

## Examrace

# Samir Amin Unequal Distribution: Economic YouTube Lecture Handouts

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## Introduction

- Egyptian-French Economist
- Called himself a 'creative Marxist' .
- World System Analysis (core-periphery)
- Dependency theory (Marxist)
  - He said, "In my view this is for political rather than empirical reasons."
  - Dependency theory fits with uneven development
- Radical theory - International Political Economy

## Works

- An Essay on the Social Formations of Peripheral Capitalism
- *Accumulation on a World Scale*
- Unequal exchange
- Euro centrism

## Unequal Exchange

- Arghiri Emmanuel first developed the theory of unequal exchange
- Amin criticized Emmanuel's work and gave his own literature
- He integrated imperialism and Marx's labour theory of value

## Concept

- Mechanisms through which value flows from the periphery to the core
- Maintaining an international division of labour
- Uneven distribution of wealth geographically.
- Against neo-classical economics
- Capitalism - a global system dependent on the polarization between the centre and periphery.

- Monopoly capital's extension to the periphery
- Earn super-profits
- Auto centric accumulation
  - In advanced capitalist countries
  - Promoted expanded reproduction of capital

### **Structure of Exploitation of Labour**

- Uneven development and exploitative structure Leads to
  - unequal exchange
  - Continued polarization
  - Increased inequality
- These theories explain the factor price non-equalization in the world economy
  - Factor price is remuneration to labour or other primary non-produced factors.
- The cheap labour attracts foreign investment.
- Amin's analysis of unequal exchange - a unit of labour power is valued less in the periphery than in the core

### **Conclusion**

- Underdevelopment is NOT a lack of development
- But the Reverse side of development
- Exploitation of countries by rich countries for labour and resources
- Global economy favours continued enrichment of rich countries
- Poor countries have to pay the expense
- Role of social conflicts ignored in development
- As Economics focuses on management of capitalist expansion and theories
- Capitalist expansion starts from one region but expands globally

### **Phases**

- Mercantilist stage
  - 1500 - 1800
  - International exchange – looting – Colonialism
  - Others fall behind
- Competitive stage

- 1800 - 1880
- Capitalism expands – competition
- It is already in an advantageous position
- Current stage
  - 1880 to today
  - Monopoly capitalism
  - Helps profits from declining
  - Through unequal exchange

### MCQs

Q. 1. Unequal exchange is the formulation of

- (A) Samir Amin
- (B) Amartya Sen
- (C) Paul Sweezy
- (D) Andre Gunder Frank

Answer: (A)

Q. 2. Which of these is not among the ways of exploitation of labour according to Amin?

- a) Polarization
- b) Unequal exchange
- c) Power of labour valued more in periphery
- d) All of these

Answer: c

#Sociology of Development

#Dependency Theories of Underdevelopment Uneven development

#Samir Amin

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 Manishika

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