

# Modernisation Theory

## Walt Rostow Modernisation Theory

Nations develop through 5 stages:  
 1: Traditional Society  
 2: Pre-Conditions for Take-Off  
 3: Take-Off  
 4: Drive to Maturity  
 5: Age of Mass Consumption

This links back to Education – Bridge between home and society



## The West is Best!

### Talcott Parsons: Why Nations Fail to Modernise

Failure to change from traditional to modern values  
 Collectivism to Individualism  
 Religion to Science  
 Particularistic to Universal Standards  
 Ascribed to Achieved Status  
 Lack of geographical and social mobility

Aspect of Development	Modernisation View
Education	Western
Healthcare	Western
Employment	Formal via TNCs
Gender Equality	Western
Population	Malthusian view of scarcity is inevitable
Conflict	Inevitable until developed
Environment	Fix issues when developed
Aid	Necessary
Trade	Motor for change
Urbanisation and Industrialisation	Necessary to achieve modernisation

**Hoselitz:** Social Engineering required to change traditional societies into modern ones – influences of Western Media, employment practices, city living, western patterns of consumption, Western education

**Huntington:** Cultural Factors are important but developing nations resent having modernity thrust upon them – this has led to rise of fundamentalism post 9/11

A03

Form of Cultural Imperialism – Capitalist ideologies

Assumes Western Society is perfect

Ethnocentric – based upon Western Industrial Revolution

Encourages false needs by adopting capitalist values

Has evolved into neo-liberalism – most dominant economic theory of past 40 years

Benefits of Modernisation – higher standards of living, better education and healthcare