



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



The Bureau for Management, Office of the Chief Information Officer (M/CIO), Knowledge Services Center

New This Month

February 2015

AID AND DEVELOPMENT

Development in difficult sociopolitical contexts: fragile, failed, pariah. Ware, Anthony, editor. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

This volume explores development in fragile, failed and pariah states. It presents eleven case studies on countries ranking in the “very high alert” and “very high warning” categories in the Fund for Peace Failed States Index. The authors relate the sociopolitical contexts of the countries to development approaches and actor roles, providing a critique of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. The work of USAID is discussed in several chapters.

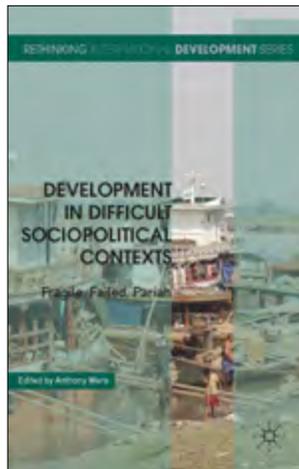


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Foreign aid and emerging powers: Asian perspectives on official development assistance. Watson, Iain. New York: Routledge, 2014.

This book examines how the dynamics of regional geopolitics can affect donor-donor relationships and donor-recipient relationships within and outside a region. Watson provides a multidisciplinary assessment of the contemporary debates on emerging powers and foreign aid, examining the role of, and relationships between, the leading traditional and emerging power Asian donors, and exploring the different perspectives and patterns of Official Development Assistance policy.

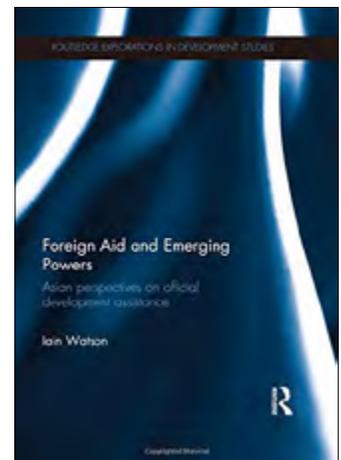


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Problems, promises, and paradoxes of aid: Africa's experience. Ndulo, Muna and Nicolas van de Walle, editors. Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014.

Does aid support economic development? Using specific case studies, this anthology examines the problems, results, and paradoxes of economic aid in Africa. Criticisms of aid as depending on donors rather than needs of the recipients are discussed, as the authors explore questions about which form development aid should take to increase its effectiveness.

The resilience dividend: being strong in a world where things go wrong. Rodin, Judith.

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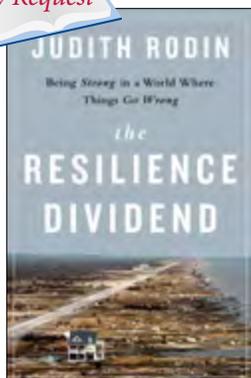


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New York: PublicAffairs, 2014.

Through a range of stories detailing how people, organizations, communities and cities have developed resistance in the face of challenges, Rodin provides a template for thinking about resilience and describing methods for putting that thinking into practice.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Food security in the Middle East. Babar, Zahra and Suzi Mirgani, editors. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

Utilizing case studies of Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, Yemen, the Persian Gulf states and Iran, this volume analyzes the history of agricultural development in the Middle East and how the globalization of food production has impacted food security. Major themes examined include: the ascent and decline of various food regimes, urban agriculture, overseas agricultural land purchases, national food self-sufficiency strategies, distribution networks and food consumption patterns, and nutrition transitions and healthcare.

Precision agriculture for sustainability and environmental protection. Oliver, Margaret, Thomas Bishop, and Ben Marchant, editors. New York: Routledge, 2013.

