



New This Month

From the USAID Knowledge Services Center

NEW THIS MONTH

AID AND DEVELOPMENT

Doing bad by doing good: why humanitarian action fails.

Coyne, Christopher J. Stanford, CA: Stanford Economics and Finance, 2013.

By Request

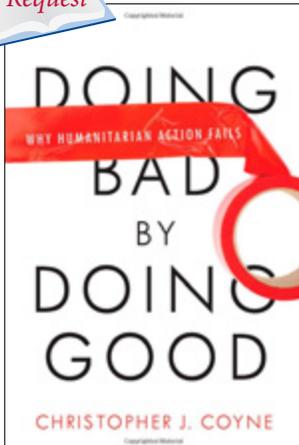


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In this volume Coyne examines the limits of short-term humanitarian aid and long-term development assistance, the disconnect between intentions and reality, and why economic freedom provides the best means for minimizing human suffering. The work of USAID is described in a number of chapters.

Global problems, smart solutions: costs and benefits.

Lomborg, Bjørn, editor. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013.

Every four years the Copenhagen Consensus Center gathers researchers to look at global issues and ask: how could economic science help us improve decision making? This volume, a product of the 2012 meeting, brings together more than fifty experts to discuss how smart investment might solve twelve major crises facing the world today. Topics include disease and nutrition, conflict, climate change and the environment, education, and population growth.

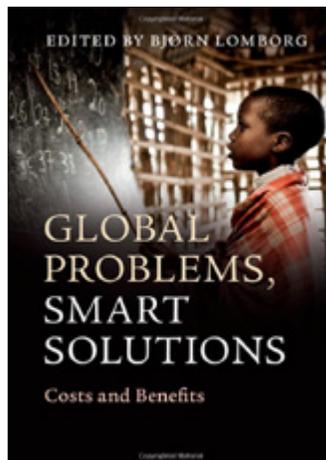


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INSIDE

Aid and Development

Agriculture and Environment

Democracy, Governance and Humanitarian Assistance

Economic Growth and Trade

Education

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Health, Nutrition and Population

Science and Technology

New from the **LEARNING RESOURCES CENTER HR/TE**

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Africa

Asia

Management and Career Development

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Growing old in Cameroon: gender, vulnerability, and social capital. Che Fonchingong, Charles. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2013.

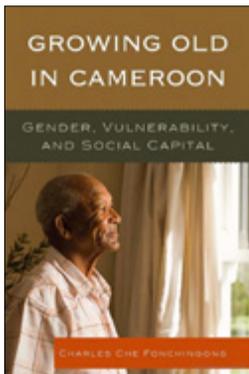


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This study examines global trends in population and social security, then explores types of formal and informal social protection for the elderly in sub-Saharan Africa. Turning his attention to Cameroon, the author then looks at the ageing population, the country's social insurance regime, and obstacles facing the system. A chapter of older people's narratives on a variety of topics is included.

New media, development and globalization: making connections in the global south. Slater, Don. Malden, MA: Polity Press, 2013.

Slater takes a fresh look at how the terms "new media," "development," and "globalization" are being used in public and political dialog about governance and development initiatives. He asserts that these terms have been given particular cultural and ideological contexts. Slater advocates for investing these words with more universal meanings that encompass the experiences of southern peoples.

Scarcity: why having too little means so much.

Mullainathan, Sendhil and Eldar Shafir. New York: Times Books, 2013.

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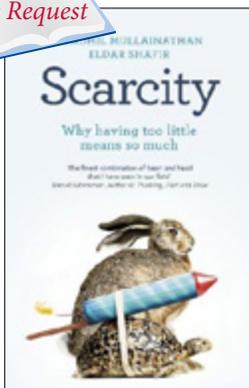


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Mullainathan and Shafir examine the psychology of scarcity and the mindset that narrows perspective and perpetuates scarcity by limiting one's options. They examine how scarcity plays out in the real world, particularly in regards to the poor, and note that strains on an individual's bandwidth – bills, illness, hunger, child rearing – can frequently explain why poverty so often begets poverty.

Social development: theory & practice. Midgley, James. London: Sage, 2014.

