

POST-APARTHEID CORE-PERIPHERY DUALISM IN
SOUTH AFRICA

A Thesis Abstract
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ABSTRACT

The co-existence of the developed (core) and the underdeveloped (peripheral) areas within a single geographic unit (i.e. the core-periphery dualism) is an unavoidable feature of the spatial variation in development or underdevelopment. The acceptance of this spatial reality does not, however, justify the occurrence and continuation of a racially orchestrated core-periphery dualism such as that in South Africa. It is on this basis that this thesis investigates the race factor in South Africa's post-apartheid core-periphery dualism.

This investigation of the race factor in South Africa's core-periphery dualism draws upon the literature in geography of international and regional development, the history of development in South Africa and the analysis of development by development regions to affirm or deny the existence of a racially based dualism at the scale of the development regions. This thesis approaches the concept of development from the theoretical standpoint that in South Africa the core areas have developed, and still develop, at the expense of underdevelopment of the peripheral areas. The thesis deduces (from South Africa's history of development) and uses the existence of a migrant labor system as an indicator of the race character of South Africa's dualism. Following the lead of prominent writers in the studies of the spatial variations in development or underdevelopment, this thesis uses principal components technique to analyze eighteen development

indicators by development regions in South Africa. The interpretation of the spatial variation in the interrelationships among the variables used shows that four development regions are relatively underdeveloped whereas five development regions are relatively developed. Further, the comparison of the two types of development regions on the basis of the percentage male population aged 15 to 64 years and the male absenteeism ratio demonstrates that there exist a migrant labor system between the two types of regions. The comparison illustrates that the developed development regions are exclusively associated with a "surplus" in the male population whereas the underdeveloped development regions are exclusively associated with a "shortage" in this population type as measured by the two variables. On the basis of the assumptions used, it is concluded that the post-apartheid core-periphery dualism too is racial in character.

The spatial variation in the association between race and development or underdevelopment in South Africa is complex because this correlation has been deliberately induced, throughout South Africa's history of development, to be strong; and, the introduction of the development regions makes the spatial variation in the relationship between these aspects of the population more confusing. As a result, the elimination of the race factor out of South Africa's process of development is not a matter of striking a balance in the number of people of all races in each of the development regions. In the light of the strong correlation between race

and development or underdevelopment, the elimination of the race factor out of the dualism needs to be seen as a process of reducing the development gap between the developed and the underdeveloped development regions. This position, together with the theoretical standpoint used in this thesis and the history of development in South Africa, suggests that the elimination of the race factor out of South Africa's post-apartheid dualism should be understood as a function of the restructuring or redressing of the existent migrant labor system. This thesis recommends, without writing off other possibilities, that the migrant labor system should be restructured by creating the infrastructure and agriculture opportunities in the underdeveloped development regions as a way of attracting this unfairly exploited human capital to these regions. This move could, in time, induce development in the underdeveloped development regions so as to reduce the development gap and ultimately cause development or underdevelopment uncorrelated to race in "a new South Africa."