

The Political Economy of UHC

accountability and “leaving no one behind”

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UHC 2030 Multi-stakeholder Consultation
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Agenda

- Needs assessment for UHC
- UHC and state performance
- Public health's primary approaches
 - In rich countries: can produce UHC
 - As employed in global health: insufficient for UHC
- Political economy, the state, and accountability

What would UHC mean here?



What does it mean to leave no one behind?



UHC = A functioning state

- Disease-specific interventions
- Disease prevention
- Sanitation, waste removal
- Water filtration and other urban services
- Education, behavior modification
- Land tenure, food, nutrition...

The state and the social contract

- A state-citizen agreement
- Adjudicates rights and responsibilities
- A domestic political process
- Hinges on state responsiveness to citizen need
 - Participation
 - Accountability

How have we done so far?

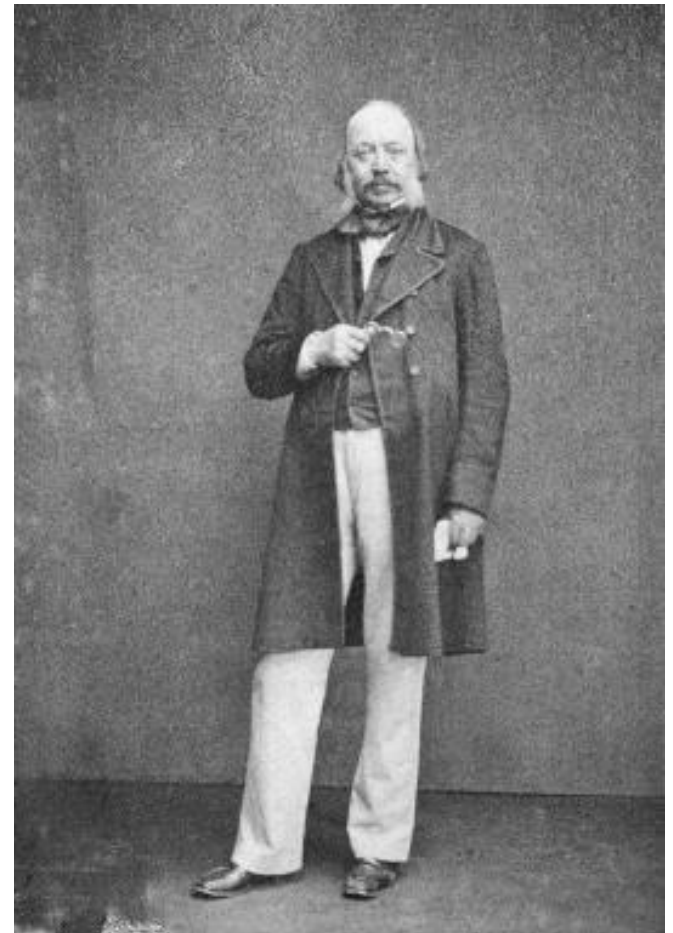
- Public health and the state
 - Two approaches
- Public health in the development context

Approach #1: State Authority

Edwin Chadwick
Poor law reformer

English, 1800-1890

State Authority
Building codes
Sanitary regulation
Medicines and food regulation
Health behavior regulations
Infrastructure



