The Cruel Dilemmas Of Development: Twentieth-century Brazil

by Sylvia Ann Hewlett

Of all published articles, the following were the most read within the past 12 months. Who Revolts? Empirically Revisiting the Social Origins of Democracy. In late developing countries, Hewlett (Economics, Barnard) maintains, economic development is achieved at the cost of increased poverty and political repression; and she offers Brazil as an example—a country notorious (until recently) for its dynamic economy, its barbarous repression, and (still) its inequitable income distribution. With Brazil as an example, in short, she can't lose; but with no single state as an example can she win—i.e., prove that late development necessarily entails poverty and repression. This does not, however, make her entirely wrong—either about the human cost