

## Poverty's Captives

By Tim Brauhn

Today's manifestations of bondage are a marked departure from those of pre-modern slavery. Now the value of the human "goods" is so low that slavers do not have to worry about damaging them. Two hundred years ago, slaves had to at least be treated with a modicum of safety, if for no other reason than to ensure continued profitability. But in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, slavers have become less like "hunters" and more like "gatherers," since their work no longer involves raids and chains, at least in the physical sense. No, today's raids are the false promises of work and money that are employed to lure the poor into situations from which they are unable to escape, due either to violence, or to the threat of violence. Chains persist as the continued destitution of those who are unlucky enough to fall victim to such false promises. So how does poverty contribute to the resurgence and continued growth and profitability of the international slave trade? This section of the Digest investigates the deep-seated role that poverty plays in the recruitment and retention of modern slaves, and investigates policy options aimed at combating both indigence and its sad accomplice, enslavement.

Even conservative statistics point to a massive proportion of people living in poverty worldwide. While many of them may enjoy a greater level of relative safety than did previous generations, they are no less at risk for the predations of slave-traders than their predecessors were. Contemporary slavers prey on the poor because poor people represent opportunities for exploitation. And from the perspective of the poor, slavers offer the promise of attractive jobs and good pay. When the possibility of work (or in some cases, food) arises, a parallel opportunity for potential enslavement comes into being. Oftentimes, the people making these promises of work are members of an extended family, or perhaps even friends. Regardless of the connection, these people are nevertheless slavers. Their numbers are growing, and they target both adults and the young alike.

The occurrence of child labor is also a consequence of poverty. For poor families, allowing (or sending) their child to work is one of the only ways to support the family. If the choice is between starving and eating, what kind of parent would not allow their child to work? It is at this point, when families are at their poorest, that slavers strike. Many parents entrust their young to slavers who promise safety and, at the least, regular meals for their children. Yet the children are seldom treated as well as promised. Compounding this problem is the cultural practice, most common in Africa, of placing children in the care of extended family members in hopes of a better life. Many young people *do* take it upon themselves to work, either to support their family or to further their own education; slavers can exploit this desire without resorting to overt means of ensnarement.

If children are working, they are probably not attending school, which in turn perpetuates the cycle of slavery. Efforts to bring children out of the fields and into school have involved such simple projects as offering free food to students. To families living in indigence, such an incentive might be enough to send their children to school. But these efforts are still only in place on a grassroots level. Even if states have enacted mandatory education standards, economic (survival) interests may supplant those laws. In these cases, the economics of poverty that drive people into a subsistence lifestyle are the same economic structures that slavers can exploit.

For instance, consider the common occurrence of debt-bondage in South Asia. A poor person might borrow money in order to survive, to start a business, etc. When they cannot repay the loan, either due to exorbitant interest rates or to other factors, they become bonded in debt to the original lender. This might sound similar to indentured servitude, but bonded debtors seldom escape the debt cycle. Their employers may “pay” them, but such disbursements will not be enough to repay the original loan. Note that debt-bondage also occurs when regular workers are paid such very low wages by employers that they are forced to eventually borrow money, usually from their employer. Under this system, debts can persist across generations. This perpetual debt bondage is most certainly classifiable as slavery, as it is usually the threat of violence that holds laborers in place. Whatever its particular manifestation, contemporary slavery is a growing problem. Nevertheless, a burgeoning global anti-slavery movement is increasingly making its voice heard.

International institutions are placing slavery high on their lists of concerns more often. Why then, has the practice of modern slavery grown so pervasive? The answer is that it is cheap to initiate the practice, and it is easy to continue making money. Slavers travel to a locale with limited employment opportunities and/or a high level of poverty. They offer jobs to the people. These jobs do not actually have to exist, but if they do, they certainly do not match the description given to the people. Those who are interested in these “jobs” are trafficked across an international border (although not always), their identification is confiscated, and they are put to work in whatever capacity the employer sees fit. Workers are threatened with bodily harm if they attempt to leave. Even if they do escape, their lack of documentation, and the fact that they might be hundreds or even thousands of miles away from home makes it highly likely that they will face further abuses. Systems need to be put in place in order to protect and, perhaps more importantly, to find these people.

