

LECTURE / DISCUSSION / DEBATE
GLOBAL JUSTICE

Terms and concepts to know:

Global justice	The problem of famine
Singer and Sen on famine	Ethical / political implications
Cosmopolitanism	Particularism
Political conception	Rawls and Nagel
Politics as academic discipline	Practice of politics

Study and discussion questions:

1. Are national boundaries morally arbitrary?
2. In a world of self-subsistent – autarkic – states, would the rich have any obligations to the poor?
3. Should a state have full rights to benefit from natural resources located in its territory? Does this question relate in any way to the so-called “war on terror”?
4. Does coercion make a difference to our moral duties? In other words, are we always required to obey orders, even if physically or emotionally compelled?
5. The Center for Global Justice has some pretty big goals on their agenda (combatting patriarchy, hegemony, colonialism, and racism). What does their plan look like, and how do you feel progress toward those goals should be measured?
6. What does Makwana mean when he mentions the problem of “cooptation of sharing by the corporate sector”? Think of the various ways this occurs within movements dedicated to changing the dominant economic paradigm. What do you believe is necessary to overcome this problem?
7. In the Thomas Nagel essay, the author makes the point early on that the analysis will focus on “the relation between justice and sovereignty, and the scope and limits of equality as a demand of justice.” How do these two concepts allow us to determine whether the concept of “global justice” can be defined and achieved?

Readings:

Hoffman and Graham: Chapter 22 and Conclusion.

Video:

The Economics of Happiness, a documentary examining globalization.