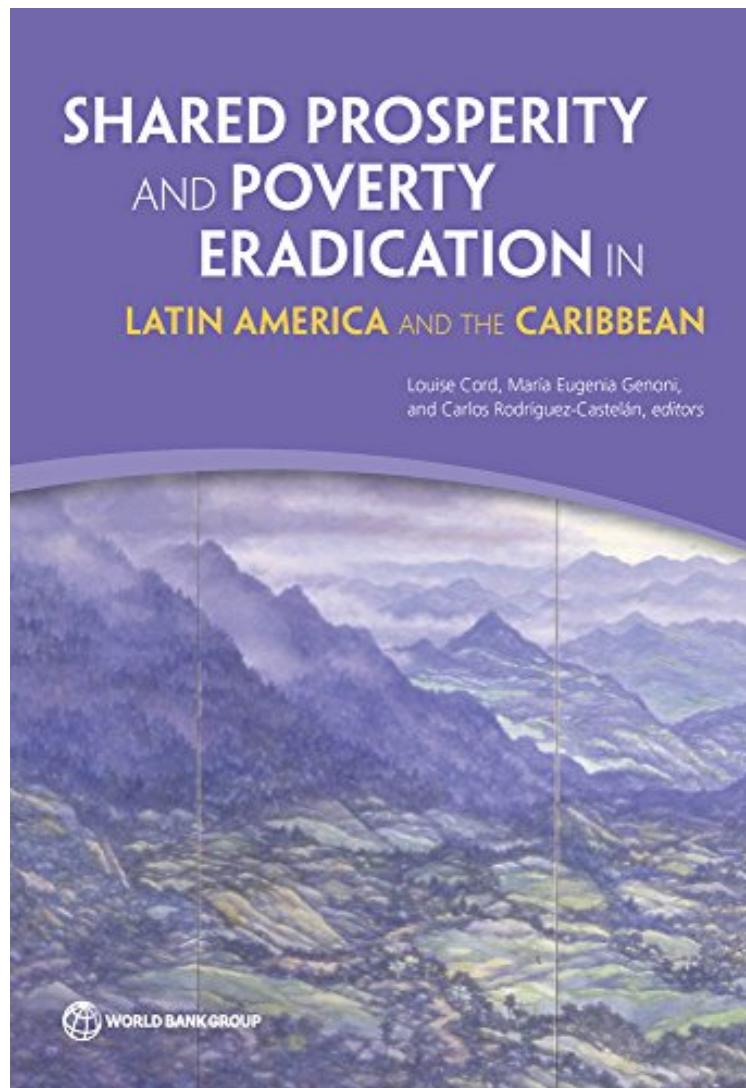


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Shared Prosperity and Poverty Eradication in Latin America and the Caribbean

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From World Bank Publications : Shared Prosperity and Poverty Eradication in Latin America and the Caribbean before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shared Prosperity and Poverty Eradication in Latin America and the Caribbean:

Over the last decade Latin America and the Caribbean region has achieved important progress towards the World Bank Group's goals of eradicating extreme poverty and boosting income growth of the bottom 40 percent, propelled by

remarkable economic growth and falling income inequality. Despite this impressive performance, social progress has not been uniform over this period, and certain countries, subregions and even socioeconomic groups participated less in the growth process. As of today, more than 75 million people still live in extreme poverty in the region (using \$2.50/day/capita), half of them in Brazil and Mexico, and extreme poverty rates top 40 percent in Guatemala and reach nearly 60 percent in Haiti. This means that extreme poverty is still an important issue in both low- and middle-income countries in the region. As growth wanes and progress in reducing the still high levels of inequality in the region slows, it will be more important than ever for governments to focus policies on inclusive growth. The book includes an overview that highlights progress towards the goals of poverty eradication and shared prosperity between 2003 and 2012, unpacks recent gains at the household level using an income-based asset model, and examines some of the policy levers used to affect social outcomes in the region. It draws on 13 country studies, eight of which are featured in this volume: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay. The other case studies include: Bolivia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Honduras, which will be included in the web version of the book.

The focus of the World Bank's strategy on poverty and equity should be celebrated. The collection here reflects this new emphasis. The book documents the economic gains observed in the Latin America and Caribbean region during the last decade by highlighting the achievements in the reduction of poverty and inequality and in the increase in income growth among the less well off, results that are associated with an improvement in income distribution. The country cases also offer reasons to be concerned about the sustainability of these gains, however, and illustrate the increased vulnerability of large groups in the population that, while living above the income poverty line, could easily fall back into poverty. The framework described at the beginning of the book makes clear that equity-related policies such as enhancing access to quality education and health care, ending the exclusionary dynamics in specific markets, creating good-quality jobs, and promoting a more comprehensive approach to social protection are necessary pillars of any policy aimed at sustaining the advances toward more equitable growth. --Rebeca Grynspan, Ibero-American Secretary General, former United Nations Under-Secretary-General, and former Vice President of Costa Rica Latin America is among the brightest spots in demonstrating how prosperity has been shared in the last decade. *Shared Prosperity and Poverty Eradication in Latin America and the Caribbean* meticulously documents the auspicious trends in the region and delves into their determinants within a comprehensive framework. This is an extremely useful source for scholars and practitioners concerned with what happened, why it happened, and what is next on the policy agenda for building more inclusive societies in the region. --Nora Lustig, Samuel Z. Stone Professor of Latin American Economics, Tulane University, and Director, Commitment to Equity Project This is an excellent contribution to understanding why, despite the recent progress including reaching income levels equivalent to more than 15 times the resources needed to lift all individuals out of extreme poverty more than 75 million people are still in this condition in Latin America. Through an integrated framework applied to eight countries and an overview of the region's performance, the book occupies the forefront of the discussion and will become a central reference for those studying the puzzle of how such a resource-abundant environment coexists with mechanisms of exclusion that prevent sustained and shared prosperity. --Miguel Székely, Director, Center for Educational and Social Studies, Tecnológico de Monterrey, and former Undersecretary for Planning and Evaluation, Ministry of Social Development, Mexico