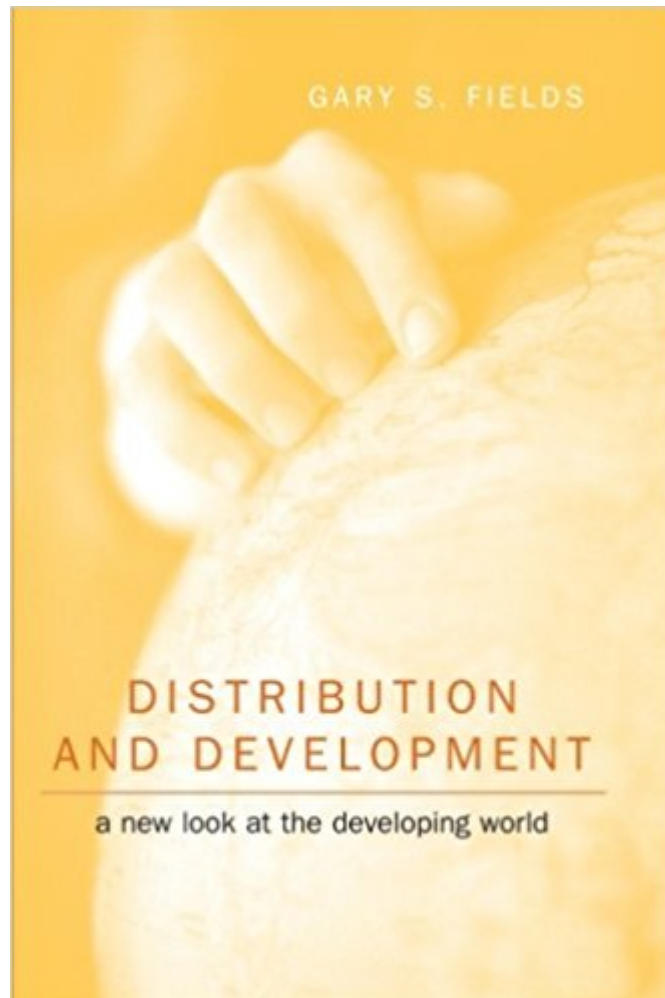




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Distribution And Development: A New Look At The Developing World



Synopsis

Most of the world's people live in "developing" economies, as do most of the world's poor. The predominant means of economic development is economic growth. In this book Gary Fields asks to what extent and in what circumstances economic growth improves the material standard of living of a country's people. Most development economists agree that economic growth raises the incomes of people in all parts of the income distribution and lowers the poverty rate. At the same time, some groups lose out because of changes accompanying economic growth. Fields examines these beliefs, asking what variables should be measured to determine whether progress is being made and what policies and circumstances cause some countries to do better than others. He also shows how the same data can be interpreted to reach different, even conflicting, conclusions. Using both theoretical and empirical approaches, Fields defines and examines inequality, poverty, income mobility, and economic well-being. Finally, he considers various policies for broad-based growth. Copublished with the Russell Sage Foundation.

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Customer Reviews

Education is a key factor in the evolution of societies, one which both affects and reflects the pace of a country's economic growth, the extent of its inequality, and its general social structures. This book offers a brilliant and remarkably clear synthesis of recent work by the economic profession on this complex set of interactions. There is no doubt that it will be an essential reference on the economics of education and education policy for some time. (Francois Bourguignon, Chief

Economist and Senior Vice President, Development Economics, The World Bank) This volume presents the results of decades of imaginative research by Fields on the most critical set of issues in development today. Distribution and Development goes beyond examining the relationship between growth and distribution to include the burgeoning concern with poverty alleviation, as well as such innovative topics as income mobility and economic well-being. An excellent text for advanced undergraduate and graduate students. (Gustav Ranis, Frank Altschul Professor of International Economics, Yale University) This book is filling an important gap in the development economics literature by providing a clear and complete statement of the evidence accumulated so far about the effects of development on income distribution and poverty, and by making easily accessible the analytical tools to deal with these issues. It will prove extremely useful to both newcomers to the field of development and specialists. In particular, the extension of the standard analysis to income mobility is methodologically innovative and a significant step forward. (Francois Bourguignon, Professor of Economics, School for Advanced Studies in Social Sciences/Delta) This book will make a significant contribution to the field. It gathers together a variety of approaches from the field of international relations to explore the development of the climate change regime. It fills a niche that surprisingly no other book has filled. (Marvin Soroos, Department of Political Science, North Carolina State University) This book provides a masterful review of issues that have recently burst back into prominence. The exposition of issues that are sometimes technical and often misunderstood is crystal clear. This together with the effective coupling of theoretical and empirical work will ensure a ready market in the research community and far beyond. The discussion of income mobility takes the reader right to the contemporary frontier in the inequality literature. (Murray Liebrandt, Director, School of Economics, University of Cape Town, South Africa) Fields's combination of simple examples, basic theory, and empirical evidence provides a clear, comprehensive, and current account of how inequality, poverty, and growth interact in the course of development. After reading this book, no one will question that 'economic growth is essential to improving the economic well-being of a nation's people.' (Lyn Squire, Director, The Global Development Network, The World Bank)

Gary S. Fields is Professor of Labor Economics and Economics in the School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University.

The book is really new!

Give lots of information about world's poverty and inequalities. Too academic and can be a bit hard to understand. Supposed to be used as a textbook.

The book was in a very good state. Just a like new one. It was the first i bought at . I do recommend it!

This is a book about wealth and poverty. Gary Fields statistically shows the inequality of poverty, income mobility and economic well being (or the lack thereof) through 'distributional analysis'. He takes various aspects of macro economics and analyzes and draws a conclusion for each aspect. The index and reference sections are excellent. Disappointing is the lack of an appendix. An appendix with information that would collaborate the footnotes alluded to in the text would have been helpful to have at hand (i.e. a footnote like "for profiles of whose these poor countries are see World Bank 1997"). Also, aggravating is Field's comparisons, using statistics of various countries throughout the book, but then moving on without concluding or inferring anything (i.e. Korea spends 10% of its educational budget on higher education while Venezuela spends 43% --- ok, so?). If you are not a student or teacher with a concentration in international economics, or a graduate student in international development, or a practitioner with a international agency, then this book will probably not be valuable to you. However, if you have affinity for statistics, and a strong bent towards international issues like poverty, inequality and distribution of wealth, you will find this book a statistical storehouse. Conditionally recommended

The author focuses on three concepts: Poverty, economic inequality, and economic mobility. The book discusses different methods of measuring these concepts, and reviews an impressive of empirical evidence. The book is of interest for anyone who cares about these issues and wants a review of the latest work on the subject.

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