

## *Changing Paths*

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INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND  
THE NEW POLITICS OF INCLUSION

*Edited by Peter P. Houtzager and Mick Moore*

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# Contents

<i>List of Tables</i>	vii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	ix

## 1 *Introduction*

FROM POLYCENTRISM TO THE POLITY	
Peter P. Houtzager	1

2 <i>Political Capabilities over the Long Run</i>	
Laurence Whitehead and George Gray-Molina	32

3 <i>Beyond the Political Impossibility Theorem of Agrarian Reform</i>	
Ronald J. Herring	58

4 <i>Coalition Building from Below</i>	
Peter P. Houtzager (with Jonathan Pattenden)	88

5 <i>Grounds for Alliance?</i>	
OVERLAPPING INTERESTS OF POOR AND NOT SO POOR	
Joan M. Nelson	119

6 <i>The Boundaries of Antipoverty Policy</i>	
ECONOMIC IDEAS, POLITICAL COALITIONS, AND THE STRUCTURE OF SOCIAL PROVISION IN CHILE AND MEXICO	
Marcus J. Kurtz	139

7 <i>Polity Qualities</i>	
HOW GOVERNANCE AFFECTS POVERTY	
Mick Moore (with Jennifer Leavy and Howard White)	167

8	<i>Do Political Regimes Matter?</i>	
	POVERTY REDUCTION AND REGIME	
	DIFFERENCES ACROSS INDIA	
	John Harriss	204
9	<i>Does Decentralization Contribute to Poverty Reduction?</i>	
	SURVEYING THE EVIDENCE	
	Richard C. Crook and Alan S. Sverrisson	233
10	<i>Arguing the Politics of Inclusion</i>	
	Mick Moore	260
	<i>Contributors</i>	285
	<i>Subject Index</i>	i 289
	<i>Author Index</i>	297

# Tables

## Chapter 4

- 1 *Factors Contributing to Coalition Building and Influence in the Philippines and Peru* 96

## Chapter 6

- 1 *Patterns of Social Welfare Policy in Chile and Mexico* 140
- 2 *The Transformation and Retransformation of Social Welfare in Chile* 147
- 3 *Decentralized Social and Infrastructural Investment in Chile* 148
- 4 *Public Subsidies as a Percentage of Cash Income, by Income Quintile, Chile* 151
- 5 *Production and Consumption-Oriented Spending in Mexico's PRONASOL Program, 1989-94* 155
- 6 *Antipoverty Spending in Mexico under President Zedillo, 1995-98* 156

## Chapter 7

- A.1 *The Sample Countries and Values of the Dependent and Main Independent Variables* 192
- A.2 *Country Classification for Location/Africa Dummy Variables* 194
- A.3 *Regression Results* 195

## Chapter 8

- |   |  |     |
|---|--|-----|
| 1 | <i>Two Rankings of Major Indian States by Extent of Rural Poverty Reduction</i>  | 207 |
| 2 | <i>Development Expenditure per Capita at the State Level</i>   | 209 |
| 3 | <i>Rate of Growth of Crop Yields</i>   | 210 |
| 4 | <i>A Typology of Indian State Regimes</i>  | 215 |
| 5 | <i>Proportion of Developmental Expenditure on Education in Eight States, 1980-81 to 1997-98</i>                                  | 222 |
| 6 | <i>Expenditure per Capita on Education in Eight States, 1980-81 and 1990-91</i>  | 223 |
| 7 | <i>“Desired Distribution” and “Actual Distribution” of Food in Major States under the Public Distribution System, Late 1980s</i> | 224 |

## Chapter 9

- |   |   |     |
|---|---|-----|
| 1 | <i>The Outcomes of Decentralization, by Country</i> | 253 |
|---|---|-----|

## *Acknowledgments*

Encounters between scholars and policymakers do not always have happy outcomes. This book is the product of an encounter that—for a series of reasons related to personalities, professional positions, and historical timing (notably, the end of a long period of ascent of neoliberal ideas)—was unusually fruitful. The book began to take shape during two meetings in 1999 that assembled scholars from Brazil, Bangladesh, India, Nigeria, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and policymakers from the UK Department for International Development and World Bank. The intellectual backdrop to our discussions in the splendid surroundings of Eynsham Hall and Castle Donnington in the UK was a shared concern about the depoliticization of debates on international development policy and an awareness of a growing interest in empowerment of the poor, pro-poor policy-making, and good governance. Our immediate concern was the politics of poverty reduction and the longer term distributional and political consequences of different bundles of pro-poor public policies.

The policy actors with whom we had contact prior to the meetings complained that much public policy in low- and middle-income countries failed to bear the expected fruit because of political dynamics. Yet these dynamics were invisible in policy analysis and pronouncements and in many recent academic analyses. A number of scholar-colleagues made similar observations and commented that scholars in the international development debate have played an important role in legitimizing and reproducing the technification of development discourse. We hope that the chapters assembled here are an antidote.

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