

The Role of International Aid: Is It Altruism or Imperialism in Disguise for Weakened Nations?

Outline

I. Introduction

1) Role of international aid

2) Thesis: International aid plays an altruistic role in weak nations. Despite accusations of imperialism, it serves as a vital tool for emancipating populations from human security crises, fostering liberal values through human-centric initiatives, and defending against misattributions of economic policies driven by growth-seeking domestic elites and international investors.

II. Is it Imperialism in Disguise for Weakened Nations? (Antithesis)

1) Threat to the sovereignty of a state

a. Resource curse theory in Venezuela

2) Debt-trap Diplomacy: A Neo-Imperialism tool

a. Case study of negative impact on Pakistan's economy

3) Rise of the Transnational Capitalist class

a. Deep state promoting imperial interests

- 4) Ontological Insecurity of the nation
 - a. Threat of Myanmar's cultural identity

III. International Aid: An Example of Altruism (Thesis)

- 1) Emanicipation from human security crises
 - a. International aid rebuilding weak nations
- 2) Misattributed to the flawed sociopolitical conditions and financial policies
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- 4) Some 'more equal animals' of Orwellian farm
 - a. Massive Propaganda against international interventionism

IV. Conclusion

Amidst the herald of 'strong do what they can and weak suffer what they must,' the blood trail of my son stretches along the street, and the screams of my raped daughter are muted within ~~the~~ my cluster-bomb-stricken house. As the fieriest 'self' prevails, the weakest side suffers from the agony of neglect. I am that neglected weakest side, deemed collateral damage in those macabre battles of 'selves' where nobody thinks beyond themselves. Who suffer the most in weak nations are their disenfranchised people who endure

the most of all of the incompetence of the ^{undone} and prevailing powers. Since they are not listed in Dubai, Wiki, or Panama Leaks either so they do not have any escape from the political, social, economic and other plight their respective countries are grappling with. For the war-torn and weakened nations that are crushed between the battles of ego, international aid is a ray of hope. It might be a paltry amount that the giver countries spend as grants, humanitarian assistance, development projects and other form of support, but does a big favor for humanity robbing quietly from Palestine to Nigeria, Myanmar to Afghanistan. International aid play an altruistic role in weak nations. Despite the accusations of imperialism, it serves as a vital tool for emancipating populations from human security crises, fostering liberal values through human-centric initiatives, and defending against misattributions of economic policies driven by growth-seeking domestic elites and international investors.

Critics distrust international aid for being an 'Imperialist tool', threatening the sovereignty of a state. They quote resource curse theory to explain how imperial powers use states as a pawn in geopolitical struggles and advance their agendas under the garb of humanitarian aid and undermine the decision-making power of a weak state. To illustrate, Venezuela exemplify the resource curse aggravated by the neo-imperialist ambitions of global powers, particularly

the US - With the world's largest oil reserves, Venezuela's economy has been largely vulnerable to fluctuations in oil prices and external interference. The US govt's interference, portrayed as humanitarian intervention masks strategic interests in defeating perceived ideological adversaries and securing access to the national resources. The narrative has been repeated in past regime change efforts across the globe, where resistant to US influence have faced destabilization campaigns and economic sanctions exacerbating internal crises, crippling the sovereignty of a weak state. Therefore, critics widely regard international aid as an imperial advancement.

Not only that, critics also advance their argument to the diplomatic front and draw parallels between international aid and debt-trap diplomacy. For them, the extreme reliance on international aid ensnared Pakistan into the world's most perilous debt traps, where excessive borrowing has not only burdened the country but has also compromised its ability to invest in critical sectors like education, health, and infrastructure. By identifying the mirror patterns seen in other developing nations subject to neo-imperialist policies, critics regard how international loans often marked as development assistance or aid can entrap weak nations into the debt trap of the international financial institutions and serve their imperialist agenda in the guise of

of altruism.

Correspondingly, they believe there exist a transnational capitalist class which promotes the imperialist interests of deep states. Owing to globalisation and fast-paced changes happening in the international system, they think traditional imperialism is adapting to the changes. For instance, the support for Viktor Orban's regime in Hungary comes from a coalition of domestic elites and international investors who benefit from his economic policies and political stability. Internationally, Orban has also maintained relationships with the foreign investors who are attracted to the Hungary's low corporate taxes and business incentives, despite occasional friction with the European Union over democratic norms and governance policies. This support allows Orban to implement the economic policies at the expense of democratic freedom and institutional checks and balances. This shows how an invisible national imperialist class has emerged to implement the imperialist agenda of the global powers in the name of international aid.

