Affirmative: Logical Conclusion

By Aaron Clendenen

Resolved: Economic Stability is More Important than Economic Growth

This case is an amazing case. Its one of the most fun cases I have ever run, because it focuses the whole debate round of the facts of the economy. This throws out 99% of all Lincoln Douglass arguments. By asking the question, which side of the resolution is the best idea, you can throw out the entire question of which side of the resolution is ‘more important.’ In other words, this case creates a definition for ‘value’ and uses that definition, and *no* other. The strength of this argument is that your entire case can boil down to whoever has the most evidence. At that point, research is your best friend.  
  
NOTE: The counterarguments under this case destroys it entirely. This is not because the case is without grounds, but because the counterarguments are tailored to the case quite well. If you do more research on what this case says, you will be able to stop these arguments from ever becoming a problem.

DEFINITIONS 2

Economic Growth 2

Economic Stability 3

RESOLUTIONAL ANALYSIS 1: More Important 3

RESOLUTIONAL ANALYSIS 2: Different By Rate 3

VALUE: The Global Economy 3

Reason to Prefer (value): End Goal 3

CRITEREON: The Global Poor 3

Reason to Prefer (Criterion): The bottom end 3

CONTENTION 1: Economic Growth is Unstable 3

APPLICATION 1: Fair Trade Quinoa 3

CONTENTION 2: Economic Stability causes Stable Growth 4

APPLICATION 2: Cell Phone Prices And Use 4

SUPPORTING QUOTES: 4

Affirmative Counter-Brief: Democracy 6

Politicians deserve a greater degree of public scrutiny because of citizens’ democratic rights 6

It is problematic if voters do not have the information they need 6

Disclosure of private information is justified for public figures 7

For politicians, otherwise private information is important for the public 7

Works Cited 8

Affirmative: Logical Conclusion

Imagine; you are a small child. Your mother walks up to you and tells you what you are having for dinner. You sigh, and walk to your secret snack stash. If you are going to have quinoa with dinner, you better come prepared. And hope the dog is under the table. To a small child who doesn’t like quinoa, this reaction seems reasonable; but what if I told you that you really shouldn’t eat quinoa? The reason for this is that someone decided that economic stability was less important than economic growth. The end result of this was that quinoa prices reached an all-time high; causing farmers to thrive and poor communities to starve.

DEFINITIONS

Economic Growth

Investopedia (Investopedia is a dictionary of economic terms), “Economic Growth” AUTHOR UNKNOWN, DATE UNKNOWN, accessed 7/1/2020. <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/e/economicgrowth.asp>

Economic growth is an increase in the production of economic goods and services, compared from one period of time to another. It can be measured in nominal or real (adjusted for inflation) terms. Traditionally, aggregate economic growth is measured in terms of gross national product (GNP) or gross domestic product [or] (GDP), although alternative metrics are sometimes used.

In other words, an economy is growing if it is increasing its profit.

Economic Stability

This is perhaps the easiest term to define in the resolution. Basically, an economy is stable if it can stay the way things are without change. I suppose you could call it the status-quo.

RESOLUTIONAL ANALYSIS 1: More Important

In Lincoln Douglass debate, it is not uncommon for a resolution to say that something should be *valued above* another thing. This is what the words ‘more important’ in today’s resolution mean. It asks us the question; which side of the resolution is more valuable?

RESOLUTIONAL ANALYSIS 2: Different By Rate

As we discovered through the definitions, an economy that grows is one that is increasing its profits. However, as we further saw through our next definition, a stable economy is one that does not need growth. This stable economy is one that grows, but to a lesser degree. When asking the question of the resolution, we need to recognise that a stable economy and a growing economy are only different by rate of growth. A growing economy is one that is growing rapidly, where a stable economy is one that is growing steadily.

VALUE: The Global Economy

Reason to Prefer (value): End Goal

The goal of economic stability *and* economic growth is to benefit the global economy. Therefore, whichever side of the resolution best benefits the global economy is the side that should be valued.

CRITEREON: The Global Poor

Reason to Prefer (Criterion): The bottom end

The economy is like a ladder. You have people at the highest step, and the lowest step. If the lowest step raises, the highest end must as well. Think of it this way. If you have one person with $1, and another with $5, and you give them both $10 more, the person who now has $11 is still poor to the person with $15. Therefore, we should evaluate the global economy based off its benefit to the poor. In short, which side makes the poor *less* poor than before?

