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## Summaries in English

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## Summary

### Testing Andre Gunder Frank's dependency theory

by W. Hout

In this study, it was attempted to test the dependency theory that has been formulated by Andre Gunder Frank. Frank, one of the most important dependency theorists, has developed a model of the world capitalist economy, the metropolis (the developed countries) and the satellites (the developing countries) being its constituent elements. In his view the ties between the capitalist countries and the Third World exert an enormously detrimental effect on the latter. The metropolitan countries expropriate the surplus formed in the satellites – and have done so since the world capitalist system came into existence in the sixteenth century –, thereby precluding the development and deforming the economies of the Third World countries.

In order to test Frank's theory I have formulated seven hypotheses which comprise the crucial elements of the theory.

The first hypothesis, which tries to differentiate between metropolis and satellites, has been partly rejected. The only differentiation that could be made concerned developed and less developed countries.

The second hypothesis, on the relation between dependence and development in the group of satellites, was rejected, since Frank hypothesized a negative relationship and I found a rather strong positive correlation. The third hypothesis, phrasing the relationship between former colonial domination and present underdevelopment, could not be tested for want of adequate data on the colonial period.

The fourth hypothesis, concerning multinational corporations and the postulated negative impact of their activities on the economic situation of the satellites, was rejected. I found a moderately strong positive correlation between the presence of MNCs and the economic position of the satellites. The fifth hypothesis related dependence to political instability. I have found no relation at all between these two phenomena. This is why the fifth hypothesis must be rejected.

The sixth hypothesis has been confirmed. Andre Gunder Frank supposed that there exists a positive relationship between dependence and economic inequality. This happens to be the case for almost all of the analyzed countries. The last hypothesis I have studied concerns uneven economic development in the satellite

countries. This unevenness implies, according to Frank, overspecialization toward the production of primary products. The seventh hypothesis has been rejected, for I did not find any relationship between dependence, export orientation and uneven economic development.

Refuting a theory is fairly easy; substituting another for it is rather difficult. My criticism of dependency theory focuses on its overemphasizing external factors, economic ties and the supposedly negative relationship between dependence and development.

In my view, a more adequate theory of imperialism and dependence requires at least some attention for international *and* national relations of power and dependency. One should emphasize the internal balance of power in the developing countries, thereby analyzing the interests of the competing groups in the economic, political, military and social realms. The international relations should be studied in connection with these interests, so that it can be made clear that international factors do not exert influence in a metaphysical way, by imposing 'structural requirements', but only through the actions of well-defined groups in the satellites.

## Rectificatie

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