

# Reducing Poverty, Building Peace

Book by

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Centre for Peace and Human Security April 26, 2006

# Three Major Arguments

1. Poverty Must be Conceptualized as a Global Not Just “Third World” Problem
  2. Global Poverty and Violence Interact to Drive One Another
  3. Effective implementation is key - and requires attention to institutions and local participation
- ..... But Political Will is essential — Can we generate it? Roles for Transnational advocacy?

# GLOBAL Poverty?

- “GLOBAL” as the old dichotomy of developed or developing world is no longer accurate or useful



# For Instance

- Many so-called “developing” countries aren’t developing...their life expectancies are dropping.
- “Developed” countries not consistently developed.
  - Life expectancy for the Sioux on the Red Bud Reservation is 46 years—same as that in Haiti
  - Infant mortality in DC is *twice as high* as Beijing
- Poverty and wealth exist alongside each other in all countries - rich and poor
- Adverse public policy choices in many countries - or global policies - can add to poverty and inequality domestically and across borders

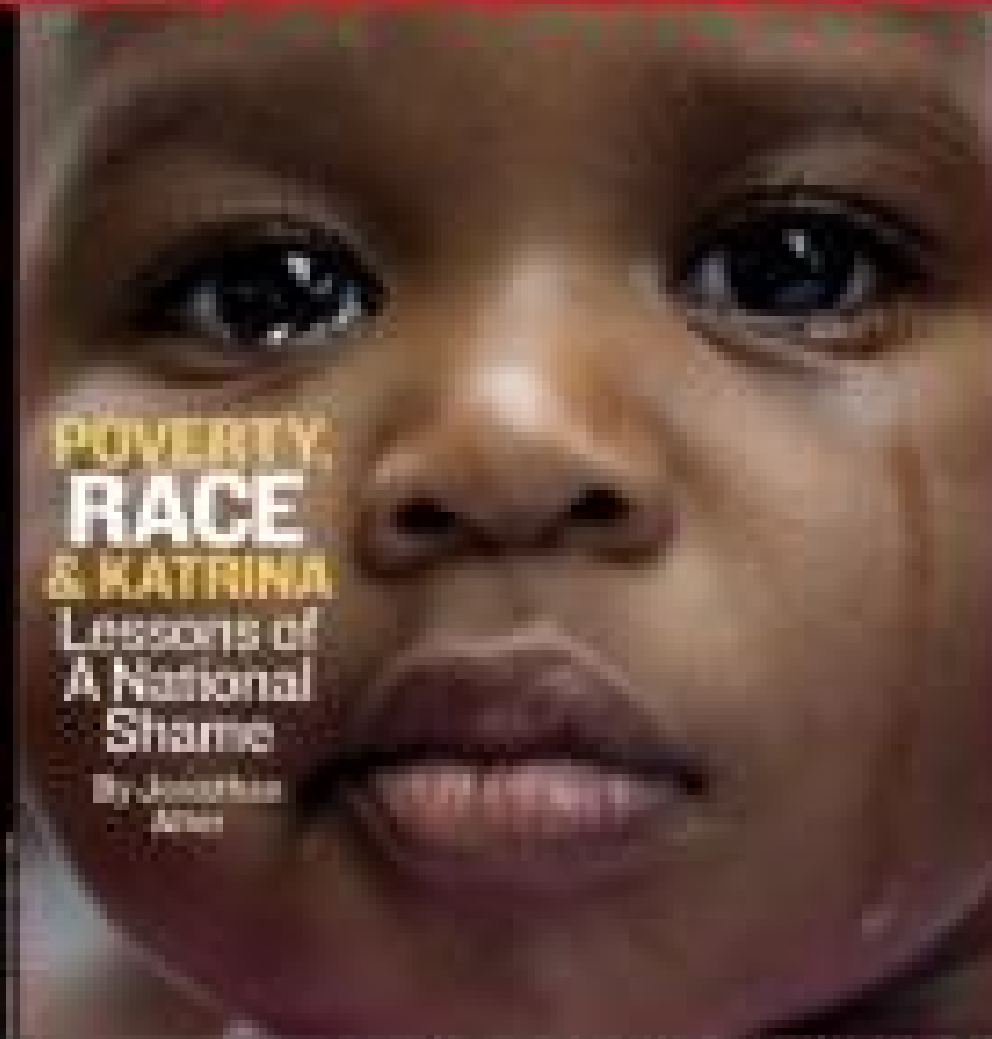
WHY BUSH FAILED - CHILDREN OF THE STORM

# Newsweek

POVERTY,  
**RACE**  
& KATRINA

Lessons of  
A National  
Shame

By Josephine  
Allen



# TIME

## SYSTEM FAILURE

An investigation into what went so wrong in New Orleans



# Poverty and Inequality are Increasing across the Globe

- Poverty and Inequality worsening in sections of Europe, Central Asia, in war economy countries, in post-conflict regions, in some 40 African countries, in parts of South Asia....
- Global inequality measurements differ, but according to the World Bank, “global inequality has steadily increased over the long run”
- Increases are in part a result of natural disasters, rooted often in environmental stress caused by earlier generations of poverty

## So, if “developing” means ....

- Feeling the impact of global mobility of goods, services, trade, and migration (legal and illegal)
- Faster cross border movement of public health threats, environmental damage, and displaced people
