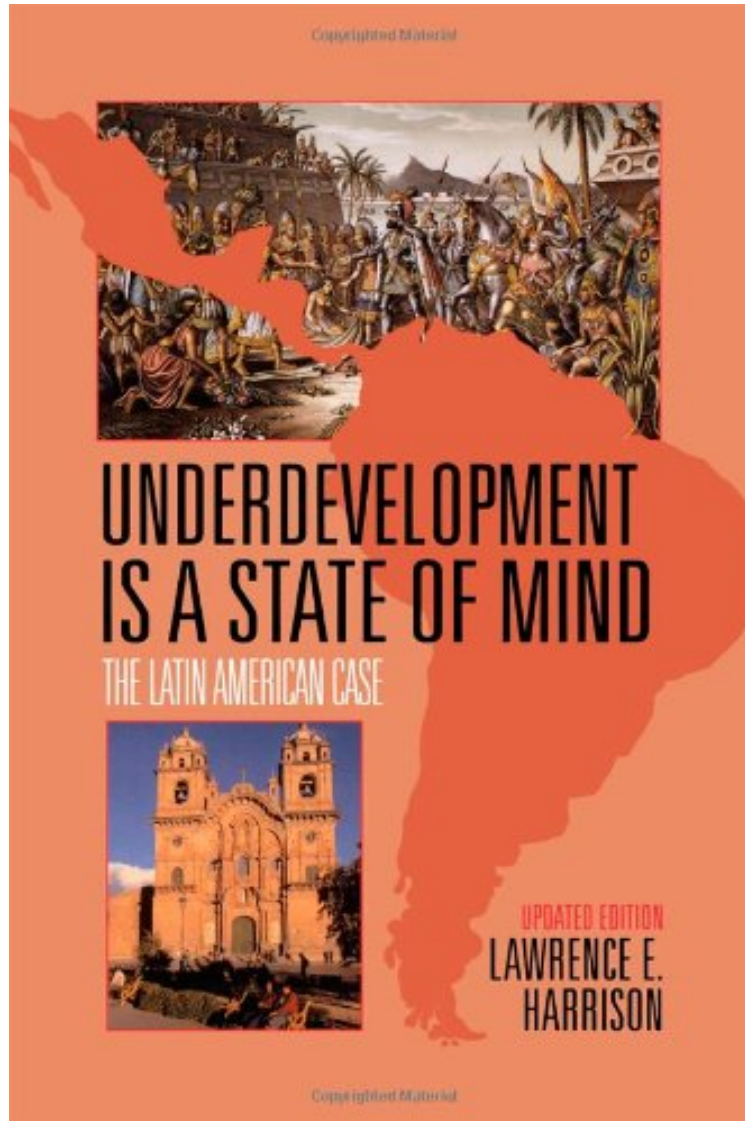


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Underdevelopment Is a State of Mind: The Latin American Case

Lawrence E. Harrison

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Lawrence E. Harrison : Underdevelopment Is a State of Mind: The Latin American Case before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Underdevelopment Is a State of Mind: The Latin American Case:

27 of 28 people found the following review helpful. Good analysts of root causes, indirectly the solutions By Henry Cate III This book was first written in 1985 and revised in 2000. In a nut shell the author looks at the history of Latin America, and argues that the classic explanation of the Dependency theory of Latin America's poverty relative to the United States is wrong. For a long time many people in Latin America blamed their problems on the rest of the world,

and often the United States was the source of most evil. This was victimhood on an international level. Harrison argues that this is wrong, and shows how the legacy of the Spanish and Catholic influences has produced a culture that is anti-progressive. I was a bit surprised at how often he brings up the importance of child rearing practices. This is a very well researched book. It was well written. It was very thought provoking. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Honest insight into the importance of cultural character

By S. Bolt
The premise of this book will be despised by anyone accustomed to blaming others for their own poor decisions and personal shortcomings. The cultures on our planet have different ideas regarding basic concepts such as education, honesty, work, personal sacrifice, productivity, promptness, responsibility, trust, raising children, friendship, welfare, security, the value of life, spirituality and many other characteristics. Each population evolves over time and establishes it's own priorities. The author examines Latin American countries with early similarities and demonstrates how their progress deviated from one another. Many countries which had early advantages over their neighbors (in terms of geography and natural resources, for example) fell behind in one way or another and continue to struggle. The author suggests variable outcomes result from the culture and values that evolve and become an integral part of every population. This is a very introspective and insightful examination into the lasting effects of "culture". 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book

By Loren Martin
Very interesting! Worth reading if you relate to a third world country and are trying to understand the culture. I live in Guatemala and it all makes sense with the culture here.

Originally published in 1985, *Underdevelopment Is a State of Mind* was one of the first studies to examine Latin America's rocky development as cultural, rather than colonial, byproduct.

About the Author Lawrence E. Harrison teaches at the Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies. He resides in Boston, Massachusetts.