But many states, including the United States, still have not defined accurate legal protections for those who manage to escape their employers or those who are freed. In some states, freed slaves have a low social status. This is especially the case with prostitutes, who may carry dangerous sexually-transmitted diseases and who oftentimes suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. Freed slaves may not have any applicable skills that would allow them to reintegrate into society and make a living. They could therefore end up cycling back into slavery due to the very same lack of opportunity that led them there in the first place. International law is still murky in cases in which slaves have been trafficked to foreign countries; repatriation might not be a desirable option, since the economic conditions that led to enslavement will most likely still exist in their home state.

The alleviation of poverty provides one of the best opportunities for reducing the proliferation and power of the modern slave trade. Cutting in half extreme poverty by 2015 happens to be one of the stated objectives of the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals, and as such, a great deal of attention has been paid to the eradication of poverty worldwide. The awarding of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize to the Grameen Bank, the world’s quintessential poverty-combating institution, should therefore come as no surprise. The award follows and lends strength to the explosion of microcredit ventures in the developing world. But microcredit/microfinance is still viewed as an uncertain method of sustainable growth, as it is still perhaps too early to decide whether high repayment rates are the result of true economic growth, or if they are simply the promise of future lending activity. In addition, the literature on microcredit is woefully lacking in its descriptions of concrete policy outcomes from microlending in impoverished communities. While the stated goal of

microcredit is to eliminate/reduce poverty, what does this goal really mean for those most affected by poverty and the slave trade?

If global poverty rates were to drop, the profitability of the slave trade would decrease markedly. Labor costs across the board would rise, and the amount of available cheap or free labor would shrink; there would be fewer poor people to exploit. Undoubtedly, slavers would have to become even bolder in finding targets for enslavement. And if their methods grew in brutality and complexity, they would be unable to remain as deeply underground as they have been up until this point. They would be seen more often, and the accompanying rise in awareness would increase their visibility even more. Poverty, it seems, is not the only self-perpetuating phenomenon. In much the same fashion, increases in living standards would bring about, and be brought about by, the development of educational apparatuses. If people knew what to look out for, they might be better disposed towards avoiding enslavement.

It should be noted, however, that not all victims of slavery are poor or uneducated. Such a generalization would be unfair to the enslaved, and would misrepresent the willingness of slavers to lie to absolutely anyone in order to gain more human capital. Many middle-class people, yearning for adventure or financial inviolability, find themselves enslaved across borders, and even across oceans, as restaurant employees, domestic servants, or even as prostitutes. Even highly-educated people such as college graduates can be tempted into pursuing these phantom job offers in overseas markets. If there is a lack of local employment, these offers could be a very attractive opportunity indeed. Poverty as a lack of financial mobility is at least one part of the problem, but a dearth of potential job offerings can piggyback with poverty, making it possible to attract individuals from many more demographics of a population than only the impoverished.

Slavery is harder to combat now than it was before its official abolition. This statement seems contradictory, but it is quite reasonable. The relative invisibility of modern slaves is due to three main factors: race is not as much of an issue as it was in the past, as anyone can now be enslaved. Since it is an illegal activity, record books of transactions are not in the public business domain. Additionally, globalization has greatly increased the ability of slavers to move these “products” across borders and to coordinate with sending and receiving countries. A possible fourth factor is the relative lack of knowledge, especially in the United States, of the mere existence of modern slavery. Certainly, since there are laws on the books against it, it cannot possibly still be around. But it *is* still around, and as long as great swaths of the earth’s population live in abject poverty, there will still be ready sources of income for slavers.

Eliminating or reducing poverty would provide better living standards for billions of people and, as a byproduct, lower their vulnerability to enslavement. An accompanying rise in health and education could contribute to increased job opportunities, thereby removing a need to emigrate for work. Tracking this progress has proven difficult; while some areas of the globe have decreased their poverty rates, others have actually experienced increased rates. As awareness of the insidious trade in humans grows, greater attention will be paid to poverty’s role in providing exploitable situations. But with a nearly limitless supply of potential slaves living in poverty, can the international community act fast enough to protect them?

