

# Roads and development

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## 1.1 The meaning of development

Roads may be constructed for many reasons. However, most roads are built to facilitate the transport of people and goods, and so to promote development. However, development is an ambiguous concept, and is defined differently by different people. Box 1.1 provides some background definitions.

Another set of important definitions, relating to economic and statistical concepts, is commonly employed in the description of development, and is described in Box 1.2.

Concepts

Gross national  
income

### *Box 1.1* Development

#### *Development theory*

Development theory is a systematic conceptualization of the conditions that determine the change in third world societies. It is concerned with the process of development, rather than with the achievement of a particular state of development.

#### *Development strategy*

A set of prescriptions on how to initiate and implement a development process. The formulation of a development strategy must, necessarily, be based on a perception of the mechanisms that hinder or promote development; that is, on a development theory.

#### *Development concept*

An overarching idea about the desired direction of social change; that is, about the goals that the strategy is intended to promote. Examples of such goals are individual freedom (the dominant concept in liberalism) and equality (the dominant concept of socialism). Development concepts almost invariably are derived from either of the two dominant political ideologies of the twentieth century: 'capitalism' ('liberalism') or 'socialism' ('marxism/communism').