

Global Development: A Cold War History. Sara Lorenzini. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2019. 296 pp. \$29.95. Hardcover ISBN: 9780691180151.

In this smart, concise survey of twentieth-century development ideology and practice, Sara Lorenzini deconstructs what she calls the “global myth of development” as a supposedly homogeneous Cold War competition between the capitalist camp and the socialist camp. Drawing on a sweeping collection of secondary literature of development across several languages, Lorenzini identifies significant developmentalist pluralism within the two Cold War blocs. Contrary to many well-known studies of development and modernization theory, *Global Development* moves beyond Washington and Moscow to describe how Europeans reimagined their colonial aspirations after Africa and the Middle East gained formal independence. The result is an expansive historical narrative of how the concept of development evolved, through a series of global and regional institutions, to encompass almost every aspect of twentieth-century politics: the temporary prolongation of colonialism, industrialization, capitalist modernization, socialist solidarity, anti-imperialism, environmentalism, human rights, and neoliberal globalization. It is an unwieldy subject, analyzed here in a difficult but rewarding book.

More than any other recent book about the history of development, *Global Development* is exhaustive in its treatment of competing development models and practices within Cold War blocs. Some continental Europe developmentalists “praised traditional African society” for its contribution to rural peace and stability, and they were therefore uneasy with the high modernist assumptions underlying anti-traditionalist manifestations of “Anglo-Saxon” development and modernization theory (76). Communist bloc countries clashed over the role of aid either for solidifying the socialist camp through rational divisions of labor or for helping developing countries to industrialize and become self-sufficient. Even across West and East, development came to dominate the United Nations that by the 1970s housed “both technocratic thinking and anti-imperialist ideas that differed from the prevailing modernization theory” (90). Characteristic of Lorenzini’s sensitivity to detail is her extensive treatment of the evolution of United Nations development theories and practices, in which widespread opposition to the remnants of Western colonialism gave clear advantages to the anti-imperialist socialist camp in the 1960s. The tables reversed in the 1970s, however, as many newly independent countries increasingly equated development with the process of integration into the capitalist world, albeit on terms that the Global South hoped to influence via the New International Economic Order. As this book describes, Moscow once again acquiesced to the emerging Third World line, culminating in the abandonment of Soviet developmentalist aspirations in the middle of the subsequent decade.

While *Global Development* represents a creative synthesis of Global North developmentalism across many decades and geographical areas, its sheer breadth makes it challenging to identify key dynamics at play. Lorenzini concedes, for example, that development has always been a “tool for security” (168), which helps to explain the difficulty of mounting uniform development efforts across donor countries not already wed to one another by security interests. Yet understanding the precise mechanisms of the aid-security relationship requires more detailed case studies, some of

which are cited in Lorenzini's bibliography. Moreover, the book's welcome focus on neglected "Eurafrican" approaches to postcolonial developmentalism means that less attention is given to the more obviously Cold War interventionist activities by Washington in Latin America and East Asia. Since these specific dynamics and regional case studies are well-known to advanced students, *Global Development* is certainly essential reading for upper-level undergraduates and graduate students seeking to better understand the promises, disappointments, and contradictions of international development as a superpower strategy during the Cold War and beyond.

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