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## Book Review

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Nandini Joshi, **The Challenge of Poverty: The Developing Countries in the New International Order**. Gulab Vazirani for Arnold-Heinemann, Delhi, 1978, pp. xiv + 101. Rs. 25.

H. W. Singer

This important book is a good statement of what might be described as a middle-of-the-road or fairly standard position in the Group of 77 on the list of demands and proposals for a new international economic order more beneficial to the developing countries. It reads almost like a literary paraphrase of the basic Resolution on the New International Economic Order adopted at the Seventh Special Session of the UN General Assembly. In other words, for those who want a representative view of the position of developing countries this represents useful reading.

There are some good points which are new, at least to this reviewer. These include the proposal for 'oil aid' (p. 66); a good argument for indexing of aid deriving from the time lag between negotiations, commitments and actual disbursements; a useful six-page bibliography on the New International Economic Order debate; and an

equally useful appendix containing a matrix of trade flows and flows of financial resources for 15 regions of the world for 1976.

On the other hand, there are also some questionable points. In the basic first table the grouping of countries is idiosyncratic: Algeria and Libya are counted as part of the North Block, while Israel, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the Emirates and Kuwait are counted as part of the South Block. It is incorrect to say (p. 43) that in spite of the multilateral trade negotiations tariffs have remained 'more or less rigid'; the real trouble is elsewhere, in non-tariff barriers and in the escalation of tariffs. It is not correct to say (p. 50) that the proposed Common Fund 'also provides for compensatory financing'. In the section dealing with technology the point is missed that developing countries have no overall choice of technology—their overall level of technology is determined by their resource endowment adjusted for external flows.

But these errors are minor points—broadly speaking, one can support most of the statements and formulations presented.

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## Books Received

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Louis Turner, *Oil Companies in the International System*, The Royal Institute of International Affairs, George Allen & Unwin, 1978, London.

Susan B. Hanley and Kozo Yamamura, *Economic and Demographic Change in Preindustrial Japan, 1600–1868*, Princeton University Press, New Jersey, 1978.

Marc Nerfin (ed.), *Another Development: Approaches and Strategies*, The Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, Uppsala, 1977.

MDI, Vol. 1 No. 3, Management Development Institute, New Delhi, January-March 1978.

George D. E. Philip, *The Rise and Fall of the Peruvian Military Radicals 1968–1976*, The Athlone Press, University of London, 1978.

David A. Mitchnik, *The Role of Women in Rural Zaire and Upper-Volta: Improving Methods of Skill Acquisition*, Oxfam Working Paper 2, Oxford, 1978.

Ikenna Nzimiro, *The Crisis in the Social Sciences: The Nigerian Situation*, Third World Forum, Occasional Paper No. 2, Mexico, 1977.

Hobart A. Spalding Jr., *Organized Labour in Latin America*, New York University Press, New York, 1977.

*Year Book of Agricultural Co-operation*, The Plunkett Foundation for Co-operative Studies, Oxford, 1977.

*A Record of Experience*, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, 1977.

Development Studies Centre, *Monographs* Nos. 8, 9, 10, The Australian National University, Canberra, 1977.

Charles Harvey, *Macroeconomics for Africa*, Heinemann Educational Books Ltd., London, 1977.

Laura Randall, *An Economic History of Argentina in the Twentieth Century*, Columbia University Press, New York, 1978.

W. Arthur Lewis, *The Evolution of the International Economic Order*, Princeton University Press, New Jersey, 1978.