
Dependency Theory in Relation to Baseball in the Dominican Republic

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All authors:

Sarah Naas (corresp), Darren Smith, Kenneth Payne, Bruce Larson

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this study is to examine the relationship between the Major League Baseball association and baseball as a part of the culture in the Dominican Republic. The concept of Dependency Theory will be applied to the study. An ethnographic research approach will be applied while in the Dominican Republic. The study will be of the qualitative nature, using first hand experiences and observations to either prove or disprove the concept of the Dependency Theory. The transfer of human capital will be examined rather than political or economic resources.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Dependency can be defined as “a historical condition which shapes a certain structure of the world economy such that it favors some countries to the detriment of others and limits the development possibilities of the subordinate economics...a situation in which the economy of a certain group of countries is conditioned by the development and expansion of another economy, to which their own is subjected” (Dos Santos, 1971). “Political and economic events in the First World have a huge impact on the politics and economics of Third World countries, but Third World political and economic events usually have little impact on the First World...Core-periphery trading patterns result in continuous growth of political and economic power for the core at the expense of the periphery...The fact is that developed nations are actively underdeveloping Third World countries as a result of the systems of interactions between them...Rather than "catching up" to the developed countries, most currently underdeveloped countries will fall farther behind...” (Deiner, 1999)

The concept of Dependency Theory can be applied to the MLB and the Dominican Republic. "More recent thinking on the subject looks at the means by which labour markets are affected by the capital accumulation in both the industrial nations and so-called peripheral areas. This has been referred to as the international division of labour. The move of multinational corporations to countries in which labour and production is cheaper reflects a major change in the way multinationals have operated. The impact of this both in the peripheral country and in the home country is also reflected in the operation of baseball franchises in the Dominican Republic," (Klein, 2007).

METHOD

A ethnographic approach will be used through observational research for this qualitative study. Observations will be used to either prove or disprove the dependency theory in relation to the trading of human capital between the United States and the Dominican Republic. The goal will be to determine the nature of the relationship between the United States and the Dominican Republic through the Major League Baseball association.

Research will be conducted to determine if actions of the MLB are affecting the Dominican Republic through their investment in baseball in the country. Through observations, first-hand experiences and historical evidence, the researcher hopes to determine if the Dominican Republic is "falling farther behind" (Deiner, 1999) because of the MLB's presence.

IMPLICATIONS

Major League Baseball should consider the relationship they have with the Dominican Republic and the impact their presence has had on the country as a whole. Based on the research conducted, the MLB's presence has affected the Dominican Republic both positively and negatively. The MLB has indeed benefited from the relationship they have created with this country. In ways, the Dominican Republic has also benefited from the relationship.

In the sports world, other professional organizations could benefit from relationships such as this one. Investing time, money, and other resources into a country such as the Dominican Republic could lead to a different level of success. Talent from other regions will lead to foreign fan bases, expanding these professional organizations to other parts of the world.

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