

## ***Journal of Human Development and Capabilities***

### **Call for Papers**

*Abstracts are invited for papers to be included in a special thematic issue on*

### **The New Developmental State:**

### **Human Development and Human Rights Perspectives**

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#### **Introduction: The theme**

The appropriate role of the state in the development process has been a subject of theoretical and empirical dispute for as long as people have debated the reasons for countries' varying economic fortunes. Fundamental differences over the state's potential contribution to development, however conceived, represented a central fault line in the policy battles of the 1980s and 1990s concerning the desirability and feasibility of neoliberal economic reform.<sup>1</sup>

From the late 1990s onward, while some differences over policy remained, discussions over the proper function of government in a globalizing economy became less fraught. Advocates of an activist state gradually conceded the need to relieve governments of at least those responsibilities they tend to discharge poorly. Neoliberals, for their part, increasingly recognized that improved state capacity is a crucial instrument for managing the transition to a modern economy.

In recent years, however, the state-versus-market division has been revived, spurred primarily by advocates of an active-state development paradigm. Support for a more state-led approach can be seen in various permutations on the 'new structural economics'<sup>2</sup> and 'new industrial policy,'<sup>3</sup> which see governments as key facilitators of effective adaptation to the global market economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Indeed, some of the most illuminating comparative political economy literature of recent years has featured variations on this theme – notably, Kohli's conception of the 'cohesive-capitalist

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<sup>1</sup> C Colclough and J Manor (eds), *States and Markets* (OUP, 1991).

<sup>2</sup> Justin Lin, *New Structural Economics: A Framework for Rethinking Development*, World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 5197, World Bank, 2011

<sup>3</sup> Dani Rodrik, 'Industrial Policy: Don't Ask Why, Ask How,' *Middle East Development Journal* (2008).

state,' which he examines primarily with reference to South Korean and other east Asian economies. Kohli's analysis complements earlier work on the region by Robert Wade<sup>4</sup> and others and provides a strong counter-narrative to the explanation for east Asian success propounded by the World Bank in the 1990s, which downplayed the role of the state.<sup>5</sup>

The large volume of studies that explore these issues have not, however, generally engaged with the literature on human development or human rights. Some do so by implication – for instance, Kohli's claim that, in effect, a period of suppressed worker rights was a key contributor to South Korea's economic ascendancy. Nor has existing research engaged with the question of how developmental states can reconcile the demands of industrialization and structural economic change with the need to respond to claims for an expanding array of human rights.<sup>6</sup>

The literature on the developmental state has not, for instance, specified whether alternative models of growth and industrialization are more likely to contribute to, or detract from, efforts to improve human development and human rights in a democratic political context – and if so, how; and if not, why not? The new wave of recent literature has also avoided sustained analysis of the state's role in policy-formulation relating to social protection and other policy interventions necessary for the fulfillment of rights.

More recent debates have centered on whether and how it may be possible to conceptualize the 'developmental state' as one that not only promotes industrialization, but also sustains and deepens both democracy and human rights. One case that has received attention in this regard is South Africa.<sup>7</sup> Analysis of the South Africa's developmental model has included significant reflection on whether a new generation of developmental state has managed to incorporate human rights and poverty reduction into its growth-promotion strategies.

The purpose of this special issue is to apply a human development and capabilities perspective to various manifestations of the 'developmental state', whether contemporary examples or historical cases. Special emphasis will be placed on the role of human rights commitments and rights-based advocacy. It is anticipated that a subset of the contributions to this collection will assess whether and how the language of rights

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<sup>4</sup> Robert Wade, *Governing the market: economic theory and the role of government in East Asian industrialization* (Princeton N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1990).

<sup>5</sup> *The East Asian miracle: economic growth and public policy.*, 1st ed. (Oxford u.a.: Oxford Univ. Press, 1993).

<sup>6</sup> Some tentative and limited attempts were made in the mid-1990s to examine the democracy-development interface from a related perspective. See, for instance, Mark Robinson and Gordon White (eds), *The democratic developmental state: politics and institutional design* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998).

<sup>7</sup> Omano Edigheji, ed. *Constructing a democratic developmental state in South Africa: Potential and challenges* (HSRC <http://www.hsrcpress.ac.za/product.php?productid=2278>)

drives political demands for human development priorities, and/or the extent to which states fulfill their obligations under international and national human rights law.

A special issue of the *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities* on the 'New Developmental State' would open up new avenues of research and contribute fresh perspectives on contemporary development policy debates. The special issue would also facilitate dialogue between scholars working in a diverse array of disciplines, including economists, political scientists, human rights theorists, sociologists, and specialists on institutional change and international law.

## **Topics**

Contributions are invited across a range of analytical categories, including:

- Case studies of current or past developmental states and their approaches to human development and human rights in terms of policy, operation, and outcomes.
- Conceptual analyses of 'the developmental state,' old and new.
- Analyses of how advocates of the developmental state have attempted to define and/or institutionalize the fulfillment of various categories of human rights.
- Analyses of policymaking processes in developmental states as they relate to human development and human rights.
- Analyses of whether and how contemporary transitions from authoritarian rule may be embracing ideas associated with the 'new developmental state' paradigm.

## **Process and timeline**

Interested authors should send an abstract to the thematic issue editors, to: [NewDevState2012@gmail.com](mailto:NewDevState2012@gmail.com).

Deadline for abstracts: March 1, 2012

After review of abstracts, selected authors will be invited to submit full manuscripts.