State, development agencies, and bilateral aid

Objectives:
This lecture looks at different actors involved in international development. First, we will familiarize ourselves with the historical context of debates about the role of states in development. Second, we will learn about the reasons why donors provide assistance and how their priorities may vary. Third, we will examine current trends in and debates surrounding foreign aid. By the end of this lecture, students will understand how different actors interact with each other with divergent views and priorities about development.

Questions:
1) Select a developing state and identify the major issues it faces by examining current news report. Then examine something about its history. To what extent are its current problems tied to its colonial origins?
2) Why should wealthier countries give aid to poorer ones? How much should they give and for what purposes?
3) How should donors decide on which countries to concentrate their assistance?

Required reading: