



Questions for discussion

Africa – why economists get it wrong

1) In the book, the author is arguing that the idea of a standstill in economic growth in countries in Africa over the past decennia is not true. In fact, quite the opposite is true as several countries on the African continent have experienced growth and development. Why is the growth in Africa misunderstood according to the author?

2) Which root causes does the author bring up to explain African underdevelopment?

3) Economic growth can sometimes result in uneven development, where a specific group in society gains more than others. Often it is more vulnerable groups in society which is not reached by the growth, such as women or rural farmers. Why is economic growth not reaching everyone in an equal manner? How can we ensure that everyone is lifted out of poverty?

4) UN Association of Sweden carried out a survey with Swedish citizens in the year 2014. The result from the survey showed that a majority believe that the development in the world is much worse than it is in reality. Why do you think that is? Which role do you believe media play in how we experience the development in the world?

ISIS – inside the army of terror

- 1) The authors write about ISIS “founding father”, al-Zarqawi. Do you believe ISIS could have been created if it was not for al-Zarqawi? How much can one person do to gather a whole movement for a cause?
- 2) What is the relationship between ISIS and al-Qaeda?
- 3) Why do you believe people travel from all over the world to join ISIS, despite the violence the group surrounds themselves with?
- 4) What can the international community do to stop the violence and murderers committed by terrorist groups? Which legal ways are there? Are these ways sufficient or are they lacking? If so – how?

The conflict in Ukraine – what everyone needs to know

- 1) Ukraine was a part of USSR (Soviet Union) before it collapsed in 1991. Since this was only 24 years ago, many people who live in Ukraine today were born in what was then Soviet Union. How do you think this affects these people’s identities? Do you think it is possible that some of the citizens of Ukraine identify themselves with Russia and feel like they are still a Soviet citizen?
- 2) The annexation of the Crimean Peninsula has been considered illegal, since it is breaching Ukraine’s sovereignty. A resolution was put to vote in the Security Council to preserve Ukraine’s sovereignty and 13 countries voted yes, China abstained and Russia vetoed the resolution, meaning that it could not be adopted. Five countries have veto power in the Security Council (Russia, the United Kingdom, France, USA and China). How did the veto come to exist? What positive and negative aspects to the veto can you think of?