A leading expert on international social work, Midgley introduces readers to the concepts of social development in this basic text. The book covers background, theory and practice as Midgley builds a case for enhancing the stature of social development as an academic discipline. Chapters cover social development as it pertains to working conditions, microfinance and microenterprise, social protection, planning, and community development.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Climate change and development. Tanner, Thomas and Leo Horn-Phathanothai. New York: Routledge, 2014.

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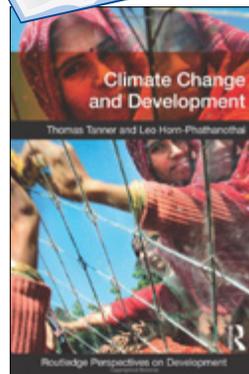


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This text lays out a multi-disciplinary foundation for understanding the complex relationship between development, climate change, and the measures needed to minimize climate-related impacts. The authors provide the building blocks necessary to understand the nexus between climate change and development.

Chapter summaries, discussion questions, suggestions for further reading and relevant websites are included.

Conservation agriculture: global prospects and challenges. Jat, R. A., K. L. Sahrawat, and A. H. Kassam, editors. CABI, 2014.

Conservation agriculture – the constellation of practices to minimize soil disturbance, maintain soil covers and cultivate a diversity of crops – is taking hold in a growing number of countries. This collection of articles describes ecologically sustainable, multifunction farming in Argentina, Brazil, China, Iran, Malawi, Turkey, Zambia and Zimbabwe as well as in the regions of North, West and Central Africa and Central and Southeast Asia. The contributors scrutinize the soil, agronomic and animal husbandry challenges of conservation agriculture. USAID staff may download the book through [CABI eBooks](#).

East African agriculture and climate change: a comprehensive analysis. Waithaka, Michael, Gerald C. Nelson, Timothy S. Thomas, and Miriam Kyotalimye, editors. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute, 2013.

In this illustrated volume contributors look at potential impacts of climate change adaptation on agriculture in ten countries of eastern and central Africa – Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. Chapters on individual countries utilize tables, graphs and maps to present an overview of the current demographic, economic and environmental situation as well as scenarios for the future.

DEMOCRACY, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The locust effect: why the end of poverty requires the end of violence. Haugen, Gary A.

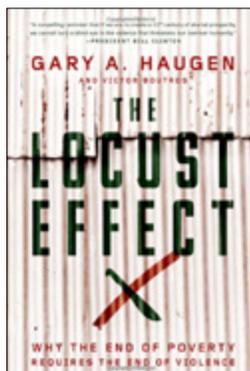


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and Victor Boutros. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

Haugen and Boutros focus on the central role of violence in perpetuating poverty, and show that if any headway is to be made, this issue has to become a top priority for policymakers. They feature real-world stories that depict how violence

undercuts antipoverty efforts and demonstrate that ground-up efforts to reform legal and public justice systems can generate real, positive results in the developing world.

Peasants in power: the political economy of development and genocide in Rwanda. Verwimp, Philip. New York: Springer, 2013.



Verwimp analyzes the roots of the 1994 Rwanda genocide, how it was committed, and why acts of genocide were so pervasive. He reviews the political and economic institutions in place at the time and concludes that we can largely explain the genocide by taking a political economy approach to development and dictatorship in Rwanda.

The promise of participation: experiments in participatory governance in Honduras and Guatemala. Altschuler, Daniel

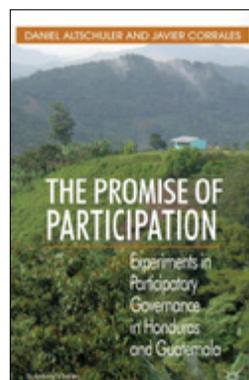


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and Javier Corrales. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.

Authors investigate whether states can stimulate participation and produce changes in individual's civic and political behaviors through participatory governance initiatives. Citing evidence from quantitative and qualitative research on community-managed schools

(CMS) in rural Honduras and Guatemala, they conclude that civic participation can be stimulated and can even produce spillover effects – changes in behavior that produce greater civic and political engagement.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TRADE

Economic development: what everyone needs to know. Giugale, Marcelo M. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

Giugale provides a concise introduction to the practice of development, examines the major challenges that shape the field, and highlights doubts, trade-offs, and dilemmas faced by development experts. In question-and-answer format he looks at a host of topics including government corruption, state violence, natural resources, globalization and trade, poverty reduction, gender parity, health care, food prices, and technology.

