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GEOG 370

Fall 2025

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Mid-term (Q1)

Why Optimism faded away by the end of the first Decade (1960s)? Give 4 examples from peer reviewed articles.

- 1960s was the first development decade, when the United Nations Development Program was formed (UNDP).
- Developing countries were supported by the international community in terms of finance, capital, technology, industrialization, training, scientific knowledge (Top-down) and development experience. They were very optimistic.
- This is known as Development Theory or Modernization Theory.
- Development carried out through Large-scale agricultural projects and light industry
- This has resulted in many development and environmental problems.
- In agriculture, the main sector of economic development (Top-down) it suffers from poor performance and the lack of investment in small holdings except (the green revolution) in southeast Asia.
- Lack of transportation, over taxation, lack of storage facilities and monopoly of the international market that result in low prices of crops.
- Agricultural has resulted in environmental degradation such as desertification, deforestation, over-cultivation, water pollution.
- On the other hand, industry suffered from the lack of capital (investment), international competition and contributed to environmental degradation such as air and water pollution and global warming.

General signs of failure of development or modernization theory by the end of 1960s:

- 1- Severe inequalities of income and wealth between and within countries of African and Latin American countries.
- 2- A large number of the developing countries were unable to achieve 5% of annual economic growth as well as slow growth of social development.

- 3- Signs of environmental degradation were observed (water and air pollution, desertification, over-grazing and over-cultivation)
- Therefore, by the end of the 1960s, Optimism faded away.

References

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