



Cambridge University International Development



LENT TERM CARD THE ETHICS OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

JANUARY 23RD : *The Despot's Accomplice: How the West is Aiding & Abetting the Decline of Democracy* – Brian Klaas, Bateman Auditorium at Caius College – 7PM

Democracy has been declining globally every year since 2006. If nothing is done, we may have already hit peak democracy. And, between Brexit and the rise of Donald Trump, many in the West are questioning whether democracy is really the right form of government.

Though the true culprits are dictators and counterfeit democrats, the West is often complicit in contributing to the global decline of democracy. In pursuit of short-term economic and political objectives, governments in Washington, London and Brussels ultimately make the world less prosperous and stable. As Brian Klaas argues in this thoughtful and lively new book, this is in nobody's interests, least of all Western democracies – it is time for a rethink.

FEBRUARY 7TH: *Voices of Syria* – Jordan Hatter, Boys Smith Room in Fisher building at St John's College – 7PM

Jordan shares his story of trying to make a difference in humanitarian crises. Just days after graduating high school he set out on a humanitarian trip to war-torn South Sudan. Two years later, with no end in sight to the conflict in Syria, Jordan took a gap semester from uni in California to report as a freelance journalist and share stories from the Syrian refugee camp of Al- Zaatari, in northern Jordan.

From building a medical clinic in South Sudan to delivering prefabricated housing units in the Syrian refugee camp, Jordan's story is one that emphasizes empathy, the power of relationships, and importance of never giving up.

FEBRUARY 21ST: *'International Development: a new "White Man's burden"?' - A CUID panel debate* – 7PM

Back in 1899, Rudyard Kipling wrote a now infamous poem entitled 'The White Man's burden', a phrase which has since become short-hand for efforts to legitimise colonialism in the name of a civilising mission. How far do criticisms of Kipling still apply to the international development sector today? Is it self-centred virtue-signalling, assuaging the consciences of rich western liberals? Does it actively curtail the agency of citizens of third world countries? We have a varied panel of experienced speakers to discuss these questions in more detail.

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