- Increasing rates of social change as well as of institutional change
- Increasing poverty and inequality

**...Then Aren't We All Developing Countries??**

# We're Not the First To Point to this...

- Maxwell Simon and others at Overseas Development Institute raised this question in 1998
- North/South linkages explored by many development theorists especially in Europe over last 5-10 years
- International NGOs working more in donor countries as well as poor countries - and linking the two
- Structural analysis and the concept of social exclusion provide a common lens for examining poverty in rich and poor countries

# A Global Problem Needs a Global Approach

- Yet neither World Bank nor UNDP have global mandates — countries “graduate” out of their programs. Limited work on conflict mitigation.
- Articles of Agreement limit range of authority; Board politics mean no discussion of poverty in rich countries — just “third world” poverty

# Global Financial Institutions but not Global Development Institutions

- International finance & trade have the IMF and WTO but there is no real counterpart working on global poverty
- No global agency can ask rich countries to develop a Poverty Reduction Strategy nor to produce a Human Development Report nor can the WB go through a Public Expenditure Review process in US, Germany, or UK.

# Poverty and Violence

# Poverty & Violence Drive One Another

- Drivers of poverty include limited access to assets—  
Interacts with violence as poor struggle to get access
- War economies become entrenched—wars last long—  
sometimes over decades.
- But there are many other drivers as well ...

# Interdependencies Between Poverty and War

## Drivers of Poverty (Need and Grievances)

### Political Economy

- Limited access to assets (land, water)
- Limited access to education, health, technology
- Pernicious policies

### Geo-Physical

- Isolated from Opportunity, technology
- Degraded soils, little water
- Harsh climate (viruses)

### Governance

- Corruption
- People do not see themselves as stakeholders
- State lacks capacity (uses force as substitute for legitimacy)
- Discrimination, exclusion

