

From the outside looking in: experiences in 'barefoot economics'.

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Author(s) : [Max-Neef, M. A.](#)

Book : [From the outside looking in: experiences in 'barefoot economics'](#). 1992 p.

Abstract : Two personal experiences in 'barefoot economics' are related. The first concerns the miseries of Indian and black peasants in the Sierra and coastal Ecuador. The second recounts the miseries of craftsmen and artisans in Brazil to a people's quest for self-reliance. Both are lessons in economics as practiced at human scale. The accounts are interspersed with reflections on development and experts, pioneering criticisms of orthodox development economics, and

of development in which 'the poor must learn to circumvent the national economic system'. The author's philosophy is ecological in the sense that it is based on the conviction that human beings, in order to realize themselves, must maintain a balance of interdependence and not of competition with nature and the rest of man. It is equally true that this must be a conscious relationship, because the ecological processes projected on the natural environment provides fertile analogies for social or economic matters. The matter of passing from the pure exploitation of nature and of the poorer people of the world, to a creative and organic integration and interdependence. It is a matter of redistributing power through the organization of horizontal communal interdependence. The accounts of passing from destructive gigantism to creative smallness. The accounts of the book relate first to the ECU-28 project in Ecuador, then the Tirandentes project in Brazil. The book was first published by the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation in 1982, and has since been translated into five languages. It is seen to have had a marked impact on grass-roots development practice. The foreword is by *L. Kohr*.

ISBN : [1856491870](#)

Record Number : 19931853472

Publisher : [Zed Books Ltd.](#)

Location of publication : [London, and Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey, USA](#)

Country of publication : [UK](#)

Language of text : [English](#)

Language of summary : [English](#)

Indexing terms for this abstract:

Organism descriptor(s) : man

Descriptor(s) : economic systems, human ecology, participation, rural development

Geographical Location(s) : Brazil, Ecuador

Broader term(s) : Homo, Hominidae, primates, mammals, vertebrates, Chordata, eukaryotes, Community of Portuguese Language Countries, Developing Countries, Latin America, America, South America, Threshold Countries, Andean Group

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