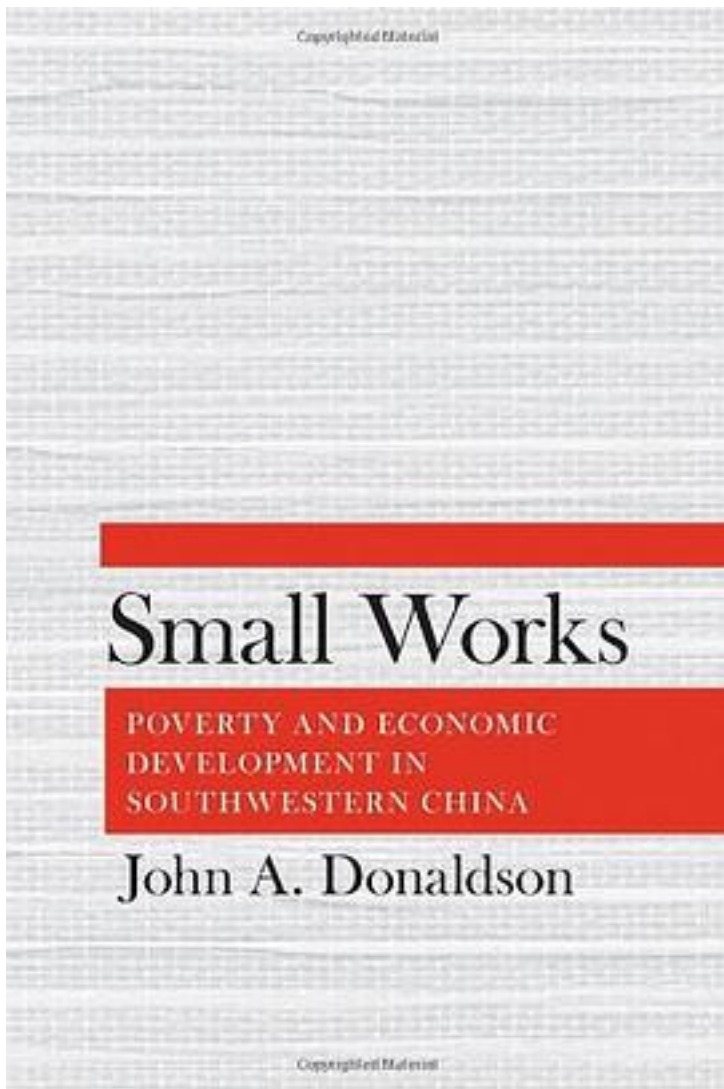


Small Works



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How can policymakers effectively reduce poverty? Most mainstream economists advocate promoting economic growth, on the grounds that it generally reduces poverty while bringing other economic benefits. However, this dominant hypothesis offers few alternatives for economies that are unable to grow, or in places where economic growth fails to reduce or actually exacerbates poverty. In *Small Works*, John A. Donaldson draws on his extensive fieldwork in two Chinese provinces—Yunnan and Guizhou—that are exceptions to the purported relationship between economic growth and poverty reduction.

In Yunnan, an outward-oriented developmental state, one that focuses on large-scale, urban development, has largely failed to reduce poverty, even though it succeeded in stimulating economic growth. Provincial policy shaped roads, tourism, and mining in ways that often precluded participation by poor people. By contrast, Guizhou is a micro-oriented state, one that promotes small-scale, low-skill economic opportunities—and so reduces poverty despite slow economic growth. It is no coincidence that this Guizhou approach parallels the ideas encapsulated in the "scientific development view" of China's current president Hu Jintao. After all, Hu, when Guizhou's leader, helped establish the micro-oriented state in the province. Donaldson's conclusions have implications for our understanding of development and poverty reduction, economic change in China, and the thinking behind China's policy decisions.

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标签

经济

海外中国研究

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评论

非常非常喜欢，算是这学期读的最喜欢的一本书。讲的是贫困省的减贫策略如何让更多的贫困人口脱贫。作者比较了云南和贵州两个省，指出经济的快速发展和贫困人口脱离贫困之间可能不存在那么significant的直接关系（打脸“经济发展可以带动一切”言论）。具体以修路、旅游业、人口迁徙以及煤矿为例，详细探讨了为什么贵州虽然经济增长慢于云南，但可以做到大幅减少贫困人口。方法是定量定型相结合，定性部分真正让人感受到作者对底层人民的关心。

poverty is the gravest insult to human dignity. povertt is the scar on humanity's face

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书评

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