**Selected Bibliography**

Ahmad, Mokbul Morshed. 2003. "Distant Voices: The Views of the Field Workers of NGOs in Bangladesh on Microcredit." *Geographical Journal* 169 (1):65-74.

Annotation: This interesting article records the opinions of non-governmental organization (NGO) field workers in Bangladesh. The opinions are usually not positive, suggesting a disconnect between the management and the workers in the field. The NGOs in question are all microcredit programs. Some of the criticisms leveled at them by the field workers are illustrated. For instance, accessibility to management for the poorest of the poor seems to be a consistent problem. Another question involves the difference between providing microcredit monies and providing services like health or education that could perhaps build stronger societies. The managers of microcredit NGOs are accused of having tunnel vision when it comes to determining the provisions of their organizations, and of actively (but not maliciously) excluding other noble development enterprises.

Anti-Slavery International. 2001. "Discrimination on the Basis of Work and Descent: The Enslavement of Dalit and Indigenous Communities in India, Nepal and Pakistan through Debt Bondage." <http://www.antislavery.org/homepage/resources/goonesekere.pdf>.

Annotation: This Anti-Slavery International document, submitted to the United Nations Sub-Commission on Human Rights, outlines the occurrence of debt bondage in Pakistan, India, and Nepal. It concentrates specifically on the disproportionate numbers of Dalits, or members of the lowest caste in India, who are victims of debt bondage. Also, a disproportionate number of indigenous people are overrepresented among those in debt bondage. These groups are usually at the low end of economic parity within their given state. The poverty that tends to accompany such a status is eminently exploitable by those searching for cheap, bonded labor.

Anti-Slavery International. 2005. "1807-2007: Over 200 Years of Campaigning against Slavery." <http://www.antislavery.org/homepage/resources/PDF/1807-2007.pdf>.

Annotation: This article from Anti-Slavery International describes in great detail the last two hundred years of the international slave trade, from the beginning of the anti-slavery movement in Britain to the present, identifying problems with international trafficking in persons. Anti-Slavery International has been at the vanguard of combating slavery for many years, presenting sound research and methodology. Aside from informing the reader about the changing face of both slavery and its opponents since 1807, this article also paints a picture of hope that things will again change for the better.

Bales, Kevin. 2000. "Expendable People: Slavery in the Age of Globalization." *Journal of International Affairs* 53 (2):461.

Annotation: Bales' influential article (a modified version of his seminal book) lays out contemporary slavery in a very easy to understand manner. Globalization, he contends, has contributed to the growth of slavery by allowing downward pressure on wage rates in the developing world. This economic vulnerability, combined with a high population growth and lack of regulation, creates space for, in a manner of speaking, the commercialization of humans. Aside from contributing to the proliferation and elaboration of contemporary slavery, globalization has also made possible the cooperation of world agencies and states in combating the practice today.

Bales, Kevin. 2001. "Going Cheap." *New Internationalist* (337):14.

Annotation: This article begins by noting the worldwide media attention placed on the "slave ship of Benin," a ship carrying two hundred enslaved children. The ship was refused docking at Gabon and Cameroon, and when it finally docked in Benin, there were only forty-three children left. They were sold into slavery in Gabon. The rest of the article explains the economics of the new slavery, and points to slavery's ties in the cocoa, carpet, sugar, and jewelry industries. The author comments that the global anti-slavery movement is still in its infancy.

Bales, Kevin, and Peter T. Robbins. 2001. "'No One Shall Be Held in Slavery or Servitude': A Critical Analysis of International Slavery Agreements and Concepts of Slavery." *Human Rights Review* 2 (2):18.

Annotation: This article traces shifting definitions of slavery since the first laws of abolition were passed in 1815. The authors identify three dimensions of modern slavery: loss of free will, appropriation of labor power, and violence or the threat of violence. They then explicate the different forms that slavery takes, and show that, while all three dimensions might not be present at once in any given situation, at least one will be present. Definitional issues aside, this article does a fine job of showing slavery's continued prevalence, and suggests options for reducing its power.

Besley, Timothy, and Robin Burgess. 2003. "Halving Global Poverty." *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 17 (3):3-22.

