

November 1971

Published by CEES

Center for Economic and Social Studies

Guatemala

## How to Undevelop a Country in 10 Easy Lessons

To call a country “developing” is to say it’s a poor country. What such countries lack is wealth. Therefore, the first thing to do to keep a country poor (undeveloped) is to create all sorts of obstacles to the creation of wealth.

We can accomplish this in several ways. Clearly, no one can prohibit wealth creation, but you *can* do everything possible so that obtaining wealth is extremely difficult.

### Lesson I

For example, you can create an income tax so that the more a person earns, the higher his tax rate. If a person earns Q600/year, he pays nothing. If he earns Q6,000, he pays 8% of this income and if he earns Q60,000 he pays 27%. The more he earns, the greater the percentage of his income that is taxed.

This has various advantages. First, it takes away the incentive to earn money, and second if it doesn’t take away the incentive, it takes away the money.

By using tax measures to prevent people from becoming rich in the future, and by expropriating the surplus of those who have preexisting (traditional) wealth (if any are still around), you will achieve two important objectives: first, the rich will become poor, and second, there won’t be anyone to buy machinery and factories. Therefore, there will be no workplaces. Workers won’t be able to buy their own factories because they are not allowed to be rich. In addition, the State won’t be able to build them because a poor or impoverished city cannot collect tax money. Since already existing fortunes will have been destroyed, formation of new ones prevented, and the State will have no revenue to build factories, everyone will be undeveloped (poor).

### Lesson II

Another method is to prevent people, by all means possible, from buying things at low cost; otherwise, this could raise the standard of living. Therefore, high import taxes should be imposed on all imports of high quality and low price. That way, these goods will not be imported, or, if they are imported, the import taxes will impoverish those who want to take advantage of these bargains. This accomplishes two things: it impoverishes the rich and avoids enriching the poor, who are seeking to take advantage of foreigners who, in turn, want to become rich. That is, the project takes on international implications by undeveloping foreign countries as well.

### Lesson III

It has always been understood that efficient and, above all, abundant communications enrich those who have them available. Thus, for the country to remain undeveloped (poor) good communications must be prohibited.

For example, if the citizens of Retalhuleu want to install a telephone network interconnected with Guatemala City, this must be prohibited. And if, instead, they install radios, a tax must be placed on the radios, paid upon installation as well as every year of use, so that they cannot enrich themselves through communication.

#### **Lesson IV**

Since the way to increase wages and salaries is to increase the demand for workers, then paying workers a salary less than X must be outlawed, using the pretext that workers should earn more. In other words, prohibit firms from hiring workers to produce goods and services worth less than salary X. This will increase the number of unemployed workers who, because they are out of work, will push downward the salaries of those earning more than X. This method is very effective for undeveloping, because it harms poor workers the most; meanwhile, they think it's helping them.

#### **Lesson V**

Because an undeveloped country is undeveloped due to lack of domestic investment, preventing foreign capital investment is crucial. To accomplish this, we simply need propaganda against imperialism and foreign investment. Out of nationalism (not patriotism), everyone will agree that they don't want foreign investment in their country. This method is very effective since it deprives the working class of better employment opportunities and keeps their salaries low due to insufficient domestic capital.

#### **Lesson VI**

Another method to achieve undevelopment (to impoverish the country) is to force foreigners who provide services to the country to raise their rates, so that transporting people and cargo is more expensive. To make this method more effective, we should establish our own systems of inefficient international transport, which will lose even more money. For example, we can mandate that foreign airlines increase their airfare by Q50 per ticket between Guatemala and Miami. For each passenger that flies either here or there, Q50 will leave the country. Additionally, it will lower our foreign exchange reserves by the same amount. We have no need to fear that this increase in airfare by foreign airlines will increase the profitability of our own airlines. Their inefficiency guarantees losses.

#### **Lesson VII**

Following the same scheme, we immediately establish national shipping lines. Then, as soon as we can, we establish our own outer-space line. We will be sure to lose plenty of money there.

#### **Lesson VIII**

The price of food is very important in achieving undevelopment. As we all know, granaries stabilize prices for both producers and consumers, so they must be prohibited. First, anyone proficient at buying cheap when there is plenty and selling expensive when there is little will be branded a hoarder. Right away, we will prohibit such dealings, so others proficient in buying and selling won't pop up and stabilize the supply. That way, the farmer won't earn more with a good harvest because the price goes down; and when a harvest is bad, the farmer will be even worse

off. In this way, you manage to keep current producers poor as well as new ones out, thus maintaining shortages. And shortage means poverty.

### **Lesson IX**

Because a country has so many needs to meet with so very little capital, you have to ensure that this capital (the little that remains after implementing the above measures) is not invested in efficient production, but rather in the inefficient production of goods, ones that could be bought cheaper elsewhere. This accomplishes two objectives: it allocates capital to inefficient production, and it increases the cost of products, which will impoverish those who buy them.

### **Lesson X**

Although there are many more possible measures in the area of economic (especially monetary) policy, perhaps one general recommendation will suffice: Prohibit or make prohibitive any initiative, invention, or action—no matter if it's peaceful—that may enrich one person more than his fellow citizens. Always find the formula that prevents our resources from being exploited quickly. And prevent foreigners from entering the country, since they might teach us something, or even make us wealthy.

And above all, change vocabulary:

- Instead of savings, call it greed
- Interest = Usury
- Investor = Exploiter
- Foreigner = Imperialist
- Frugal = Stingy
- Rich = Oligarch
- Imports = Capital flight
- Merchant = Superfluous intermediary
- Farmer = Landowner
- Employer = Oppressor
- Manufacturer = Opportunist

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### **Translated from the original Spanish**

Ayau, Manuel F. "Cómo subdesarrollar un país en diez lecciones". Serie *Tópicos de Actualidad*. Año 13, n.º 257. Guatemala: Centro de Estudios Económico-Sociales (CEES), 1 de noviembre de 1971.