

Postmodern LAPE

Lecture for LAPE

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Overview

- Review: Goals & basic defns of devt. theories
- Postcolonialism
- Postmodernism- origins and definition
- Postmodernism and development- 2 strains
- Postmodernism- is it applicable to everyday problems in LA?

Postcolonialism

- neo-colonial
- not just Marxism- local differentiation
- importance of cultural as well as eco aspects of resistance

Postmodernism and Devt

- = the “crisis of metanarratives”
- (progress) (vanguard)
- The deconstruction of development (modern’z’n)
 - historical origins
 - idea of “development”
 - idea of “Third World”
 - postcolonialism
 - idea of “poor and ignorant masses” who need a revn/x
 - professionalization of development,
 - lack of legitimacy, democracy w/o consensus
- 2 strains result:
 - 1. existentialist view
 - 2. Escobar/participatory view: smt vs. individ

Postmodernism & LA devt

- Maslow q- LA vs. West
- Industrialization has not had a socially “integrating” effect
- instrumental rationality (technocracy, technology) trumps substantive rationality
- state hypertrophy (rigidity)
- role of eco planning
- emergence of social/grass roots movements
 - need for confluence of individual projects

Decentralization

- Decentralization and Postmodernism
 - expected benefits
 - drawbacks
 - what type of decentralization
 - admin, pol, fiscal; deconcentration; delegation; federalism, etc
- Advs. of participation
 - what is the proper role of pop'n? Who participates?
 - at what level?
 - Can you have a participatory eco policy? In which areas?

Deconstructing Escobar- for Discussion

- What is Escobar's basic critique?
 - What does he mean by the invention of devt
- What is his basic recommendation?
- How could that recommendation be applied?
- Is Escobar consistent with his own analysis?
- What are the implications for both depcy and modzn?
- Is Postmodernism practical in the LA environment?
- Is decentralization, autonomy the answer?