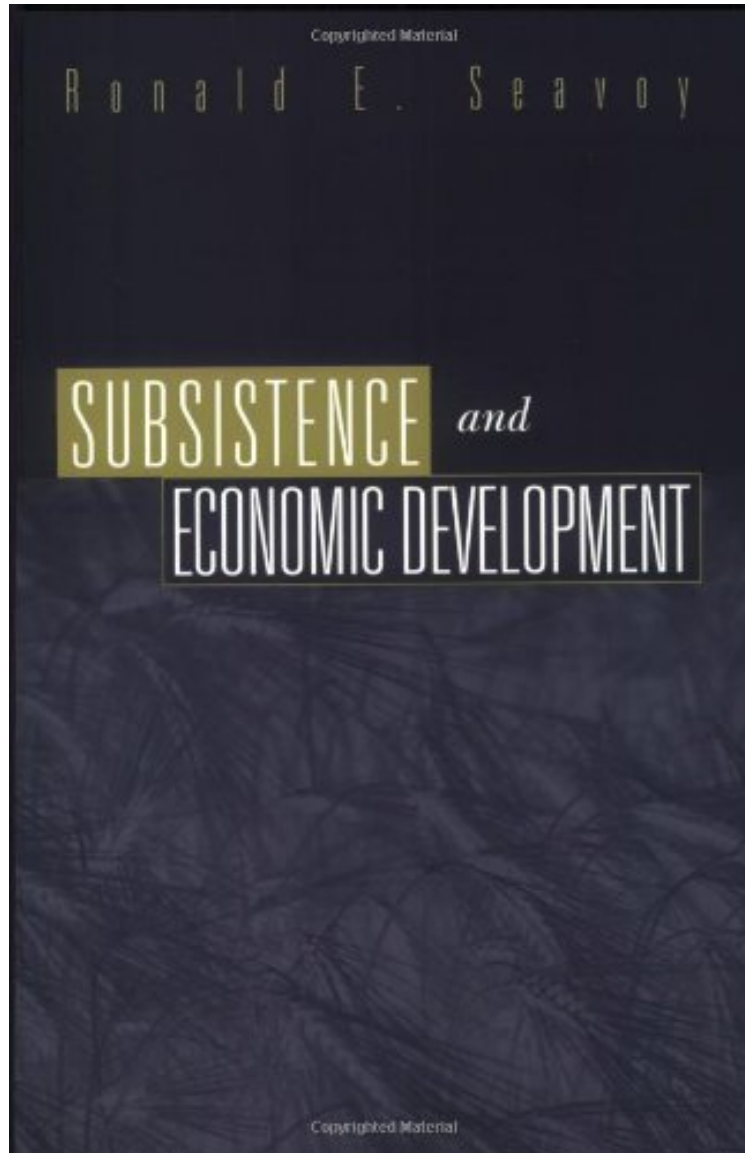


[Download ebook] Subsistence and Economic Development

Subsistence and Economic Development

Ronald E. Seavoy

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Ronald E. Seavoy : Subsistence and Economic Development before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Subsistence and Economic Development:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Misguided OffensiveBy gThis book is so misguided and offensive, that it is dangerous. Seavoy blames world hunger on the "indolence" of peasants (1), and calls for government military action to "induce or coerce" (39) semi-subsistence farmers into commercialized export production. The book is filled with such baffling--and completely unsupported--assertions as: "Children are sources of labor that allow [peasant] parents to enjoy indolence" (9). Amidst such sweeping and problematic generalizations, there is an alarming

throughline of sheer, violent animosity toward semi-subsistent growers, culminating in his call to governments to use military force against those engaged in self-provisioning agriculture (112). Beware.

Seavoy insists that development economics is a failed discipline because it does not recognize the revolutionary difference between subsistence and commercial social values. Seavoy demonstrates that commercial labor norms are essential for producing assured food surpluses in all crop years and an assured food surplus is essential for sustaining the development process. The commercialization of food production is a political process, as in the term political economy. If peasants have a choice, they will not voluntarily perform commercial labor norms. Central governments must overcome peasant resistance to performing commercial labor norms by various forms of coercion. The most historically effective coercions are deprivation of peasant control of land use by foreclosure and eviction for excessive subsistence debts. Landless peasants are forced to become supervised paid laborers. Coercion is most effective when it is linked to money rewards for peasants who voluntarily transform themselves into yeomen cultivators or farmers. These commercially motivated cultivators and storekeepers become the resident commercializing agents in peasant villages who administer the central government's coercive and inducement policies. Based on extensive examples and field observation, this book is designed for use in courses that explore problems of economic development. Scholars and government policy makers will find the analysis equally provocative.

"Many readers will find provocative his interpretation of the South African experience as successful....Upper-division undergraduate and up."-Choice? Many readers will find provocative his interpretation of the South African experience as successful....Upper-division undergraduate and up.?-Choice About the Author RONALD E. SEAVOY is with the Department of Business Economics and Public Policy, Kelley School of Business, Indiana University, Bloomington. Previous books by the author include *Famine in Peasant Societies* (Greenwood Press, 1986), *Famine in East Africa: Food Production and Food Policies* (Greenwood Press, 1989), and *The American Peasantry: Southern Agricultural Labor and Its Legacy, 1850-1995* (Greenwood Press, 1998).