



The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare

Volume 27
Issue 1 March - Special Issue on the Changing
American Mosaic

Article 13

March 2000

Review of *International Development*. David Stoesz, Charles Guzetta and Mark Lusk. Reviewed by Anthony Hall, London School of Economics and Political Science.

Anthony Hall
London School of Economics

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw>



Part of the Economics Commons, and the Social Work Commons

Recommended Citation

Hall, Anthony (2000) "Review of *International Development*. David Stoesz, Charles Guzetta and Mark Lusk. Reviewed by Anthony Hall, London School of Economics and Political Science.," *The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare*: Vol. 27 : Iss. 1 , Article 13.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw/vol27/iss1/13>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Social Work at ScholarWorks at WMU. For more information, please contact wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu.



David Stoesz, Charles Guzzetta and Mark Lusk, *International Development*. Boston, Allyn and Bacon, 1999. \$56.67 hardcover.

The challenge of identifying and implementing development strategies which promote economic progress while successfully addressing problems of mass poverty and social deprivation has spurned a vast literature over the past four decades. Reductionist modernization and Marxist meta-theories with their blueprint solutions have given way to a multi-institutional third way' which combines the attributes of State and civil society as well as a range of international institutions. The present volume represents a useful, if at times frustrating, addition to this debate by searching for elements of what the authors term an integrative model of development', which incorporates broad-based economic and social development goals with environmental sustainability.

The first four chapters provide an overview of the colonial history, post-War development experience and current development tasks facing Asia, Latin America, Africa and Eastern Europe. Necessarily concise, they are however extremely useful summaries for non-specialists, although the treatment of Latin America is the thinnest and merits more space. These accounts underline the extent to which rapacious colonial greed on the part of European powers, combined with dictatorship, corruption and genocide (especially in the case of Sub-Saharan Africa, the so-called fourth world') has led to patterns of distorted development whose problems now seem so intractable. In one sense, they belie the claim made in the book's introduction that the authors present a reasoned optimism about the prospect of international development' (p. xi).

However, the prospects for international development appear brighter in the following sections, which consider a number of strategies and case studies showing exactly what can be achieved through creative thought and action. Chapter 5 provides a fascinating account of the work of Catholic and Protestant missionaries in their ambiguous historical roles, colonizing the minds of indigenous peoples while promoting economic development. Some mention is made of their progressive development work since the 1970s but this aspect is greatly underplayed and deserves far more attention from the author in this section, given its

importance in relation to the application of Liberation Theology in Latin America and close associations with the work of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Chapter 7 contains a wide-ranging treatment of community development in both the North and South but much of it is abstract and there is too little analysis of actual program experiences in the developing world. Although the importance of NGOs in this context is acknowledged there is, surprisingly, little discussion of how traditional, State-directed community development has given way to radical grassroots movements for social and environmental action in defense of people's livelihoods. A link could also have been made here with the subsequent chapter on sustainable development', a process in which community-based movements and NGOs have in many instances become partners and an essential linchpin in the quest for equitable, non-destructive and non-polluting strategies.

Further chapters examine a series of creative attempts to overcome the obstacles to development generated by prejudice, discrimination and bureaucracy. The pioneering work undertaken by Rebecca Adamson with the First Nations Development Institute on behalf of Native Americans and other indigenous groups, described in Chapter 10, should inspire young practitioners and activists everywhere. Likewise, the success of the Grameen Bank micro-credit program in Bangladesh and several other countries, as well as of the Habitat for Humanity low-cost housing scheme, illustrate what can be achieved through sheer perseverance and dogged determination by committed individuals in the face of all the odds. Although not without their critics, of course, these ventures have yielded highly positive economic and social returns for deprived communities, something which many of the multi-million dollar schemes funded by mainstream official development agencies have often failed to achieve.

The volume has some quirks. Sections dealing with development theories and with the measurement of economic and social advancement—or lack of it—(6 and 13 respectively) should have been grouped together. An introductory chapter (rather than just a brief foreword) setting out the central theme and synthesizing the central arguments would have been helpful. Despite the book's valid and well-documented criticisms of Capitalism and Communism, there is no discussion of post-modernism, the

power of agency or stucturation theory. Some coverage of these newer theoretical frameworks would have helped to provide a conceptual basis for analysis of the changing roles of the State, community, the church and NGOs in the development process. The volume refers continually to Malthusian notions of demographic pressure as a source of poverty and environmental degradation. Yet relatively little weight seems to be given to other, arguably more critical factors such as structural obstacles at both domestic and international levels as well as severe policy bias in all economic and social sectors which marginalizes the poor.

The final chapter, entitled 'An Integrative Model of Development', promises much but delivers little. It is something of an anti-climax, since the reader is really not much wiser about what actually constitutes the stated ideal of 'integrative' (or 'integrated') development. Indeed, although meant to underpin the volume, it is defined only in very general terms and is mentioned just briefly in the foreword and merits barely two pages in the final section. 'Integrative' development seems to equate with the UNDP's notion of 'Human Development', which is quoted in support. Yet 'integrative development' remains an elusive concept—fine practice but difficult in theory! It is to be hoped that any subsequent volume from the authors would develop this concept more centrally and comprehensively. However, in spite of the above-mentioned shortcomings, the book contains much valuable material to inform and provoke development policy-makers and practitioners into working for a better world.

Anthony Hall

London School of Economics and Political Science

Jane Waldfogel, *The Future of Child Protection*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1998. \$39.95 hardcover.

The field of child protective services (CPS), and scholarly examination of it, invokes deep passions and fears, involving as it does the safety of children as well as abiding suspicions of the poor. "Child protection" has come to mean protection of children from their parents, and in practice, CPS interventions have predominantly been directed toward impoverished families.