

Preface

The mission (and business) of development was launched as part of the opening salvos of the Cold War with the foundation of the United Nations (San Francisco, 1945) and creation of the World Bank and the IMF (Bretton Woods Agreement, NH, 1947), where development initiatives (including the Marshall Plan for the European reconstruction) served as complementary strategic devices to military, political, and diplomatic efforts for containment and pre-emption of the “domino effect” (the Dulles Doctrine).

As we are completing this manuscript in the shadow of a gloomy US economic condition and Europe’s debilitating *deja-vu* in October 2011 and as one more European Union Leaders gathering comes to close with accompaniment of increasingly global protests, it seems that the public opinions and to some extent the nation-states are becoming less relevant and weakened in the prevailing global financial integration and the global economic system.

This book aims to shed some light and promote the understanding of the challenges and opportunities of development policies and practices that are in essence knowledge formulation, transformation, transfer, absorption, and implementation devices in the context of an emerging new world order. Lessons learned will hopefully serve to inspire and enlighten future actions toward more efficacy in development interventions as well as to better align development with progress, innovation, and democracy as the world oscillates and vacillates between the Washington consensus and the Beijing consensus in search of a better tomorrow.

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