Finally, international aid has been declared a threat to the ontological security of the weak states. It was regarded as 'us' versus 'them' where those identities could not converge owing to the suspicious motive of the latter. As an illustration,

The military junta of Myanmar, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing's regime has used the narrative of cultural threat to justify the crackdown on international relief organizations and NGOs. They were alleged to undermine the cultural identity of Myanmar by promoting foreign values and agendas contradictory to the traditional Myanmar values. Through this they fostered a climate of suspicion towards international intervention promoting imperial ideology in the guise of altruism.

So far, the viewpoints of the critics of international aid were presented. In their opinion, international aid to the weak states serves the role of imperialism. However, the reality is different from that. International aid is the epitome of altruism, as it selflessly serves humans across the planet without discrimination. It extends beyond the power bellicosity that unleash calamity upon humans and leave them on their own.

It is falsely linked to the threat undermining sovereignty of a state whereby strong nations compel them to obey which is completely wrong. International aid, instead, emancipates weak nations from human security crises. According to the international law of 'statehood', both sovereignty and population are equally important. Where states fail to protect the latter, legality of the former is also tarnished.

And at that time, its the international aid agencies that swoop to embrace population - It is evident by the remarkable achievements of the World Bank that provided \$ 250 million to France's factories and roads, catalysing economic recovery and made it the world's ~~...~~ Seventh largest now (World Bank, 2024). It is altruistic essence of the international aid that breathes new life into the weak nations by ameliorating the sociopolitical conditions.

Alongside this, critics regarded international aid as a cause of failing economies of weak nations that ensnare them to debt-traps which is not true - First, international aid does not connote the flawed sociopolitical policies of a country and its incapable financial policy - Nonetheless, it signifies the humanitarian aid, economic subsidies and grants that are mostly not liable to return - It is; however, the political instability and the chronic imbalances in the institutional structures that affected the economy of the quoted country, Pakistan, which has been reinstated by the renowned scholars such as Syed Akbar Jaidi, Anatol Lieven, and Ashraf Hussain. Dependency happens when weak nations repeat past mistakes instead of rectifying them - It is; therefore, unfair to stick to one aspect which does not even reflect the whole, and deny all the fruitful contributions ^{that} international aid ~~did~~ made to the development of the country

from defence to infrastructure - this shows how international aid being an altruistic step is strengthening weak nations across all the sectors of security.

While it is argued that a transcapital class promotes imperialism in the guise of international aid, logic defies that too - Firstly, states may receive such support from domestic partners and international investors seeking economic benefits, but this does not equate to an imperialist agenda driven by the traditional capital class - Economic policies favouring growth and stability, even amid democratic challenges, are often debated domestically and internationally, based on their merits and implications for governance and human rights - Secondly, the principles and actions of the international organizations like the United Nations contradict this notion - The UN agencies such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme (WFP), focused on providing humanitarian assistance to the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh without dictating or altering the political landscape of Myanmar - It shows that the international aid and relief agencies operate within a framework of respecting states' sovereignty and non-interference, countering the claims that aid is merely a tool for imperial agendas in disguise of altruism.

Lastly, international aid programs ~~have~~ were vilified for myopic interests that not only tainted

their reputation, but also halted the service delivery that affected, hundreds of thousands - Considering themselves 'state' and interests as 'national interests', as George Orwell called them 'more equal than others', States and non-state actors often run propaganda campaigns, and allege international aid programs threatening their ontological security - By doing so, they deflect international attention from their incompetence and atrocities - To exemplify, the ^{but} threat of cultural identity in Pakistan is starkly ^{fear of} exemplified by the resistance to the Polio vaccination campaign fueled by suspicions that the vaccination is a Western plot to sterilize Muslims. This was further compounded by a bevy of fatwas against them too, which has led to the resurgence of Polio cases in Pakistan and assassination of dozens of Polio workers till date. This is how the tailored cultural identity clashes label international aid as an imperial agenda and not altruism.

In conclusion, international aid emerges as a vital lifeline for the nations ravaged by conflict and instability. Despite accusations by the opposite camp of advancing imperial agenda, it has been serving humanity, bringing about more human-centric initiatives and proving all the misconceptions of shady economic interests wrong. It operates within frameworks that respect state sovereignty.

and non-interference as exemplified by the United Nations' principled engagements in the global crises. Criticisms alleging aid as a tool for imperialism fail to fully recognize its humanitarian essence, vital for addressing deep-seated challenges and offering hope to the most vulnerable. Its propaganda seeks to undermine these efforts, portraying aid as a threat to the cultural identity or national security, the reality remains that international aid stands as a beacon of solidarity and compassion, essential in shaping a more just and equitable world.