

# North America Causes Poverty in the Third World

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After much deliberation, I have come to the conclusion that 'we' are all horribly selfish. Not intentionally of course. It just sort of happened you know, snuck into our lives when we weren't looking. By 'we,' I mean much of the population in the Northern Hemisphere.

Yes, we're gorgers, gluttons, plump little people living luxurious lives at the expense of those skinny folks in the [Third World](#). "Luxurious!?" you cry in objection. "But of course," I cry back comparing our living space to the nice patch of dirt that many of our starving buddies occupy.

Indeed, we [suck](#) the lives out of 80 percent of the world's population and smile gleefully as we sip our latte's with the remaining 20 percent, either calmly ignoring or just plain oblivious to the fact that we are exploiting the lives of millions of people so we can live the top notch lives we so deserve.

Angry yet? Yeah, I understand. We work hard, we go to school, we get jobs, we live our lives, and now we're being told that simply living the way we do is, well, criminal. That really sucks, huh? It's not like we wake up each morning with this plan, this ultimate goal, "Hey, I'm going to vacuum up the lives our Third World pals so I can live the coolest life

ever!" Oh no, we really are nice people – but selfishness works in sneaky ways.

It's the very governments that we stand for, that we support each and every day of our lives that have contributed vastly to the unending problem of world hunger. Of course, we as Canadians pride ourselves as people who support foreign aid programs to help other countries, but what didn't they tell us?

Picture this: it's lunchtime and you're really hungry, you're craving those oil-soaked spring rolls in Spiegel Hall, but you're bro...

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... devours forty times more of the world's resources (food, energy, water, manufactured goods) than a kid in a developing nation. Or the fact that it takes around 2,500 calories a day to make the human body function in a healthy way and in Canada, we have 130 percent of those calories available per person, the U.S. has 140 percent per person, while Mozambique has only 68 percent of the requirement available per person and Bangladesh has 78 percent per person.

It's crystal clear. Now that we know about our piggish ways, are we all set to change our lifestyles? Are we all ready for some action? The future of our lovely planet relies on our answer to this final question: Are we willing to live more simply so that those in developing nations can simply live?

Source

World Vision Canada (Development Education Department)

<http://www.worldvision.ca/home/index.cfm>

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