Annotation: This article provides a number of policy recommendations for achieving the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals' target of halving of global poverty. The article details areas of social existence that can cause impoverishment, and which may in fact be improved by a reduction in poverty. It does not specifically mention slavery, but it does provide a great deal of information about attempts to control poverty. The authors place the onus of poverty reduction not on states, but on an institution-level approach, which is more in line with current microeconomic theories.

Bhukuth, Augendra. 2005. "Child Labour and Debt Bondage: A Case Study of Brick Kiln Workers in Southeast India." *Journal of Asian & African Studies* 40 (4):287-302.

Annotation: The line between child work and child labor is a thin one, and is further complicated by the International Labor Organization's (ILO) attempts to define the "worst forms of child labor." The authors of this article point out the conditions of poverty that can lead to child exploitation as laborers. The article focuses on child workers in brick kilns in India, and addresses the role that their parents might play in sending their children away to work. The author mentions how children can be sent to work when the family income falls below the household survival level. The article provides a very concise look at the issues surrounding child labor.

Blagbrough, Jonathan, and Edmund Glynn. 1999. "Child Domestic Workers: Characteristics of the Modern Slave and Approaches to Ending Such Exploitation." *Childhood* 6 (1):51.

Annotation: This article addresses the prevalence of child domestic workers (domestics) and the work being done to reduce and to eventually do away with the practice itself. The authors note some of the potential abuses that domestics may face, including long hours and physical abuse. What makes the problem so difficult to combat is that in many cases, the sending family allows their children to become domestic workers because it is seen as an acceptable thing to do. The authors of this article do not shy away from criticizing this "cultural" practice. They recommend a gradualist methodology, combined with increased governmental involvement, in order to combat the problem.

Chuang, Janie. 2006. "Beyond a Snapshot: Preventing Human Trafficking in the Global Economy." *Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies* 13 (1):137-163.

Annotation: This article details the frequent reluctance or inability of states to properly attend to or even address the root causes behind the global trade of human beings. The author notes that states often attempt prosecution as opposed to prevention, and that a comprehensive plan to promote the socioeconomic status of vulnerable people is necessary if the problem is to be addressed comprehensively. This plan, she notes, would be built on a framework of human rights. The plan's implementation worldwide would do much to curb the trade of humans. Also discussed is the lack of proper bylaws to handle slaves who happen to be involved in illegal activities.

Dodson, Howard. 2005. "Slavery in the Twenty-First Century." *UN Chronicle* 42 (3):28-29.

Annotation: The author uses this short article to lay out the modern-day institution of slavery. He discusses how it is not only more prevalent today than it was during the 400-plus years of the transatlantic slave trade, but that it is also much more powerful and dangerous. This is due to

three main factors: (1) slavery is now illegal, so records of transactions and, of course, the slaves themselves, must be kept secret; (2) slavery is no longer racially-based, so nearly anyone can now become enslaved; (3) there is no guarantee that a slave will stay in his or her home country, as they stand a chance of being trafficked to the other side of the world. Like many articles of its ilk, this piece serves very well to introduce the problem of contemporary slavery.

Dottridge, Mike. 2002. "Trafficking in Children in West and Central Africa." *Gender and Development* 10 (1):38-42.

Annotation: Dottridge describes the trafficking of children in West Africa by stating in his first sentence that "Poverty is a central factor in the decision of parents to send their children away to work." The rest of the article addresses the ways in which children are separated from their families in order to supposedly make money to support them. The work of various NGOs is also explained. The author mentions the difference in gender roles with respect to child labor, and suggests complicity on the part of some West African governments in allowing the slave trade to continue on their soil. His contention is that if the majority of the poor who are being turned over to traffickers and slavers were male rather than female, perhaps additional action might be taken to combat poverty and/or slavery.

Elahi, Khandakar Q., and Constantine P. Danopoulos. 2004. "Microfinance and Third World Development: A Critical Analysis." *Journal of Political & Military Sociology* 32 (1):61-77.

