

Growth dynamics and development : essays in applied econometrics and political economy

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PROPOSITIONS ACCOMPANYING THE THESIS

Growth Dynamics and Development Essays in Applied Econometrics and Political Economy

by Richard Bluhm

1. Countries whose political regime shifts sharply away from democracy towards autocracy become much more likely to experience economic stagnation. (Empirics, Chapter 2)
2. The duration of declines depends on political institutions and particularly strongly on ethno-linguistic fractionalization. (Empirics, Chapter 3)
3. Stronger constraints on the political executive shorten the time to economic recovery. (Theory, Chapter 4)
4. An increase in the number of ethno-political groups makes delayed cooperation more likely. If one group dominates or monopolizes the decision-making process, delay becomes less likely. (Theory, Chapter 4)
5. The well-established non-linearity of the income and inequality elasticities of poverty arises almost entirely from the bounded nature of poverty rates, which range between 0% and 100%. (Empirics, Chapter 5)
6. Semi-elasticities of poverty uncover a large role for redistribution in the process of development. Poverty reduction strategies should focus both on income growth and equalization. (Empirics, Chapter 5)
7. The World Bank's new target of reducing the \$1.25 a day poverty rate to 3% by 2030 is unlikely to be met. (Empirics, Chapter 6)
8. The success of economists' ideas alters the very reality we are analyzing.
9. Good economics is almost never good politics. Political agents thrive on economic inefficiencies.
10. Or shorter: it's the politics, stupid!
11. Flying is learning how to throw yourself at the ground and miss. (Doug Adams)