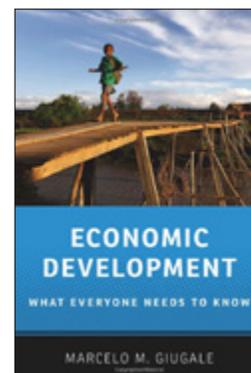


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Global poverty alleviation: a case book. Albert, Pauline J., Patricia Werhane, and Tim Rolph, editors. New York: Springer, 2014.

This case book investigates how profitable business partnerships can effectively eliminate global poverty and empower people to improve their own lives. After highlighting how technology can be critical to the world's capacity-building efforts, authors look at poverty alleviation programs around the globe in sectors such as banking, health, education, infrastructure development, environment, and technology. The work of USAID is described in a number of chapters.

Microfinance 3.0: reconciling sustainability with social outreach and responsible delivery. Köhn, Doris, editor. New York: Springer, 2013.

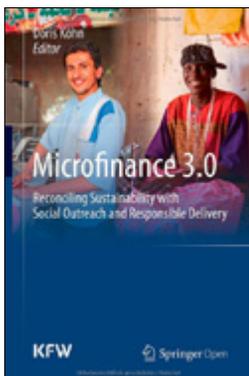


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Contributors look at the potential of microfinance to lift more people out of poverty while scrutinizing the growing number of institutions that provide microfinance services. Essays touch upon some of the necessary ingredients of microfinance 3.0 – the values needed to provide financial services responsibly, the appropriate business models to serve a large number of unbanked people, and the role of funders in promoting responsible service delivery.

Pirate trails: tracking the illicit financial flows from pirate activities off the Horn of Africa.

Yikona, Stuart. Washington: World Bank, 2013.

What are the economic underpinnings of piracy in the Indian Ocean? What happens to the ill-gotten financial gains secured by pirates? How is Somali piracy linked to trafficking in persons? This economic study sheds light on how and why piracy off the Horn of Africa reaps profits, and for whom. It explains how this violence on the seas is connected to real estate, khat, oil and other legitimate businesses. USAID staff may download the book from the [World Bank eLibrary](#).

EDUCATION

From classrooms to conflict in Rwanda. King, Elisabeth. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

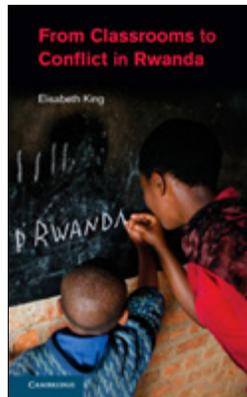


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King uses Rwanda as a case study to contradict the common view that education always contributes to peacebuilding. After providing an overview of the causes of intergroup conflicts in Rwanda, she analyzes the development of schooling during three periods of Rwandan history. The author concludes that while schooling has the potential to contribute to peacebuilding by promoting equity and developing critical thinking skills, it can also underlie violent interethnic conflict.

GENDER AND WOMEN'S EQUALITY

Feminist activism, women's rights and legal reform. Al-Sharmani, Mulki, editor. London: Zed Press, 2013.

Through case studies of the intersection between the law and gender issues in Bangladesh, Brazil, Ghana, Egypt, Iran, Palestine, Morocco and Yemen, the authors in this volume ask: "To what extent does the law help or hinder the quest for gender equity and social reform?" Intimate partner violence, divorce practices and trends, women's engagement in nation-building, and women's rights mobilization are explored in the context of each country's legal constructs.

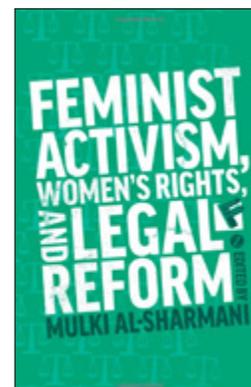


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Gendered commodity chains. Dunaway, Wilma A., editor. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2014.