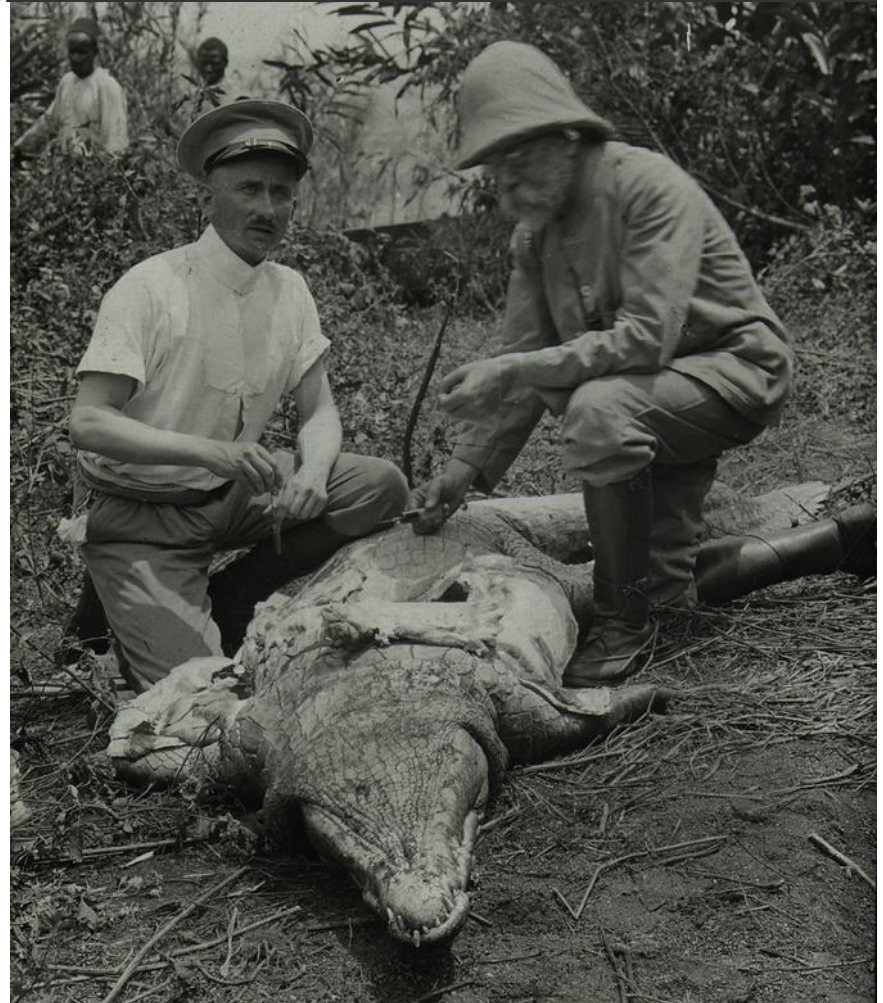
Source: Wellcome Library of Medicine

Approach #2: Medico-Scientific Authority

Robert Koch,
Father of bacteriology

German, 1843-1910

Proved germ theory
specific causes
technical solutions,
mainly pharmaceutical



Approach #2: Medico-Scientific Authority

Patrick Manson
Scottish,
1844–1922

Insect transmission

Mapped
transmission
cycles

Disease control by
transmission
interruption



Public health in two contexts

	Developed Countries	International Assistance
State Authority	Comprehensive public health infrastructure; State assumes vast responsibility for health	Minimally engaged: often undermined by direct service provision, external agenda setting; historically weakened by colonialism and persistent political-economic inequalities
Technical Authority	Influence the state; influence behavior; develop interventions; individual care	Dominant: disease-specific approaches; embodied in virtually all methods

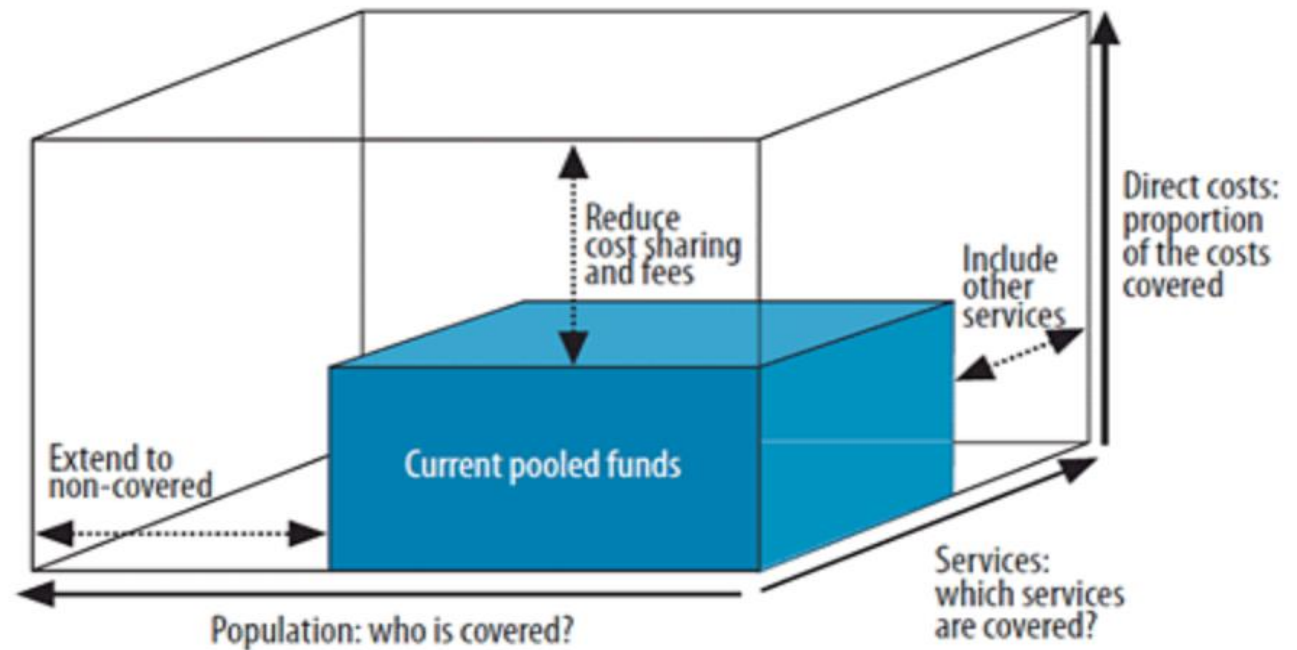
Political economy, the state, and accountability

- Political economy
 - The study of state performance
 - Simply defined as “contests of interest”
 - Who has power?
 - What are its sources?
 - How is it exercised?
 - How can it be contested?

