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The Underdevelopment of Development: Essays in Honor of Andre Gunder Frank. Sing C. Chew and Robert A. Denmark, (Eds.).

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During the 1970s, Andre Gunder Frank achieved guru status in development studies. He was generally acknowledged to be the intellectual force behind the dependency theorists, a school of social scientists located chiefly in Latin America, whose views on Third World questions challenged the conventions of the time and offered what was then a startling alternative view of development. While modernization theory, the dominant social science development paradigm, contended that economic and social progress can be attained through domestic innovations which modify conventional productive activities and traditional behaviors, the dependency school claimed that the development problematic had to be examined from an international perspective which identified the role of global capitalism in exploiting the Third World. Underdevelopment, the school's proponents argued, is not an original state of poverty and deprivation but a dynamic condition of exploitation in which global capitalism expropriates the wealth of the Third World and transfers it to the world's centers of economic power. The process had begun with colonialism but it is still in progress and can only be stopped when the global capitalist system is destroyed.

*The Underdevelopment of Development* is a well deserved fest-schrift for Gunder Frank prepared by a group of colleagues and admirers on his retirement from the University of Amsterdam. Frank had previously taught at numerous universities and published prodigiously—36 books, 134 chapters and 600 articles. However, his work transcends the cloisters of academe. Although he could, as the editors point out, easily qualify for a Nobel Prize in economics, his political beliefs make this unlikely. Instead, it is in the Third World where his ideas have stimulated a new vision of development. It is this vision that will be his enduring legacy.