In the 13 articles collected here, scholars engage in the discourse on women's participation in global economic systems. The contributions range from explorations of relevant economic theory to discussions of women's resistance to exploitative work situations. The authors investigate women as actors in the economies of Nicaragua, the Philippines, Turkey, and other countries where they work in agriculture and fishing, household maintenance, and the garment and sex industries.

HEALTH, NUTRITION & POPULATION

Hope in sight: one doctor's quest to restore eyesight and dignity to the world's poor. Simjee, Aisha. Orange, CA: White Spruce Press, 2013.

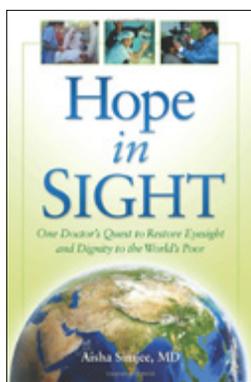


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Simjee, an ophthalmologist, grew up in Burma and became interested in eye health after suffering from trachoma as a young child. At the age of twenty-six, she left Burma by securing an internship at a hospital in Baltimore. After years of practicing medicine in the United States, Simjee began pursuing medical missions with the goal of providing hope and dignity to sight-deprived people around the world.

Learning from economic downturns: how to better assess, track, and mitigate the impact on the health sector. Hou, Xiaohui, Edit V. Velenyi, Abdo S. Yazbeck, Roberto F. Lunes and Owen Smith. Washington: World Bank, 2013.

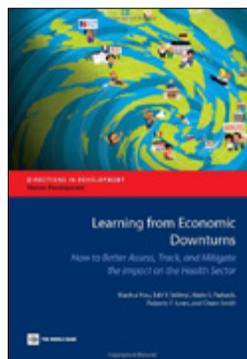


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Achieving stability in the health sector can reap significant economic development rewards and can protect the health of vulnerable people in times of economic crisis. Drawing on lessons from the recent world recession – as well as tools used

by social protection practitioners – this volume shows how policy makers can follow an assessment, tracking and mitigation framework to establish systems that can minimize the impact of economic volatility on health care delivery. USAID staff may download the book from the [World Bank eLibrary](#).

The MassGeneral Hospital for Children handbook of pediatric global health. Gupta, Nupur, Brett D. Nelson, Jennifer Kasper and Patricia L. Hibberd, editors. New York: Springer, 2014.

This handbook offers a practical, hands-on guide to saving children's lives by exploiting available resources in less developed countries. A comprehensive manual compiled by well-known global health experts, this manual will be useful to practitioners of all specialties and interests. It covers the key causes of mortality in children from infancy to adolescence, as well as other areas of concern such as protection and improvement of oral and reproductive health.

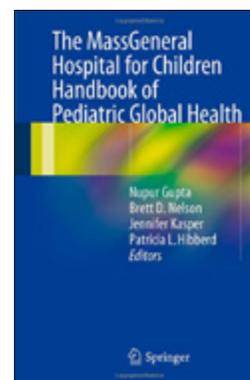


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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Data just right: introduction to large-scale data & analytics. Manoochehri, Michael. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Addison-Wesley, 2014.

Dealing with massive amounts of data requires a collection of specialized technologies, each with their own trade-offs. In this volume, Manoochehri looks at today's key big data challenges, shows how they can be best addressed, and presents the technical detail needed to implement each solution. Topics investigated include: hosting and sharing large amounts of data, dealing with data silos, querying your data and building data pipelines.

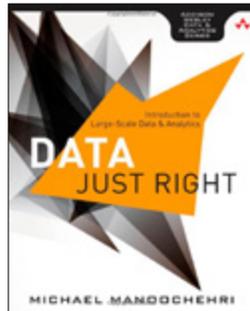


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Uncharted: big data as a lens on human culture.

Aiden, Erez and Jean-Baptiste Michel. New York: Riverhead Books, 2013.

Aiden and Michel worked with Google to develop the Ngram Viewer; a new tool that tracks specific words and phrases, measuring the frequency with which certain patterns occur within Google's vast library. In this illustrated volume they tell the story of the development of this tool and explain how their results can help us learn how human language evolves, how fame grows and fades, and how nations trend toward war.

LEARNING RESOURCES CENTER

Travel, Cultural, and Management Materials from the Office of Human Resources (HR/TE)

AFRICA

Passage of tears. Waberi, Abdourahman A. Calcutta, India: Seagull Books, 2011.

