The End of Poverty
Jeffery Sachs

This article, an excerpt from a book with the same title, appeared in Time magazine this summer. Jeffery Sachs is presently at Columbia University but has also held positions as economic advisor to several developing nations throughout the 80s and 90s. Consider the following questions as you read.

1. How many people die throughout the world each year because, according to Sachs, “they are too poor to stay alive” (pg. 46)?

2. How much will America spend on the military this year? How much does the US spend to address world poverty? Are the two related?

3. What portion of the World’s population lives in absolute poverty?

4. Evaluate the bar chart on page 46 where the top bar represents people living on less than $1 per day in 1981 and the bottom represents people living on less than $1 per day in 2001. Which regions have experienced the greatest reduction in poverty? Which regions are still plagued with poverty?

5. According to Sachs, why are dominate countries dominate?

6. Sachs indicts geography, history, and polity in explaining why some countries are poor. What role does politics play?

7. What about history?

8. What role does geography play?

9. What are the “big five” according to Sachs?