

Course 11: Poverty and Inequality

Definitions of poverty

absolute poverty poverty line a minimum “basket” of goods and services	pauvreté absolue ligne de pauvreté un panier de biens et de services
relative poverty	pauvreté relative
poverty threshold	seuil de pauvreté
a percentage of the median wage (60%)	pourcentage du salaire médian
social exclusion	exclusion sociale
inequality income inequality wealth inequality	inégalité inégalité de revenu inégalité de richesse
minimum wage	salaire minimum
income distribution	la distribution de revenus

Lorenz curve	la courbe de Lorenz
Gini coefficient	coefficient de Gini

Working and poor in the United States

nationwide trend joblessness rate living rose income line slowdown decades

In 1979, with an unemployment rate over 7 percent _____, the poverty _____ among all workers was 5.7 percent. In the following two _____, the rate of unemployment fluctuated considerably, rising in the early 1980s, then falling, before rising again during the early 1990s. Thereafter, the rate of unemployment fell until the _____ in US growth during the early 2000s. In the mid-2000s boom, unemployment fell again. But with the current crisis it has risen to about 10% of the working population.

During the same period, the number of people in poverty followed the _____ in _____, oscillating between 30 and 40 million. In 2008, there were 39.8 million people living at or below the official poverty _____, equivalent to 13.2% of the population. This compares to 39.5 million people who were living in poverty in 1959, or 22.4% of the population at that time. These figures suggest that a large number of people are both working and poor.

working poor	les pauvres qui travaillent
lone-parent lone-parent families	parent isolé / familles monoparentales
old-age poverty	pauvreté des personnes âgées
poverty trap	piège de la pauvreté
US : welfare	assistance sociale
workfare	allocation conditionnelle
tax credit	crédit d'impôt
in-kind assistance	aide reçue en nature

Absolute poverty in the developing world

One measure of poverty refers to people living on less than \$1.25 (PPP 2005).

Developing constant extreme living

According to the World Bank, _____ poverty has declined in _____ countries since the early 1980s. The number of people in the developing _____ on less than \$1.25 a day fell from 1,900 million (or 51.9%) in 1981 to 1,374 million (25.2 percent in 2005). (Source WB Development Indicators, 2010!)

planning regional transition global Saharan

In contrast, the number of people living on less than \$2 (PPP 2005) per day rose from 2,542 million in 1981, to 2.,875 million in 1999, before falling to 2,564 million people in 2005 (equivalent to 47.0% of the population living in the developing world).

These _____ figures, however, hide quite strong differences in _____ developments. Thus, the absolute number of people living on less than \$2 per day has fallen strongly in East Asia (including China). But it rose strongly in Europe and Central Asia, during the 1990s, after the _____ from Soviet central _____, before falling in the early 2000s. The absolute numbers of people living on \$2 have also remained quite high, but falling in the Middle East & North Africa, very high in South Asia (including India), and also in sub-_____ Africa.

disease	maladie
malnutrition	malnutrition
famine	famine
infant mortality	mortalité infantile

Text based on “One third of the world’s urban population lives in a slum” by Simon Whelan
World Web Socialist Web, 17 February 2004

dweller slums billion tenure

In its report “The Challenge of Slums” published late 2003, UN-Habitat estimates that one ____ people, about a third of the world’s urban population, live in _____ and in absolute destitution, without water or sanitation, public infrastructure or security of _____. There are at least 550 million slum _____ in Asia, 187 million in Africa, 128 million in Latin America and the Caribbean and a further 54 million in the world’s richest 30 countries.

inhabitants rural misery urban

Such extreme poverty was once mainly found in ____ areas, but rapid ____ growth in developing countries is leading to exploding urban poverty. During the 1990s alone, the world’s city _____ increased by 36 percent, and UN-Habitat has predicted that in 30 years as many as two billion people will be living in such ____.

slum(s)	taudis, bas-quartiers
shanty town	bidonville
urban growth	croissance urbaine
tenure	ici : être propriétaire
misery	misère
inhabitant(s)	habitant(s)
globalisation	mondialisation
trickle down	effet de diffusion
the poor	les pauvres
shortage	pénurie, manque
foodstuffs	aliments
share of income	une part du revenu
affordable	abordable
survive	survivre
surviving	survivant

process inertia wealth poor

The UN agency attributes considerable responsibility for these conditions to the _____ of national governments and the neo-liberal globalisation _____ which has been encouraged over the last three decades by international institutions like the IMF and the WTO. The _____ created by deregulated markets remains highly concentrated and has not “trickled down” to many of the world’s _____ .

proletariat living free shortage provision foodstuffs logistical

Such _____-market policies, demographic growth and rural-urban migration are leading to the rapid growth of a global _____ which is completely failing to benefit from globalisation. At the end of 1998, the UN Food and Agriculture reported that up to 1 billion people experienced severe malnutrition and food _____ , with workers using up to 80% of their income to buy food. In fact, urban food prices in Africa and Asia are rising faster than the cost of _____ and wages, and even the food available is often contaminated or rotten, especially as 30% of all _____ are inedible as a result of infrastructural problems. A major conglomeration of over 10 million people, for example, needs approximately 6000 tonnes of food per day, which clearly represents significant _____ problems that market forces alone cannot handle. Proper distribution requires good public infrastructures, which rely significantly on extensive and effective public _____ .

affordable inequalities congestion consumes periphery surviving

But the opposite is happening and the expansion of cities has been accompanied by deteriorating infrastructure. Poor public transport pushes people to use cars and taxis, leading to immense _____ problems and pollution. For people living on the _____ of major cities, commuting accounts for a large share of their day and _____ their income.

The 1990s witnessed unprecedented social _____ emerge, and while decent, _____ housing is a basic requirement of human well-being, millions, if not billions of people across the globe live in completely inhuman conditions. Even in Europe, historically the continent that founded the welfare state, 6.2 percent of the population live in slums, _____ on exceedingly little.