

Preface

Even a cursory look at countries' development around the world reveals a picture of growth dynamics in recent decades that are almost unprecedented in their overall pace. Moreover it reveals a performance heterogeneity among these countries that is astounding. This picture easily eludes standard conclusions of investment-induced growth theories and establishes what could be called the development puzzle.

In recent search for explanations and sources of these growth dynamics, researchers have tended to view norms and institutional arrangements, alongside with factor accumulation, as important causal elements. The authors contributing to this book take this line of research even further, focusing their theoretical and empirical work on specific institutions and norms and exploring their implications for economic efficiency and growth performance. This book is consequently meant as a reader both for researchers and for policy makers who are puzzled by the divergence of countries' performance, and who seek for deeper explanations for the divergence of performance measures.

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