

TIRADO-FABREGAT, Daniel A., MARC BADIA-MIRÓ, and Henry WILLEBALD, eds. 2020. *Time and Space: Latin American Regional Development in Historical Perspective*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 407 pp.

A new approach to regional research has emerged in the last twenty years, trying to fill the gaps and lack of detail in national cases' studies. *Time and Space* is an extraordinary example of the advances of regional studies in historical perspective. This edited volume, containing fourteen chapters, mainly based on the regional GDP methodology, gives us a new view on Latin America, improving our understanding of the region and the causes of its lack of convergence with the developed core. The editors of this volume, Marc Badia-Miró, Daniel Tirado-Fabregat and Henry Willebald, are distinguished scholars with expertise in both topics, Latin American and Regional analysis. This book could be consider the Latin-American version of *The Economic Development of Europe's Regions*, edited by Wolf and Rosés.

The three first chapters introduce the aim and the methodologies of the book. Chapter one, written by the aforementioned editors, presents the aim and the novelty of the volume, emphasizing the quantitative approach, the historical roots, and the numbers of countries represented. The goal of the book is crystal clear: "... to what extent the stylized facts and explanatory hypotheses developed to explain regional inequality in industrialized countries can be applied to less developed economies" (p. 3). Chapter 2, written by Díez-Minguela and Sanchis Llopis, provides meaningful comparison of the differences between the methodologies applied to estimate regional GDPs in Latin America, emphasizing the effects of development over statistical infrastructure. Moreover, they offer an honest warning regarding how the massive size differences between Latin American countries (e.g., Uruguay and Brazil) could affect the results. Finalizing the introductory and methodological part, Luis Bertola has written an interesting chapter with a provokative periodization, focusing on the productive models present in the region instead of the political majoritarian regimes.

Something remarkable about *Time and Space*... is the holistic approach taken by the editors, analyzing several Latin American countries. Beside the typical cases of the 'big four' (Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico) or the extended 'Latin America 7' (the former four plus Colombia, Uruguay and Venezuela), this book contains two chapters focused on Bolivia and Perú, two countries often forgotten in Latin American compilations. Probably, in the future, we would see larger compilations with Ecuador and Central American countries represented.

Regarding the specific chapters for each country (9), the first one deals with Argentina, the only Latin American country that was close to achieving development in the first half of the twentieth century. An interesting discovery in this chapter is how divergence between regions has been increasing since the first observation (1895). The chapter dedicated to Bolivia, written by José Peres-Cajías, sheds light over the Bolivian stagnation relative to its neighbours. Significant hydrocarbon endowments have played a noticeable role in the differences between Santa Cruz and Tarija with the rest of the country. The chapter dealing with Brazil is extremely relevant, given the particularities of this *mega-country*. Besides the size of Brazil, the exaggerated concentration of population and wealth in the southeast regions has created an extremely uneven country, with inequalities around and within regions. The chapter on Chile reflects a great body of work by the author (Marc Badia-Miró) and other scholars of this country. The extreme concentration around the capital and the importance of mining cycles have shaped the regional inequality of Chile. In the case of Colombia, one of the biggest countries in Latin America (second largest in South America in terms of population), development has been marked by the difficult geography, where the Andes mountains have led to concentrated markets. The coastal regions of the country remain the poorest regions in Colombia, and the authors call for further studies on the topic. Mexico is represented by a chapter written by Retureta, Badia-Miró and Herranz. The North American country has shown a high regional inequality, even in Latin American terms. The period of convergence, during the state-led industrialization (1940–1980), finished and started a new period of divergence under the trade openness, increasing the different capacities of states to integrate successfully in the international market. Worth mentioning is that Retureta is a former PhD student of his co-authors, showing an interesting collaboration for further works. An important and valuable chapter is the one on Perú, written by Seminario (RIP), Zegarra and Palomino. Thanks to the life's work of Professor Seminario, a critical amount of statistical data is available to the study of Perú since colonial times. The main results provided in this chapter show a noticeable increasing of regional inequality under the guano and saltpetre exports Eras, a reinforced probing into the critic role of natural resources in Latin American economic history. Martínez-Galarraga, Rodríguez and Willebald wrote the most difficult chapter for this volume, analyzing the regional differences in the smaller administrative unit of Uruguay. In terms of size, the Oriental Republic is larger than several European countries, but in population is extremely small. As with the rest of the Latin American countries, insertion into the international markets under the neoliberal framework has increased regional inequality. Finally, De Corso and Tirado-Fabregat analyzed the case of Venezuela – like Argentina, another case of unachieved expectations. The territorial inequality of the country followed an inverted U-shaped curve, with a great spike after the oil boom.

There are two conclusion chapters: first, “Spatial Inequality”, written by Badia-Miró, Nicolini and Willebald; and “Regional Inequality in Latin America”, by the editors plus Nicolini. The former shows the main changes in the Latin American regions and how the region as a whole has been narrowing the extremely high regional inequality of the nineteenth century. The latter chapter presents how Latin America

has developed in comparison with European regional inequality. In 1895, the levels of inequality in Latin America were higher than in Southwestern Europe, and only Argentina and Brazil were close to Spain. The authors of this chapter have presented evidence that Latin America could follow a quite different pattern than Europe.

Some small criticisms of this excellent book are the lack of coordination between the graphical evidence presented in the chapters, e.g., the b-convergence figure to show how large is the effect of the initial year in the future growth. These graphs are different between each chapter (labels, titles, and style). Also, the maps do not follow the same pattern, and the legends change each time. However, these are minor points in an edited volume such as the one reviewed, and do not diminish the overall quality of the work.

In summary, *Time and Space...* represents a massive contribution to Latina American Economic History and Regional Development studies. The evidence presented in this book will help give scholars, policy makers and politicians a better picture of the uneven economic progress of this region.

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