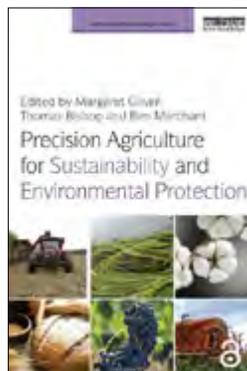


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The contributors introduce readers to the broad subject of precision agriculture and the benefits that result from its use in areas of food security, environmental protection, and sustainable use of natural resources. Topics covered include: sampling and mapping, weed and pest control, proximal and remote sensing, management zones, and water management.

The price of thirst: global water inequality and the coming chaos. Piper, Karen. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2014.

Author Karen Piper explores a global environment in which water resources are increasingly controlled by multinational corporations. From the apartheid of water rights in South Africa, to the national privatization of water supplies in Chile, to the U.S.-mandated privatization of water resources in Iraq, Piper presents examples from areas of water scarcity from over a dozen countries on six continents and analyzes the widening gap between the haves and have-nots of water.

Weather matters for energy. Troccoli, Alberto, Laurent Dubus, and Sue Ellen Haupt, editors. New York: Springer, 2014.

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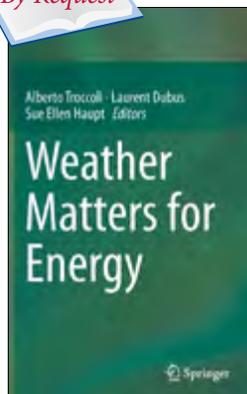


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Based on presentations given at the International Conference Energy & Meteorology held in the Gold Coast, Australia, in November 2011, this book seeks to provide the meteorological knowledge and tools to improve the risk management of energy industry decisions. Contributors impart ways to make the best use of weather data to achieve more efficient use of energy sources.

DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND GOVERNANCE

Conflict, security and development: an introduction. Beswick, Danielle and Paul Jackson. New York: Routledge, 2015.

Beswick and Jackson set forth core ideas relating to development and security in the contemporary world. This updated second edition aims to: show how thinking on conflict, security and development continues to change over time; explore the implications of the connections between security and development; and examine a range of case studies to explore the challenges one may face when combining security and development efforts.

Hun Sen's Cambodia. Strangio, Sebastian. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2014.

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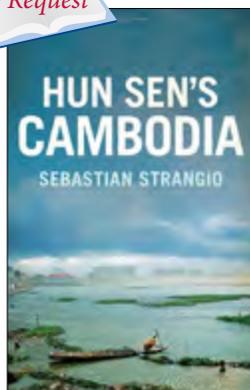


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Strangio examines the origins and history of Hun Sen's Cambodia, which arose from the legacy of the Khmer Rouge regime. The book explores the country that has emerged under Hun Sen, one of peace and economic advancement, yet still controlled by one-party rule with an illusion of democracy. Strangio tells the recent history of the rapidly changing country through stories

of the Cambodian people themselves, many of whom have few rights under Hun Sen's leadership.

Post-Communist democracies and party organization. Tavits, Margit. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013.

Why are some parties better able than others to establish themselves in new democracies? Using data from ten European post-communist democracies, including analysis of parties in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, and Poland, Tavits argues that the successful establishment of a political party in a new democracy depends on the strength of its organization, including membership size, local presence, and professional management.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TRADE

Economic development strategies and the evolution of violence in Latin America. Ascher, William and Natalia Mirovitskaya, editors. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.

In this collection of essays, authors analyze case studies of Latin American countries, linking economic policies to intergroup violence. They identify the pathways connecting particular strategies and development patterns to deeply rooted violence within the region.



Image: www.amazon.com

Mass flourishing: how grassroots innovation created jobs, challenge, and change. Phelps, Edmund. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2013.

Nobel Prize winning economist Edmund Phelps offers a new perspective on what causes nations to prosper. Phelps argues that prosperity can be measured not only by material wealth, but also "flourishing" -- human creativity, meaningful work and a desire to explore, which is driven by a majority of people rather than a select few. He believes that flourishing, attributed to modern values underlying an economy, is under threat in Western nations due to a resurgence of corporatist values that put the interests of the state over individuals.

