

Lecture 24 Reading Questions

“Justice & the First World Poor”

Reading:

Section from “Political Theory and International Relations” by Charles Beitz.

- (1) How does Rawls reinterpret the original position for the purpose of identifying principles of just conduct in international relations?
- (2) According to Beitz, how would the parties to the original position view the global distribution of natural resources? What principle does Beitz think they would select to govern the distribution of natural resources?
- (3) What principle does Beitz think is warranted in light of the fact of economic interdependence between modern states? Who are the “subjects” of this principle?
- (4) Beitz claims that the absence of a world government and the absence of an international sense of community do not undermine the argument for a global principle of distributive justice. Do you find his argument persuasive?

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