



Lesson Plan: "200 Years Without Economic Growth in Westeros"

Objective:

Students will analyze the factors that contributed to the stagnation of economic growth in Westeros through the lens of the three key sources of growth: factors of production, technological effectiveness, and stable institutions. They will apply economic models (Solow Growth Model and Production Possibilities Model) to evaluate these factors and propose solutions.

Materials Needed:

- Clips from [Game of Thrones](#) and *House of the Dragon* showcasing stagnant economic conditions.
- Handouts explaining the three sources of growth and the two economic models.
- Access to historical and modern economic growth data.

Lesson Steps:

1. Introduction (10 minutes):

- Provide an overview of economic growth and its importance for societal development.
- Introduce the three sources of growth:
 - **Quantity of factors of production:** land, labor, and capital.
 - **Effectiveness of factors:** technological innovation and productivity.
 - **Stable institutions:** political and economic frameworks that promote entrepreneurship and innovation.
- Discuss Westeros as a case study of a society experiencing growth stagnation.

2. Viewing Clips (3 minutes):

- Show two clips from *Game of Thrones* and *House of the Dragon* that illustrate stagnant economic conditions, such as:
 - Lack of technological progress.
 - Feudal political structure limiting innovation.
 - Minimal economic mobility or resource utilization.

3. Group Discussion (10 minutes):

- Divide students into small groups to discuss:
 - How are the three sources of growth lacking in Westeros?
 - What specific examples from the clips highlight these deficiencies?
 - How does Westeros compare to a historical period such as feudal Europe?

4. Concept Application (15 minutes):

- **Solow Growth Model:**
 - Explain how capital accumulation, technological progress, and population growth drive long-term growth.
 - Discuss how Westeros' lack of investment in capital and technology constrains its potential for growth.
- **Production Possibilities Model:**
 - Use the PPC to explain an economy's productive capacity given its resources and technology.
- Clarify:
 - Westeros operates **on or near its current PPC**, but the PPC remains static because of the absence of technological innovation and capital investment.
 - Resource inefficiencies, such as underutilized labor or land, might cause the economy to operate **inside the PPC**.
 - Technological progress or institutional improvements are necessary to shift the PPC outward over time.
 - Highlight how political instability and feudal systems limit efficient resource use and technological development.
- **Interactive Component:**
 - Provide students with a PPC diagram for Westeros:
 - Identify where the economy operates (inside or on the PPC).
 - Propose policies or changes to improve efficiency or shift the PPC outward (e.g., investing in education, fostering trade, reforming institutions).

5. Wrap-Up and Reflection (10 minutes):

- Recap the three sources of growth and their relevance to Westeros.
- Discuss parallels between Westeros and modern economies with similar challenges.
- Highlight the importance of combining all three sources to achieve sustainable growth.

6. Homework/Activity (20 minutes):

- Assign each group one of the three sources of growth (factors of production, technological effectiveness, or institutions).
- Task them with creating a policy proposal for improving Westeros' economy, addressing:
 - How to enhance resource availability (e.g., increase capital, improve labor productivity).
 - How to foster technological progress (e.g., incentivize innovation).
 - How to stabilize institutions (e.g., establish property rights, encourage trade).
- Groups present their proposals in 2-3 minutes, focusing on their assigned source of growth.