

# ECONOMIC & POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

The Center's founders believed that a better understanding of newly developing countries was essential to American foreign policy. CIS faculty and researchers studied economic, social, and cultural aspects of the development process, doing field work in Italy, Indonesia and India.

Center members were also active participants in Congressional and Executive branch debates about U.S. foreign aid and development policies. During the 1950s, Max Millikan, Walt Rostow and others worked with Eisenhower administration officials to promote a foreign aid policy informed by development theory. During President Kennedy's "Decade of Development," Millikan wrote an influential policy memorandum advocating what would later become the Peace Corps, and served on the President's Task Force on Foreign Economic Assistance. The Center published a book, *The Emerging Nations*, to explain the modernization policy they hoped the U.S. would adopt. And Professors Myron Weiner and Lucian Pye helped shape the emerging field of comparative political development.

## THE 1970s AND 80s

During the 1970s and 1980s, CIS research shifted to other challenges facing the underdeveloped world, including rising energy prices, addressing the agricultural needs of countries with burgeoning populations, and how best to use new technologies. In addition, CIS collaborated with MIT's Department of Nutrition and Food Science on a program to advise poor nations on nutrition programs, and studied international environmental issues and their effect on political and economic development.



## THE 1990s

In 1974, CIS became the host organization for the Inter-University Committee on International Migration, a sponsor, with several other colleges and universities, of seminars, workshops and conferences on refugee and migration issues. As a result, during the 1990s, the Center was able to take a leadership role in studying one of the consequences of the end of the Cold War: the waves of refugee and migration flows that resulted from a proliferation of ethnic and civil wars.



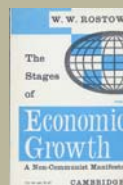
## Max Millikan and Walt W. Rostow

CIS founding director Max Millikan, an economist who focused on the economic basis for development in emerging nations, was instrumental in establishing ties between early CIS researchers in development and U.S. policymakers. Professor Walt Rostow's theory of the stages of economic growth in developing nations provided the fundamental basis for U.S. academic and policy discourse in the 1950s and 1960s. In 1964, after leaving CIS for Washington, he was appointed by President Johnson as the U.S. member of the Inter-American Committee on the Alliance for Progress.



"While it is obvious that the political, social, and economic development of foreign areas is a task for the peoples of these areas themselves, and that we alone cannot insure that they will do it well or badly... it would be inexcusable for the United States and the other developed nations of the Free World not to exert to the utmost whatever influence they have."

—MILLIKAN AND ROSTOW, "A PROPOSAL: KEY TO AN EFFECTIVE FOREIGN POLICY"



## Myron Weiner

A professor at MIT from 1961 until his death in 1999, Myron Weiner was CIS Director from 1987 to 1992. He was an internationally known authority on refugees and political change in developing countries, especially India. Professor Weiner authored or edited 32 books, including *The Global Migration Crisis: Challenge to States and to Human Rights* and *The Child and the State in India: Child Labor and Education Policy in Comparative Perspective*—a study that forced a change in Indian education policy and improved the lives of many Indian children.



Professor Weiner doing field work for a USAID rural rehabilitation project in Afghanistan in 1991.

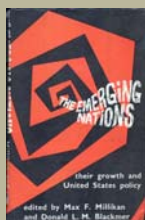
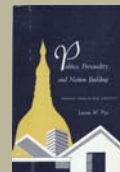
"Why is the Indian state unable—or unwilling—to deal with the high and increasing illiteracy, low school enrollments, high dropout rates, and rampant child labor?... [My answer is] that India's low per capita income and economic situation is less relevant... than the belief systems of the state bureaucracy... At the core of these beliefs are the Indian view of the social order, notions concerning the respective roles of upper and lower social strata, the role of education as a means of maintaining differentiations among social classes, and concerns that 'excessive' and 'inappropriate' education for the poor would disrupt existing social arrangements.

—"THE CHILD AND THE STATE IN INDIA" (1991)



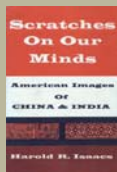
## Lucian Pye

Lucian Pye, Professor of Political Science, wrote extensively on political development in China and the socio-political effects of modernization in the industrializing regions of Asia. He focused on the effects of culture on political development, and developed a program to assess different cultural attitudes relevant to national development. Professor Pye challenged the prevailing, "economics only" view, which was that better planning, technology, and capital were sufficient for modernization; he stressed socio-political factors as well.



## Harold Isaacs

Harold Isaacs was one of the first non-economists to work on development issues at CIS. He argued that development programs should take into account social and political—not just economic—factors. The author of numerous books on Asia, his *Scratches on Our Minds: American Images of China and India*, took on American stereotypes of those two countries. *No Peace for Asia*, published in 1947, predicted with chilling clarity the future of Asian nationalism and great power entanglement.



## Melissa Nobles

The teaching and research interests of political scientist Melissa Nobles are in the comparative study of racial and ethnic politics, and issues of retrospective justice.



## Chappell Lawson

Political scientist Chappell Lawson's focus is on Latin American politics and the role of the mass media in democratization.



## Roger Petersen

Roger Petersen's work focuses on comparative politics, with a special emphasis on conflict and violence. He leads a working group on civil-military relations at the Center.



## Kanchan Chandra

Kanchan Chandra, a political scientist, studies South Asia, ethnic politics and conflict, and political mobilization.

