

Summaries

Josephine Brämer & Aram Ziai: German Development Policy: An Analysis of the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development under Liberal & Social Democratic Leadership. This article analyses and compares German development policy, as expressed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), during two different leadership periods. From 2009-2013 the BMZ was led by Dirk Niebel from the Liberal Party (FDP) whereas from 1998-2009 BMZ leadership was held by Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul from the Social Democratic Party (SDP). Three different underlying logics help to differentiate BMZ measures: a logic of geopolitics, a logic of economics, and a logic of ‘genuine’ development. In analysing the underlying logics of BMZ measures during the two different leadership periods, the paper concludes that the change in office allowed for new initiatives and a shift in focus, however this shift was least prominent in the area of economic policy. The findings support the hypothesis that even though development policy operates in the field of foreign policy and has its own specific logics, it nevertheless has to take into account the accumulation of national capital.

Christin Bernhold: German Development Policy and State-Building in South Sudan. This paper critically analyzes German bilateral Official Development Aid (ODA) in Sudan, embedding it in a broader review of ‘state-building’ delivered by western capitalist states. It argues that, after the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between Sudan and South Sudan, German ODA became geared towards state-building in the now independent South. Even if Germany is not a major player in the country (e.g. compared to other donors, like the US), its ODA supported an explicitly secessionist conflict party even though the CPA called on all parties involved to make unity attractive. Largely ignoring the causes of long-standing conflicts within South Sudan, the German government thus conceded to the probability of new acts of violence. In the first part, this paper briefly outlines the history of civil war between Sudan and South Sudan. The subsequent critique of state-building is followed by a short portrayal of the United States’ policies towards Sudan, being the most important donor in South Sudan. The fourth part turns to German bilateral ODA in Sudan with regard to its geographic and sectoral distribution. The final chapter discusses the impact of this particular development policy in light of imperialist interests.

Daniel Bendix & Susanne Schultz: Population Policy Reloaded: Between BMZ and Bayer. This paper explores recent changes in German international development policy with regards to population and reproductive health, and connects these to contemporary dynamics in contraceptive markets. While human rights vocabulary is ever-present, countries in the Global South are encouraged to manage their ‘human capital’ in light of population age composition and available resources. Twenty years after the Cairo Conference, key documents and papers indicate a discursive and financial shift towards more explicit Neo-Malthusian approaches. Simultaneously, as evident in major public-private partnerships between pharmaceutical companies,

such as Bayer HealthCare, with the German government and NGOs, there has been a revival of formerly discredited long-term contraceptives. Drawing on policy papers, interviews, and statistical data, this paper highlights the considerable interplay between the reoriented German development policy under the name of ‘population dynamics’ and the interests of pharmaceutical companies in contraceptive markets. Particularly worrying in this context is the almost complete lack of critical scrutiny by civil society organisations or social movements.

Christa Wichterich: Microcredits, Returns and Gender: About Reliable Women and Financial Inclusion. Founded on a discourse which assumes a feminized high repayment morale, the article discusses microcredits as a gendered instrument for the inclusion of poor women in India into the financial market. Microfinancing is analysed at the intersection of four power regimes: the international financial market, development policies, nation-states and their social policies, and reproduction and production regimes at the local and household levels. Cross-cutting these power regimes, are the hierarchical social relations of class, caste, race, gender and the post-colonial North-South divide. The expansion of microcredit lending in India was legitimised by development aid organisations as a means to poverty reduction and women’s empowerment. However, not only do microcredits create cycles of debt, they restructure the local economy and reproduction and are implicated in a neoliberal shift of social responsibilities from the nation-state to the poor. Furthermore, as a result of the commercialisation of financial services and, thus, their subjugation under the rationale of profit and growth, in 2010 the microcredit industry in India crashed. Following, this article highlights the paradoxical and ambivalent effects of microcredits on poverty management and on women’s empowerment in the Indian context.



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