

# Leading Issues in Economic Development

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SEVENTH EDITION

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# PREFACE

The economics of development is one of the most exciting subjects in social science. Why, two centuries after the Industrial Revolution, are poverty and its attendant ills so prevalent in most of the world? And what can be done about it? Nobel Prize–winning economist Robert Lucas wrote of the questions addressed by development economics, “Once one starts to think about them, it is hard to think about anything else” [“On the Mechanics of Economic Development,” *Journal of Monetary Economics* 22 (July 1988), p. 5].

Development economics is also a very frustrating subject. Unlike most areas within economics, there exists no consensus on what the student should know. Two scholars can with equal justification write two completely different textbooks.

The aim of this book is to convey as much of the excitement of development economics and as little of the frustration as possible. To this end we have avoided writing the ordinary type of textbook, instead culling the most insightful readings from the diffuse field of development and bringing them into conceptual order. By using this distinctive approach we allow for a variety of perspectives while keeping in sight the most important overarching themes. The section “Using This Book” (p. xix) describes our strategy of combining excerpted readings (“Selections”) with our own “Overviews,” “Notes,” “Comments,” and “Exhibits.”

After being responsible for the previous six editions of *Leading Issues in Economic Development* over the past 35 years, Professor Meier has now selected Professor Rauch to upgrade and modernize this seventh edition and to perpetuate subsequent editions. This edition is mainly Professor Rauch’s effort. It reflects his desire to strengthen the analytical and quantitative dimensions of development economics and to illuminate contemporary—and future—problems of development policymaking. In all, it provides fresh and serious attention to the interplay between development experience, changing views of economists, and policy.

While this seventh edition maintains the format of previous editions, the inclusion of a new author has brought many changes relative to the sixth edition:

- New chapters on income distribution and on development and the environment have been added while other chapters have been consolidated.
- Most of the Selections and Notes are new.
- The representation in the Selections of articles from leading professional journals has increased.
- The Selections make greater use of statistical analysis, and an Appendix, “How to Read a Regression Table,” has been added to ensure that these Selections are easily accessible to all readers.

We wish to express our appreciation to the authors and publishers who have granted permission to use excerpts from publications for which copyrights exist. Specific acknowledgment is given with each Selection. Some parts of the original versions of the excerpted materials have been omitted out of consideration for relevance and to avoid repetition. In some instances, tables and diagrams have been renumbered and the footnotes have been deleted or renumbered.

We would like to thank a number of extremely busy people who generously took time out to provide advice or to comment on portions of the manuscript: Richard Carson, Graham Elliott, Peter Evans, and Dani Rodrik. We would also like to acknowledge the valuable research assistance of Neville Francis, Timothy Kane, Paula Lindsay, and Donald McCubbin. James Rauch wishes to thank his wife, Doris

Bittar, for making room in her life for this book during its final months of preparation. Kenneth MacLeod has been a very helpful and patient editor. Finally, we are grateful to the entire profession of social scientists whose writings on development provide the foundation for this volume.

# USING THIS BOOK

Instructors and students can use this book more like a main text or more like a supplementary reader. To facilitate the latter approach the contents have been designed to allow individual freedom of choice in deciding what chapters and Selections to read and in what sequence. If the former approach is taken, the organizational and thematic guidance of the chapter Overviews can be followed and the chapters can be read in numerical order.

The chapters include the following materials:

*Overviews:* These are introductory essays that show how the subsequent chapter materials fit together and elucidate one or more overarching themes. They sometimes contain ideas that are not explicitly presented by the other chapter materials.

*Selections:* These are the core of the book. They present a broad sample of the major contributions by scholars and practitioners on the central issues in economic development. Each Selection has been edited for the sake of brevity and to highlight the points of greatest relevance for the chapter in which it appears.

*Notes:* These serve two purposes. One is to expound important ideas that are extant in the literature but are not presented as clearly or simply as we would like. The other is to present more original material that complements the Selections.

