







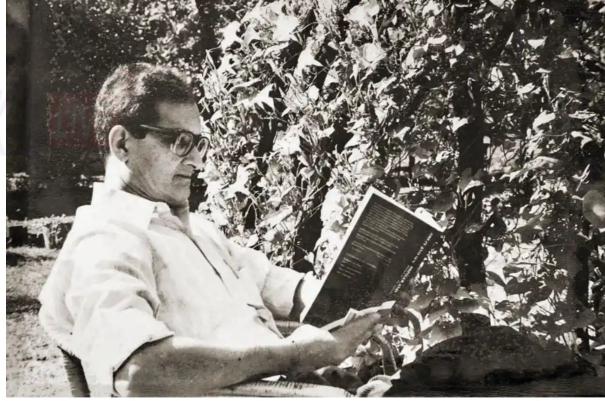


Amartya Sen - His Lifelong Quest for Social Justice

Amartya Sen was a well-known economist and philosopher. Has made an indelible impression on the globe with his breakthrough works in economics, ethics, and social justice. Sen's intellectual journey began in 1933 in Santiniketan, India, with a dogged pursuit of learning about and enhancing the human condition. His original ideas, advocacy for social welfare, and the influence of his work earned him the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences in 1998. In this blog article, we will look at Amartya Sen's biography, outstanding writings, and lasting legacy in economics and social justice.

Amartya Sen's Early Life and Education

Amartya Sen was born on 3rd November 1933, in Santiniketan, India. His early living circumstances had a significant impact on his intellectual ambitions. He was exposed to varied ideas from a young age because he was raised in a multicultural atmosphere. His father, Ashutosh Sen, was a renowned scholar of ancient Indian literature, and his maternal grandfather, Kshiti Mohan Sen, was also a prominent scholar. Sen's early schooling at Shantiniketan, founded by Rabindranath Tagore, exposed him to a variety of subjects, cultivating his interdisciplinary approach to societal concerns.



[Source: Open Magazine]

Sen continued his schooling in the United Kingdom, where he attended the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford. His Ph.D. thesis on poverty measurement marked the beginning of his seminal work in welfare economics and social choice theory.









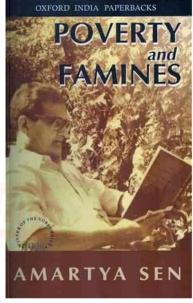


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Amartya Sen's Key Works and Contributions

Amartya Sen is a renowned Indian economist and philosopher who has written numerous books and articles on a wide range of topics. It includes economics, philosophy, ethics, and development. Some of his most significant books and achievements include:

Poverty and Famines: Sen's 1981 book "Poverty and Famines" looked at the causes of famines and suggested that food supply alone was insufficient to keep people from starving. He popularized the concept of "entitlements." Arguing that a person's capacity to acquire food, rather than the availability of food, determines their vulnerability to hunger.



[Source: Amazon]

If you want to read this book Click here

Development as Freedom: Sen articulates his vision for human growth in "Development as Freedom," his seminal work. He contends that development should be defined not only in terms of economic growth but also in terms of the increase of human freedoms and choices.



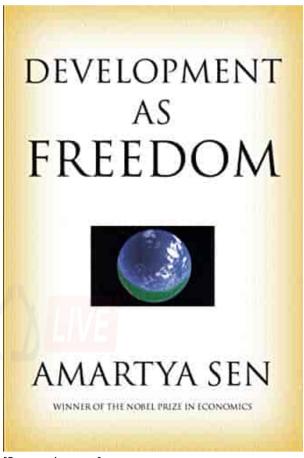








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[Source: Amazon]

On Economic Inequality: Sen proposed the concept of "functionings and capabilities" in his 1973 book "On Economic Inequality." This work emphasized that poverty should not be defined primarily by wealth. But also by an individual's abilities and opportunity to live a meaningful life.



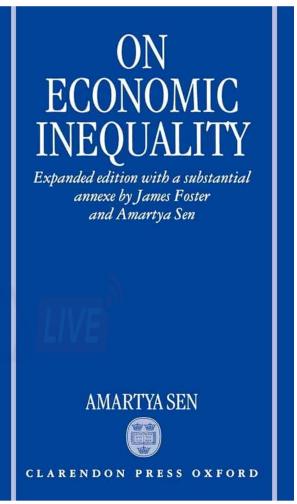








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[Source: Amazon]

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Identity and Violence: Sen looks into the intricate relationship between identity, violence, and human behavior in "Identity and Violence." He contends that restricted identities, whether religious, national, or ethnic, can lead to conflict and violence.



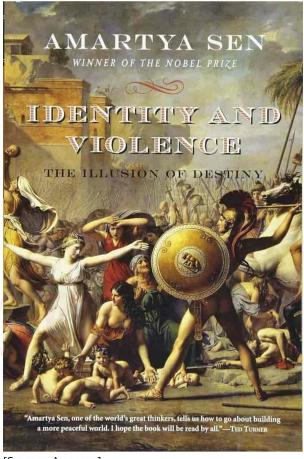








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[Source: Amazon]

Hunger and Public Action: Amartya Sen's work on famine and hunger has influenced public policy and international humanitarian efforts. His research on the 1943 Bengal hunger and the entitlement method sheds light on the underlying causes of hunger. Emphasizing the need for food distribution, social safety nets, and civic engagement in preventing starvation.



