

Kothari, Uma and Martin Minogue (eds.) 2002. Development Theory and Practice: Critical Perspectives Palgrave (St. Martin's Press) xi + 211pp. + index Cloth: US\$ 69.95. Paper: US\$22.95

Seven of the eight contributors to this volume are lecturers and/or researchers affiliated with the University of Manchester or were at one time or the other affiliated with the university. Collectively, the contributors represent many years of experience in the quest for addressing the rationale for the exploration of the failure and successes in development. The volume clearly represents a sincere attempt for a thorough exploration and comprehensive examination of the theory-practice nexus of development.

A reader of this book is presented with a comparative discussion of the relationship between public policy and development. It is argued that post-war (WWI and WWII) development is a failure because the intended benefits were never achieved. Generally, the discussions on development are inundated with contested theories. The over-arching issue it seems, to this reviewer, is whether development theory is dominated by a set of ideas, which essentially constitutes prevailing orthodoxies.

Thus, the task of the contributors to this volume appears to be that of interpreting the orthodoxies in the areas of globalization, governance, social development, citizen participation, feminism, post colonialism, civil society and the environment. As far as globalization is concerned, there is no question that in many developing countries of the world, the idea of development through globalization is being seriously challenged. Many believe that the slight growth in the economies of some developing countries is not sustainable because the record of growth of the post structural adjustment (SAPs) reform era is not better than what used to exist before the advent of SAP. Attempts at industrialization of many countries have failed. An examination of the records of the decades of the 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, and 90s provides ample evidence of the struggle many developing countries have faced as far as maintaining steady growth towards industrialization. Reforms to discourage capital flight from developing countries and to attract industries and businesses have not been the harbinger of growth and economic success. However, many scholars would argue that, to some extent, free market enterprise has provided some economic stability and that stable governments in the developing world are beginning to enjoy the benefits of being a part of the global economy. The relocation of businesses and industries to the developing areas of the world has encouraged growth. Hence, there is more social justice around the world as a result of better economies being put into place. The ability to rectify the imbalances around the world, it is argued by

some scholars, would inevitably be through globalization. With the help or assistance of financial institutions, such as the World Bank, progress is being made to transform rhetoric into real reforms, which provide global social justice.

Incorporating gender perspectives into development process is significant because the idea surrounding development is to maximize the contributions of all sectors of the society. The inclusion of women's contribution and enhancing the growth of women's perspectives are important steps in accomplishing social justice. In developing nations, women are the custodians of natural resources and their knowledge of the natural resource, agricultural methods/systems should be tapped. The participation of all the groups/community members in development process provides the bedrock for sustainability because it is important to gain the support of the majority of a society in order to have continuity in development efforts.

The understanding of the impacts of colonialism sets the tone for development in the post-colonial world. The deliberate effort to de-link current development efforts with past dehumanization caused by colonialism and to put in place a true sense of equal partnership in development would enhance desired goals and objectives of development. The dialogue between the North and the South as far as development is concerned should be on the basis of "true" partnership and mutual respect. World views must inform the paths towards sustainable economic growth and development. This volume invariably makes this point abundantly clear.

The idea of empowerment is of paramount importance in a civil society. When people feel empowered, then they can take charge of their destinies to determine the true paths of their political, social and economic development. This argument is provided in Martin Minogue's chapter as an indispensable aspect of development. When people have a sense of ownership and a stake in the stability of a nation, then they would work hard to ensure the stability and tranquility of their country.

The chapter on the environmental issues and development is a good piece in the volume. Development of any kind which alters the landscape is bound to produce some unexpected disamenities. Environmental deterioration as a result of development must be minimized so that the integrity of the environment is protected in order that nature will continue to do the two things it does best: (1) Act as sinks to the waste that is generated as a result of human activities and (2) provide humans and other living things with the nutrients necessary for existence. It takes local, national, regional, and international efforts in order to ensure the protection and conservation of nature and natural resources. Development policies must embrace the concept of "designing with nature" i.e.

human economic development must not exceed the carrying capacity of natural/ecological systems. Woodhouse's piece in this volume discusses the sustainability of natural resources through sensible development and environmental agenda such as the Convention on Biological Diversity. Overall, this is a good book for students of development who are in their early stages of their study. The discussion of development theory is not as complex or rigorous as other works that this reviewer has read have been theoretically stronger. The book is also recommended for college and university libraries.

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