



Changing Economic World

Causes of Uneven Development

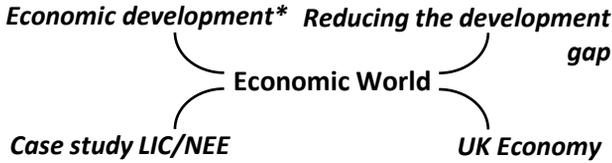


read

quiz



The Big Picture



The Development Gap

There are significant variations in levels of development across the world. This is known as the development gap. Both physical and human factors have caused uneven development.



Key Terms



Development gap – Difference in standards of living between HICs and LICs.



Poverty – When a person or community lack the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living.



Relief – The differences in height from place to place on the land's surface.



Trade – Trade – The buying and selling of goods and services between countries.



Physical Causes of Uneven Development

The physical geography of a country or a region can create several challenges for development.



Weather and climate

Extreme conditions such as heavy rainfall, droughts, extreme temperatures and tropical storms make economic development difficult.



Landlocked countries

Countries without a coastline lack the benefits of sea trade which has led to the economic growth of most developed nations.



Relief

Mountainous regions, such as Nepal, are often remote and have poor infrastructure which makes development very challenging.



Water shortages

Water is essential for life and development. Where there are shortages of water agricultural and industrial development is very challenging.



Economic Causes of Uneven Development

The two main economic factors causing uneven economic development are poverty and trade.



Poverty

Development is slowed by a lack of money in a household, community or country. Improvements to living conditions, sanitation, education and infrastructure is prevented. Without basic investment development will be slow.



Trade

Trade involves the import and export of goods and services. LICs have limited access to trade and trading has often involved exporting low-value raw materials. HICs are more likely to export higher value processed goods. This trading imbalance has made HICs richer.



Historical Causes of Uneven Development

Most HICs have a long history development based on agricultural and industrial growth and international trading. In recent years, rapid industrialisation has supported development in countries such as China and India. Many LICs are yet to experience this economic growth.

Many LICs were colonised by countries such as the UK, France, Portugal and Spain. These countries exploited natural resources and over 10 million people were transported from Africa to North America and forced into slavery. It was during this colonial era that global development become even more uneven.