

BOOK REVIEW

Pathways to Development: From Politics to Power

S. Hickey & K. S

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The inability of the developmental literature to yield productive and expected results led to discontent and critical questioning of the then theoretic paradigms during the 1980s and 1990s. Thinkers and practitioners started to look for answer in every direction. It was then that a body of like-minded individuals across various pockets of the world started thinking and conceived the notion of Institutional and New-Institutional frameworks hinted at the answer(s). For quite some decades, the frameworks of Institutional and New-Institutional thinking have been holding the central stage in the context of international development. Contemporarily, now the discontent is yet again developing against this institutional thinking supremacy. It is being increasingly realized that the answer to the issues of global development doesn't lie at the dead-end of institutionalist explanations but instead needs a U-turn and might lies at its end. Sen and Hickey chart out the pathway towards this U-turn and the end in the form of (re-)validating the importance of politics for the very realization of development.

Up until the onset of the twenty-first century, development has been given (un-)due and particular important. It has been taken as an identical term with economic development. The modern-day contexts make us think, is it really so? It was during the first decade of the twenty-first century that the case for an equal and sometimes more; importance of political development has been propagated. While it is increasingly being realized that political context is central to the context of economic development, Sen and Hickey empirically and analytically set to discuss and validate the notion in