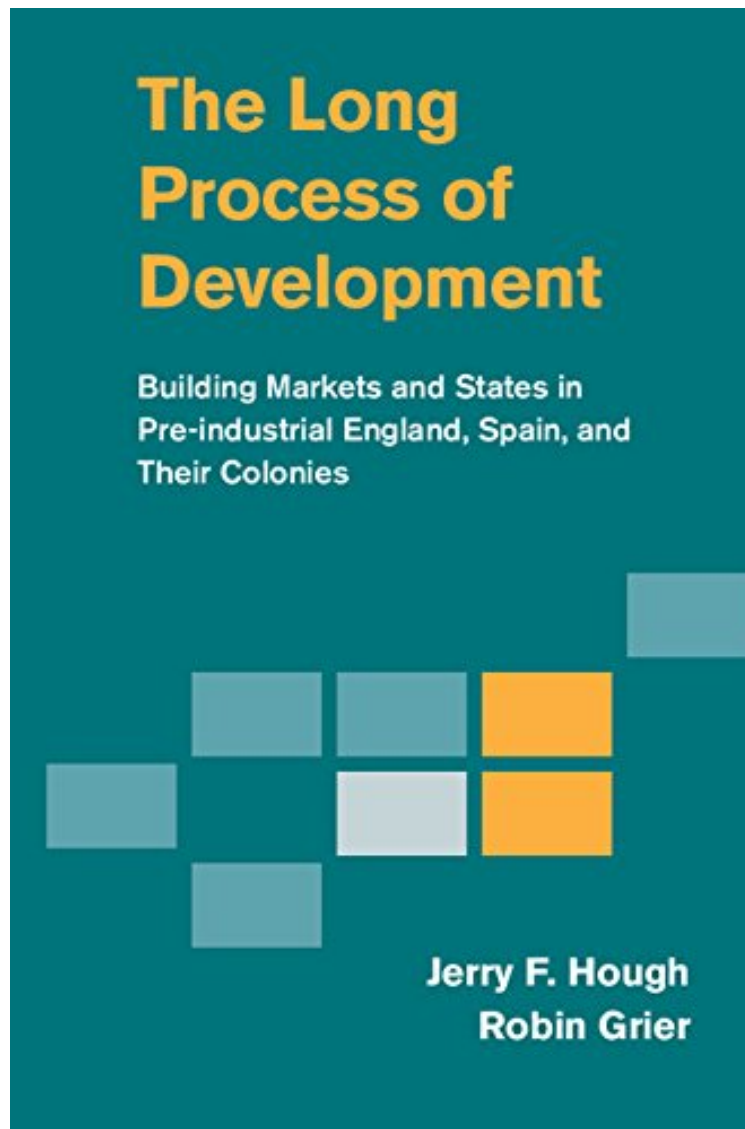


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## The Long Process of Development: Building Markets and States in Pre-industrial England, Spain and their Colonies

*Jerry F. Hough, Robin Grier*

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**Jerry F. Hough, Robin Grier : The Long Process of Development: Building Markets and States in Pre-industrial England, Spain and their Colonies** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Long Process of Development: Building Markets and States in Pre-industrial England, Spain and their Colonies:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. If the reader is familiar historical dating these are easily recognized,

as below  
By Thom DeLair  
By looking at the long process of developments that led to "effective government", the book provides a framework to understanding critical factors in building a nation state, with the US and UK as the rule creating bench marks for those aspirations. The one minor problem I had with the book, at least in the edition I had, was that some of the dates were incorrect. If the reader is familiar historical dating these are easily recognized, as below: (page 147) ... Rodger thought this structure was crucial in giving England the ability to make the needed changes in the future through continuity, long-term planning and investment and institutional memory and support. This was the structure Elizabeth had in place in the 1670s and 1680s when she conducted her decisive struggle in the Atlantic Ocean with Philip II. It mattered that Philip was the time had a single secretary with a few clerks to handle both the army and the navy.-----The minor errors in dating will hopefully be rectified for future editions and did not distract me too greatly toward understanding the over all argument of the book. As US citizen, I found Chapter 9: The Collective Action Problems of the Formation of the United States, to be one of the more interesting chapters. There certainly is a lot of literature that only focus on the moral character of the US founding fathers. This book I puts a context of power relationships in the formation of the US federal constitution. I did not know George Washington was subtly threatening a coup if a more centralized government was not formed during the Articles of Confederation period or that he was the largest owner of western lands. Perhaps this type of perspective would help people come to more humble and realistic expectations and strategies involved in moving toward a "developed state" - that is more democratic and less corrupt. The analysis of this book could be further applied to other national histories, which would make interesting reads in of themselves; or continue the narrative of Spain, England, the USA and Mexico through the Industrial Revolution to the present. I would be interested in getting the authors take on "greatest capacity for violence" concept within an age of nuclear weapons. Also, although the book is about 400 pages, one could even take the analysis further to discuss relations of technology and literacy and their effects on democratic government during the time period covered. Over all, this was a fascinating read and certainly contributes to a more realized frame work of the development process of nation states.

