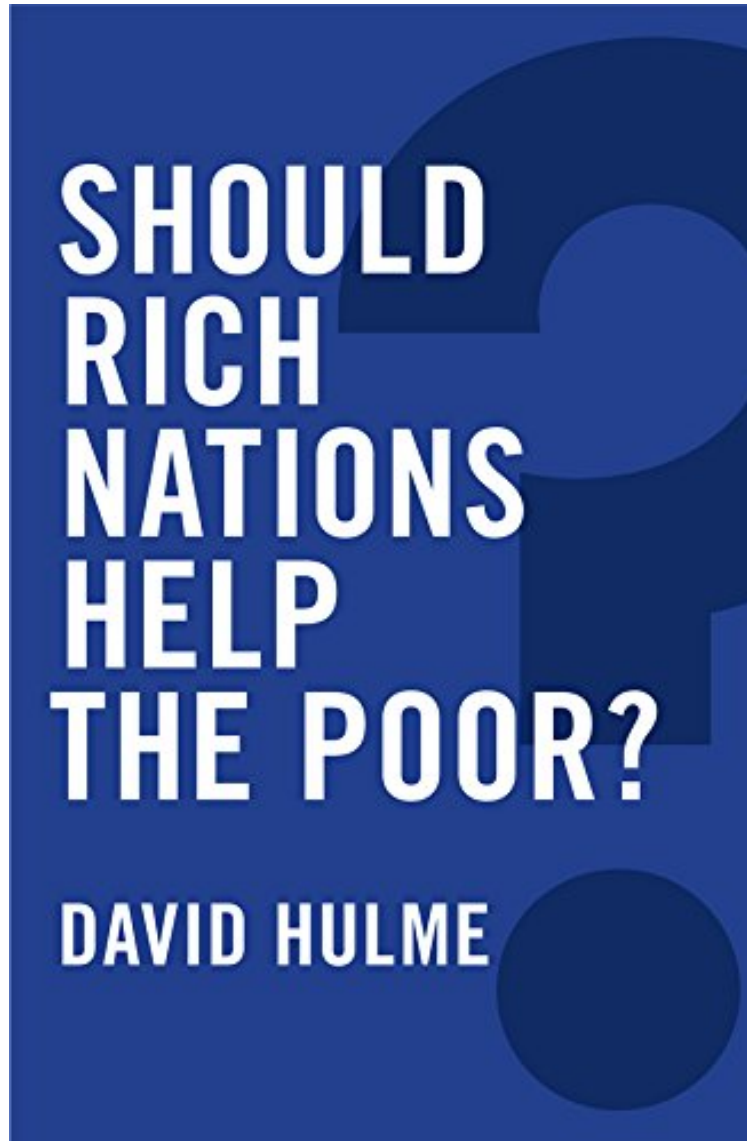


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## Should Rich Nations Help the Poor? (Global Futures)

*David Hulme*

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**David Hulme : Should Rich Nations Help the Poor? (Global Futures)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Should Rich Nations Help the Poor? (Global Futures):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Sophisticated, Easy-to-Understand ArgumentBy MDLToo good to be ignored. A must-read for anyone wondering about the world's economic imbalance and looking for a glimpse of a hopeful resolution. Pick it up, you won't be disappointed.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good book, but brief on a huge topicBy DebraThis is a well written book but takes on a huge subject in a small amount of space. As with anything it's impossible to remove any kind of bias and while he tries to present both sides, he

definitely favors the aid side. As others have mentioned there are major problems with foreign aid. A book I really enjoyed on the subject was *Chasing Chaos: My Decade In and Out of Humanitarian Aid* and there are many others that deal with specific sides of the subject. This was a more academic book, looking at pros and cons and ways to effect change. He glosses over human behaviors that I thought were important to the discussion, such as people giving for religious reasons or cultural expectations. For example, he acknowledges that aid doesn't always get to the people it's supposed to help but doesn't talk about issues like people in Haiti moving home from one place and back again to keep their jobs (which Jessica Alexander discusses in the above book). He does mention that aid to Haiti has been a failure but then moves on. He also really glosses over aid given by religious organizations, because that amount is small in comparison with governmental aid. Overall it's a good book, I just think it tries to do too much in a short amount of space and ends up glossing over a lot.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A brief and content-intense treatment of how rich nations can help the poor

By E. Burton

Wow, my head is hurting from processing the intense content of this small volume in a short amount of time. The text of this book is actually only 124 pages long, so the length alone tells you that this is an overview. Nevertheless, David Hulme manages to examine some of the different perspectives on the poor and the strength and weaknesses of giving aid, usually in a balanced way, though he occasionally uses language that reflects a bias toward one view or the other.

In his book he comes up with four guidelines for improving the efficacy of aid:

1. "untie aid" from the country footing the bill (the example he gave was that U.S. grain aid could deliver more actual grain if, instead of shipping U.S. grain, we purchased the grain in Africa and had lower grain and transport costs)
2. "[U]se aid to put cash directly into the hands of poor and very poor people."
3. Create goods that address the health and agricultural needs of the poor. For example, tropical countries have special agricultural needs.
4. Make aid more predictable so that its use can be planned for.

However, Hulme admits the limitations of aid and suggests five policy changes that rich nations could make to help the poor:

1. "Reformed international trade policies" benefitting poorer countries and people.
2. "Recognize international migration as an element of trade policy and a highly effective means of reducing poverty."
3. "Take actions against climate change" and require rich nations who are largely responsible for it to take greater responsibility for the costs.
4. "Reform global finance" so that the assets and income of poor countries aren't looted in the process.
5. "Limit the arms" trade to politically fragile areas.

So the bulk of this book is about the policies that Hulme feels will help the poor rather than building the case for helping the poor, though the content for the later is included. I'd like to see that later theme developed in more detail. Nevertheless, the brevity of this book and its exploration of different views makes it one I would recommend as an intense crash course on global poverty.

In the past decade, the developed world has spent almost US\$ 2 trillion on foreign aid for poorer countries. Yet 1.2 billion people still live in extreme poverty and around 2.9 billion cannot meet their basic human needs. But should rich nations continue to help the poor? In this short book, leading global poverty analyst David Hulme explains why helping the world's neediest communities is both the right thing to do and the wise thing to do; if rich nations want to take care of their own citizens' future welfare. The real question is how best to provide this help. The way forward, Hulme argues, is not conventional foreign aid but trade, finance and environmental policy reform. But this must happen alongside a change in international social norms so that we all recognise the collective benefits of a poverty-free world.

David Hulme's is a passionate and personal yet professional plea for attacking poverty rather than trying to stop bodies washing ashore in the Mediterranean. We can still argue about definitions of poverty and the value of charity, but it is no longer possible in our interconnected planet to deny the self-interests of the wealthy West in addressing pandemics, narco-trafficking, climate deterioration, and terrorism. Read why things have to change.

Thomas G. Weiss, The Graduate Center, CUNY

The impulse to assist poor people in poorer countries appears weaker than it has at any time in the recent past. In this slim volume, David Hulme presents the case in support of global connectedness (albeit with some reforms and course corrections) and reinforcing foreign aid (but with significant modifications). This persuasive polemic, smoothly flowing and accessibly presented, is well worth a read. The essential humanity that permeates the narrative is uplifting.

Anirudh Krishna, Duke University

About the Author David Hulme is Professor of Development Studies at The University of Manchester where he is Director of the Brooks World Poverty Institute and CEO of the Effective States and Inclusive Development Research Centre