Annotation: Microfinance/microcredit is a controversial topic, and this article does not shy away from its status as such. The authors investigate whether microfinance ventures in the developing world have actually done more good than harm. The tough questions, they argue, are simply not being asked often enough; the answers certainly haven't been forthcoming. Does repayment of loans occur at a high level because of increased economic ability, or does the mere promise of more loans promote repayment? The article's overall tone is cautious, as it is understood that such studies will necessarily have to occur over a very long period of time.

Engerman, Stanley L. 2000. "Slavery at Different Times and Places." *The American Historical Review* 105 (2):480-484.

Annotation: This interesting article highlights what the author considers to be shortcomings within the scholarship on slavery as it has occurred in the past, and how these shortcomings might affect policy decisions in the present day. He argues that slavery rarely develops as a series of cut-and-dry factors. Instead, the author focuses on misperceptions, especially in the West, that reduce slavery to considerations of racism and power. This is incorrect, the author notes, and points to a number of periods in the past when slavery may have been more "desirable," read safer, than the current system of rule. He also makes an interesting correlation between development and slavery, noting that when a society rises above subsistence, it actually increases the possibility and profitability of slavery.

Fitzgibbon, Kathleen. 2003. "Modern-Day Slavery? The Scope of Trafficking in Persons in Africa." *African Security Review* 12 (1):9.

Annotation: The article's author, the senior reporting officer for Africa in the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons of the United States Department of State, explains the various definitions and manifestations of trafficking in Africa. She notes the various causes of contemporary slavery and its effects on human rights, public health, human capital, and social exclusion. These are the effects most often associated with illicit trade in humans, but the author goes a step further and identifies the effects of trafficking on the erosion of governmental authority in the presence of organized crime. Although it is a short piece, the article's mention of the political dimension of slavery is a welcome addition to the discourse on the topic.

Godrej, Dinyar. 2001. "Of Human Bondage." *New Internationalist* (337):9.

Annotation: Godrej's article focuses on the semantic difficulties in describing the concept of "debt bondage," the most prevalent form of modern slavery. An estimated twenty million of the world's slaves are debt-bonded. Godrej posits a clear distinction between those who are actually in debt bondage, and those who are, in all respects, slaves. The line is a thin one, to be sure. His main contention is that a person in debt bondage becomes a slave when they are no longer allowed to leave, physically, the location of their bondage. In most other respects, those who are bonded are simply being exploited economically for a debt that they will probably never repay.

Gunnell, Barbara. 2004. "Nothing to Sell but their Bodies." *New Statesman* 133 (4677):32-33.

Annotation: This short article excoriates, in a roundabout way, the lack of concern that Western Europeans have for the crushing poverty that so often drives people into slave status. It focuses on Nepal, where the government spends three times more money fighting Maoist rebels than it does educating its population. This disregard for the proper development of its own citizens, combined with misguided efforts of international NGOs, contributes greatly to the continuing strength of economically-motivated slavery in the modern world.

International Labor Organization - Department for International Development. 2007. "Breaking the Chains: Eliminating Slavery, Ending Poverty."

[http://www.britainusa.com/sections/articles\\_show\\_nt1.asp?d=0&i=41063&L1=41063&L2=0&a=46086](http://www.britainusa.com/sections/articles_show_nt1.asp?d=0&i=41063&L1=41063&L2=0&a=46086)

Annotation: The Department for International Development (DFID) of the International Labor Organization (ILO) released this "promotional" material to inform members of the general public about contemporary slavery. The year 2007 marks the bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act, which officially outlawed the slave trade in the British Empire. The article



details the state of modern slavery, and addresses steps being taken by the ILO and DFID to combat it. It is a readable presentation of fairly shocking information.

International Labor Office. 2005. "A Global Alliance against Forced Labour"  
[http://www.ilo.org/dyn/declaris/DECLARATIONWEB.DOWNLOAD\\_BLOB?Var\\_DocumentID=5059](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/declaris/DECLARATIONWEB.DOWNLOAD_BLOB?Var_DocumentID=5059)

Annotation: This International Labor Organization (ILO) report explains the current state of forced labor. The report is worth reading; the section on poverty as it relates to forced labor is especially interesting. It shows how poverty can be not only a cause of slavery, but how it can also be a result of slavery. Real wages lost in the slave trade, money that could be used by the slaves, is simply not being spent. This depresses local economies, in addition to creating a worldwide ripple effect. As slaves are freed, they actually contribute to the economy.

