The nonprofit sector in the developing world

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The nonprofit sector in the developing world
Helmut K. Anheier and Lester M. Salamon

Recent years have witnessed a significant upsurge of organized, private, nonprofit activity in the countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, and with it a new appreciation of the important role that nonprofit organizations can play in the processes of economic and political change. Long recognized as instruments of relief and promoters of human rights, such organizations have recently come to be viewed also as essential contributors to basic economic growth and to the broader civic infrastructure that is now increasingly seen as a fundamental precondition for markets and representative political institutions to function.

Despite their increasing importance, however, nonprofit organizations in the developing world remain dimly understood both empirically and theoretically. This volume usefully begins to fill that gap by systematically examining the nonprofit sector in five developing countries spread widely across the world: Brazil in Latin America, Ghana in Africa, Egypt in the Middle East, India in South Asia, and Thailand in South East Asia. Introductory and concluding chapters summarize the findings and assess their implications both for our understanding of these societies and for our understanding of the nonprofit sector.

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