"Development" Finance

...and the roll-back of social and environmental protections

Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)

- MDBs are large banks controlled and owned by their member countries, which finance projects, stimulate private sector investments, and provide technical assistance.
- MDBs include the World Bank, the regional development banks, and the International Monetary Fund.
- They often fail to monitor projects properly and fund projects that have negative social and environmental consequences.

National Development Banks and Investment Agencies

- These banks and institutions use public funds to promote national development, and they invest in domestic companies, making investments that are not necessarily aligned with social and environmental concerns.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

- PPPs are agreements between governments and private companies to finance and manage infrastructure projects.
- They often lead to increased costs and lack of transparency.

Development Banks' Safeguards

- Under pressure from civil society, development banks have introduced safeguards to improve social and environmental outcomes.
- However, these safeguards are often insufficient, and they are not always implemented.

National laws and regulations

- Over decades, social movements have fought for the creation of national laws and regulations that govern the implementation of development projects.
- These laws have been created to ensure that projects are safe, socially responsible, and environmentally sustainable.

Monetary Fund

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an institution that monitors and enforces economic policies in its member countries.
- The IMF uses conditionality, which requires countries to implement policies that are often unfavorable, to ensure compliance.

Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)

- FTAs are agreements between countries to reduce or eliminate tariffs and other trade barriers.
- They often lead to increased foreign investment and economic liberalization, but they also have negative social and environmental impacts.

CIVIL SOCIETY

- Civil society organizations are crucial in advocating for social and environmental rights.
- They lobby governments, hold companies accountable, and provide technical assistance to communities affected by development projects.

Mexico

- In 2014, the Mexican government announced plans to privatize the oil sector, which was previously nationalized.
- This move was opposed by civil society, who called for a renegotiation of existing agreements and the protection of human rights.

Peru

- In 2015, the Peruvian government approved a mining law that would have allowed for the expansion of mining activities in the Amazon region.
- Civil society and indigenous communities opposed the law, but it was eventually revised to include some safeguards.

Brazil

- In 2012, the Brazilian government approved a law that would allow for the expansion of land concessions to large-scale agribusiness.
- This move was opposed by small farmers and environmental groups, who called for a moratorium on land grabs.

Tunisia

- In 2015, Tunisia was the first country in the Arab world to adopt a law that regulates the mining sector.
- The law included provisions for community consultation and the protection of environmental and social rights.

Egypt

- In 2015, the Egyptian government approved a law that would allow for the expansion of the Suez Canal project.
- Civil society and environmental groups opposed the law, but it was eventually revised to include some safeguards.

South Africa

- In 2015, the South African government approved a law that would allow for the expansion of the mining sector.
- The law included provisions for community consultation and the protection of environmental and social rights.

Indonesia

- In 2015, Indonesia passed a law that would allow for the expansion of the palm oil industry.
- Civil society and environmental groups opposed the law, but it was eventually revised to include some safeguards.

Georgia

- In 2015, the Georgian government approved a law that would allow for the expansion of the hydroelectric power sector.
- The law included provisions for community consultation and the protection of environmental and social rights.

Greece

- In 2015, the Greek government approved a law that would allow for the expansion of the tourism sector.
- The law included provisions for community consultation and the protection of environmental and social rights.

Spain

- In 2015, the Spanish government approved a law that would allow for the expansion of the mining sector.
- The law included provisions for community consultation and the protection of environmental and social rights.