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Economic lessons from some small socialist developing countries

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Abstract

The economic performance of four small socialist developing countries – Burma, Cuba, Sri Lanka and Tanzania – is examined on the following criteria: growth in *per capita* income, distribution of income, unemployment, fulfilment of basic needs, and self-reliance and economic independence. Adding Chile under Allende, and Portugal after the revolution, to the sample, economic lessons are drawn concerning the choice between present and future consumption, the influence of the way in which incomes are redistributed on subsequent growth, exports and economic independence, motivation and incentives, and mass mobilization. This is one of the first comparative evaluations of the performance of socialist developing nations. It is hoped that the shortcomings of the study will stimulate other researchers to do better.



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