



Do We Owe the Global Poor Assistance or Rectification? [Excerpt] *Ethics & International Affairs*, Volume 19.1 (Spring 2005)

Mathias Risse

March 30, 2005

A central theme throughout Thomas Pogge's pathbreaking *World Poverty and Human Rights* is that the global political and economic order harms people in developing countries, and that our duty toward the global poor is therefore not to assist them but to rectify injustice. But does the global order harm the poor? I argue elsewhere that there is a sense in which this is indeed so, at least if a certain empirical thesis is accepted. In this essay, however, I seek to show that the global order not only does not harm the poor but can plausibly be credited with the considerable improvements in human well-being that have been achieved over the last 200 years. Much of what Pogge says about our duties toward developing countries is therefore false. . .

To read or purchase the full text of this article, [click here](#).

Copyright © 2010 Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs