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(Ms. Ora Buckridge)

INSTITUTIONS AND NORMS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (PAPERBACK)



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MIT Press Ltd, United States, 2007. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Recent decades have seen almost unprecedented economic growth in income per capita around the world. Yet this extraordinary overall performance masks a wide variation in growth rates across different countries, with persistent underdevelopment in some parts of the world. This disparity constitutes the development puzzle, and it is exemplified by growth spurts in China and India that contrast markedly with disturbingly low growth rates in sub-Saharan Africa. In this volume, economists address issues of inequality and growth, going beyond narrowly defined economic factors to consider the effect on growth of the structure of governance, the quality of a country's governing bodies, and the social norms that govern collective decisionmaking. The contributors use both formal modeling and empirical analyses to examine how the soft factors of institutions and norms interact with growth performance, natural resource endowments, and economic performance. They consider such topics as the effects of decentralization in Africa, fiscal discipline in Indian states, natural resource wealth as a cause of corruption, social violence during the Indonesian financial crisis of 1997 and 1998, and the effect of strong national identity on redistributive politics. Some of their findings suggest that not only do institutions and norms affect economic performance, economic performance itself is a key factor in explaining such governance failures as corruption and the frequency and intensity of economic conflict. Mark Gradstein is Professor and Chair of the Department of Economics at Ben Gurion University in Israel. Kai A. Konrad is Professor of Economics at Free University of Berlin and Director at the Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB).

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