

**The Global Perspective and Our Quest for Meaning**  
**September 29, 2011**  
**Professor William Felice and Bob Devin Jones**

**I. Tony Kushner’s Global Vision and the Importance of Theory;**  
Overcoming cynicism and belief in TINA (There is no alternative)

**II. International Law and Human Rights**

Defining a “right”—a claim on others to a certain type of treatment;

Justification of a “claim”—the alleviation of human suffering;

Content of human rights claims—International Human Rights Law;  
Economic Rights Treaty (*Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*)

Political Rights Treaty (*Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*)  
(see chart on p. xvi in *The Global New Deal*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition)

**Economic rights** refer to the right to property, the right to work, and the right to security of income (pg. 78).

**Social rights** are those rights necessary for an adequate standard of living, including rights to food, shelter, health and education (pg. 77-78).

**III. International Political Economy**

**Global Public Goods**

Global public goods refers to those products and necessities that all people enjoy in common that are nonexcludable and nonrivalrous in consumption. Nonrivalry in consumption refers to those goods that any number of consumers may enjoy without detracting from the enjoyment of others. Nonexcludability means that no one can be excluded from enjoying the good. Clean air, for example, is a pure public good. Global public goods are outcomes that benefit all countries, population groups, and generations<sup>a</sup> (pg. 36).

**Economic Equality**

Economic equality signifies universal and equal access to essential public goods, including basic education, a healthy environment, food and water, primary health care and sanitation, and housing. Economic equality, as distinct from income equality, forms the foundation for achieving economic and social human rights. Economic equality is contingent on public policy to ameliorate deprivations and create equal opportunity for all. Such public policy measures would focus on

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<sup>a</sup> See Ingre Kaul, Isabelle Grunberg, and Marc A. Stern, eds., *Global Public Goods: International Cooperation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999).

assuring access for all to health care, sanitation, clean water, food, affordable housing, public education, and so on<sup>b</sup> (pg. 36-37).

### **Capabilities Approach**

A way to consider real equality of opportunity is through equality of capabilities. A person's capability for adequate functioning, and ability to participate in the life of the community, depends on being well nourished and having access to basic education, medical care, and affordable housing. The capabilities approach allows us to look at the actual ways in which individuals and groups are given the freedom to achieve adequate functioning. The capabilities approach examines the differences in social conditions that affect human capabilities, including public education, habitable and affordable homes, primary health care, access to essential nutrition and clean water, and an ecologically sound and sustainable environment<sup>c</sup> (pg. 37).

## **IV. Race and a Global Perspective**

Malcolm X: “[O]ur problem is not...an American problem but rather, it has become a *human* problem, a *world* problem, and it has to be attacked at the world level, at a level at which all segments of humanity can intervene in our behalf.”

## **V. Gender and a Global Perspective**

Cynthia Enloe: “Women’s labor has been the easiest to cheapen...The risk-taking banker needs the conscientious seamstress to hold his world together. The politician and his technocratic advisor need the seamstress to keep the banker and his home government pacified” (pg. 193-194).

## **VI. A Global New Deal**

- Promote economic equality
- Finance global public goods
- Hear the victim’s voices
- Maintain ecological balance
- Prioritize the rights of racial and ethnic minorities
- Prioritize women’s rights
- Reduce military spending
- Affirm international human rights law (pg. 258)

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<sup>b</sup> See Amartya Sen, *Development As Freedom* (New York: Knopf 1999).

<sup>c</sup> See Amartya Sen, *Inequality Reexamined* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1992).