

GLOBAL LAW AND GOVERNANCE SUMMER SCHOOL, EPLO, SOUNIO, JULY 2013

Course: **Thinking about Global Distributive Justice**

Professor: **Emmanuel Voyiakis**

Timetable: Tuesday, 23 July, 2013

14:30 - 16:30

16:30 - 18:30

Hours: 4

Course code: J2

Content

It is estimated that today over 800 million human beings are chronically undernourished, 1.2 billion lack access to safe water and 2.8 million lack access to basic sanitation. One third of human deaths, about 18 million annually, are due to poverty-related causes, easily preventable through the provision of better nutrition, safe drinking water and basic medicine (UNDP – Human Development Report, 2004).

That people in this situation are morally entitled to the assistance of more affluent and developed countries is beyond reasonable dispute. What is less clear is the *nature* and *extent* of that entitlement and the moral duties that it corresponds to. In virtue of what do more affluent countries owe a duty to assist? In virtue of their better economic position? To the extent that they benefit from the fact that other countries are poorer? To the extent that they have caused other countries' relative poverty? And who do more affluent countries owe those duties to? To the State whose nationals are suffering? To the individual sufferers? Moreover, are these duties that you *yourself* owe to a dying child in Africa? Or are they only duties that *your State* or *your Government* owes? Finally, what do these duties require us – governments and/or individuals- to do? To provide regular humanitarian assistance? To cancel third-world debt? To ensure that every human being's basic needs are met? Or to effect a just and fair distribution of the world's total resources?

Reading

For a very good (if slightly overlong) overview of the topic see Michael Blake's entry for 'International Justice' in the on-line *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* at <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/international-justice/>

Some interesting facts about world poverty and global income inequality, see <http://www.globalissues.org/article/26/poverty-facts-and-stats> and http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/files/Global_Inequality.pdf

Brooks T. (ed.), *The Global Justice Reader* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2011). This excellent collection contains all the reading you'll need (including most of the items below) and then some. Worth purchasing, though you'll certainly be able to follow the course without it, by means of the other readings.

Immanuel Kant, *Perpetual Peace* available at <http://www.constitution.org/kant/perpeace.htm>

Rawls J., *The Law of Peoples* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999). The Introduction, Part I and the bulk of Part II can be found here: http://www.faculty.umb.edu/lisa_rivera/courses/2006/Rawls%20Law%20of%20Peoples.pdf

Beitz Ch., 'Justice and International Relations' 4 *Philosophy & Public Affairs* (1975) 360, available at http://pages.uoregon.edu/koopman/courses_readings/beitz_justice_ir.pdf

Nagel T., 'The Problem of Global Justice', 33 *Philosophy & Public Affairs* (2005) 113 available at <http://as.nyu.edu/docs/IO/1172/globaljustice.pdf>

Julius A.J., 'Nagel's Atlas' 34 *Philosophy & Public Affairs* (2006) 176, available at <http://www.ajjulius.net/papers/nagelsatlas.pdf>

Sangiovanni A., 'The Irrelevance of Coercion, Imposition, and Framing to Distributive Justice' 40 *Philosophy & Public Affairs* (2012) 79, available at: http://andrea-sangiovanni.org.uk/Main/publications_files/Sangiovanni-Irrelevance%20of%20Coercion%20to%20DJ-PAPA.pdf

Buchanan A., *Justice, Legitimacy and Self-Determination: Moral Foundations for International Law* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004), Part I only. E-book available at <http://www.oxfordscholarship.com/view/10.1093/0198295359.001.0001/acprof-9780198295358>