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Empowerment: the politics of alternative development

Author(s) : [Friedmann, J.](#)

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Book : [Empowerment: the politics of alternative development](#) 1992 pp.205 pp.

Abstract : Development policies guided by mainstream economic doctrine led to the promise of a better life for the excluded majority. A theoretical foundation for an alternative approach to development, based on the politics of empowerment, is presented. The empowerment approach places the emphasis on autonomy in community making, local self-reliance, direct democracy and social learning. Poverty is viewed as a condition of social, political and psychological disempowerment with respect to

household's access to bases of social power. A key to overcoming mass poverty is the empowerment of the poor. This alternative model of development seeks to provide an initiative to disempowered sectors, communities and individuals. The economic and social potential of households is emphasized. Illustrations of the argument are drawn from Latin America. KEYWORDS: RURAL | Economic policy | social policy | political development strategy | politics | poverty | household | self reliance | participatory approach | Latin America.

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