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The New Extractivism: A Post-Neoliberal Development Model or Imperialism of the Twenty-First Century?

James Petras, Henry Veltmeyer

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In a primary commodities boom spurred on by the rise of China, countries the world over are turning to the extraction of natural resources and the export of primary commodities as an antidote to the global recession. The New Extractivism addresses a fundamental dilemma faced by these governments: to pursue, or not, a development strategy based on resource extraction in the face of immense social and environmental costs, not to mention mass resistance from the people negatively affected by it. With fresh insight and analysis from Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru, this book looks at the political dynamics of capitalist development in a region where the neoliberal model is collapsing under the weight of a resistance movement lead by peasant farmers and indigenous communities. It calls for us to understand the new extractivism not as a viable development model for the post-neoliberal world, but as the dangerous emergence of a new form of imperialism.

'The New Extractivism cuts to the core of one of the most important components of the new imperialism in Latin America - the accelerating extraction of mining minerals and resources under the impetus of multinational capital. This is a crucial book for scholars and activists hoping both to understand and dismantle the latest, devastating dynamics of the region's long history of capitalist development.' Jeffery R. Webber, author of *Red October: Left-Indigenous Struggles in Modern Bolivia* 'This brilliantly argued and convincingly documented critique of "the new developmentalism" in Latin America definitively shows that relying on wealth generated by minerals and commodities cannot build equitable and sustainable economies. Veltmeyer and Petras have rightly identified that only a labor-oriented reinvention of socialism, in response to a vigorous social movement, can hope to achieve humane, responsible, and sustainable development patterns in the 21st century.' Richard Falk, Princeton University 'The authors of this book skilfully expose the contradictions and limitations of both neoliberal and progressive extractivism. They masterfully expose the pillage of the continent's natural resources and highlight the struggles of resistance and contestation by indigenous communities against today's imperialist plundering. This book is a worthy and brilliant introduction to contemporary Latin America.' Cristobal Kay, International Institute of Social Studies 'The New Extractivism is a ground breaking study of the latest stage in the plundering of natural resources from Latin America and the Global South by imperialist Western companies. The authors detail the ways in which Latin America is once again being used as a supplier of primary products to the industrialized centre, and shows how even Pink Tide countries like Ecuador, Argentina and Bolivia are developing a post-neoliberal economic model that frequently sides against indigenous communities. This is a very important volume that all students of Latin America must read.' Harry E. Vanden

About the Author James Petras is Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Binghampton University and Adjunct Professor in International Development Studies at Saint Mary's University (Canada). He is the author and co-author of over sixty books and numerous other writings on the dynamics of world affairs and Latin American development, including *Unmasking Globalization, Social Movements and the State, Multinationals on Trial, What's Left in Latin America; and Social Movements in Latin America*. A file of his periodical writings and journal articles are maintained and can be accessed at Rebellion.com. Henry Veltmeyer is Professor of Development Studies at Saint Mary's University (Canada) and the Universidad Autoacute;noma de Zacatecas (Mexico). He is author, coauthor and editor of over 40 books on issues of Latin American and world development, including *Critical Development Studies: Tools for Change, The Cuban Revolution as Socialist Human Development, and Development in an Era of Neoliberal Globalization*. Books coauthored with James Petras include *Unmasking Globalization, System in Crisis and What's Left in Latin America*.