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**Corinna R. Unger, *International Development: A Post War History* (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2018).**

As Corinna Unger notes, there is already a large literature devoted to exploring individual case studies of development. In *International Development*, however, she sets to chart a different course by using a variety of case studies across multiple regions to examine how development across the twentieth century evolved. The book rests on two basic assumptions: the first, being 'that ideas matter and have real, effective consequences for the ways in which social orders are shaped'. Secondly, as Unger contends, 'it is not sufficient to study the discursive ideational levels of development thinking, and that we need to pay attention to the practical and material aspects of development, too' (p. 11). The book is built upon a close reading of secondary sources with the occasional primary source introduced in individual case studies.

Following the introduction, the second chapter explores differing definitions and concepts of development. This allows for an examination of how differing rates of industrialisation were interpreted by scholars in the early to mid-twentieth century and how these ideas shaped the course of development following the Second World War. The third chapter explores contested understandings of what development and how it was practiced by the early forerunners of development thinking. Unger suggests that what united these differing understandings was an agreement that poverty and inequality had to be addressed at a macro level. The fourth chapter focuses on the emergence of development as concept. It covers the period from the early 1930s to the early 1950s. The potential political consequences of wide-scale economic failure had been brutally demonstrated at the end of the 1930s with the outbreak of war. Politicians and economists had lived through these events and foresaw similar dangers with the onset of decolonization and the early years of the Cold War. The European imperial powers turned to ideas of development in an attempt to both rebuild their own shattered domestic economies and stymie growing nationalist political protest in their colonies.

Chapter five moves on to consider how many new governments in independent former colonies embraced rapid industrialisation in an attempt to both reinforce their own legitimacy within their own countries and demonstrate that they should be treated as equals on the international stage. This took place against the backdrop of the Cold War which saw both the United States and the Soviet Union keen to assist, in an attempt to secure support, influence and often access to raw materials. Chapter six changes direction from studying physical infrastructure projects to consider development programmes that affected the greatest number of people; for instance projects in agricultural improvement, education, health and birth control. Following an exploration of several of these development models, Unger concludes that the projects rarely translated into practice as imagined. There was no universal answer to every development question and local factors were crucial in shaping development practices. As the twentieth century drew to a close a growing critique of development practices began to gain traction. This change is examined in chapter seven, particularly as in the late 1960s and 1970s many leaders in developing countries began to question whether the assistance provided was sufficient to transform and modernise their economies. They were joined by a growing number of critics of development in the Western world who began to conclude that development as practiced perpetuated existing inequalities and argued for a more cooperative form to take shape. The eighth and final chapter analyses the growing debate about the relationship between the state and the market that took hold from the 1970s and considers how the end of the Cold War saw socialist approaches lose out to a more neo-liberal form of development that favoured

private enterprise and the market of state-planned development. This is a crucial period in the history of development but unfortunately the chapter is only seven pages long.

*International Development* offers a timely introduction to ideas of development over the latter half of the twentieth century. The structure adopted works well and the book is well written and largely free of error (the labelling of Patrice Lumumba as President of the Republic of the Congo rather than Prime Minister being the exception that proves the rule (p. 96)). It will not make scholars of development fundamentally change their existing opinions but it does provide an excellent introduction to the topic for both undergraduate and graduate students.

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