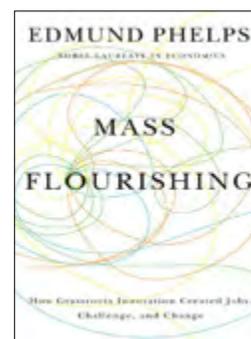


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Towards a better global economy: policy implications for citizens worldwide in the 21st century.

Allen, Franklin, Jere R. Behrman, Nancy Birdsall, Shahrokh Fardoust, Dani Rodrik, Andrew Steer, and Arvind Subramanian. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2014.

The 2008 economic crises left a slowdown in global economic growth and increases in income inequality. This text discusses factors that may lead to developments in global governance to improve the well-being of the world's citizens and promote global economic growth. Topics addressed include:

economic growth, population and human development, globalization and international trade, finance and growth, natural resources and climate change, and global economic governance.

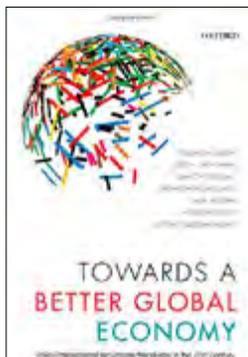


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Understanding national accounts (e-book from the OECD iLibrary). Lequiller, François and Derek Blades. Paris: OECD Publishing, 2014.

Examining national accounts from a global perspective, this second edition details how national accounts are compiled. The text has been adapted to include the new systems of national accounts, SNA 2008 and ESA 2010, that came into effect in September 2014. Chapter topics include international comparisons, globalization, and national systems used in major OECD economies. USAID staff can download this book from the [OECD iLibrary](#).

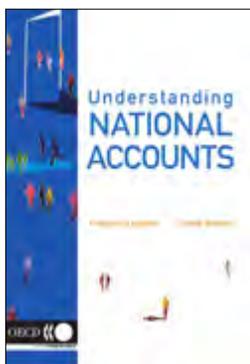


Image: www.oecd.org

EDUCATION

Globalization, international education policy and local policy formation: voices from the developing world. Brown, Carolyn A., editor. New York: Springer, 2015.

Written by scholars from developing countries throughout the world, this volume examines how international donor policy and funding affect local education policy formation in developing countries. The authors offer viewpoints that diverge from the usual Western discourse and shed light on ways in which the influence of donor policy does or does not meet the local cultural, social, economic, and political needs of the developing world. The work of USAID is discussed in several chapters.

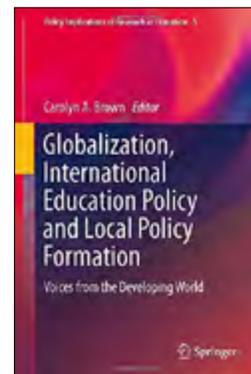


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Skills beyond school: synthesis report (e-book from the OECD iLibrary). OECD. Paris: OECD Publishing, 2014.

Higher level vocational education and training (VET) programs are facing rapid change and increasing challenges. This report synthesizes the findings of the series of country reports done on skills beyond school. It examines what type of training best meets the needs of changing economies, how programs should be funded and whether they should be linked to academic programs, and how employers can be engaged. USAID staff can download this book from the [OECD iLibrary](#).

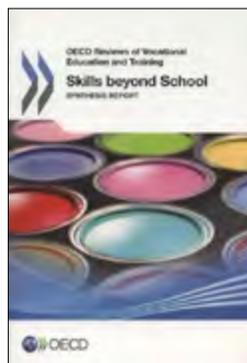


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GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Contested terrain: reflections with Afghan women leaders. Kitch, Sally L. Urbana, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2014.

In this book, Kitch reveals the lives and opinions of two Afghan women, Judge Marzia Basel, founder of the Afghan Women Judges Association, and Jamila Afghani, founder and director of the Noor Educational and Capacity Development Center. Providing a perspective on the personal and professional lives of Afghanistan's women, Basel and Afghani speak candidly, and critically, of international intervention, the oppression of women, patriarchal Afghan culture, and the climate among Afghan women that limits change.

