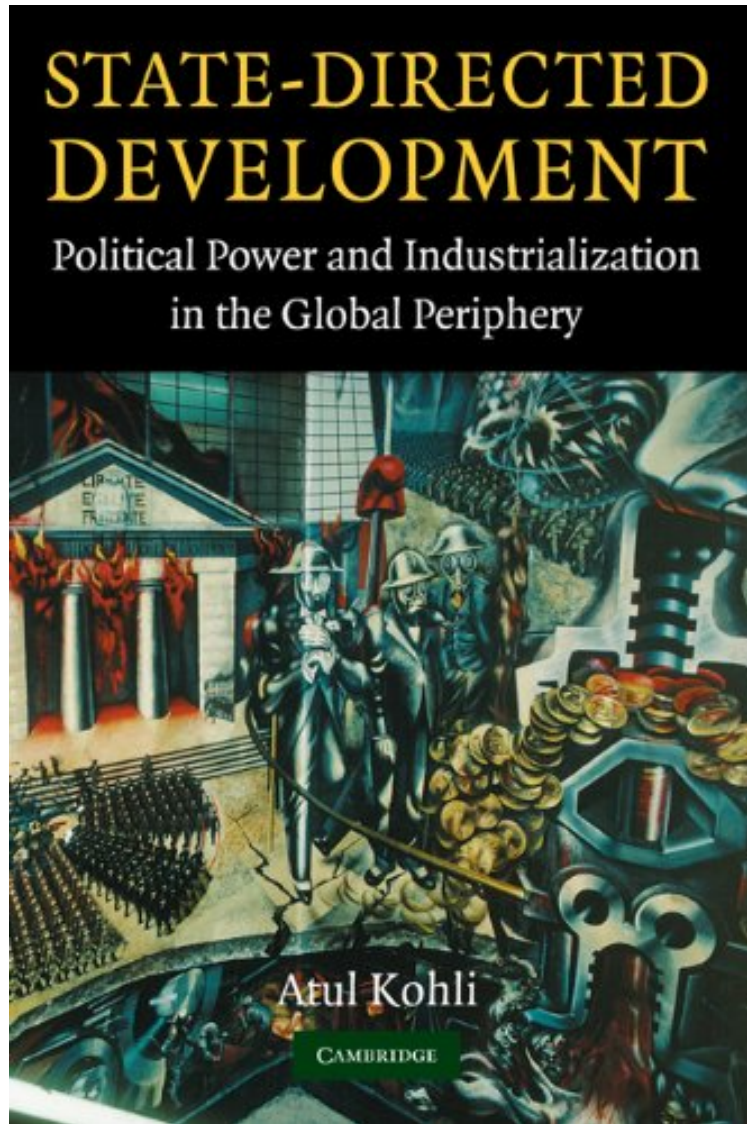


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State-Directed Development: Political Power and Industrialization in the Global Periphery

Atul Kohli

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helpful. A so-so scholarly study
By Leon Lam
This book is a comparative study of modern political-economic history of four states (Korea and later South Korea, Brazil, India, and Nigeria). Kohli argues that a state with extensive control of its population and clear intention to promote industrial development with the private sector is capable in bringing economic growth. According to him, Korea has both features, Brazil and India only the part of the latter (democratic states have other goals such as poverty alleviation and wealth redistribution) and Nigeria none. This work is clear, solid and well researched. However, Kohli's style of writing is bland and largely descriptive, making my reading experience far from pleasant. In general, this is an informative but far from interesting study. General readers will find it hard to continue.
5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Useful study of the state's role in development
By William Podmore
In this remarkable book, Atul Kohli of Princeton University examines the growth policies of South Korea, Brazil, India and Nigeria. He makes a detailed comparative analysis of the state as an economic actor in developing countries and asks, why is there such variation in developmental efficacy? He shows that the Washington consensus, the cult of the market, is against developing countries' interests. There is no evidence that laissez-faire policies work: "there is a stunning lack of evidence for the proposition that less government facilitates more rapid industrialisation in the developing world." And, "if the neoclassical argument is that free and open economies subject to minimum government intervention are best situated to maximize growth, then supportive evidence is lacking." He concludes, "rapid industrialisation in the developing world has been a product of effective state intervention." Countries have to create effective states in order to industrialise their economies.

Why have some developing country states been more successful at facilitating industrialization than others? An answer to this question is developed by focusing both on patterns of state construction and intervention aimed at promoting industrialization. Four countries are analyzed in detail - South Korea, Brazil, India, and Nigeria - over the twentieth century. The states in these countries varied from cohesive-capitalist (mainly in Korea), through fragmented-multiclass (mainly in India), to neo-patrimonial (mainly in Nigeria). It is argued that cohesive-capitalist states have been most effective at promoting industrialization and neo-patrimonial states the least. The performance of fragmented-multiclass states falls somewhere in the middle. After explaining in detail as to why this should be so, the study traces the origins of these different state types historically, emphasizing the role of different types of colonialisms in the process of state construction in the developing world.

"Elegantly written and impeccably argued, this book superbly summarizes and synthesizes the major works on the role of states in development. This is an insightful, thought-provoking volume. Highly recommended." - CHOICE May 2005
"This is a systematic, clear and informative piece of comparative research that should be read by academics and policymakers interested in understanding the roles of different types of states as accelerators and hinderers of development." - Pacific Affairs
About the Author
Atul Kohli is the David K. E. Bruce Professor of International Affairs at Princeton University. He has written or edited nine books and has published some fifty articles. His most recent publications included *States, Markets and Just Growth* (United Nations University Press, 2003) and *The Success of India's Democracy* (Cambridge University Press, 2002). He has held fellowships from the Russell Sage Foundation, Ford Foundation, and the Social Science Research Council, New York.