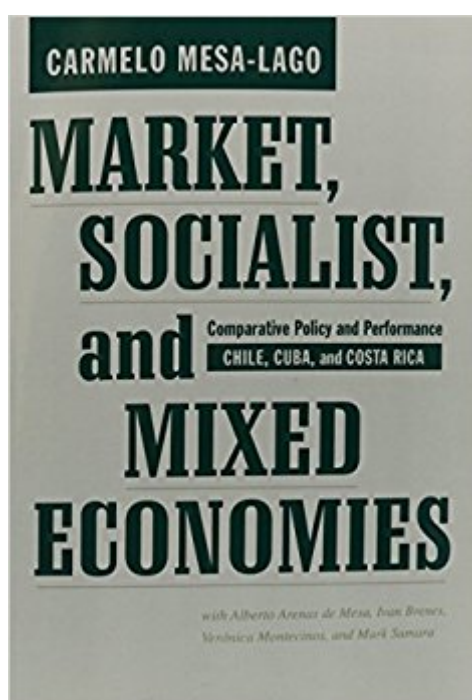


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Market, Socialist, And Mixed Economies: Comparative Policy And Performance--Chile, Cuba, And Costa Rica



Synopsis

How can we determine which economic model best provides for economic development and social welfare? In this major comparative work, noted economist Carmelo Mesa-Lago analyzes three Latin American countries with divergent economic systems: Chile (a market economy), Cuba (socialist), and Costa Rica (mixed). He examines their economic and social policies, shows how these policies affect performance based on a set of socioeconomic variables, and ranks the countries among themselves (using new techniques) and in comparison with international indicators. The time frame of the study embraces thirty-eight years for Costa Rica (under the democratic social democracy) and Cuba (under the socialist revolution) and twenty-four years for Chile (under Pinochet and the return to democracy). Mesa-Lago focuses on the three diverse socioeconomic models that these countries represent during these periods.

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Customer Reviews

"A wonderfully discerning book in the comparative economic policies and performances of Chile, Cuba and Costa Rica" (Albert O. Hirschman, Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton University, 2000). "From Mesa-Lago's imaginative use of comparative methods we gain much greater insight into each of the three countries than a traditional country monograph would provide. Both those interested in comparative economic systems learn much that is new and useful from this pioneering study" (Frederic Pryor, Professor Emeritus of Economics, Swarthmore College, 2000). "This book is the magnum opus of Carmelo Mesa-Lago, the zenith in his unique academic career, the product of detailed research for more than a decade [and] a rare example of the knowledge and use of the

literature about the three countries analyzed. "It revitalizes the field of development theory because of its boldness, ambitious goals and solid foundations" (Jorge Rovira Mesa, *Ciencias Sociales*, San Jose, 2002). "Mesa-Lago is already known for his scientific rigor, abundant use of statistics to support his findings and sharp analysis, which he now applies to the fundamental task of advancing the field of comparative economic systems. The discipline of development lacks systematic studies contrasting specific economic models using a common analytical framework, a vacuum filled by this book." (Marcos Lorenzelli, *Cuadernos del CLAEH*, 2003). "Undoubtedly, this book will illuminate the path of many future works both within and outside Latin America" (Ernesto Aldo Isuani, *Socialis: Reflexiones Latinoamericanas sobre Política Social*, 2002). "A remarkable work, even by the exacting standards Carmelo Mesa-Lago has set himself over his long and distinguished career. It offers depth as well as breadth combined with a mass of detailed statistical information that has been honed carefully to ensure comparability across countries." (Victor Bulmer-Thomas *Journal of Latin American Studies*) "This ambitious and massive book is the pinnacle of Professor Mesa-Lago's long and distinguished career. It is a tour de force that is a must for serious scholars in the field of comparative economic systems." (Katherine Terrell *Journal of Comparative Economics*) "This is a hugely impressive and informative work that examines an important economic and political issue... an ambitious and successful project, with a wealth of detail on economic policies in three different economic models." (Bruce Wilson *Latin American Politics and Society*) "[This book] is a treasure trove of useful information for country specialists and generalists... an impressive volume." (Kurt Weyland *South Eastern Latin Americanist*) "With the thoroughness, single-mindedness, and creativity that has characterized his scholarly work Mesa-Lago has tackled the very difficult topic of contemporary Latin American economic development. [His book] is accessible to advanced undergraduate and graduate students as well as to professionals. The profession owes a debt of gratitude to [him] for undertaking this monumental effort." (Jorge F. Pérez-López *Cuban Studies*) "An interesting, groundbreaking, and substantial academic work." (*British Bulletin of Publications*) "A thorough and rigorous work, with robust and convincing conclusions... a study of import and interest, not only for those who are involved with the three analyzed economies, but in general to any reader in developing countries interested in how to improve the combination of growth and equity with democracy." (Joseph R. Ramos Nueva Sociedad, Caracas) "This book is recommendable because of the methodic stringency of the country comparisons (that is missing in many other comparative country studies), and for the amount of detailed information and data on the specific countries. [It also] closes holes in the economic statistics of the international organizations." (Hartmut

Sangmeister Internationale Politik und Gesellschaft)"This book will become a standard of reference for those interested in Latin America and in the methodology for comparative economic analysis." (Juan A. B. Belt Cuba in Transition)"[This book] is a landmark, a new point of departure and shall be part of any future analysis." (Alejandro De La Fuente Encuentro, Madrid)"[Market, Socialist, and Mixed Economies] is in my view the best comparative study involving these three Latin America economies. Carmelo Mesa-Lago has succeeded in bringing together rich empirical evidence within an attractive conceptual framework. He has greatly advanced our understanding of the functioning of the socialist, mixed and market economies." (Jan Svejnar Revista de Ciencias Sociales, Costa Rica)

Carmelo Mesa-Lago is Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Economics and Latin American Studies University of Pittsburgh, and has been visiting professor, researcher or lecturer in 40 countries. A former President of the Latin American Studies Association he is author of 82 books and 275 articles on Latin America's social security, the Cuban economy and social welfare, and comparative economic systems, published in 7 languages in 34 countries. His most recent books are: Reassembling Social Security: A Survey of Pension and Healthcare Reforms in Latin America (Oxford University Press, 2012); Cuba en la era de Raúl Castro: Reformas económico-sociales y sus efectos (Editorial Colibrí, 2012) and Cuba Under Raul Castro: Assessing the Reforms (with Jorge Pérez-López, Lynne Reinner, 2013). He has been awarded: the ILO International Prize on Decent Work (shared with Nelson Mandela), the Alexander Von Humboldt Stiftung Senior Prize, two Fulbright Senior Awards, University of Pittsburgh Senior Research Prize, Arthur Whitaker Prize, Choice recognition for outstanding books, Annual Recognition from the Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy, Homage from OISS and CISS for life work on social security, and the Institute of Cuban Studies and the journal Encuentro for life work on Cuba's economy, finalist in Spain's Prince of Asturias Prize on Social Sciences. Member of the National Academy of Social Insurance and the editorial board of seven academic journals.

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