

# What you should know !

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- As a development economist you must have some philosophical background.**
- Philosophy is the key to knowledge**
- The more you understand philosophy the more you know yourself**
- If you have a philosophical background your feelings, thinking and actions will have purposes**
- As a development economist you have to question the purpose of life in this world, and the essence of belonging to a given society.**
- As an educated person you have to understand that you are responsible for your society.**
- What you are doing, especially in the field of economic planning touches every part of the society.**
- In this case your way of thinking and handling must not damage the social fabric of your society.**

# What you should know !

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- ❑ **If you want to understand human civilization you have to confront your self with the Greek civilization**
  - ❑ **The Greek civilization is the source of true human civilization**
  - ❑ **Try to understand the way how Plato thought, and why Aristotle, developed a different line of thought**
  - ❑ **You realize that only through real ideas you can change yourself and your environment.**
  - ❑ **The rebirth of the Greek civilization has opened the way to European civilization**
  - ❑ **The triumph of empiricism had defeated the genuine Greek civilization.**
  - ❑ **If you know this you come to realize that there is some kinds of falsification of human civilization as of the 16th century onwards.**
  - ❑ **The emergence of capitalism has completely reversed the harmonious development of human civilization as developed and anticipated by the Greeks.**
  - ❑ **Now you come to realize why capitalism cannot be free from crisis as we see to day- As some say humanity is in a very dangerous situation**
  - ❑ **At the same time the present crisis is opening to a totally different understanding of the relation between human beings and nature in general**
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# What you should know !

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- ❑ **As a development economist, you have to associate development with real civilization.**
  - ❑ **Economic development which contradicts true human civilization and human needs, cannot be called development**
  - ❑ **In this case true economic development must be associated with real consciousness**
  - ❑ **As a development economist you have to understand the social history -and processes of your society.**
  - ❑ **Without understanding the historical process of the past, as a simple economic planner, consciously or unconsciously you will inflict heavy damages in your society.**
  - ❑ **The more you understand your society, the more you realize, that things are not as simple as you would imagine.**
  - ❑ **To bring a genuine economic development you have to raise the social consciousness of the society in general**
  - ❑ **Only this way you can create some balances in your society.**
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# What you should know !

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- ❑ **As a development economist you have to understand the historical -and social processes of the European society, especially the economic history of Europe.**
  - ❑ **The economic history of Europe is unique, and gives you some valuable knowledge; the more you read about it the more you understand the secret of capitalistic development.**
  - ❑ **Capitalism is a historical and social process, and it is the outcome of political, ideological and other forms of struggle.**
  - ❑ **It is not a pre-planned economic agenda; and the originators of the idea of political economy have never anticipated such a complex social formation.**
  - ❑ **Micro -and macroeconomic theory never give you full picture of capitalism**
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# What you should know !

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- ❑ As a development economist you have to understand international politics.
  - ❑ The more you understand international politics the more you come to realize that there are forces which are against genuine economic development across the globe.
  - ❑ As a development economist you have to understand the relationship between economics and politics.
  - ❑ Economics as a part of social science is heavily loaded with ideology; and it is manipulated heavily so that at the end you lose the essence of true economic science.
  - ❑ In this case you have to ask yourself what economic science means, and why there are so many theories that confuse your mind.
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# What you should know !

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- ❑ **You have to question your self why neo-liberal economists reduce everything to economic activities, while taking scarce resources and their allocation as starting point of economic analysis.**
  - ❑ **you have to understand why classical economists differently interpret economic science by taking the allocation of surplus products as the main tenet of capital accumulation and economic development, by neglecting social relationships and cultural processes.**
  - ❑ **Why Marx and Marxists interpret the capitalistic economic structure as the product of a prolonged struggle by insiting that class -and production relationship are the determinmig factors in moving the capitalistic production process. Hence surplus value and the rate of profit are the determinig factor for capitalsit accumulation.**
  - ❑ **Without trying to understand all this it will be very difficult to make a genuine economic planing**
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# What you should know!

