

ENVS 411: Resisting “Development:” Foreign Aid, the Environment, and Collective Action in the Global South

“I accuse Shell and Chevron of encouraging genocide against the Ogoni people...My mission has been to inform the West of the truth of what is happening in Nigeria, which has been hidden from them. I believe if people knew they’d do something about it and stop this robbery and murder that is going on in broad daylight.” – Ken Saro-Wiwa, playwright, environmentalist, and human rights activist, executed by the Nigerian government in 1995



What role does foreign aid play in solving (or creating) environmental and social problems in the Global South? Should American money be used to “develop” poor countries? What is the impact of these development programs on the people and environments of the Global South? In this course, we will be discussing both conventional and radical theories of social and economic development, with a focus on the writings of activists from the Global South. We will also debate the merits of both peaceful and violent collective action in resisting development and the ways in which Northern environmentalists can more effectively assist in combating global environmental degradation.



Instructor: Kaitlyn Grigsby
Winter Term
Tuesdays & Thursdays
12 PM – 1:50 PM

Open to advanced
undergraduates of all majors

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