

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This Study Guide is designed to facilitate classroom use of *The Fabric of Reform*, a 30-minute educational video created by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The Guide is intended for use with students in economics and international relations courses at the secondary and post-secondary levels. It includes a segment-by-segment summary of the video; background information; pre-viewing, post-viewing, and research activities; a list of resources; a glossary; maps; and charts.

OBJECTIVES

After viewing the video and using this Guide, students should be able to

- Outline the economic reforms initiated in the mid-1990s by the governments of three countries in West Africa — Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, and Mali.
- Explain the effects of currency devaluation and structural adjustment on economic activity in these countries.
- Identify the steps that governments in these countries are taking to promote economic development, raise standards of living, and reduce poverty.

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Agriculture is a major economic activity in all three of the countries featured in the video. Roughly 60 percent of Cameroonians, for example, make their living through some type of agricultural activity. Here a young Cameroonian girl harvests maize by hand.

“Economic development is a many-sided enterprise, not a distinct activity separate from the general economic life of the country. Nor is development just a matter of drawing up a development plan, devising a ‘strategy’ or building dams and putting up factories. It is a far broader process that encompasses improving the efficiency with which economic resources are used, adapting social arrangements and institutions to foster growth, changing attitudes, providing incentives, and much else.”

— from *Promoting Development: The IMF’s Contribution*, IMF, 1991