CFR Resources

A brief introduction to development in Haiti. (1,600 words)


A summary of how much the U.S. government spends on foreign aid and how, where, and why it spends it. (2,000 words)

Articles

A look at the several ways in which foreign aid can actually harm its recipients. (1,000 words)


An introduction to the idea of giving cash aid directly to those in need. (1,900 words)

Nurith Aizenman, “If We Bring the Good Life to All, Will We Destroy the Planet?,” NPR, February 7, 2018.

An accessible discussion of the need to balance development and sustainability. (900 words)


An interview with writer Pablo Yanguas that discusses what he describes as a “dysfunctional aid system.” (1,000 words)
Charles Kenny, “If Everyone Gets Electricity, Can the Planet Survive?,” *Atlantic*, last updated September 29, 2015.

A look at the implications of the Sustainable Development Goals on global energy policy. (1,200 words)


A detailed examination of why developing countries are growing faster than wealthy ones, and a look at the consequences thereof. (800 words)


An example of how foreign aid also serves the interests of the donor country. (1,600 words)

Books


An analysis of the fifty poorest countries in the world that discusses why development has been so difficult in those countries and suggests policy options. (224 pages)


From a Nobel Prize–winning economist, an account of global development over the last 250 years. (362 pages)

William Easterly, *The White Man’s Burden: Why the West’s Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good*, 2006.

A critical look at foreign aid. See Charles Kenny for a counterpoint. (443 pages)
Classroom Reading List:
Development


A brief look at development from all angles. (214 pages)


The story of Nobel Peace Prize winner Norman Borlaug, a central figure in the green revolution. (297 pages)


An argument, opposing William Easterly and other critics’, that development policy is working. (274 pages)

Nina Munk, *The Idealist: Jeffrey Sachs and the Quest to End Poverty*, 2013.

A journalistic account of how economist Jeffrey Sachs’s theories played out in practice in villages in Uganda and Kenya. (274 pages)


A statistics-based argument that the world is better developed than many think. (341 pages)


The latest book from a leading voice in development economics. (544 pages)


Written by two journalists, a story of hunger in Africa. (338 pages)
Resources

A visualization of the 2017 U.S. foreign aid budget, organized by type of aid and recipient.

“Gapminder.”

The companion to Rosling's book Factfulness, a website that uses statistics to argue that the world is not as bad off as many think.


The official website for the Sustainable Development Goals that includes details on each goal, such as who is working on the goal and how, and information on progress made.


A collection of data on global progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.

“World Bank Open Data.”

An encyclopedic collection of global development data.

World Data Lab, “World Poverty Clock.”

A visualization of how quickly people are escaping and falling into poverty.