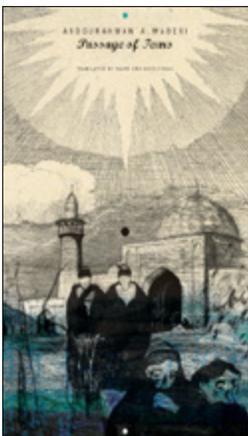


Image from seagullbooks.org

The passage in the title of this novel refers to the Bab-el-Mandeb, the strait that lies near Djibouti, former homeland of Djibril, a 29-year-old expatriate who returns home to compile a report for an economic intelligence firm. While navigating a country on the verge of transformation, he loses himself in recollection, most often of his estranged twin brother Djamal, an Islamic extremist whose

prison writings form a harsh counterpoint to Djibril's sentimental reflections.

Three strong women. NDiaye, Marie. New York: Vintage, 2013.

Three loosely interwoven sections of this novel tell stories of Senegalese women who must rely on their great strength to survive amid failure and humiliation. Norah, raised in France, returns to Dakar after a very long time when her brother is arrested for murder. Fanta has recently left Senegal for France to follow her French husband, only to find herself unable to work and without support. And then there is Khady, who falls in with a questionable man who persuades her to make the dangerous journey to France with him.



Image from www.amazon.com

ASIA

The cooked seed. Min, Anchee. New York: Bloomsbury, 2013.

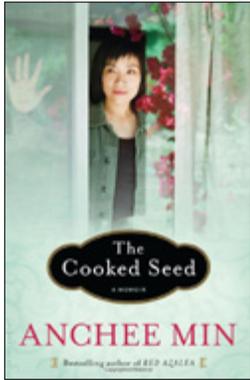


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The first years of life in the United States bring untold confusion and disappointment to Anchee Min after she emigrates from China. In this memoir, Min picks up from the story she told in her first memoir, *Red Azalea*, of her life in China where she was nearly crushed by the vicissitudes of the Cultural Revolution. Min now recounts the many obstacles she faces (and overcomes) as a

newcomer to the U.S. As a student, wife and mother, Min tackles one challenge after another in this moving account.

Scenes from early life. Hensher, Philip. New York: Faber and Faber, 2013.

This novel focuses on a boy named Saadi and his extended family of upper middle-class Bengalis in the 1960s and 1970s, years before and after civil war and the foundation of the newly independent Bangladeshi state. With political turmoil as a backdrop, Saadi relates tales of childhood joys and sorrows and the emotional and professional tribulations of his large extended family.

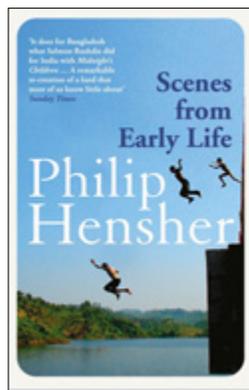


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MANAGEMENT AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The finch effect: the five strategies to adapt and thrive in your working life. Carson, Nacie. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2012.

Carson asserts that adaptation and change are not synonyms and that being agile, flexible, and open are some of the most important professional skills workers can have in today's economy. She outlines and explains five steps that readers can take to ensure professional success in a changing job market: adopt a gig mindset; identify your value, cultivate your skills; nurture your social network; and harness your entrepreneurial energy.



Image from books.google.com

How to shine: insights into unlocking your potential from proven winners. Hartley, Simon. Chichester, UK: Capstone, 2012.

Hartley, a performance coach, refutes the notion that individuals are born winners, find success by accident, and achieve great things through some sort of natural talent. Through case studies and interviews he identifies the traits that have contributed to the success of people from a variety of fields and provides signposts to relevant academic research and psychological theory.

Bargaining with the devil: when to negotiate, when to fight. Mnookin, Robert. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2010.

Is it ever worthwhile to negotiate with a “devil” – someone who has intentionally done you harm or cannot be trusted? Mnookin answers this question by presenting eight case studies that cover a broad range of problem situations ranging from international conflicts to business and family disputes. He advises readers to avoid emotional traps, inventory the various choices, and recognize the moral issues that may arise if you agree to proceed.



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