

Discussion Questions – Disposable People

All groups

Can you find any flaws or weaknesses in Bales' arguments about the new slavery?

Group #1

Give Examples from the case studies of who the slave "owners" are. Do you agree with Bales' statement (p. 237) that "the distance between "master" and slave is growing wider and wider"? What are the implications of this shift?

Group #2

Discuss how Mauritania is more like the old slavery than like the new slavery. Nevertheless, how is the traditional master-slave relationship changing in the face of modernization and urbanization?

Group #3

Discuss some possible remedies to the problem of the new slavery. Who should take responsibility for initiatives to improve the situation of slaves?

Group #4

How does globalization both exacerbate the plight of slaves and provide new hope for its eradication?