**Post#1 – Week Twodue midnight before class8/27 Tue / 8/28 Wed. class**

**Readings**

**Canvas-SDGs Africa:**

 **Jeffrey Sachs.** *The Age of Sustainable Development.*Chapter One(pdf)

 **John W. McArthur**: “Own the Goals - What the Millennium Development Goals have Accomplished”, Foreign Affairs, March/April 2013

 **Nancy Birdsall, Dani Rodrik & Arvind Subramanian** (2005). “How to Help Poor Countries.” Foreign Affairs 84(4): 136-152

**TED talks:**

 **Jacqueline Novogratz**: Invest in Africa's own solutions (video 2005): <http://www.ted.com/talks/jacqueline_novogratz_invests_in_ending_poverty.html>

 **A Quest to End Poverty** – a video playlist (2013): <http://www.ted.com/playlists/67/the_quest_to_end_poverty.html>

***MDG & SDG:***

***The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*:** Since their inception in 2000, The Millennium Development Goals have revolutionized the global aid business, using specific targets to help mobilize and guide development efforts. They have encouraged world leaders to simultaneously tackle multiple dimensions of poverty and provided a standard for judging performance. The MDGs expired the end of 2015 and new goals, the SDGs, are in place now.

Please inform yourself about the MDGs and SDGs – there’s a lot of material on Canvas and elsewhere online. You can start here:

**SDG**s <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>

**Success Story?** <https://www.wvi.org/united-nations-and-global-engagement/article/were-mdgs-success>

**2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

**Africa:**

54 countries – 55 states are recognized by either AU, UN or both

<https://africacheck.org/reports/how-many-countries-in-africa-how-hard-can-the-question-be/>

African Union <https://www.au.int/>

Somaliland <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14115069>

News: <https://allafrica.com/>

**Written Blog Post #1**marked on blog as***Post 1*:** due by midnight the day before the class meets

**8/27 for the Tuesday class; 8/28 for the Wednesday class**

**a)** Jacqueline Novogratz in her TED talks brings up the question on how to define poverty. What is her answer? What is her main message? Find at least one other TED talk on this subject and reflect on it. Do you agree or disagree with the message?

**b)** What is the vision, the goal of the SDGs? What is the effect of neo-liberalism (cutting government spending promoted by the World Bank and IMF)?

**c)** John McArthur in *Own the Goals* talks about “Players on the Bench”. Who are they and what does he criticize?

**d)** The article “How to Help Poor Countries” (2005) addresses the question of more aid money. Please elaborate. What are suggestions made by the authors? Do you agree?

**Your written answers should be posted in your respective individual categories on the Group Blog Site** (see details further below). The title of your post should consist of **post number** (in this case **Post 1**)plus whatever title you want to give your post. **The blog post entries should be about800 words and are due by midnight the day before class every week**. For further details see [Blog Grading Criteria](https://bblearn.missouri.edu/bbcswebdav/pid-2060562-dt-content-rid-24134334_1/xid-24134334_1) on Canvas.

On the first day of class, students will be divided into blogging groups. Each group will set up their**Group Blog Site**using a blogging platform ([wordpress.org](https://wordpress.org/) – encouraged, or an alternative), as well as set up **Individual Categories** where you place your weekly posts. All blog members choose the **role of administrator** on the site. You need to establish communication and work closely with your group members.

Your **GROUP BLOG SITE**has to be **set up by Friday, August 23.** It should be complete with: a template, layout, structure, categories and general group blog “About” page. Email the blog site URL to: Tuesday class: fischerm@missouri.eduand Wednesday class:topouriag@missouri.edu

**Make sure each of you has valid login credentials to access the group blog and you are able to post you entries in your individual categories.**

**In-Class Discussion:** bring your written notes to share in class

1. Even so extreme poverty has been halved, what are major challenges remaining?
2. What is sustainable development? What is extreme poverty?
3. Name two issues that Jeffrey Sachs addresses in his chapter that resonate with you. Do you agree, disagree?
4. Pick one country in Sub-Saharan Africa and check the news. What is a major issue in the country right now?