CONTENTION 1: Economic Growth is Unstable

You may be thinking that I am incorrect here, because at first glance it seems to be patently false to say that economic growth could be a bad thing, until you look at what happens when an economy grows. When an economy grows, the companies that used to sell products for lower prices actually sell it for more than before. When an economy grows, the bottom end of the ladder are the last to climb up, but the people above them have already done their harm by then.

APPLICATION 1: Fair Trade Quinoa

As an article on the Guardian shows (quotes below), Quinoa is considered an ideal grain. It has high protein and other supplements, making it a low cost, healthy grain. This makes it also the staple food for the poorer Peruvians. However, due to the Fair Trade movement, a group of individuals dedicated to helping the poor through economic growth, the price of the quinoa has been raised so much that the poorer Peruvians can no longer afford their staple food, leading to starvation. Economic growth through fair trade quinoa not only failed to help the global poor, and to raise our ladder, but it did the exact opposite of what fair trade intended to do.

CONTENTION 2: Economic Stability causes Stable Growth

Newmark's Door, (Newmark’s Door is a website on economic concepts.) December 19, 2017, Hal Varian, (Chief economist for Google,) accessed February 8, 2019, <https://www.newmarksdoor.com/mainblog/2017/12/the-varian-rule.html>

“A simple way to forecast the future is to look at what rich people have today; middle-income people will have something equivalent in 10 years, and poor people will have it in an additional decade.”

This concept is now called the Varian Rule. It is important to note that the Varian Rule is not specific to any amount of time, but can actually be boiled down to that in a stable economy, prices will decrease, and the economy will have stable growth. The Varian Rule is something that is actually extremely easy to demonstrate.

APPLICATION 2: Cell Phone Prices And Use

(quotes below) In 1983, the first retail cell phone was released. It had the stark price tag of over $3,900. That price with inflation factored in is over $9,800 in 2018 currency. However, you can now buy an Asus ZenFone for $230 on Amazon. This phone is not only better in what it is capable of doing, but it is also $9,570 cheaper than a cell phone in 1983. Now, you may be thinking that poorer individuals would not be buying cell phones, but actually, According to a graph on PewGlobal, in Uganda, one of the poorest countries in Africa, only 34% of their population do not own a cell phone. So, for the sake of clarity, %66 of their population own cell phones. Economic stability, through the Varian rule, caused stable growth, to the point where someone in Uganda can afford something now that just a few years ago was an idle daydream to them.

Economic Growth not only fails to protect the global economy, but in the case of quinoa, it has severely negatively impacted it. Economic stability benefits the Global Economy through the global poor and therefore, the Global Economy.

SUPPORTING QUOTES:

The Guardian, (News Source,) Can Vegans Stomach the Unpalatable Truth About Quinoa? January 16, 2013, Joanna Blythman, (Joanna Blythman is a Food Writer for the Guardian,) accessed February 8, 2019, <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/jan/16/vegans-stomach-unpalatable-truth-quinoa>

“Sales took off. **Quinoa was, in marketing speak, the "miracle grain of the Andes", a healthy, right-on, ethical addition to the meat avoider's larder (no dead animals, just a crop that doesn't feel pain). Consequently, the price shot up – it has tripled since 2006 – with more rarified black, red and "royal" types commanding particularly handsome premiums.  
But there is an unpalatable truth to face for those of us with a bag of quinoa in the larder. The appetite of countries such as ours for this grain has pushed up prices to such an extent that poorer people in Peru and Bolivia, for whom it was once a nourishing staple food, can no longer afford to eat it.** Imported junk food is cheaper. **In Lima, quinoa now costs more than chicken. Outside the cities, and fueled by overseas demand, the pressure is on to turn land that once produced a portfolio of diverse crops into quinoa monoculture.”**

