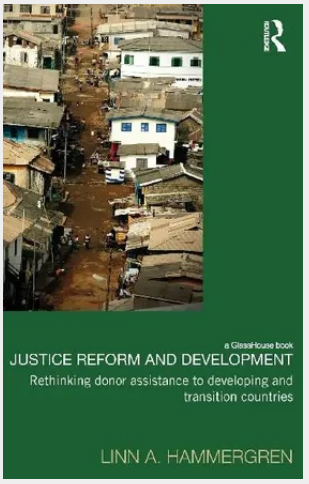
Hammergren

Justice Reform and Development

Rethinking Donor Assistance to Developing and Transitional Countries

This book explores the objectives pursued in donor programs, the methods used to advance them, and the underlying assumptions and strategies. It emphasizes the unexpected and sometimes unpleasant consequences of ignoring not only political and societal constraints but also advances in our technical approaches to performance improvement, the one area where the First World has a comparative advantage. The geographic scope of the work is broad, incorporating examples from Eastern and Central Europe, Latin America, Africa, and the Asia-Pacific region as well as from several First World nations. Justice Reform and Development examines First World assistance to justice or "rule of law" reforms in developing and transitional societies, arguing that its purported failure is vastly exaggerated, largely because of unrealistic expectations as to what could be accomplished. Change nonetheless is needed if the programs are to continue and would be best based on targeting specific performance problems, incorporation of donor countries' experience with their own reforms, and greater attention to relevant research. While contributing to an on-going debate among practitioners and academics involved in justice programs, this book will also be accessible to readers with little exposure to the topics, especially advanced undergraduate and graduate students in law, political science and areas studies.

This book explores the impact of three decades of donor-sponsored judicial reform in developing countries, and suggests how future efforts might be improved. Responding to a recently articulated thesis, Linn Hammergren argues that claims of the failure of justice reform programs are vastly overstated and based, like the programs themselves, on overly ambitious expectations as to what can be accomplished. Justice Reform and Development argues that the recommended remedies still do not answer the questions of which objectives can reasonably be pursued and suggests justice reform may be more effective if it is not seen as a problem unique to the developing world.



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