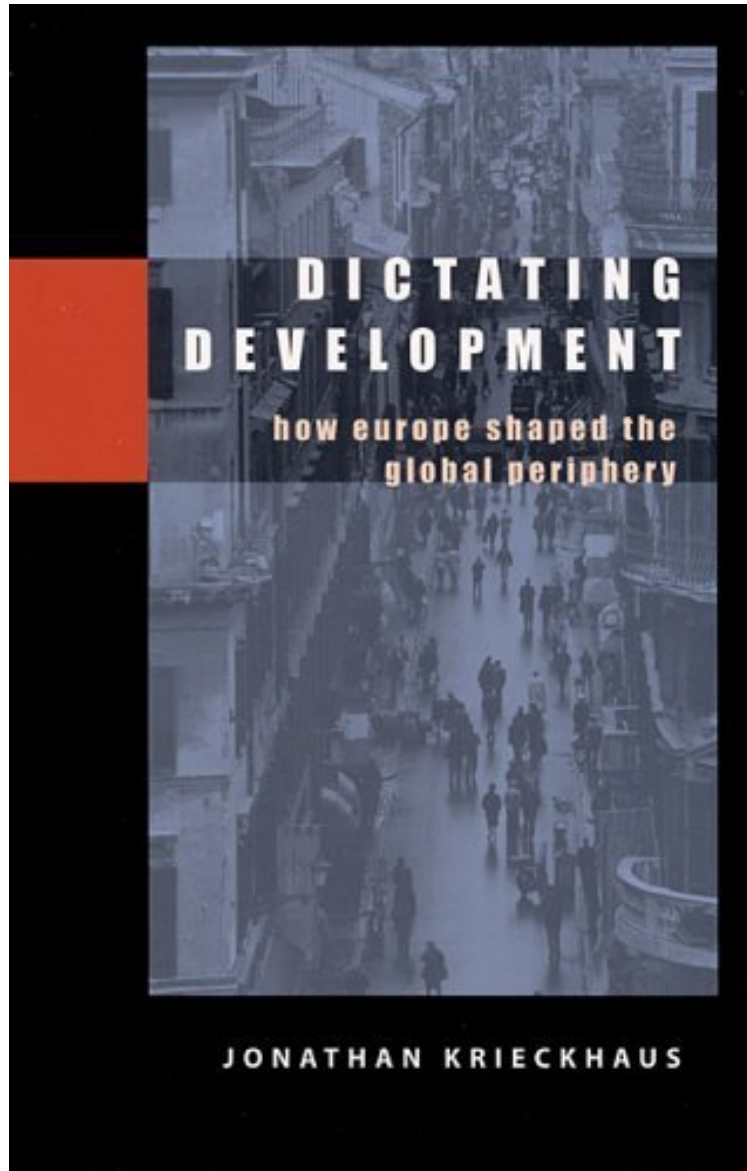


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Dictating Development: How Europe Shaped the Global Periphery

Jonathan Kriekhaus

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Jonathan Kriekhaus : Dictating Development: How Europe Shaped the Global Periphery before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dictating Development: How Europe Shaped the Global Periphery:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Useful study of the effects of colonialismBy William PodmoreIn this brilliantly original book, Jonathan Kriekhaus, assistant professor of political science at the University of Missouri-Columbia, contends that international factors, like colonialism, wars, market shocks and aid, have huge economic

impact. He presents both a statistical analysis of growth from 1960 to 2000 in 91 countries and detailed case studies of Mozambique, South Korea and Brazil. He shows why policy-centred accounts of economic growth like neo-liberalism are inadequate. He explains, "most economic policies are not robustly correlated with growth in statistical models ... they are less important than initial conditions in determining economic growth." Krieckhaus sums up colonialism's impact, "a small handful of countries avoided European colonialism, and were hence left free to imitate the European model without suffering European exploitation. Though rarely noted, this was by far the most effective route to economic success over the last forty years. Of the five countries that enjoyed the most rapid economic growth since 1960, it is quite striking that not one was a European colony. Japan, Thailand, and China all escaped Europe's control and used this freedom to construct efficacious states and extensive human capital. Japan then transferred the model to Korea and Taiwan, which also enjoyed rapid growth. Not every country that enjoyed independence from Europe subsequently enjoyed rapid growth, but such independence has historically been a necessary condition for extremely rapid growth." Among those countries that did fall under European control, one can further distinguish between early and late colonialism. Late colonialism, beginning approximately in 1885, was substantially more exploitive than its earlier forms. The rapid increase in the geographic scope of colonialism led Europeans to run its territories cheaply, while simultaneously extracting whatever resources they could. Europeans therefore did not attempt to build state capacity or invest in human capital ... "Krieckhaus shows that British colonies grew no more rapidly than others. Very few children ever got to primary school in the colonies, fewer than 3% in Sierra Leone, Gambia and Northern Nigeria. He notes, "British colonists were particularly reluctant to provide health services, and Sir Hugh Clifford, governor of the Gold Coast, explicitly wrote that the `Medical Establishment [was] maintained almost exclusively for the benefit of the European population.'" Wars also harm development. Krieckhaus examines South Africa's attack on Mozambique, which displaced a third of the population, killed 600,000 people, and destroyed 40% of the country's assets. Market shocks can have a huge impact, as with the 1980 Thatcher-Reagan interest rate hike, which caused the worldwide slump. International aid too can have major effects: Krieckhaus shows how US spending on its wars against North Korea and then Vietnam funded South Korea's growth. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent read By N. Nasser Wonderful book! All students of Comparative Political Science must read this book to gain a deeper understanding of the many factors inhibiting growth to millions worldwide.

Dictating Development presents a powerful and original analysis of how colonialism has profoundly impacted the varying economic growth of developing nations. While previous studies have focused primarily on the domestic neoliberal policies of government and the political capacity of developing states, Dictating Development argues that economic growth is equally influenced (positively and negatively) by colonial powers. Jonathan Krieckhaus examines both historic colonial influences (on human capital and state structures) as well as contemporary ones (war, market access, and foreign aid). Based on an in-depth study of the regionally diverse nations of Mozambique, Korea, and Brazil, and a statistical analysis of growth in ninety-one countries from 1960 to 2000, Krieckhaus effectively demonstrates that most seemingly domestic political variables are in fact the byproduct of relationships with colonial powers. While not denying the role of neoliberalism as an important factor in development, Dictating Development reveals the roots of these policies: how colonialism influences the very nature of government and societal productivity.

ldquo;This book addresses a central question of global human welfare: why do some countries achieve sustained economic growth and others stagnate?nbsp; Professor Krieckhaus provides answers that integrate economics and political science, statistical analysis and historical case studies.nbsp; The result is sobering, hopeful, and a fascinating read.rdquo; --William Keech, Carnegie Mellon University