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Uneven Paths of Development: Innovation and Learning in Asia and Africa by Banji Oyelaran-Oyeyinka and Rajah Rasiah, reviewed by Edmund Terence Gomez

Abstract: Mixes of public and private elements of contemporary public policy in developed countries utilizing public or delivery options for public infrastructure and/or maintain or sell a set of arrangements that are mixing, outsourcing. These arrangements are to be considered in the development of structures to guide the development. The paper proposes a number of arrangements are to be considered against the development of structures to guide the development. The author also observes that by not examining arrangement point of formal agreement or policy.

Keywords: public-private mix, symmetrical partnerships, private

JEL classifications: H44, H53, I10, I13

1. Introduction
Mixes of public and private sector elements of contemporary public policy in developed countries utilizing private sector organization or delivery options for public infrastructure and/or maintain or sell a set of arrangements that are mixing, outsourcing. These arrangements are to be considered in the development of structures to guide the development. The paper proposes a number of arrangements are to be considered against the development of structures to guide the development. The author also observes that by not examining arrangement point of formal agreement or policy.
for future action and R&D. The message is simple: development policy should not underestimate the role of state intervention, protectionism, and industrialization.

I personally share Reinert’s conviction that state intervention and industrialization matter for development. However, his answer as to how to put the development policy in place may still need to be refined more precisely. For example, an important lesson to learn from the book is that if the First World is allowed to protect their agriculture in order to develop, then the Third World should be allowed to protect its manufacturing and service sectors. How can this be made possible in practice given the economic and political strengths of the rich and the weaknesses of the poor countries? After all, as Reinert himself agrees, given the domestic political pressures to protect their economies, the governments of rich countries unashamedly refuse to practice what they preach.

Osman-Rani Hassan
University of Malaya


Post-colonial Asian and African economies began the long journey to development around the same period in the middle of the last millennium. At that point, one could well argue that the prospects for attaining the goal of “high income nation” appeared brighter for African countries, primarily due to their better access to a vast array of natural resources and their respectable GDP growth in the 1960s. So, why then, half a century later, are the economies of East Asia so far more developed than those of sub-Saharan Africa, especially in terms of industrial development?

The authors of this volume acknowledge that this is not a novel question, as it has been dealt with in a number of other scholarly treatises. What is original about this important comparative study of institutions and organizations in Asia and Africa is its focus on learning and technology capability development. The authors argue that their work constitutes a further contribution to the literature on problems of industrial development in developing economies. Through an in-depth examination of the computer hardware sector in these two continents, the authors aim to provide a clear assessment of learning and innovation, an inventive method to obtain well-founded answers to the questions they pose.
What is evident in all cases is the profound role of the state in co-
ordinating institutions coherently to develop a sector. And the institutional 
capacity of public and private agencies go far to explain developmental 
outcomes. This book, undoubtedly, is a new contribution to the literature 
on development in emerging economies, providing scholars in the area with 
important concepts that can be employed in similar studies. But future studies 
in this area would do well to make it a truly inclusive study, one that would 
need to be more multi-disciplinary in nature.

Edmund Terence Gomez  
_University of Malaya_