Jones, Loring, David W. Engstrom, Tricia Hilliard, and Mariel Diaz. 2007. "Globalization and Human Trafficking." *Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare* 34 (2):107-122.

Annotation: In this article, the authors present an easy-to-understand yet detailed breakdown of human trafficking. Not only does the piece concern itself with the causes, manifestations, and policy implications of trafficking but it also addresses the "human" side of the illicit trade of humans, as told specifically from the view of social workers. Additionally, the authors address the semantic difficulties present in even topical discussions of slavery. The article is a worthy introductory look at the international institution of human trafficking.

Lancet. 2003. "Slavery Today." *Lancet* 361 (9375):2093.

Annotation: This editorial is a very compact piece that touches on many of the most pressing issues regarding the illicit trade in humans. The author notes the occurrence of debt-bondage and its reliance on un-payable fees in order to keep cheap laborers. The extreme reach of slavery is also mentioned, as is the difficulty of combating it on both a global scale and a state level. The author suggests policy options and commonsense notions for freeing, protecting, and then shielding slaves from further exploitation.

Leuchtag, Alice. 2003. "Human Rights Sex Trafficking and Prostitution." *Humanist* 63 (1):10.

Annotation: In her article, Leuchtag reprises the life narrative of a prominent Thai sex worker. She then details the sex tourism industry of Thailand, a nation that is, in so many of her words, driven by international monetary policy into allowing flagrant abuses of human rights. Her contention is that Thailand will take no concrete steps to curb this abuse since it derives a massive amount of its gross domestic product (GDP) from its sex workers. The author then mentions some of the many pitfalls of legalized prostitution, and expresses a hope that the

United Nations' Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons would eventually be extended to such "acceptable" sex-industry activities.

Maier, Katrin. 2006. "Inquiry." *Journal of Children & Poverty* 12 (2):175-185.

Annotation: This interview with Richard Danziger, head of the Counter-Trafficking Division of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), covers a broad range of topics related to the study of contemporary slavery. Although it focuses primarily on how slavery is aggravated by trafficking, Danziger also addresses prostitution, poverty, and globalization in various contexts. He notes initiatives that the IOM is promoting among the developed and underdeveloped countries of the world, and how treaties and conventions can only do so much to stem the flow of slaves and the growth of the industries that rely on slave labor.

Manzo, Kate. 2005. "Exploiting West Africa's Children: Trafficking, Slavery and Uneven Development." *Area* 37 (4):393-401.

Annotation: The author of this article is concerned with semantic problems that are encountered when describing a slave; this article in particular focuses on child labor in the form of slavery and its relationship to child trafficking. The author notes the media sensationalism surrounding the "exploitation" of child labor, even when such labor is not exploitative. The only substantive portion of the article, from the point of view of a researcher, is the presentation of a theory that uneven development, in this case Western Africa, greatly increases the likelihood of labor exploitation. Inhabitants of impoverished countries with high unemployment are easily trapped by false promises of economic relief across borders.

Miers, Suzanne. 2000. "Contemporary Forms of Slavery." *Canadian Journal of African Studies / Revue Canadienne des Etudes Africaines* 34 (3):714-747.

Annotation: This article is a perfect starting point for research of, and discussion about, contemporary slavery. Not only does the author investigate the twisted history of terminology inherent in discussions of slavery; she also follows the growth of bureaucratic apparatuses to deal with its various forms. These forms are illuminated at length in the different sections of the article. It is a well-researched and very reasonable attempt at explaining contemporary slavery in all of its forms. For seasoned and beginning researchers alike, the author offers a very easy-to-approach style.

Miller, John R. 2006. "Slave Trade." *Harvard International Review* 27 (4):70-73.

Annotation: This article serves to explicate modern day slavery, or what the author terms "trafficking in persons" (TIP). It also aims to inform the reader of the very human costs of the trade, including post-traumatic stress disorder, disease, and violence. The article is concerned with the global trade of people for sexual exploitation. The author notes that even though global

poverty has decreased slightly in recent years, the slave trade has surged markedly. This, he contends, is due in large part to an increased ease of communication and transportation.