Douglass North once emphasized that development takes centuries, but he did not have a theory of how and why change occurs. This groundbreaking book advances such a theory by examining in detail why England and Spain developed so slowly from 1000 to 1800. A colonial legacy must go back centuries before settlement, and this book points to key events in England and Spain in the 1260s to explain why Mexico lagged behind the United States economically in the twentieth century. Based on the integration of North's institutional approach with Mancur Olson's collective action theory, Max Weber's theory of value change, and North's focus on dominant coalitions based on rent and military in *In the Shadow of Violence*, this theory of change leads to exciting new historical interpretations, including the crucial role of the merchant-navy alliance in England and the key role of George Washington's control of the military in 1787.

"To better to understand today's developing world, Hough and Grier turn to history. Argument after argument, point after point, they demonstrate the benefits of doing so. This study adds to the legacy of North, Olson, Acemoglu and Robinson, all of whom have turned to the study of political history in an effort to comprehend the economics of development." Robert Bates, Eaton Professor of the Science of Government, Harvard University  
"How exactly does colonial history shape the subsequent economic development of a nation? The Long Process of Development is the best and deepest treatment of this question that has been penned." Tyler Cowen, George Mason University  
"Economists and policy makers have ignored the time it takes to foster substantial change in informal institutions that are a sine qua non for economic development and political stability. Synthesizing the classic works of Douglass North, Mancur Olson and Max Weber, Grier and Hough add a temporal factor that illuminates the slow pace to the modern world." David D. Laitin, Watkins Professor of Political Science, Stanford University  
"To my knowledge, this book is the first, and surely the first serious, attempt to confront the transactions costs-based approaches of Olson and North with the evolved-order approaches of Hayek and Buchanan. The result is a book of signal merit, explaining both the politics of economic development and the economics of political development." Michael C. Munger, Duke University  
"A development narrative that has both the historical long-view and the granularity of the particular. Their insights will be valuable to all students of development - and a healthy antidote to the fad panaceas of the day." Lant Pritchett, Harvard University  
"It may sound obvious and trite, yet it is the most underappreciated fact of comparative development: constructing effective states takes time - a very long time. As Jerry Hough and Robin Grier show, the process took more than four centuries in England and Spain. Their analytical history sheds light on why the norms and practices that sustain modern states require long periods of gestation to become solidly entrenched. This is a book with critical implications for today's state-building efforts in the developing world. It warns us not to expect miracles and teaches us that chance, contingency and time all play a larger role than we typically allow." Dani Rodrik, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton  
About the Author  
Jerry F. Hough is the James B. Duke Professor of Political Science at Duke University. He has taught at Duke since 1973. He has previously taught at the University of Toronto and the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and he has served as a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. Hough

received his PhD from Harvard University in 1961. His research has focused on the Soviet Union, the democratization of Russia and America, and nation building in the United States. He is the author of *How the Soviet Union Is Governed*; *Soviet Leadership in Transition*; *The Struggle for the Third World*; *Soviet Debate and American Options*; *Democratization and Revolution in the USSR, 1985-1991*; *The Logic of Economic Reform in Russia*; and *Changing Party Coalitions: The Mystery of the Red State-Blue State Alignment*. Robin Grier earned her PhD from George Mason University in 1995. She was an Assistant Professor of Economics at Centro de Investigaci3n y Docencia Econ3micas (CIDE) in Mexico City before joining the University of Oklahoma in 1999. She became an Associate Professor of Economics in 2004 and a Professor in 2010. Grier's research has been published in the *Journal of Development Economics*, the *Journal of Law and Economics*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *Journal of Development Economics*, the *Journal of Development Studies*, *Economic Inquiry*, *Public Choice*, the *Southern Economic Journal*, *Kyklos*, *Economia Mexicana*, *El Trimestre Econ3mico*, and *Rationality and Society*. Her area of specialization is the political economy of development in Latin America and Mexico.