



## The theories that shape the practice

Week 3 – Understanding ICT for Development I

# Outline



- Modernisation
- Structuralism – dependency theory
- Neoliberalism
- Alternative development



# Modernisation theory

- Roots in the Enlightenment – rationalism, natural sciences
- Emilé Durkheim: social order, social evolution (~ biological evolution, Darwin)



# Modernisation theory of the 50s

## Walt Rostow

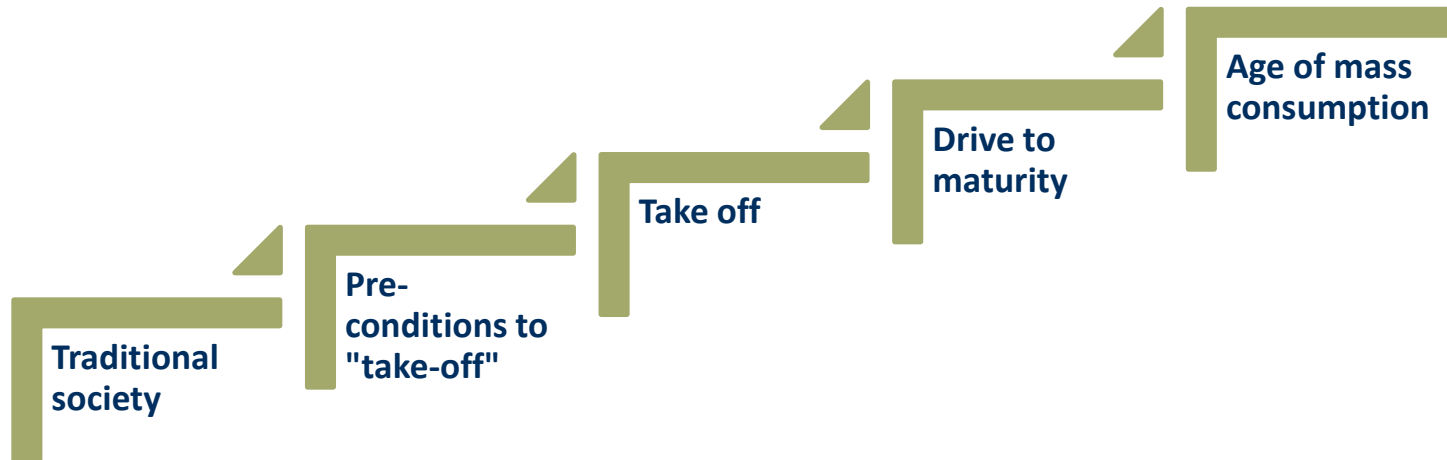
The Stages of economic growth, 1960

- **diffusionist and technocratic** doctrine spreading industrialisation to the developing regions
- **Expert led** industrialisation and urbanisation to remake social and economic relations on the ground.

**Top-down development – North-South-development**



# Rostow's 'take off' model



# Critique of Rostow's model

Y . Itagaki, 2007

1. Rostow is **historical** in the sense that the end result is known at the outset and is derived from the historical geography of a developed, bureaucratic society..
2. His model is based on **American and European** history and defines the American norm of high mass consumption as integral to the economic development process of all industrialized societies.
3. His model assumes **the inevitable adoption of Neoliberal trade policies** which allow the manufacturing base of a given advanced polity to be relocated to lower-wage regions.
4. Rostow's Model does **not apply to the Asian and the African countries** as events in these countries are not justified in any stage of his model.
5. The stages are **not identifiable** properly as the conditions of the take-off and pre take-off stage are every similar and also overlap.
6. According to Rostow **growth becomes automatic** by the time it reaches the maturity stage but this is contested by other economists.

# Structuralism

- Resource flow periphery -→ core
- Rich get richer and poor get poorer
- Stages of development are not the same everywhere
- Connectedness to the world economy prevent poor countries from developing
- State led development
- Structural transformation
- Import Substitution Industrialisation ISI
- Self-sustaining growth as a goal
  - End export of primary goods
  - Protectionism
  - Domestic substitutes to earlier imported goods

# Dependency theory and World systems theory

- **World Systems Theory:** A lasting division of the world in *core*, *semi-periphery* and *periphery* is an inherent feature of the world-system.
- Unequal division of labour
- Commodification of natural resources, labour, human relationships





# Neo-liberalism of the 80s – Washington Consensus

- **Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs)** initiated by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund:
  - Fiscal austerity
  - Reducing public expenditures
  - Tax reforms
  - Interest rates – market determined
  - Competitive exchange rates
  - Privatisation
  - Trade liberalisation
  - Encouraging foreign direct investments
  - Deregulation (free market)
  - Securing property rights

# Neoliberalism

- Policies were applied in
  - Latin America in the 70s
  - Spreading to all countries
  - Postcommunist Eastern Europe

# Critical theories of development

- Postcolonial and postdevelopment scholars
- Said, 1978; Spivak, 1990; Escobar, 1995; Nederveen Pieterse, 2000
- Exploitation of the developing countries has continued
  - Natural resources and cheap labour
- Development discourse has its roots in the Western ideology, colonialism and cold war geopolitics
- Development should be people-centred
- It should be measured with alternative measures: Gender Empowerment Measure, Happy Planet Index, Human Development Index

# Capabilities Approach by A. Sen

- One of the central figures in the alternative thinking and the one behind the Human Development Index is Amartya Sen. Sen has challenged the growth focused view on development and provides an alternative people-centered view which he calls the **capabilities approach**.



- Continue to examine the Capabilities approach through a closer reading of Sen's Development as Freedom.
- You will find further references in the ilearn platform.

26/08/2013 /Name Name, Institution or similar