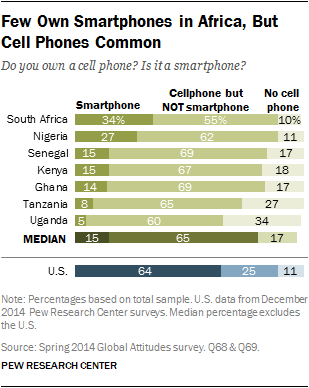
Amazon.com, ASUS ZenFone Max Plus ZB570TL-MT67-3G32G-BK - 5.7” 1920x1080-3GB RAM - 32GB storage - LTE Unlocked Dual SIM Cell Phone - US Warranty - Black, <https://www.amazon.com/ASUS-ZenFone-Plus-ZB570TL-MT67-3G32G-BK-1920x1080-3GB/dp/B07914FQ4R/ref=lp_12238747011_1_1?srs=12238747011&ie=UTF8&qid=1550584784&sr=8-1>

This is not an article, but an internet store, but it says

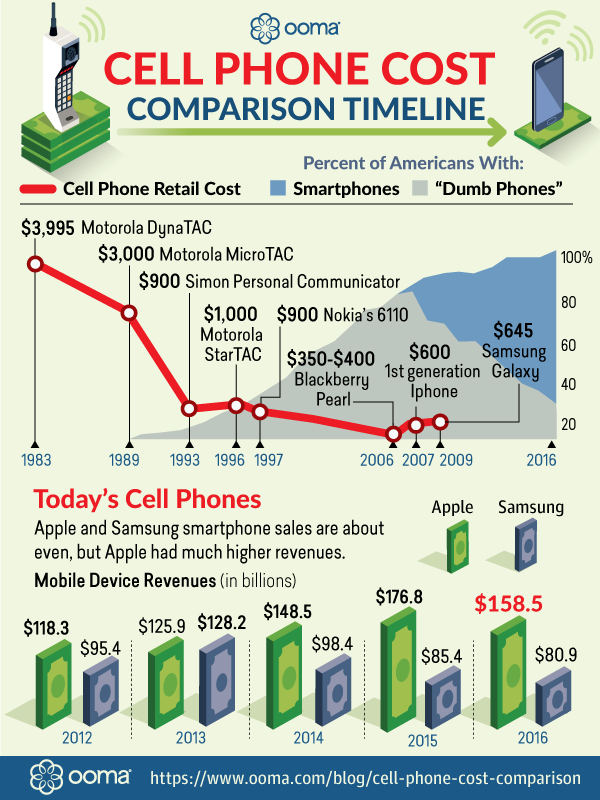
list price $229.00

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |

Pew Research Center, (Pew Research Center is a nonpartisan fact tank that informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping the world,) Cell Phones in Africa: Communication Lifeline, April 15, 2015, Accessed February 19, 2019, <http://www.pewglobal.org/2015/04/15/cell-phones-in-africa-communication-lifeline/>



Technology.org, Cell Phone Cost Comparison Timeline, September 18, 2017, Accessed February 19, 2019, <https://www.technology.org/2017/09/18/cell-phone-cost-comparison-timeline/>



Negative Counter-Brief: Logical Conclusion

The best way to counter this case is to point out exactly what the case is; a complex strawman. When you do that, you can start to re-define the resolution in your favor. Although, the easiest way to refute it; although its not necessarily the best possible way; is to take the round back to the value. Below are a few counterarguments, followed by definitions. This should be all you need to refute the case.  
  
Please note that below the abbreviations ANA and MPX and RSK refer to Analysis and Impact and Risk (respectively), for an analysis of the quote provided, its impact and the risk of running the argument.

Concedes Higher Value

The affirmative has conceded that economic growth is the highest value in today’s debate round. If you look at why they asked for an affirmative ballot, it was because economic growth was good. Let’s say for a second that the affirmative is correct, and that rapid economic growth is detrimental to the global poor, slow economic growth is not, and was exactly why the affirmative said what they said in their second contention. This shows that economic growth is the higher value.

Complex Strawman

The affirmative has made several claims that I really want to bring down to earth. In short, the affirmative has claimed that the only difference between economic stability and economic growth is the degree of economic growth, but as we can see from my own definitions (definitions below), this is simply not the case. Beyond this, the affirmative has claimed that by ‘more important’ the resolution refers to ‘more valuable,’ but I dint hear any support for these claims. In other words, the affirmative has said the resolution refers to one thing when in fact, it refers to another thing entirely.