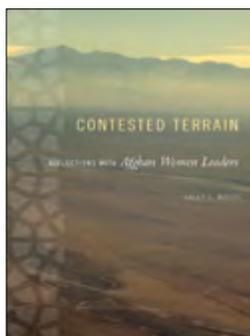


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Intimate economies of development: mobility, sexuality and health in Asia. Lyttleton, Chris. New York: Routledge, 2014.

Lyttleton explores the interconnectedness of the affective components of everyday life and development, contending that as migration expands in modern economies, material and emotional elements intersect. She is critical of current aid models in Southeast Asia, arguing that they do not adequately address the risks that arise, such as infectious disease and human trafficking, generated by changing social values and growing economies in the developing region.

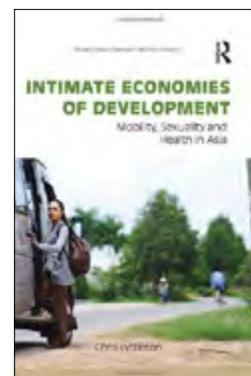


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Low cost emergency water purification technologies: integrated water security series. Ray, Chittaranjan and Ravi Jain. Waltham, MA: Butterworth-Heinemann, 2014.

This book, meant to serve as a primer for NGOs, government entities, and those who plan and manage disaster relief, details affordable technologies for producing potable water for emergency use. Pros and cons of both short-term and long-term water treatment technologies are discussed including: reverse osmosis-based filtration, solar pasteurization systems, solar distillation systems, sand filtration, and natural filtration.



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HEALTH, NUTRITION & POPULATION

Healthcare management strategy, communication, and development challenges and solutions in developing countries. Ngwainmbi, Emmanuel, editor. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2014.

This collection of essays analyzes the relationship between communication practices and the management of healthcare services, public health administration, and healthcare policies in developing countries. The authors argue that intercultural, intergroup, and mass communication practices are weakening the efforts of public health programs and that country leaders must play a key role in information-sharing regarding infectious diseases and good health practices.



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The malaria project: the U.S. government's secret mission to find a miracle cure.

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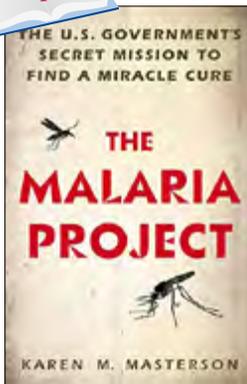


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Masterson, Karen M. New York: New American Library, 2014.

Masterson presents a historical exposé of America's secret mission to combat Malaria during World War II. She details how leading scientists experimented on mental health patients and convicts, injecting them with both the disease as well as experimental drugs. Ultimately,

it was from test tubes captured in battle from a wartime German laboratory from which chloroquine, America's best weapon against malaria, was produced.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

R graphics cookbook. Chang, Winston. Sebastopol, CA: 2013.

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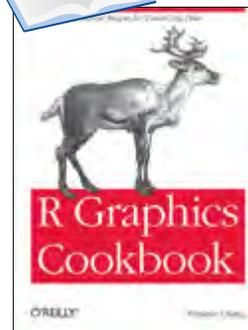


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Intended for readers with a basic understanding of the R language, this practical guide contains over 150 “recipes” to help generate high-quality graphs quickly. The author addresses specific problems and solutions that can be applied to your own projects, including detailed discussions of how and why each “recipe” works. Learn how to: use color in

plots, structure data for graphing, control the appearance of graphics, create a variety of graphs and scatter plots, and much more.

LEARNING RESOURCES CENTER

AFRICA

Congo: the epic history of a people. Reybrouck, David van. New York: Ecco, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. 2014.

Van Reybrouck presents a penetrating history of Congo, tracing its history from the beginnings of the slave trade to the civil war over natural resources that began in 1996 and still continues today. Constructed from hundreds of interviews and meticulous historical research, this epic chronicle focuses on the Congolese perspective of the country's history.

