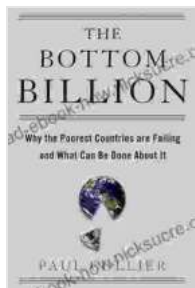


# Why The Poorest Countries Are Failing And What Can Be Done About It



## The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It (Grove Art)

by Paul Collier

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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The world's poorest countries are facing a multitude of challenges that are hindering their development and economic progress. These challenges include extreme poverty, widespread disease, rampant corruption, political instability, and a lack of access to education and healthcare.

### Extreme Poverty

Extreme poverty is the most fundamental challenge facing the world's poorest countries. According to the World Bank, extreme poverty is defined as living on less than \$1.90 per day. In 2015, an estimated 736 million people lived in extreme poverty, mostly in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Extreme poverty has a devastating impact on the lives of those who live in it. It leads to hunger, malnutrition, disease, and a lack of access to basic necessities such as clean water, sanitation, and education. Extreme poverty also makes it difficult for people to escape it, as they often lack the resources and opportunities to improve their lives.

### **Widespread Disease**

Another major challenge facing the world's poorest countries is widespread disease. These countries often have high rates of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis. These diseases can be fatal if left untreated, and they can also lead to chronic health problems that can prevent people from working or going to school.

The lack of access to healthcare in these countries is a major contributing factor to the spread of disease. Many people in poor countries cannot afford to pay for medical care, and they often live in unsanitary conditions that make them more susceptible to disease.

### **Rampant Corruption**

Corruption is another major obstacle to development in the world's poorest countries. Corruption takes many forms, such as bribery, extortion, and fraud. It can lead to a lack of accountability and transparency in government, and it can also discourage investment and economic growth.

Corruption is particularly harmful in the context of extreme poverty, as it can divert resources away from those who need them most. For example, money that is intended for poverty reduction programs may be stolen by corrupt officials, or it may be used to fund projects that benefit the wealthy elite.

## **Political Instability**

Political instability is another major challenge facing the world's poorest countries. Many of these countries have unstable governments that are unable to provide basic services to their citizens. This can lead to violence, conflict, and human rights abuses.

Political instability can also deter investment and economic growth. Investors are less likely to invest in countries that are unstable, and this can lead to a lack of jobs and opportunities for the people who live there.

## **Lack of Access to Education and Healthcare**

The world's poorest countries often lack access to education and healthcare. This is due to a number of factors, such as poverty, conflict, and discrimination.

The lack of access to education can have a devastating impact on the lives of children. Without an education, children are less likely to be able to find a job or earn a decent income. They are also more likely to be involved in crime or violence.

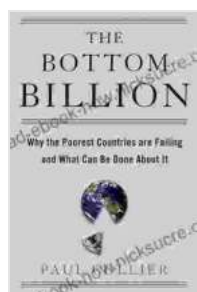
The lack of access to healthcare can also have a devastating impact on the lives of people. Without access to healthcare, people are more likely to die from preventable diseases. They are also more likely to suffer from chronic health problems that can prevent them from working or going to school.

## **What Can Be Done**

There are a number of things that can be done to address the challenges facing the world's poorest countries. These include:

- **Investing in poverty reduction programs:** Poverty reduction programs can help to provide people with the basic necessities they need, such as food, water, and shelter. They can also help to provide people with access to education and healthcare.
- **Fighting corruption:** Corruption can be fought through a number of measures, such as increasing transparency and accountability in government, strengthening the rule of law, and promoting good governance.
- **Promoting peace and stability:** Peace and stability can be promoted through a number of measures, such as supporting democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.
- **Investing in education and healthcare:** Education and healthcare are essential for economic development. Investing in these sectors can help to break the cycle of poverty and improve the lives of people in the world's poorest countries.

The challenges facing the world's poorest countries are complex and interconnected. There is no easy solution, but by addressing these challenges in a comprehensive way, we can help to create a more just and equitable world.



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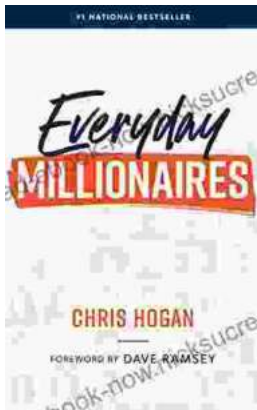
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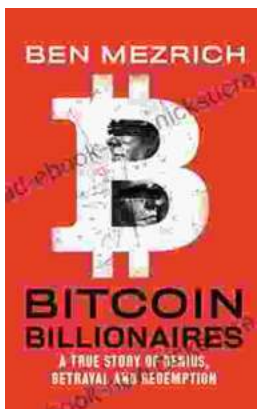
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