

# **The Divide: A Brief Guide to Global Inequality and Its Solutions\***

Read an in-depth review of Jason Hickel's *\*The Divide\**. Discover its summary, key insights, bold solutions to global inequality, and a rich FAQ section optimized for Google.

A Brief Guide to  
Global Inequality  
and its Solutions

The

# DIVIDE

'Iconoclastic'

**HA-JOON CHANG**

'Myth-busting at its best'

**DANNY DORLING**

Jason  
Hickel

## Highlights

A powerful critique of the **progress narrative** around global poverty.

Explains why **aid-driven development models fail** to address the systemic inequality.

Offers **bold solutions** like debt cancellation, fair trade reforms, and degrowth policies.

## Content

The Divide by Jason Hickel — Complete Book Review, Summary, and Key Insights

Author: Jason Hickel

Title: The Divide: A Brief Guide to Global Inequality and Its Solutions\*

Published: 2017

Genre: Non-fiction | Economics | Global Inequality

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### Introduction

Global inequality is one of the defining challenges of our era. In "The Divide: A Brief Guide to Global Inequality and Its Solutions, Jason Hickel dismantles the comforting myth that poverty is being eradicated. He argues that inequality is structurally maintained through centuries of colonial exploitation, unfair trade systems, and **global debt dependency.**"

This review provides a comprehensive summary, key insights, strengths, criticisms, and actionable takeaways from the book. It also includes a rich FAQ section optimized for featured snippets and People Also Ask (PAA) results.

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## Part 1: Summary of The Divide

Jason Hickel reframes global poverty as a **political choice** rather than a natural state. According to Hickel, the current economic system maintains a deliberate imbalance between the **Global North** and **Global South**.

### Key Themes Explored

Colonial legacies: How centuries of exploitation created structural poverty.

Debt dependency: Developing nations are trapped in cycles of repayment that limit development.

Unfair trade agreements: Global economic rules favor wealthy nations.

Environmental limits: Achieving Western living standards globally is ecologically unsustainable.

> “Ending poverty requires transforming the rules of the global economy, not just increasing aid.” — Jason Hickel

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## Part 2: Key Strengths and Insights

### 1. Compelling Critique of the Progress Narrative

Hickel challenges mainstream reports suggesting poverty is declining. He argues that while extreme poverty rates appear lower, they hide growing wealth concentration and systemic inequality.

### 2. Historical and Structural Depth

- \* Examines colonial history and its modern economic consequences.
- \* Shows how IMF and World Bank policies **consolidate power** in wealthy nations.
- \* Links inequality to **climate change** and **resource exploitation**.

### ### **3. Hard-Hitting Statistics**

- \* **8 people** control as much wealth as the **poorest 3.6 billion**.

\* Lifting everyone above  $\$5/\text{day}$  would require a **175x** increase in GDP, which would accelerate climate collapse.

\* Developing countries lose  **$\$2$  trillion annually** through debt servicing and unfair trade.

### **4. Bold Solutions**

Hickel advocates for **transformative global reforms**:

\* **Debt cancellation** for developing nations

\* **Fair trade policies** that benefit poorer economies

\* **Degrowth strategies** to protect ecosystems

\* **Redistribution through global taxation and minimum wages**

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## **Part 3: Limitations and Counterpoints**

While the book is groundbreaking, several criticisms arise:

### **1. Implementation Challenges**

Hickel's proposed solutions require **massive political coordination**, which critics argue lacks realistic pathways.

### **2. Oversimplification Risks**

The book condenses **complex economic structures** into accessible arguments, but some nuances are left unexplored.

### **3. Limited Exploration of Alternative Paths**

Some economists suggest **market-based reforms** and **sustainable development goals (SDGs)** as complementary solutions, which Hickel underemphasizes.

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## **Rich FAQ Section**

**(Optimized for Google Featured Snippets & PAA)**

### \*\*1. What is \*The Divide\* by Jason Hickel about?\*

A book examining **global inequality** and arguing that poverty is politically created and maintained through **colonialism, debt, unfair trade, and environmental exploitation**.

### \*\*2. What are Jason Hickel's proposed solutions?\*

- \* Debt cancellation
- \* Fair trade reforms
- \* Degrowth policies
- \* Global wealth redistribution
- \* Climate justice frameworks

### \*\*3. Does Hickel criticize international aid?\*

Yes. He argues aid **masks systemic issues** and calls for structural reform instead.

### \*\*4. Is \*The Divide\* relevant to climate change?\*

Absolutely. Hickel links **poverty, economic growth, and ecological sustainability**, advocating for **degrowth** to avoid climate collapse.

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SEO Metadata

SEO Title:

The Divide Book Review — Jason Hickel's Guide to Global Inequality & Solutions

Meta Description:

Read an in-depth review of Jason Hickel's *The Divide*. Discover its summary, key insights, bold solutions to global inequality, and a rich FAQ section optimized for Google.

**Target Keywords:**

The Divide book review, Jason Hickel book summary, global inequality solutions, poverty and sustainability, degrowth economics, debt cancellation, climate justice

**Suggested URL:**

`/book-reviews/the-divide-jason-hickel`

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