Week 12: Is More Foreign Aid the Answer?

Rational for Aid
1. What are the 3 priorities that the Marshall Plan was crafted to address?

2. What are the 5 timely reminders of the Marshal Plan’s most enduring principles that come from Marshal’s 1978 Harvard commencement address and have a legacy for us today?

Francis, “For Rich, Foreign Aid is a Tool of Persuasion”
1. According to a study by Alesina & Dollar, what dictates the direction of foreign aid and what do the author cite as a major example of this?

2. Dollar hopes that the world has changes since the end of the cold war. What suggest (3 examples) that politics are still going to play a role in who gets aid?

Chaddock, “In Congress, Foreign Aid Loses Stigma of the Past”
1. Why is there now strong bipartisan support for foreign aid, whereas previously many in Congress opposed it?

2. What are the 4 themes that are emerging from this years deliberations on foreign aid?

Eizenstat & Porter, “Weak States are a US Security Threat”
1. What is a “failed state” and what problems/threats do the broad band of weak/failed states pose to the U.S.?

Saches, “Foreign Aid in Everyone’s Interest”
1. According to Sachs, what are the 3 steps out of poverty (for poor countries)?
2. What are the standards of success for aid?

Ballen, “War on Terror Need More Humanitarian Efforts”
1. Why, for the first time since 9/11, did the Indonesian and Pakistani people express a favorable opinion towards the U.S. and turn against support for Bin Laden and tourists attacks?

2. What was the conclusion of the “National Military Strategic Plan for the War on Terrorism”?

Recent Aid Initiatives
Francis, “Bush’s Surprising Liberal Legacy”
1. Why is the Bush administration pushing to increase U.S. foreign aid and what 3 initiatives will receive most of the funds?

2. What is the aim of the new Millennium Challenge Account?

3. Why can the importance of foreign aid be exaggerated?

4. Why do aid proponents respond to the criticism that the $500 billion in aid that the U.S. has given to LDCs over the past 50 years has not had a lasting impact and what are 3 aid successes that Sewell point to?

Chauvin, “With Money Sent From the US, Peruvians Buy Houses”
1. What are remittances and what countries were the principle recipients of remittances from the U.S. in 2004?

2. According to the IADB, how much money did people from Latin Americas remit in 2004?

Lampman, “A Priority for US Churches: Africa’s Poor”
1. What has made feasible the convergence of support (for increasing aid to Africa) by church and faith-based groups and what group’s participation has added significant political clout?
**Tumbull, “A New Era of Supercharged Philanthropy”**
1. What is most remarkable (3 characteristics) about how the world’s two richest men are giving to charity, which could push worldwide philanthropy in new directions?

2. What is different about “venture philanthropy” (what does it involve) and what is an example of this approach?

**Itano, “A Rock Star’s New Approach to World Aid”**
1. What is rock star Bonos’ agenda (3 issues) and what new tactics is he using to get his message across?

2. In the wake of the Ethiopian crisis, what did the international aid community realize and in recent years, what was another shift in aid mentality?

**McLaughlin, “What Debt Relief Means for Africa”**
1. Which nations received $40 billion in debt relief and way weren’t Nigeria, Sudan, and the Congo, and Angola included in the initial round of debt relief?

2. What is a worry and a key concern of Africans, regarding the G-8's debt relief for Africa?

**Bracken, “Hip-hop Star Brings Help–And Hope to Haiti”**
1. According to observers, in what does Haitian-American-hip hop star Wyclef Jean’s unique success lie–what has this uniquely positioned him to be?

2. In partnership with Com-CEL, what has Wyclef Jean done (and/or plans to do) to help the people of Haiti?

**McLaughlin, “Africa Adopts New Self-Help Plan”**
1. What are 3 new initiatives (institutions) that suggest that there is growing political willingness among Africa leaders to address the continent’s many troubles?
2. What is the growing understanding that is driving these changes, which are less ideological/more pragmatic than previous efforts to integrate Africa?

3. How has Africa’s self-help strategy already benefitted (i.e., ironic effect) and is expected to benefit Africa in the future?

Arie. “Aid Agencies Rethink Strategy”
1. According to the new report that was authored by the world’s leading NGOs, what is it time to realize and why does Walker (Red Cross staff) say Western aid agencies are facing a crisis in legitimacy?

2. What does Bloomer (Oxfam staff member) say that the partners in the war on terrorism need to do, especially the U.S.?

Itano, “Challenge for Nations Seeking Aid”
1. The Millennium Challenge Account emerges from a shift in thinking among donor nations. What is this shift?

2. Seventy-four LDCs with per capita incomes of less than $1,435 are eligible for MCA money. What criteria must a country meet to qualify to receive MCA money?

3. What is the problem with using statistics/indicators as criterial for deciding which LDCs should receive aid?

Criticisms of Aid
Francis, “Can World Bank Fight Poverty on Pocket Change?”
1. What are the 5 sources of money flowing to developing countries and how much do each contribute in 2003 to the total?

2. What makes the World Bank so special, despite its modest resources (i.e., to whom does the World Bank loan money?)

Francis, “US Foreign Aid: Do Americans Give Enough?”
1. How much traditional foreign aid did the U.S. give to developing countries in 2003 and why do critics say that this is not enough?
2. What does the Commitment to Development Index try to capture and why does the U.S. come in much better (7th among 21 rich countries) in this index?

Oberg, “Keep Africa’s Good News Stories Good”
1. Following the signing of the Arusha Peace Accord (2000), few observers held high hopes for Burundi. What events (3 examples) have occurred in Burundi that the author cites in her discussion of “It’s here the good story begins”?

2. Why is the author concerned about the future of Burundi—what really could derail Burundi’s peace process?

1. While acknowledging that they are well intended, what is Iweala’s criticism of Western campaigns to “save Africa”?

2. According to Iweala, who are the people saving Africa? Before the next G8 summit, what does Iweala hope people realize/acknowledge?

Baldauf, “Aid Group’s Next Task: Keep World Engaged”
1. According to relief organizations, what may be the stiffest challenge to any major relief effort?

2. Why doesn’t the international community respond to slow onset disasters (e.g., famine, drought) as well as something extraordinary like a tsunami?

Future of Aid
Chissano, Kufuor & Peter McPherson, “The Right Way to Aid Africa”
1. What announcement indicates that USAID has recently change course and what do the authors argue is needed to achieve long-term stability and sustainable democracy in Africa?

2. The authors—all associated with the Partnership to End Hunger in Africa—asked the U.S. to increase assistance in 5 vital areas. What are these 5 areas?
3. What is the new model of development assistance that the authors says the U.S. should show leadership by supporting?

Fitzgerald, “Business Has Responsibility and Opportunity in Africa”
1. What evidence (3 examples) suggests that there are exciting business opportunities in Africa?

2. What are 3 wholly selfish and self centered reasons why we should care (about African development)?

Hughes, “Meeting Africa’s Genuine Needs”
1. While Africa has received far less interest from most U.S. leaders than the rest of the world, this could be about to change. Why?