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Abstract

This paper reviews the contemporary reconfiguring of postdevelopment and postcolonialism and postimperialism and postdevelopment that defies neat summary, but which demands more sustained attention to the interactions of enclosure, boundaries and subjectivities.



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1.

1. Post-development (and post-colonialism) are sometimes written with a hyphen. For Jencks (1989: 14), writing about the post-modern, the presence of the hyphen emphasizes what he terms a 'double-coding'; a subtle relationship to the modern, rather than a simple opposition. As should become clear, the stylistic convenience of writing postdevelopment unhyphenated here should not be seen as negating comparable subtleties.

2.

2. For example, on 1 June 2006, over 70 European NGOs placed an advertisement in the *Financial Times* accusing the European Union trade commissioner of pursuing an 'antidevelopment agenda in the WTO trade talks'. For details, see http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/press_releases/europe_unites_to_condemn_m_01062006.html. In their terms, 'anti-development' amounts to a failing to put the interests of the poor and developing countries first; a very different use of the term to those articulating a 'postdevelopment' style of critique.

- 3.
3. See Becker (1996) for an indictment of Maoism's dramatic failures to provide the basic conditions for survival in the 1950s and 1960s.
- 4.
4. The rise and fall of Third Worldism, as a radical collective vision of development and associated ideas of dependency and de-linking, was charted by Chaliand (1977). Since then, the tendencies he sketched have become much more marked, so that recent surveys can chart the rise and *demise* of Third Worldism (Berger, 2004b).
- 5.
5. See Perkins (2004) for an exposé based on based on 40 years employment within a US-based development consultancy.
- 6.
6. Used for the production of capacitors, found in all cellular telephones and laptop computers.
- 7.
7. While such tendencies are most pronounced in the South, Don Mitchell (2005) describes an `SUV model of citizenship' whereby the interests of enclosed, encapsulated *individuals* are promoted over the construction of an engaged *public* in the USA.
- 8.
8. Lurking in the background here — as it was throughout the twentieth-century trajectory of development — is `race'. Until comparatively recently, what Gilroy (2000: 11) terms `the idea of “race”' has been neglected in critical studies of development (for some pointers, see White, 2002; Goudge, 2003; Kothari, 2006; Duffield, 2006). However, as Jones (2005) details, Bandung and early Third Worldism articulated with `race' debates in the colonial metropolises, setting alarm bells ringing among the conservative establishments in Washington, DC, Paris, London and Lisbon.
- 9.
9. See Beckford (1999) (the first edition of which was published in 1972) on the plantation as an archetypal space of underdevelopment.

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