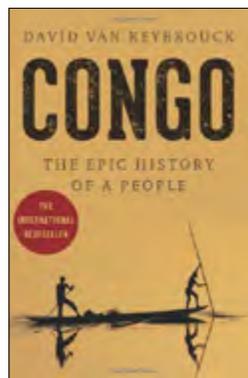


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MIDDLE EAST

The golden scales: a Makana mystery. Bilal, Parker. New York: Bloomsbury, 2012.

Makana, a former Sudanese police inspector forced to flee to Cairo, is trying to make ends meet as a private detective. He takes a case from the notoriously corrupt Saad Hanafi, owner of a Cairo soccer team, whose star player, Adil Romario, has gone missing. Soon, Makana is caught up in a mystery that takes him into the treacherous underbelly of Cairo, a trail that stirs up painful personal memories and brings him face-to-face with an enemy from his past.

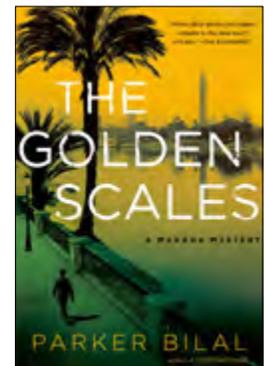


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MANAGEMENT AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Cubed: a secret history of the workplace. Saval, Nikil. New York: Doubleday, 2014.

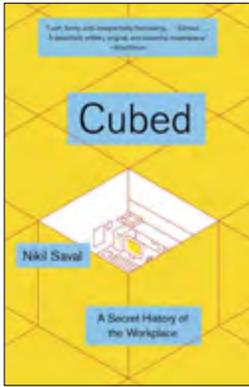


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Saval amusingly chronicles the evolution of the white-collar workplace from the counting houses of the mid-nineteenth century to the towering office-filled skyscrapers of today. Drawing references from popular books, movies, comic strips, as well as management and business history literature, Saval provides insight into the ways our workplaces function and how they might be improved.

Master presenter: lessons from the world's top experts on becoming a more influential speaker. Zielinski, David, editor. San Francisco: Wiley, 2013.

This hands-on resource contains a collection of the best tips, tactics, and lessons for creating captivating presentations. The volume covers technological tools such as PowerPoint features, graphics design, webinars, mobile presenting, and social media. Additionally, contributors explore the low-tech presentation skills needed to deliver an effective sales pitch including storytelling skills, body language, and vocal techniques.

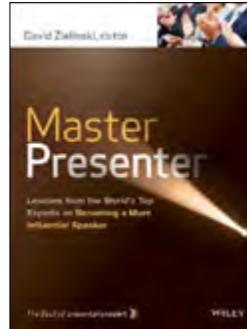


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Extend your Research Network



Helping you Analyze, Compile and Synthesize

With specialists in every major Agency sector, the Knowledge Services Center (KSC) conducts analytic and value-added research for USAID staff. We **analyze** best practices and lessons learned within specific sectors, **compile** briefing papers on emerging issues in international development and quantitative data and historical research, and **synthesize** reports for specific regions, issues or sectors. Below are a few selected topics that we have recently explored:

- ▶ A gender assessment that analyzed the progress of women since the U.S. intervention in Afghanistan.
- ▶ An inventory of resources that provides insight into what countries have successfully done to reduce their maternal mortality ratios.
- ▶ A paper on the effect of executive term limits on governance.
- ▶ A historical and environmental assessment of Syria's conditions with respect to agriculture.
- ▶ A detailed literature review of civil society in the Arab world.
- ▶ A brief summary of a book that analyzed indigenous empowerment in the Ecuadorian Amazon.
- ▶ A research paper on the utility of recruiting traditional leaders to address developmental issues such as HIV/AIDS, violence against women and children, child marriage, and girls' education.

Most of these documents are available to Agency staff. To submit a research request or meet with a researcher to discuss a possible request, please e-mail us at ksc@usaid.gov.

Contact the Knowledge Services Center for assistance at ksc@usaid.gov

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