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- ❑ **You have to understand the essence of politics.**
  - ❑ **What is politics after all ? Why is everything revolving around politics ?**
  - ❑ **These are some of the issues you have to pose !!**
  - ❑ **Politics is an art by which you administer a given society; and genuine politics must be based on certain values.**
  - ❑ **In this case philosophy comes at play in determining politics; and the way how a given society is organized determined by certain values. There is no value free policy or society.**
  - ❑ **Transforming a given society and bringing harmony among the different groups depends entirely on the art of politics, and on the types of politics what a given government pursues.**
  - ❑ **Hence, the strength of a nation-state depends on the art of the political parameter and the economic policy of a given government.**
  - ❑ **Historically the inner strength of a given society depends on the policies of a given government.**
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# What you should know !

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- ❑ Hence, any government is accountable for the entire society.
  - ❑ There is no and cannot be any government which is above its own constitution.
  - ❑ Any handling of the government must correspond with the constitution and the social needs of the society.
  - ❑ A given government, a president or a prime minister is not above the constitution, and hence is not above the people it administers.
  - ❑ A government which does not obey its own constitution, and tries to handle according to its own wishes is not entitled to stay in power.
  - ❑ In any society the natural resources of a given country belong to the entire society.
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# What you should know !

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- ❑ In this case resources must be allocated to enhance genuine economic development so that the entire society will be beneficiary.
  - ❑ Since natural resources are scarce, they must be exploited and managed to bring a balanced development.
  - ❑ Hence the extraction of mineral resources and their use, and the allocation of land for agricultural and other purposes must correspond with the environmental needs of the society.
  - ❑ Any society lives within a given environment, and hence the society can be healthy when the environment is safe from toxic and other health damaging materials.
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# What you should know !

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- ❑ **As a development economist you have to understand that economic science is nothing but physical, biological and chemical processes.**
  - ❑ **Before a given product is consumed it must be produced.**
  - ❑ **It must pass through certain physical, chemical and biological processes.**
  - ❑ **In order to understand this take as an example the production of a table, which is made out of wood.**
  - ❑ **A given tree, through certain physiological processes, grows by sucking mineral resources and water from mother earth. Trees need carbon dioxide and sun for metabolic and growth processes.**
  - ❑ **Any person cuts a given tree which is suitable for chair making, dry it, cut and transform it to a table by molding through machines. It will then be fixed as a table with the help of screw.**
  - ❑ **The machines and other instruments which the table maker uses entail some of energy which is by itself the product of complex processes.**
  - ❑ **Again the machine needs some kind of energy.**
  - ❑ **In this way with the help of so many elements and human imaginations you completely form a given wood; and now you do not see wood but a chair or a table which cannot be converted to its original form.**
  - ❑ **If you take this simple example, economics is nothing but a biological, a chemical and a physical process which can be produced through human imagination.**
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# What you should know !

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- ❑ **Now ask your self why the so-called economic aid and development policies have failed.**
  - ❑ **Is this the fault of the respective governments or are there other reasons ?**
  - ❑ **Is there a general theory of economic development ?**
  - ❑ **Should all Third World Countries copy from the West or formulate their own policies ?**
  - ❑ **Is it not possible to formulate a development policy which is compatible with the psychological setup of a given society ?**
  - ❑ **Could cultural barriers or differences do not determine economic development ?**
  - ❑ **Why do you need after all a certain kind of economic development policy ?**
  - ❑ **Is it not possible to formulate another kind of policy which contradicts the conventional one ?**
  - ❑ **These are some of the questions you have to answer.**
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# What you have to ask your self !

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- ❑ Now try to draw a lesson from the present global crisis.
  - ❑ The present crisis teaches you that the global capitalist order has created a disequilibrium situation across the globe.
  - ❑ The material production is no more congruent with the spritual need of humanity.
  - ❑ The material and the spritual world must go side by side.
  - ❑ As trees do not grow endlessly, there is no continous growth.
  - ❑ There is a limit for everything.
  - ❑ In this case humanity needs another form of development which is compatible with true human needs.
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# What you should know !

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- ❑ The present crisis teaches you also that human beings have other needs besides material needs
- ❑ The pure consumer ideology drives humanity to permanent war; everybody against each other
- ❑ That means rather than a harmonious order, social darwinism becomes the rule of global order.
- ❑ Do you want such a world governed by greed and power or by reason?
- ❑ In this case, ask your self again and again what is the meaning of life and economic development.

Thank you !!

Fekadu

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