**Burnell, Randall & Rakner: Politics in the Developing World 4e**

**Study questions**

**Chapter 16**

1. What makes the idea of development a contested concept?
2. Is all theorizing about development policy necessarily contingent on certain assumptions being made about politics and political change?
3. Do all governments in the developing world face similar options when deliberating sensible development policy?
4. Why is the 'Washington consensus' so controversial and why have so many developing country governments moved towards implementing at least some of the policy measures that it recommends?
5. Do you expect poverty reduction strategy papers or programmes to make a significant difference to the way governments approach the problems of the poor, and if not, why not?
6. What development policy initiatives do you recommend to the governments of those developing countries that have so far been unsuccessful in securing sustained development?
7. What are the Millennium Development Goals and what effects, if any, do you expect them to have in developing countries?
8. Why do governments of developing countries currently show so little interest in socialist development strategies?
9. What is meant by 'second generation' economic reform and what main obstacles has it encountered in developing countries?
10. Why are rates of poverty and malnutrition particularly high in sub-Saharan Africa?
11. Why are some Millennium Development Goals being achieved more successfully than others and why are some developing countries making more progress than others? How far do political considerations provide the answer?
12. Would you expect the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals to have very significant political consequences for developing countries, and if so, which Goals in particular, and why?
13. Should international donors prioritise tackling HIV/AIDS in their resource allocations for development support?
14. What are the main differences between the so-called Washington consensus and post-Washington consensus and their implications for politics in the developing world?
15. How much of Vietnam's recent developmental success is due to its distinctive political system?
16. Choose a country that has rejected the Washington Consensus and discuss the outcomes of its rejections. Does it provide a viable strategy for development?
17. How does development relate to other important policy issues such as human rights and the environment? Are they mutually beneficial or can development sometimes infringe upon other policy issues?
18. What strategies for development coincide with political populism in some developing countries and are there connections between the two?
19. Critically discuss the 'post-development' proposition that the real problem facing 'developing' countries is not the obstacles to development but the development agenda itself.
20. Discuss the importance of the state for development.