

Faculti Summary

<https://staging.faculti.net/uk-aid-to-africa/>

This video discusses the impact of rising nationalism and populist politics, particularly in Europe and the United States, on development policy and aid from OECD countries, with a focus on the UK. It breaks down and analyzes two significant contexts: the rise of nationalism and populism and the pervasiveness of neoliberalism in development models.

1. **Populism and Nationalism**: The speaker investigates how the rise of populist leaders like Trump in the US and political movements in the UK, Hungary, Poland, and Italy have affected the framing and distribution of development aid. Traditionally, development policies reflected a globalist perspective, which now conflicts with right-wing populist ideologies.
2. **Neoliberalism**: Acclaimed as the dominant economic model since the late 1980s, neoliberalism has shaped OECD donor countries' development approaches. It promotes individual freedom through free markets and private property rights, but the speaker points out that state intervention is often necessary to maintain these markets. The global financial crisis of 2007-2008, instead of disrupting neoliberalism, simply led to new forms of it, like authoritarian neoliberalism.
3. **Securitization of Development**: The analysis also delves into how development has been increasingly framed in national security terms. Aid is justified as necessary for the UK's national interest, with poverty reduction and democracy promotion directly linked to concerns about stability and security in recipient countries.
4. **UK as a Case Study**: The UK is chosen as a focal point for examining changes in development policy from the early 2000s to 2020. Shifts included the incorporation of development aid into the foreign policy agenda, reflecting a national interest narrative. This video period also saw a notable anti-aid sentiment rise amidst austerity measures, which complicated the UK's philanthropic stance.
5. **Research Findings**: The analysis based on key policy documents revealed that UK development policy shifted to prominently align with national interests, asserting that all aid projects must demonstrate their contributions to this agenda. The prioritization of security and economic interests overshadowed traditional development goals like poverty alleviation.

Through this discussion, the text argues that the UK's development approach in this era exemplifies a broader trend of neoliberal populism, where national interests increasingly dictate foreign aid strategies, often at the expense of vulnerable populations in developing countries. The conclusion emphasizes that this shift could lead to diminished future UK contributions to African development.