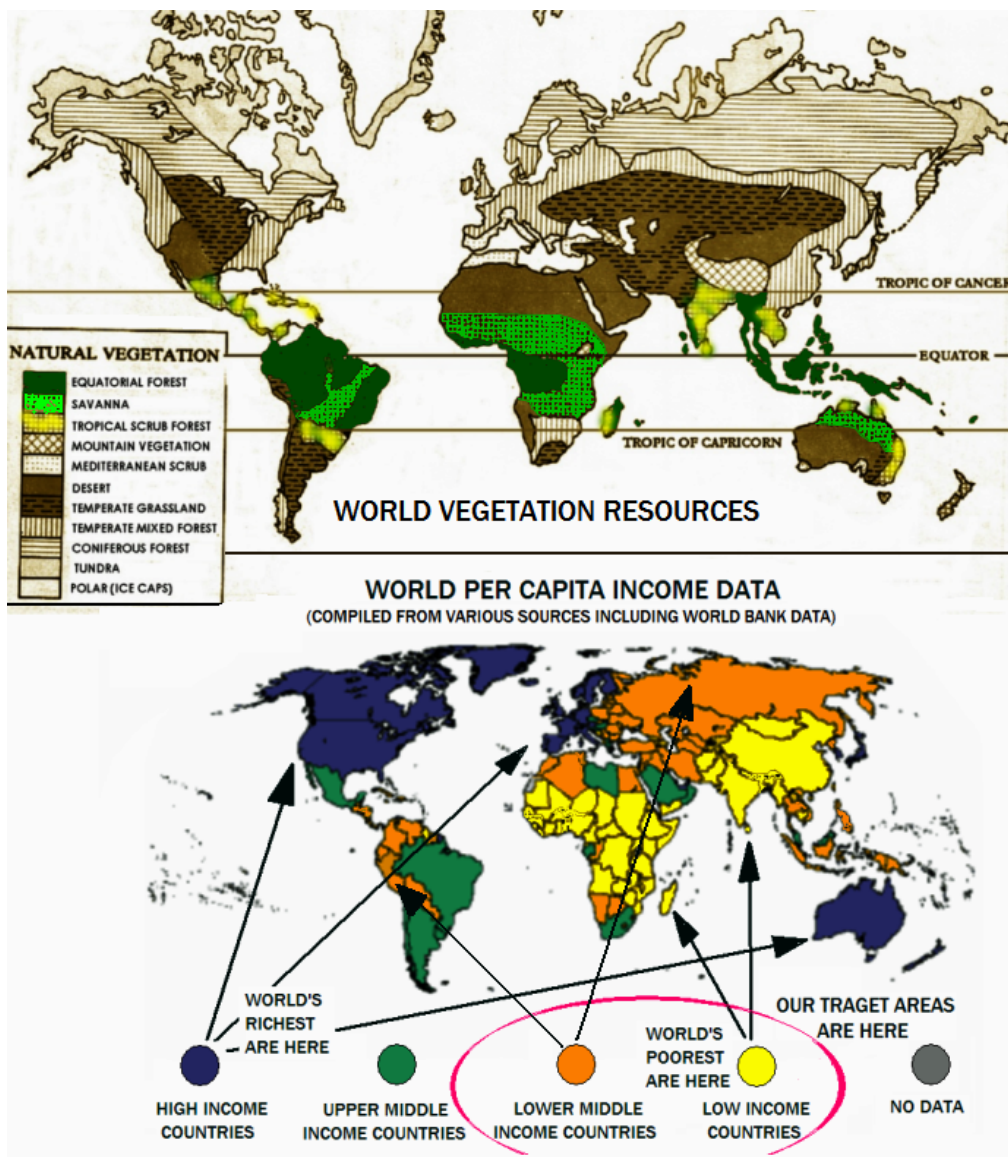
Seminar 7

Week 8- Lecture 7

Famine and food security: a hunger for justice?

Saadia Gardezi

What is Amartya Sen's view on famine? How did it change previous thinking?



Africa: How did an entire continent go from being a net food exporter to a net food importer, from food abundance to mass starvation, in such a short period of time?

“Political famines seem scarcely to register in our collective imagination. They are strikingly absent too from the books which construct theories of famine and policies for food security”, writes de Waal. Why do you think this is so?

Famine as structural violence?

Is famine a security threat? What does the securitisation process look like, if there is one at all?

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“The Government of South Sudan army is the country’s largest employer with around 40% and rising proportion of the budget (IRIN, 2012). Due to the instability of the country and the realist’s security dilemma, the government of South Sudan is unable to resolve the food insecurity faced by the hundreds of thousands affected by displacement. In terms of determining differences between famine and undernutrition through this sector, the most obvious difference is how military conflict can lead to much greater displacement of individuals and thus lead to a greater chance of famine. However, a fundamental preoccupation with traditional military security seeks to exacerbate both famine and undernutrition by perpetuating and ignoring food insecurity more broadly.” (J Cole <https://www.e-ir.info/2013/07/12/famine-and-under-nutrition-as-security-issues/>)

Economic causes of famine and food insecurity? Disaster capitalism...

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/jul/06/naomi-klein-how-power-profits-from-disaster>

Debt shock for African countries- via international institutions like IMF

What does the World Bank have to say about this?

The famine in the Horn of Africa is manmade – the result of artificially high prices for food and civil conflict. Droughts have occurred over and over again, but you need bad policymaking for that to lead to a famine.

The price of maize, or corn, was significantly higher in east Africa than in the rest of the world due to controls on local food markets. In Kenya, the price for corn is 60 to 70 percent above the world average at the moment. A small number of farmers are controlling the market which is

keeping prices artificially high. Maize is cheaper in the United States and in Germany than it is in eastern Africa.

Need for “repoliticising mass starvations”- Jenny Edkins

How can victims of famine find justice?

<https://playspent.org/html/>