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TWENTIETH CENTURY GROWTH THEORIES

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Twentieth Century Growth Theories

Abstract

Growth has been at the forefront of political, economic and social discussions during the twentieth century. Although the subject of many empirical studies the theory of growth has received little attention outside of economics. Within economics it is widely acknowledged that the theorisation of growth raises many non-economic questions. This study is a contribution to the theory of growth from a wider sociological point of view.

The study discusses the origins of the development impulse, the hyper-modernising character of the colonial state, the discovery of malnutrition and the beginnings of welfarist policies towards the colonies (Chapters 1 and 2). The postwar development controversies in the United Nations, the unsuccessful search for a non-political, technical theory of growth and the subsumption of growth problems to cold war geo-political theory are discussed in Chapter 3. The limited, and limiting, contributions of economics to growth theory are discussed in Chapters 4 and 5. Soviet Russian development theory and certain fundamental planning problems connected to the theorisation of the future are discussed in Chapter 6. Similar problems in modernisation theory are discussed in Chapter 7 and some early discussions of the problematics of the relationship between planning theory, state theory and the theorisation of the future are also discussed. Chapter 8 discusses some of the theoretical problems raised by treating development studies as a central, rather than peripheral, or applied discipline. These problems stem mainly from the theorisation of the future and raise difficult questions about progressivist and radical historicism, political philosophy, *telos* and rationality.

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Chapter 1, pages 16-65 of this thesis consists of a slightly revised version of pages 2-51 of the M.Phil thesis.

Chapter 3, pages 125-144 and pages 149-154 enlarge and expand on discussions in the M. Phil thesis, pages 58-66 and 54-58 respectively.

Chapter 4, pages 180-191 enlarge and expand on material discussed in the M. Phil thesis, pages 66-77.

An article version of Chapter 2, pages 101-122, with the title of "Development Failures in Colonial Papua" has been accepted for publication in the *Papua New Guinea Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences*.

An early draft of Chapter 2, pages 69-100, entitled "Law and the State in Papua 1880-1940" was given as a paper to the Congress of the International Commission on Folk Law and Legal Pluralism, Wellington, August 1992 and published in the Congress Proceedings, Volume I, pages 49-74. A revised version of the paper will be published in the *Journal of Legal Pluralism* in 1996.

An early draft of Chapter 5 was given as a paper to the conference *Development that Works*, Massey University, Institute of Development Studies, Massey University, 1992.

...if we reckon that moral thinking requires a notion of human nature not just as it is, but as it could be if it realised its *telos*, or ultimate end, then we shall seek to recapture a tradition in which inquiry into our *telos* is a basic and legitimate exercise of human rationality.

Alasdair MacIntyre

(p.16, Kruschwitz, R. and Roberts, R. *The Virtues: contemporary essays on moral character*, Belmont, 1987.)

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