Geography, Structural Change and Economic Development

Theory and Empirics

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The authors in this book regard the process of economic expansion as a non-homogeneous and multifaceted phenomenon which has deeply affected human welfare, and cultural, social and political change. The book is a bridge between the theorists (Rosenstein-Rodan, Lewis, Myrdal, and Hirschmann) who in the post-war period analyzed regional inequalities, structural change and dualism, and the modern literature on economic growth. The latter has emphasized the existence of multiple equilibria, bifurcations and various types of dynamic complexity, and clarified the conditions for the emergence of phenomena such as cumulative causation, path dependence and hysteresis. These are the typical ingredients of structural change, economic development or underdevelopment.

‘...this book provides a coherent picture of new developments and applications in economic geography with regards to explaining structural change. There is a healthy mix of new theoretical developments and elaborations of the foundational neoclassical economic models, economic growth models, econometric modeling, and hypothesis testing.’

Dayton M. Lambert, The Review of Regional Studies

‘The volume is carefully edited and has a nice general format. The index at the end should be of great help for people looking for specific topics...it is quite likely that scholars on geography and structural change will find at least some chapter quite relevant to their own research.’

Ola Olsson, Papers in Regional Science