*Comments:* Like the Notes, these serve two purposes. One is to clarify or expand upon the immediately preceding Selection. The other is to suggest additional readings on the subject of the immediately preceding Selection.

*Exhibits:* These are tables and charts that provide empirical illustrations and data on topics under discussion.

Starting with Selection III.1, some Selections include regression tables. Readers without econometric training are urged to refer to the Appendix to get the most insight from these Selections.

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Completely updated and revised in this eighth edition, *Leading Issues in Economic Development*, covers the main issues in economic development through professional journal articles by leading scholars. These articles are edited to provide greater accessibility to an undergraduate audience and organized thematically using overview essays along with explanatory notes and comments. It also provides historical perspective on how the world divided into rich and poor countries and treatments of international trade, human resources, investment and finance, urbanization and the informal sector, agriculture, income distribution, political economy, as well as development and the environment. I read many reviews about *Leading Issues in Economic Development - 8th Edition* Gerald M. Meier before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Leading Issues in Economic Development - 8th Edition*, declaring it one of the best, something that all readers will enjoy. To download and get a free book or read online *Leading Issues in Economic Development - 8th Edition* for free, please click the link button. Copyright Disclaimer: This site does not store any files on its server. We only index and link to content provided by other sites. Documents Similar To *Leading Issues in Economic Development - Meier & Rauch*. Carousel Previous Carousel Next. A. P. Thirlwall (auth.)-*Growth and Development*. Development reflects social and economic progress and requires economic growth. Growth is a vital and necessary condition for development, but it is not a sufficient condition as it cannot guarantee development. One of the most compelling definitions of development is that proposed by Amartya Sen. The extent to which a country has developed may be assessed by considering a range of narrow and broad indicators, including per capita income, life expectancy, education, and the extent of poverty. The Human Development Index (HDI). The HDI was introduced in 1990 as part of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to provide a means of measuring economic development in three broad areas – per capita income, health and education.



Economic development is the process by which emerging economies become advanced economies. In other words, the process by which countries with low living standards become nations with high living standards. Economic development also refers to the process by which the overall health, well-being, and academic level of the general population improves. During the development, there is a population shift from agriculture to industry, and then to services. A longer average life expectancy, for example, is one of the results of economic development. Improved productivity, higher literacy rates, and better Development Issues of Indian Economy. On one hand, India is receiving accolades for a sustained growth rate and on the other, it is still a low-income developing economy. Even today, nearly 25 percent of India's population lives below the poverty line. Another aspect that adds to the economic issues in India is that poor farmers cannot even buy essential things like improved seeds, fertilizers, and machines like tractors, investors, etc. Further, most enterprises in India are micro or small. This leads to the low efficiency of Indian workers. Also, dedicated and skilled healthcare personnel are required for the efficient and effective delivery of health services. However, ensuring that such professionals are available in a country like India is a huge challenge. Economic development is a multifactorial process, which reflects both the evolution of the economic mechanism, and the change of economic systems on this basis. There are usually four types of economic growth on Modern growth theory: steady growth in the leading countries (as observed in the U. S., Europe), the wonders of growth (Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong), the tragedy of growth (some countries in Central Africa) and the lack of economic growth (eg, Zimbabwe). Each country has developed its own way of the economic development. There are various models of economic development (the model of Completely updated and revised in this eighth edition, Leading Issues in Economic Development covers the main issues in economic development through professional journal articles by leading scholars. These articles are edited to provide greater accessibility to an undergraduate audience and organised thematically using overview essays along with explanatory notes and comments. This distinctive approach allows for a variety of perspectives while keeping the most important overall themes in sight. In attempting to define "less developed country" it would clearly be helpful to have an accepted measure of "development." In recent years a consensus has been gathering around the Human Development Index (HDI) as the preferred measure of development. Community economic development is a branch of local economic development. Community economic development is based on two essential notions. First, the community or neighborhood should be the focal point for developing human, social, and physical resources. Second, the indigenous resources, particularly human and organizational, must be the base for any development activity. In the community, economic development the idea is to build new wealth from the basic local resources by repositioning these assets as attractors of capital.