



M1 Social contrasts in megacities: modern buildings in the background next to an illegal favela on a hill in Rio de Janeiro



Foto: unsplash+

1. Describe the picture.
 - a) Analyze what this image reveals about current development trends.
 - b) Identify the kinds of divisions present in this image (e.g., economic, social, spatial).
 - c) Evaluate how these divisions impact the lives of people living in both the skyscrapers and the slums

The theory of fragmenting development

While the proponents of the modernisation and dependency theory believed that the differences between rich and poor and between developed and underdeveloped countries ran along national borders, it became apparent in the 1990s, when globalisation gained momentum, that both rich and poor population groups - i.e. fragments - coexist in every country.

This gave rise to the theory of fragmenting development, which is typical of the current globalisation process. It is characterised by certain places where global players are concentrated, such as global cities, export zones, special economic areas, tourist hotspots and locations for raw material extraction and mass production. While some groups benefit from globalisation, there are also those who are considered losers. These groups, often referred to as "stagnant, regressive milieus", frequently reject the new economic and cultural impulses.

2. Resume the theory of fragmenting development in your own words.
3. Contextualise it in the history of development theories.