



Theories of Development

Richard Peet, Elaine Hartwick

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The stakes involved in development debates are enormous. While development can use the productive resources of society to improve the living conditions of the world's most vulnerable people, it can also form the basis of intense manipulative power on behalf of elites. This important new text surveys the leading theories and models of economic and social development. Chapters examine sociological, economic, neo-Marxist, poststructuralist, feminist, and radical democratic approaches, as well as an array of development models including modernization, dependency, and neoliberalism. Reaching conclusions at odds with much of the recent literature, this volume is critical of neoliberal, market-driven economic growth, arguing instead that an alternative, democratic form of development remains a viable possibility.

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Natalie says

Tough read, but I do feel smarter. This will be a book I will keep forever as a reference.

Dona Wording says

Recommended read for those interested in learning about alternative approaches to development. Emphasis on socialist, feminist and post-structuralist approaches.

Margaret Price says

An excellent summary of the various development theories. Can't say I read this "for fun", though.

Cmarie says

rather marxist aren't we Richard...

Ara Arumugham Raju says

Very interesting concise theories of economic development, We get to know from conventional theories such as Classical and neo classical theories, liberalism and strucuralism and nonconventional theories such as Marxism , post structuralism. The book gives perspectives aon how nations adopt certain policies time to time and why they succeed or why they fail.

leighcia says

This book presents an overview of major theories of development (a.k.a. why some countries are poor and some are rich and what to do about it)—neoclassical, sociological, dependency, feminist etc... It does an excellent job of describing the different intellectual assumptions that underly these theories and how it influences the solutions that they advocate. Throughout all of this, the authors present their own view on development. While this book is an great primer on development, it can be at times a bit dull and confusing. The authors try their best to coin the development of these different theories, but sometimes end up listing a bunch of scattered conferences, papers and ideas.
