

What are the theories explaining the growth of superpowers?

High Income Country (HIC) – the World Bank describes this as a country with a GDP of above \$12735 in 2014

Low Income Country (LIC) – the World Bank describes this as a country with a GDP of \$1045 in 2014

Development theories explaining the development of superpowers:

<u>Theory</u>	<u>Explanation</u>	<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
Modernisation Theory	In the 1960s W.W Rostows modernisation theory was used to explain the British Empires dominance of the USA. He believed that countries economies grew in five stages, with each stage having to be achieved through the use of free trade, capitalism and democracy. As a result he said that the USSR and China could not expect to develop without following this model. As a result developing countries began to invest in key infrastructure in order to develop.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allows the development of a country to be easily seen as they will be within one of the five stages of development - The development of country can be easily illustrated and presented on a graph 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does not acknowledge how developing countries really develop through the use of loans and aid - The theory is now outdated because China and India have developed, however it could be argued that they have leapfrogged and missed some stages - Doesn't take into account regional and cultural factors
Dependency Theory	The Dependency Theory was developed by A.G Frank and views the world as having a economically developed core and underdeveloped periphery. He says that the core deliberately exploits the cheap resources in the periphery, which therefore keeps them in a state of underdevelopment. As a result the core gets wealthier and the periphery remains poor. The core uses aid in order to prevent them from getting restless.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Illustrates how countries can develop using exploitation of cheap resources - Clearly takes into account the differences and inequality between the rich and poor. - Argues in favour of the developed countries and blames the imperialists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The theory is far too simple to explain the development of countries around the world - Underdevelopment is always due to exploit by the core, but can be due to poor leadership, climate, etc - China and India have developed rapidly despite being the cheap manufacturing countries for the world - Doesn't take into account regions, just the whole country
World Systems Theory	The World Systems theory was created by Wallerstein in an attempt to overcome the problem of a 'core and periphery world'. The theory views the world as three tier. It allows some countries to enter the semi-periphery and then the core.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appreciates that there is a dependency on the core by the periphery and vice versa. E.g. if the periphery stop the exploitation of resource the cores economy will collapse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does not take into account and observe internal factors such as poor leadership and corruption in LICs - There is no clear dividing line as to when a country is in the 'core', the 'periphery' or the 'semi-periphery'.