## Drivers of War (Grievances and Greed)

### Political Economy

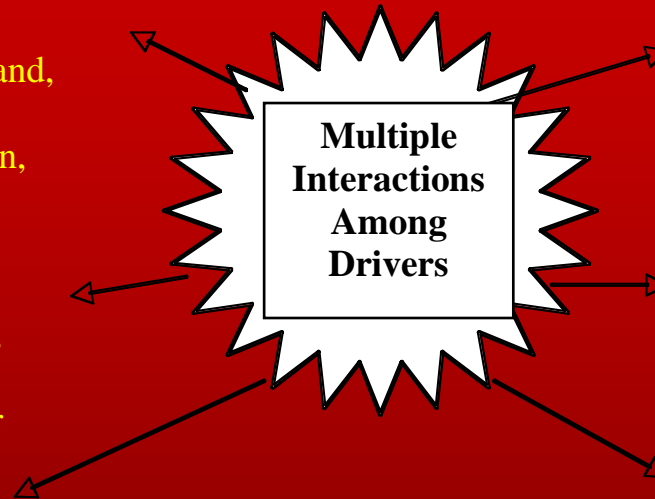
- Lootable natural resources
- Access to remittances (linked to sense of grievance)
- Politics abetting corruption
- Arms trade

### Geo-Physical

- War in neighboring state
- Migration out of degraded areas
- Migration creates constituencies for identity politics

### Governance

- Illegal activities grow more corruption
- War economy creates stakeholders in violence
- Losing power is life threatening
- Migration accentuates identity politics



### Systemic Factor

- **Weak, Corrupt, or No Mediating Institutional Capacity for Conflict Management or Resolution**

### Triggering Factors

- **Catalytic events**
- **Catastrophe**
- **Charismatic Agitators**

# Violence is a part of being Poor

- The poor cite insecurity and violence when asked to describe what it means to be poor
- Dangerous neighborhoods, street crime
- Domestic violence, gang violence
- Unsafe working conditions
- Structural violence
  - Intersection of social exclusion and poverty; persistent denial of basic rights, dignity

# Poverty - War Linkages

- Most conflicts occur within poor countries
  - Of 82 armed conflicts between 1989-1992, all but 3 were within states and most states were poor
- War diminishes economic output
  - Milanovic study found war to account for 40% income loss over last twenty years in poorest countries.
- Existence of poverty and inequality lead to sense of injustice which can fuel fundamentalist ideology

# Implementation Matters

Good design is not enough -  
how policies, programs, projects are  
implemented matters for results.

# Effective Implementation Requires...

- Active Participation
- Strong Institutions
- Productive Learning



# Participation is Key

- Allow for voice and agency of those affected
- Local ownership of implementation, not just design
- Effective participatory approaches exist
- Need to move further along from good concepts and toolkits to fully integrating into projects
- This requires the right funding and timeline

# Involving Range of Stakeholders

- Implementing policy or program lending calls for stakeholder participation
- Stakeholder Assessments can help both in preparing for a Stakeholder Workshop — and in Follow Up
- Implementation requires understanding causal chains and working with complex reciprocal relationships. Need to crawl into the “human story.” How to create right incentives to really engage in this?

# Policies Are Not Self-Implementing

- Program lending is not self implementing
- Major mistake-presuming conditionality plus money = sufficient incentives for action
- Organizational incapacities are barriers to implementation
- Institutional assessments are needed prior to program design

# Institutions Make it Happen - or Not

- Effectiveness is a function of ownership-hence policies, programs and projects have to be grounded and informed by local institutions.
- Always need to remember institutions are not organizations but much deeper (the embedded norms, behaviors, rules of the games)

# Institutional Change and Capacity-Building

- Institutions are organic and hence dynamic
- Local collective action affects institutional change
- Too few development policies are informed by careful institutional analysis with an eye towards implementing change strategies

# Monitoring Progress along the Way

- The emphasis on implementation implies we need to know what's working and what's not during implementation, and not at the end when evaluations often take place.
- Recent Focus on Managing for Development Results is positive and it includes emphasis on monitoring.
- Critical is merging this with participation, thus supporting participatory monitoring and evaluation.
- Fluid feedback to projects and donors is key for ongoing learning, which can lead to adjustments and more effective implementation, and thus results

# Building the Political Will

# Elephants in the Room

- Little political will to expand our concepts of development—even less to work more effectively on it.
- Military expenditures crowd out other choices while militarizing our political system
- Effective and Democratic Global Governance for Development