- Accountability is underpinned by participation
 - To whom?
 - For what?

UHC, technical version

Population
Services
Pooled finance



Source: WHR 2010

UHC, Bump version

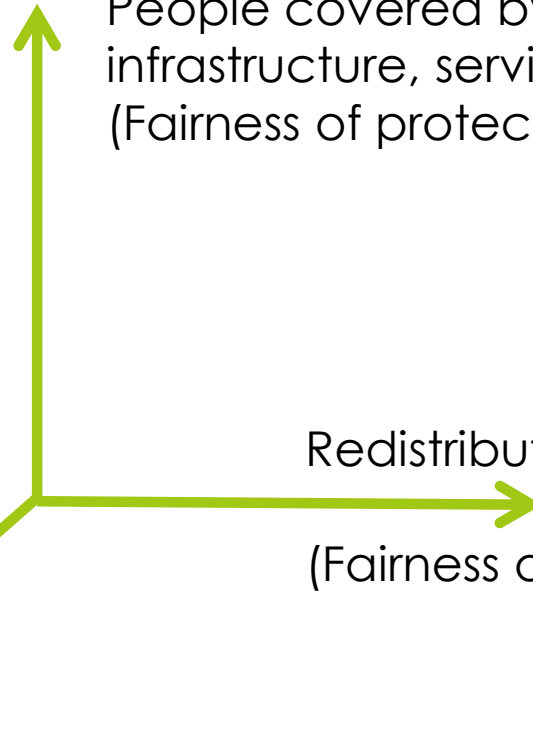
Domestic political economy
(Social contract: state
accountable to citizens)

Proportion of needed
services delivered at
right time, place,
and quality
(Fairness of access)

People covered by public health
infrastructure, services
(Fairness of protection and risk)

Redistribution

(Fairness of financing)



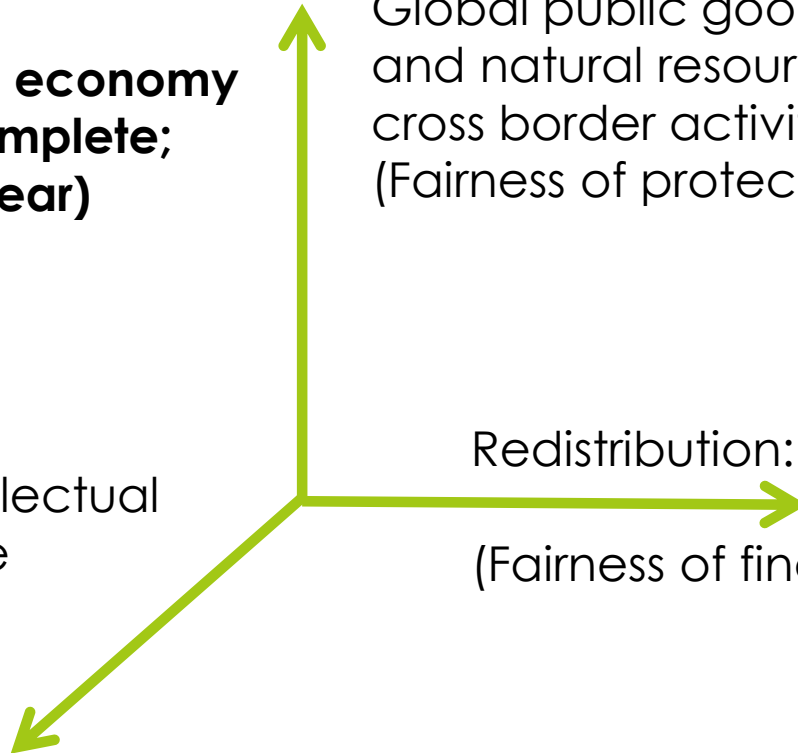
UHC, Bump version

International political economy
(Social contract incomplete;
accountabilities unclear)

Trade regimes, intellectual
property, corporate
accountability
(Fairness of access)

Global public goods, eg, environment
and natural resources, surveillance,
cross border activities
(Fairness of protection and risk)

Redistribution: International taxation
(Fairness of financing)



Thanks for your participation!