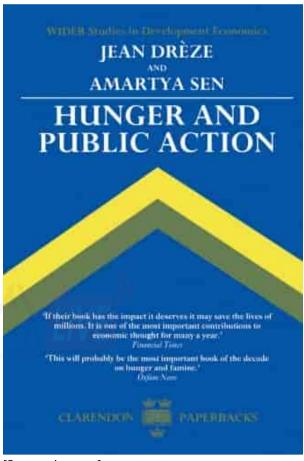








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[Source: Amazon]

List of Books and Works written by Amartya sen

Throughout his distinguished career, Amartya Sen was an Indian economist and philosopher. He has produced numerous books and scholarly publications. Here is a full list of his books and selected works:

Books:











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Choice of Techniques (1960)

Collective Choice and Social Welfare (1970)

Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation (1981)

Resources, Values, and Development (1984)

Commodities and Capabilities (1985)

The Standard of Living (1987)

On Ethics and Economics (1987)

The Political Economy of Hunger: Selected Essays (1990)

Inequality Reexamined (1992)

Reason Before Identity (1993)

Development as Freedom (1999)

Rationality and Freedom (2002)

The Argumentative Indian: Writings on Indian History, Culture and Identity (2005)

Identity and Violence: The Illusion of Destiny (2006)

The Idea of Justice (2009)

Peace and Democratic Society (2014)

An Uncertain Glory: India and its Contradictions (with Jean Drèze, 2013)

The Country of First Boys: And Other Essays (2015)

Collective Choice and Social Welfare: Expanded Edition (2017)

Economic Inequality (2019)

Home in the World: A Memoir (2021)

Selected Works and Essays:

The Impossibility of a Paretian Liberal (1970)

Poverty: An Ordinal Approach to Measurement (1976)

Equality of What? (1980)

Gender and Cooperative Conflicts (1990)

Freedom, Rationality, and Social Choice (1993)

Capability and Well-Being (1993)

Capability as Social Freedom (1999)

Democracy as a Universal Value (1999)

The Ends and Means of Welfare Economics (1999)

The Discipline of Noticing (2004)

Amartya Sen's Influence on Policy and Development











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Sen's views have had a significant impact on the growth sector and policymaking around the world. His support for the capabilities approach has resulted in a rethinking of how development is assessed. Instead of depending exclusively on GDP or income figures, organizations and governments today assess societal well-being by taking into account a larger range of criteria. Such as access to healthcare, education, political involvement, and social services.



[Source: Telegraph India]

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), for example, developed the Human Development Index (HDI). Which includes metrics relating to education, healthcare, and income, fitting with Sen's concept of development.

In addition, Sen's work on famine and poverty has pushed international organizations and governments to take a more comprehensive approach to challenges. Such as food security, social safety nets, and inequality. His views have aided in the development of programs aimed at decreasing poverty and raising living standards around the world.

Amartya Sen's Nobel Prize in Economics

Amartya Sen received the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Studies in Memory of Alfred Nobel, also known as the Nobel Prize in Economics, in 1998. He got this distinguished award for his important contributions to the welfare economy, social choice theory, and his work on the capacity approach. The Nobel Committee recognized his capacity to integrate philosophical understanding with practical investigation to bring new views on society's most important concerns.











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Amartya Sen's Human Development and Global Influence

Amartya Sen's work goes well beyond the domain of academia. He has taken an active role in worldwide discussions about human rights, social justice, and development. His activism for equal opportunity and women's empowerment has had a long-lasting impact on gender disparity discourse and policy.

Sen's impact also stretches into the sphere of public health. His research on the linkages between healthcare, development, and social well-being has contributed to a better understanding of global public health issues. For example, his work on famines has provided critical insights into the complex link between food security and social justice. Sen has written several accessible works of literature for a wider readership in addition to his scholarly writings. These books have made his ideas available to politicians, activists, and everyone interested in the advancement of social justice and equitable development.

The Enduring Legacy of Amartya Sen













Amartya Sen - His Lifelong Quest for Social Justice



[Source: The Economic Times]

In conclusion, Amartya Sen's life and work demonstrate the potential of multifaceted thinking and the immense impact that one person can have on the world. His ideas, range from social choice theory to the capacity approach. It has altered how we think about economics, welfare, and development. Sen has affected worldwide dialogues on topics that include inequality and poverty to human rights and public health through his research and campaigning.

Sen's contributions to society go far beyond his scholarly works as a Nobel winner, philosopher, and economist. His legacy is strongly fixed in his belief that, in our pursuit of a fair and equitable world, we must prioritize the expansion of individuals' talents and liberties. Amartya Sen's unwavering dedication to social justice inspires everyone who strives to make the world a better place.

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