Minitzer, Richard. 1999. "The False Promise of Slave Redemption." *Atlantic Monthly* 284 (1):63-70.

Annotation: This is a fascinating article that explains in no uncertain terms how the popular practice of "buying" the freedom of slaves, in this case southern Sudanese, actually contributes to further enslavement. Western NGOs in the early to mid-1990s raised many thousands of dollars to buy and free slaves in Sudan. This practice, which is deliciously profitable for slave-owners, does not cause them to stop slaving. On the contrary, they have recognized such purchases as an even greater incentive for raiding villages for slaves. Well-meaning activism makes it pointless to even consider setting slaves free when their freedom might be purchased in the future.

Morrison, Tamsin. 2005. "The Effect of Just a £20 Loan." *New African* (436):50-51.

Annotation: This article tells the story of Alice Jere, a Zambian woman, who after receiving a £20 loan from a microlending institution, became a successful entrepreneur. Ms. Jere stopped working in a copper mine to support her family, and instead bought fifty chickens. She now has 800 chickens, sells cooking oil and sugar, and even employs other members of her community. A very small institutional investment brought Ms. Jere out of poverty; she is now helping others to do the same. Her initial loan is a perfect example of how microfinancing can work when it works well. Other success stories are also mentioned in the article.

Opondo, Maggie, and Seniorina Wendoh. 2006. "Old Wine in New Skins: A Marshall Plan for Africa?" *Antipode* 38 (4):686-690.

Annotation: This short letter from the Editorial Board of the journal *Antipode* mockingly refers to a "Marshall Plan" for Africa, and excoriates the developed world's attempts to "help" Africa along in its development. Citing numerous examples of failed initiatives and mis-focused Western empathy towards the continent, the authors point out that the one thing that must change in order to stop and to reverse the perceived downward slide of Africa is to hold the heads of its governments accountable for their actions. Development can still occur from the outside inward, but without structures in place to guide it along, it could all be for naught.

Posel, Dori. 1997. "Counting the Poor: Who Gets What in Which Households?" *Agenda* (33):49-60.

Annotation: This article explains the role that statistical analysis plays in the reporting of poverty risks. At stake are differences in gender-based research and the role that spending plays within households. The main thrust of the article is that even though the label of "poverty" can be applied to diverse situations based on a preset earning amount, deeper investigations of the data reveal a great deal more about a given economic situation. Although primarily concerned with

data on South African poverty statistics, the article's findings can be applied to a variety of geographical locations.

Ravallion, Martin, Gaurav Datt, and Dominique van de Walle. 1991. "Quantifying Absolute Poverty in the Developing World." *Review of Income & Wealth* 37 (4):345-361.

Annotation: Although this is not an article dealing specifically with either the causes of poverty or its effects on the rise of contemporary slavery, this piece investigates statistical data and attempts (in terms of the early 1990s) to provide a more reasonable approximation of what constitutes extreme poverty. For those unfamiliar with statistical interpretation, much of the article will appear unreadable. However, for those attempting to gain a deeper understanding of poverty statistics and the functional-financial options available to policymakers, the article works well. The piece also quantifies the need for increased consumption levels on the part of the poor.

Skrivankova, Klara. 2006. "Combating Trafficking in Human Beings." *International Review of Law, Computers & Technology* 20 (1/2):229-232.

Annotation: This article focuses on the lack of state protections for victims of the global slave trade. Persons revealed to be slaves are seldom afforded the necessary legal protection to prevent them from being re-trafficked or harmed while they await the authorities' actions. Status as a trafficked person is oftentimes accorded with illegality, and, in the European Union especially, slaves are unable to seek proper legal redress. The author notes that numerous conventions to support the basic legal rights of trafficked persons are frequently left unenforced or remain unsigned. These basic legal privileges would greatly increase the ability of slaves to break out of the cycle of servitude.

Staiger, Ines. 2005. "Trafficking in Children for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation in the EU." *European Journal of Crime, Criminal Law & Criminal Justice* 13 (4):603-624.

