



Emerging Development Patterns: European Contributions.

Edited by Istvan Dobozi and Peter Mandi. Institute for World Economy of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, 1983.

This reader is the first in a series published by the *European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI)*. This European organization of institutes and scholars concerned with development studies, was founded in 1975. EADI's objective is threefold:

Firstly, the promotion of development research and training activities as approached through the social sciences and interdisciplinary studies;

Secondly, to establish and facilitate working relationships, the exchange of knowledge, and mutually advantageous co-operation between development researchers in Europe and counterparts in the Third World;

Thirdly, the improvement of documentation and information flows.

To achieve these objectives EADI has set itself the following tasks:

- to co-ordinate and facilitate information flows,

- to provide institutional support for projects, seminars, conferences on specific issues related to development problems,
- to design and elaborate research programmes and training priorities.

During the first three years of its existence EADI was mainly concerned with institution-building and finding effective ways and means whereby its major tasks could be fulfilled. Gradually it developed a network of Working Groups that came to be the major means of operation of the organization. To date there are 22 such groups covering problem areas from "Co-operation in Training" to "World Trade and Commodity Policies".

A particularly significant aspect of EADI is that among its members we find individuals and institutes not only from Western Europe and the Third World, but also East European scholars and institutes, which have found it useful to join the organization.

In 1981 EADI held a General Conference in Budapest, the central theme was "Emerging Development Patterns: European Contributions". The discussions and papers delivered at the conference concentrated on the consequences of the world economic crisis, especially with respect to the Third World. Prominent participants at the conference were Willy Brandt, Jozsef Bogner, Francisco Delich and Amir Jamal. A selection of the papers presented and the speeches delivered are published in the book under review.

As it contains 29 contributions covering well over 500 pages, it is impossible to go into any details. I shall instead confine myself to reviewing some problem areas discussed and to the identification of priority areas for the future work of EADI that arose out of these discussions. All in order to give the interested reader an idea of the policy considerations underlying the work of EADI.

The problems discussed

Among the many problem areas that were discussed 4 can be regarded as quite cen-

tral, as most authors touch upon them in one way or another: development theory, development practice, the welfare state under fire and stimulation of international demand. I shall briefly touch upon each of them and try to delineate the EADI position within each of these vital areas.

Development theory

International economic development during the last 15 years has raised issues that challenge the explanatory value of established development theory, irrespective of whether it is located in modernization theory or in the dependency paradigm.

The ruling orthodoxy has been confronted with three challenges, that are discussed in the book:

- the new conservative challenge, emphasizing the market, containing a negative attitude to state interventionism etc;
- the views of certain dependentistas that development assistance has a devastating influence on socio-economic structures of redeveloping national states;
- the challenge from the "environmentalists" emphasizing factors such as pollution, small-scale production units, local self-reliance, etc.

It is made clear in the book that EADI should examine all of these challenges and, as far as possible, try to incorporate them in the existing body of development theory.

Development practice

The development experience of the Third World also receives attention. Many favoured countries led by apparently progressive leaders have not prospered, while several countries, sometimes with strongly criticized authoritarian regimes, have advanced in the international hierarchy and achieved the status of "newly industrializing countries".

According to the "neo-conservative" attack on established development theory, it is either inappropriate, or irrelevant, to discuss socio-political consequences of

an applied development strategy. In conclusion, we can no longer be critical of the development record and practice of the Third World.

Such a stance is of course impossible, not the least from an analytical point of view, and the necessity of remaining critical of repression in whatever shape it appears must be defended. But, and this runs as a red thread through EADIs approach towards dealing with development issues; a critical evaluation of development issues should be made not in terms of preconceived and mutually exclusive ideological schemes, but in terms of balances.

The welfare state

A third area which concerns some of the authors in this book, is the frequent attacks on the European welfare state. As is well known there are uncertainties among economists and politicians as to the underlying causes to the present economic difficulties of the industrialized countries, and consequently, over the remedies which could get them back on their feet. Rival economic theories are pushed for all their worth and established Keynesianism is having a hard time. The "neo-conservatives" have been particularly successful in mounting a strong attack on the welfare state. This challenge from the right is of some concern to EADI. The organization has taken upon itself the task of formulating a comprehensive policy package that could constitute a viable alternative to the conservative attack.

International demand

Finally, EADI seems to be quite committed to the proposals of the Brandt Commission: Europe should take the lead in an effort to stimulate international demand by initiating something which can be called global Keynesianism – a massive transfer of resources from the rich countries to the Third World – in order to increase the import capacity of developing countries.

What does EADI stand for?

Development studies is a research area where normative research dominates and ideological issues quite often forms the starting point for the analysis. As EADI is primarily concerned with development studies it is only appropriate to ask the question; what is the policy profile, or the ideological perspective, of EADI on development issues?

On the one hand, EADI is quite busy with disassociating itself from the "neo-conservatives", on the other hand it also carefully avoids analytical point of departures that could be labelled Marxist. EADI places itself somewhere in the middle of the right-left scale. The position of the organization is formulated in the following way by its President, Louis Emmerij:

"We must avoid extremes and concentrate the debate on the search for balance, for example, balance between the role of the state and of the market, between central planning and individual initiative, between growth and redistribution, and also between the need for a safety net and the danger that such a net might be turned into a hammock."

(*EADI. Programme of Work. A European Perspective on Development Studies in the 80s.* Tilburg, 1983:2)

In conclusion, this is a very "balanced" organization, moving freely in the centre of the ideological scale. The pragmatic, and sometimes vague, approach to vital development issues is of course quite convenient in some respects. But it probably renders it difficult to attack the underlying causes of development and underdevelopment. It therefore remains to be seen if work undertaken within the policy framework of EADI can result in challenging contributions to the study of development problems.

Jerker Carlsson
Department of Economic History
University of Gothenburg

Books received

Trends in World Economy, a series published by the Institute for World Economics of the Hungarian Academy of Science.

No. 37

B Kadar, *Economic and Technological Development and Strategic Thinking in the Eighties*, Budapest, 1982.

No. 38

L Lang, *Bourgeois and Marxist Theories on Oil Prices: A Survey and Critique*, Budapest, 1982.

Management Contracts in Developing Countries: An Analysis of Their Substantive Provisions, ST/CTC/27, UN 1983.

National Legislation and Regulations Relating to Transnational Corporations: A technical paper, UN 1983, ST/CTC/35.

Transnational Corporations in the International Auto Industry, UN, 1983, (ST/CTC/38).

Transborder Data Flows and Brazil, UN, 1983, (ST/CTC/40).

Transborder Data Flows: Access to the International On-Line Data-Base Market, UN, 1983, (ST/CTC/41).

Alternative Arrangements for Petroleum Development, UN, 1982, (ST/CTC/43).

Transnational Corporations in World Development, UN, 1983, (ST/CTC/46).

Measures Strengthening the Negotiating Capacity of Governments in Their Relations with Transnational Corporations, UN 1983, ST/CTC/47.

Issues in Negotiating International Loan Agreements with Transnational Banks, UN, 1983, (ST/CTC/48).

ICCH Commodities and Financial Futures Yearbook 1983/4, Edited by M J Atkin of Landell Mills Commodities Studies, London 1983.

Roderick G Ogle, *Internationalizing the Seabed*, Gower Publishing Co, Aldershot, England, 1984.

Dominique Rosenberg, *Le principe de souveraineté des états sur leurs ressources naturelles*, Librairie Generale de Droit et de Jurisprudence, Paris 1983.