Output vs. Input Growth

Mises Institute(The Mises Institute exists to promote teaching and research in the Austrian school of economics, and individual freedom, honest history, and international peace, in the tradition of Ludwig von Mises and Murray N. Rothbard. These great thinkers developed praxeology, a deductive science of human action based on premises known with certainty to be true, and this is what we teach and advocate. Our scholarly work is founded in Misesian praxeology, and in self-conscious opposition to the mathematical modeling and hypothesis-testing that has created so much confusion in neoclassical economics.), “Does Economic Stability Contribute To Growth?” published 4/10/2019, written by Frank Shostak (Frank Shostak is an Associated Scholar of the Mises Institute. His consulting firm, Applied Austrian School Economics, provides in-depth assessments and reports of financial markets and global economies. He received his bachelor's degree from Hebrew University, his master's degree from Witwatersrand University, and his PhD from Rands Afrikaanse University and has taught at the University of Pretoria and the Graduate Business School at Witwatersrand University.), accessed 7/1/2020. <https://mises.org/wire/does-economic-stability-contribute-growth>,

Economic stability refers to an absence of excessive fluctuations in the overall economy. An economy with constant output growth and low and stable price inflation is likely to be regarded as stable. An economy with frequent boom-bust cycles and variable price inflation would be considered as unstable.

**ANA**: The difference between economic growth and stability is that economic growth has greater *input* growth, where economic stability has greater *output* growth.  
**MPX:** Yes, economic growth and stability both have growth, but it is not a difference of degree, it is a difference of kind. Economic stability and growth have two different types of growth; therefore the affirmative case is invalid.  
**RSK:** This is opens the door to the affirmative ignoring the fact that the growth is different, and just running with the fact that they both have growth. Be careful to stress that the two types of growth are completely different.

Works Cited

Investopedia (Investopedia is a dictionary of economic terms), “Economic Growth” AUTHOR UNKNOWN, DATE UNKNOWN, accessed 7/1/2020.https://www.investopedia.com/terms/e/economicgrowth.asp

Newmark's Door, (Newmark’s Door is a website on economic concepts.) December 19, 2017, Hal Varian, (Chief economist for Google,) accessed February 8, 2019, https://www.newmarksdoor.com/mainblog/2017/12/the-varian-rule.html

The Guardian, (News Source,) Can Vegans Stomach the Unpalatable Truth About Quinoa? January 16, 2013, Joanna Blythman, (Joanna Blythman is a Food Writer for the Guardian,) accessed February 8, 2019, https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/jan/16/vegans-stomach-unpalatable-truth-quinoa

Amazon.com, ASUS ZenFone Max Plus ZB570TL-MT67-3G32G-BK - 5.7” 1920x1080-3GB RAM - 32GB storage - LTE Unlocked Dual SIM Cell Phone - US Warranty - Black, https://www.amazon.com/ASUS-ZenFone-Plus-ZB570TL-MT67-3G32G-BK-1920x1080-3GB/dp/B07914FQ4R/ref=lp\_12238747011\_1\_1?srs=12238747011&ie=UTF8&qid=1550584784&sr=8-1

Pew Research Center, (Pew Research Center is a nonpartisan fact tank that informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping the world,) Cell Phones in Africa: Communication Lifeline, April 15, 2015, Accessed February 19, 2019, http://www.pewglobal.org/2015/04/15/cell-phones-in-africa-communication-lifeline/

Technology.org, Cell Phone Cost Comparison Timeline, September 18, 2017, Accessed February 19, 2019, https://www.technology.org/2017/09/18/cell-phone-cost-comparison-timeline/

Mises Institute(The Mises Institute exists to promote teaching and research in the Austrian school of economics, and individual freedom, honest history, and international peace, in the tradition of Ludwig von Mises and Murray N. Rothbard. These great thinkers developed praxeology, a deductive science of human action based on premises known with certainty to be true, and this is what we teach and advocate. Our scholarly work is founded in Misesian praxeology, and in self-conscious opposition to the mathematical modeling and hypothesis-testing that has created so much confusion in neoclassical economics.), “Does Economic Stability Contribute To Growth?” published 4/10/2019, written by Frank Shostak (Frank Shostak is an Associated Scholar of the Mises Institute. His consulting firm, Applied Austrian School Economics, provides in-depth assessments and reports of financial markets and global economies. He received his bachelor's degree from Hebrew University, his master's degree from Witwatersrand University, and his PhD from Rands Afrikaanse University and has taught at the University of Pretoria and the Graduate Business School at Witwatersrand University.), accessed 7/1/2020. https://mises.org/wire/does-economic-stability-contribute-growth