Annotation: This article looks at the development of the European Union's attempts to combat the trafficking of humans, especially children, for the purpose of sexual slavery. Concerning herself mainly with the legal definitions of such vague terms as consent, sexual exploitation, and smuggling, the author also profiles child sex traffickers, the children themselves, and those for whom the slaves are provided. The author also describes in great detail Germany's legal code with respect to child sex trafficking. Unless one is concerned especially with child sex trafficking in Germany, the last few pages are of no consequence, save the concluding remarks on the inefficiency and ineptitude of both Germany's and the European Union's child sex laws.

Tavip, Saepul. 2006. "A Kind of Modern Slavery: Labor Flexibility Comes to Indonesia: An Interview with Saepul Tavip." *Multinational Monitor* 27(4).

Annotation: This interview with Mr. Saepul Tavip, a member and past chair of the Indonesian Association of Trade Unions, illuminates the role of labor unions in the reform age after the departure of Suharto in Indonesia. Involuntary termination of employment is instilled in the Indonesian business community, and when combined with Western interests for cheap labor, the positions of industrial workers are tenuous at best. The interview provides information about further changes to union laws that make workers even less well-protected. To avoid the risk of termination, much bargaining power is lost, and benefits and wages are generally decided entirely by the employer to the detriment of the employee.

Wilson, Deborah G., William F. Walsh, and Sherilyn Kleuber. 2006. "Trafficking in Human Beings: Training and Services among US Law Enforcement Agencies." *Police Practice & Research* 7 (2):149-160.

Annotation: This article's main focus is on the perception of human trafficking within United States law enforcement at the local level. A comprehensive survey was distributed to police departments nationwide, and the results quite clearly show that while local law enforcement officers are far more likely to uncover potential and actual victims/operations of human trafficking, they believe that the federal government should be the primary enforcer of anti-trafficking legislation. It appears from the results of the study that in most cases officers do not know modern slavery when they see it. The author notes that even when trafficking cases are revealed, they often involve female sex slaves, and that officers tend to view these victims first as prostitutes and then as trafficked persons, a worldview that is exactly backwards. The United States, as an affluent nation, is and will continue to be a receiver of trafficked people. It is the duty of local law enforcement agencies to train and prepare for the continued influx of these persons.

Woolman, Stu, and Michael Bishop. 2006. "State as Pimp: Sexual Slavery in South Africa." *Development Southern Africa* 23 (3):385-400.

Annotation: This article by a duo of constitutional lawyers details the sex slave trade in South Africa. The authors note the importation of slaves from as far away as Thailand, which boasts its own massive sex industry. Many of these Thai sex slaves are actually educated women who are tricked into pursuing lucrative restaurant jobs in major South African cities. The same is true of slaves "stolen" from across South Africa's borders. Such women are, in essence, kidnapped from border villages by businessmen and truck drivers, relocated to South Africa, and raped before being released. Sadly, a lack of constitutional protection, as well as continuing poverty, may drive these women back into slavery.

World Bank. 2004. "Poverty Analysis: Overview." <http://go.worldbank.org/K7LWQUT9L0>.

Annotation: The World Bank's PovertyNet presents this well-built piece explaining poverty. Far simpler than a set of definitions, it presents methods for measuring poverty, and explains how these methods have changed. PovertyNet presents information on poverty trends, noting wide regional disparities in modern times. The piece also comprehensively discusses the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals and the work that is being done in order to meet the targets set by the United Nations. The structure of the global "attack" on poverty is laid out in a very detailed fashion. When taken as a whole, the article presents a multi-dimensional picture of poverty in the present era.

Zenaida, Agnes. 1999. "Family, Child Labour and Migration: Child Domestic Workers in Metro Manila." *Childhood* 6 (1):57.

Annotation: This case study of child domestic workers in metro Manila, Philippines, highlights and dispels some common stereotypes of child laborers and serves to better explain the motivations of children who seek work in cities. The study reveals that in most cases, children go to work to support their family or siblings. Interestingly, many of the children interviewed responded that they are also working to pay either for their own education or for the education of their siblings. While all of the families of the children involved were indeed living under the poverty line, the study shows that approximately eighty percent of the cases the decision to work was that of the child. This study, the first of its kind, helps to better understand the world of child labor, at least in the Philippines.