



Physical causes of uneven development

Physical causes, such as geographic location, climate, natural resources, and environmental conditions, significantly impact the development of a country.

- 5 **Unfavourable climate and weather conditions:** Extremely “*inhospitable*” climates, such as in deserts or in “*perpetual ice*”, influence living conditions and agricultural productivity significantly. Frequent *natural disasters* like floods, tropical storms or *droughts* can cause great economic losses, damage infrastructure and result in costly repairs. The resulting *humanitarian crises* need financial support, which means that money cannot be used for development projects.
- 10 **Environmental Damages:** *Environmental degradation*, including deforestation, *soil erosion*, and water pollution, can undermine development efforts by reducing agricultural productivity, damaging ecosystems, and affecting human health.
- 15 In South America, for example, large areas of the Amazon rainforest are *logged* to create space for agriculture, especially *cattle ranching* and soybean plantations. *Livestock* grazing exceeds the land’s *carrying capacity* of the land, leading to vegetation loss and *soil degradation* leading to more deforestation – *a vicious cycle*.
- 20 The Sahel Region in Africa is an example for *desertification* processes, especially in Senegal and Sudan. The desert continues to expand because trees are often cut down for fuelwood and construction materials. Without any trees the ground erodes quickly. Farming practices such as *monocropping*, improper *irrigation*, and lack of crop rotation deplete soil nutrients and reduce soil *fertility* even more. Increasing temperatures because of climate change
- 25 and changing *rainfall patterns* worsen the situation in this region.
- Landlocked countries:** Being a *landlocked country* in a poor geographical neighbourhood is a major development “trap” by which a country can be held back. It cuts a nation off from important sea resources such as fishing and limits their trading activity with the rest of the world. Most landlocked countries
- 30 are in Africa, but also Bolivia or Nepal are examples.
- Water Resources and soil Fertility:** Access to clean freshwater is essential for agriculture, industry, and domestic use. Regions with *scarce* water resources face challenges in maintaining food security, supporting economic activities, and ensuring public health. *Water scarcity* can also lead to conflicts
- 35 over water rights, further impeding development.
- Fertile soils* are fundamental to productive agriculture, which is a cornerstone of many developing economies. Regions with rich, *arable land* can achieve food security, generate *export revenues*, and support rural livelihoods. In contrast, areas with poor soil quality face challenges in achieving agricultural
- 40 productivity and economic stability.

unwirtlich

ewiges Eis

Naturkatastrophen

Dürren

humanitäre Krise

Umweltschäden

Bodenerosion

abholzen

Rinderzucht

Vieh; Tragfähigkeit

Bodenzerstörung

Teufelskreis

Verwüstung

Monokulturen

Bewässerung

Fruchtbarkeit

Niederschlagsmuster

Binnenland

knapp

Wasserknappheit

fruchtbare Böden

Ackerland

Export Erlöse