

Book of the Month

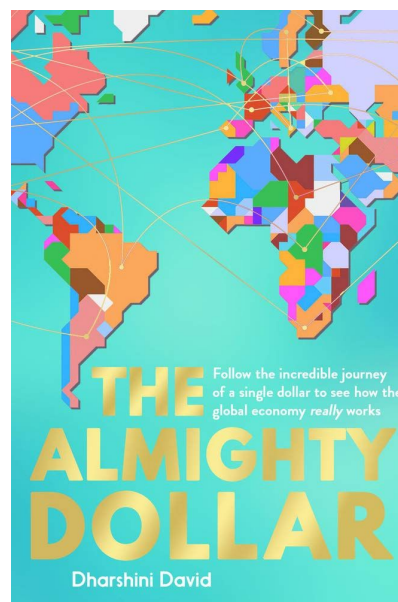


The Almighty Dollar

by Dharshini David

About the Book

Written by Dharshini David, *The Almighty Dollar* is a must read that follows the journey of a single dollar as it circumnavigates the world's global financial system. Split into 9 easily readable chapters in a sequence of stages, the book reveals the value of that singular dollar as it is chewed up and divided country by country; each time, the dollar plays a vital part in how each country tries to strong-arm another in their grasp for further economic development.



In an effort that shows off the power of globalisation and how money is the true link of what connects us all, *The Almighty Dollar* reveals which countries are the world's developers, the consumers, the pawns and the puppeteers of the world's economic system. In some cases, it shows how this financial game influences the consumerist-decisions that yourself and I can make on one side of the planet... and how this small decision can then affect others around the world.

Possible Ways to Incorporate the Book into your Practice

The Almighty Dollar (TAD) would be a great resource to build into any scheme of work regarding globalisation. It would give students an insightful and in-depth analysis into the developed vs the developing world debate. *The Almighty Dollar* would allow a learning mind to understand the strength of a country's local currency and how this interacts against "The World's Currency" of the dollar (\$) after conversion. What does this conversion, and subsequently the power it gives/does not give a country depending on this conversion, do enable or disable a country from developing?

The Almighty Dollar (TAD) could also be a great way to explore the roles in which countries play in this global-economic-game. For example:

- China, dubbed the 'world's factory', the producers of a significant proportion of our daily goods. How does their relations with others affect the prices we pay? Import taxes/tariffs? How can this be used by China for political stunts/plays made by them to develop?
- USA, by far and large the world's largest consumer-spender, the world's biggest buyer. How can they, the home of the global currency, manipulate the market to hold power?
- African countries, played by Nigeria in TAD, use (or be used for) their natural resources as a lure for future development as the developed countries all scramble across the continent for development and further financial or political influence?

Future Thoughts

Will the coined '*Almighty Dollar*' stay so powerful? China continues to grow economically and hoard the eastern world in efforts to develop. China is ever exploring its options into Africa, the Middle East and further strengthening the grip it already has over most of Asia. Within time, it's expected China to boast the most powerful economy on the planet. Will the Yuan (¥) force its way in as the new global currency? What will come of the United States of America economic relation with the global market? We're already living in a world of growing tension towards China because of this.

Useful Resources and Other Links

Dharshini David

It's always useful to follow the book's author on Twitter: [@DharshiniDavid](#)
Dharshini has also given a few lectures regarding the book and the concepts of *The Almighty Dollar*:

[Here](#) is a video link to Dharshini giving a lecture at the London School of Economics.

[Here](#) is a video link of Dharshini lecturing for GoogleTalks.



Kate Stockings

This month's **Geographer of the Month** for the ECGN, **Kate Stockings** ([@Kate_Stockings](#)), is a big advocate of *The Almighty Dollar*. Here's her thoughts on the book and building it into the curriculum, available on her new website: [click here!](#)



Kate has also been extremely generous to the Geography community by sharing her own scheme of work that she's made off the back of *The Almighty Dollar*. These can be accessed by [clicking here](#). **Please remember that these are Kate's resources and to always give credit should you wish to use them.** Thank you so much for sharing, Kate!

Paul

Paul ([@PLoguey](#)) has been summarising and sharing his thoughts on *The Almighty Dollar* and how it could help with subject knowledge for A-Level (KS5). Click [here](#) and [here](#) to see them.

A Level

Following on from this, *The Almighty Dollar* could also play the foundations of exploring Superpowers at A-Level. A great start into the details of a Sino-American War? Will the dollar remain so 'almighty'? Will it be replaced? What place will a trade-off/currency battle have in this conflict?

Here's some useful videos that may accompany that:

- [Why the Dollar \(\\$\) is the king of currencies](#) (and how the USA uses this privilege...)
- [Is China overtaking the US as a financial and economic power?](#)
- [China's Trillion Dollar Plan to dominate Global Trade](#) (... expanding their influence!)
- [How Africa is Becoming China's China](#) (China's expanding influence [on Africa] and how they're "buying allies")