



Political causes of uneven development

From corruption and poor governance to gender inequality and political instability, various political issues can significantly hinder development.

- Corruption:** *Bribery* is not unknown in industrialized countries either. In the Third World, it tends to be the norm. Corruption *favours* those who can bribe, and thus usually the rich and privileged. This also includes actors from industrialized countries, such as companies. Another serious disadvantage is the loss of *trust* in the administration and, more generally, the loss of legitimacy of the state among the *disadvantaged* sections of the population. More broadly, the state in the developing countries has often become the economic *prey* of a political elite which has slowed or prevented development opportunities.
- Violent conflicts:** Violent conflicts are an additional *obstacle* to development, as some developing countries spend a higher proportion of their *budget* on weapons than on health and education combined. The population in the Global South suffers extremely from the use of violence between states and within states. What is particularly shocking is that probably more than 90 percent of the *victims* are civilians and at least half of these are children. An important cause of these conflicts certainly lies in the political structure: authoritarian and at the same time weak states with a high use of force and a *lack of stability*, including *failed states*.
- Gender inequality:** Shortcomings in *gender equality* also exist in industrialized countries, but women in developing countries are much more disadvantaged economically, socially, *legally*, and politically. They have to *struggle* for the basic acceptance of women as social – and sometimes even as human – beings.
- Women make up a significantly higher proportion of the poorest and of those who are illiterate, and the *school enrolment rate* for girls in the developing world is lower than that for boys. In Afghanistan, for example, *particularly under the rule of* the Taliban since their return to power in August 2021, girls' access to education has been restricted. The Taliban have *imposed* policies that *ban* girls from attending secondary schools and higher education institutions.
- Another major problem for women in the Global South is the *lack* of medical care. Every year more than half a million women die because of complications in pregnancy or because of *abortion*. In South and East Asia there is a *shortfall* of women because many girls die each year because they are disadvantaged in terms of *nutrition* or medical care, or because female foetuses are aborted before birth.
- However, women play a key role in the development process, not only in family planning, *child rearing*, health, and housekeeping, but also in feeding their families, particularly in *subsistence farming*, the production of products for immediate personal consumption.

*Bestechung
bevorzugen*

*Vertrauen
benachteiligt
Beute*

*Hindernis
Haushaltsmittel*

Opfer

*Mangel an Stabilität
gescheiterte Staaten*

*Geschlechter-
gerechtigkeit
rechtlich
kämpfen*

*Einschulungsquote
unter der Herrschaft*

auferlegen; verbieten

Mangel

Abtreibung; Mangel

Ernährung

*Kindererziehung
Selbstversorgung*