



Australasian Aid Conference

The role of philanthropic foundations in
International development: Rockefeller,
Ford and Gates

Dr Patrick Kilby

Rockefeller, Ford, and Gates Foundations and International Development

Rockefeller	Ford	Gates
Founded 1909 John D Rockefeller (Standard Oil). ~\$20b. (Progressive era and gilded age).	Founded by Henry and Edsel Ford 1935; Henry Ford II in 1945 (Ford cars) ~30b	Founded in 1999 by Bill and Melinda Gates (Computer software: Microsoft) with Warren Buffet ~\$50b
Baptist background influenced by Andrew Carnegie (Gospel of Wealth) and Frederick Gates Baptist religious	Formed to avoid Inheritance tax; Henry Ford II brought in ideas of social change.	Belief in technology; best way to use wealth sceptical of government.
Inter-war health technology, LNHO, and education, think tanks. Post war ag. research, Green Revolution WHO.	Cold War agenda, support govts (India), community development; civil rights, development research and education. Seen as left wing	Vaccine development and vaccination programs; set up GAVI, powerful role in WHO; sceptical of public health approaches. AGRA in agriculture, sanitation, advocacy
Independent Board East Coast (US) liberal elites	Independent Board East Coast (US) liberal elites	Board of four Gates' plus Buffet plus Foundation ED.

Issues

- Buying a voice or seat at the table: is it representative?
 - Rockefeller with LNHO, and Atlantic Charter;
 - Ford with research and think tank grants with pro-US liberal agendas;
 - Gates with private sector led health and ag research solutions to places which need public sector support and transfers;
- Distorting priorities to that of the Foundation
 - Rockefeller and Gates with technical solutions to social problems (even eugenics: Rockefeller)).
 - Ford and Rockefeller with research agendas e.g. political sciences;
 - Gates anti public health distorts national health expenditure;
- Silencing dissent by sheer scale of funding;
 - Ford little debate by recipient's;
 - Gates by funding press stories e.g The Guardian



Thank You