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Economics

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The following review appeared in the May 2014 issue of CHOICE:

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Nayyar, Deepak. **Catch up: developing countries in the world economy.** Oxford, 2013. 221p bibl index ISBN 9780199652983, \$45.00

Nayyar (emer., Jawaharlal Nehru Univ., India) comprehensively covers the current state of knowledge on historical trends of economic growth and development, including various associated phenomena such as trade, population growth, and international investment. Coverage ranges from the preindustrial era to modern economic growth. Most of the book is descriptive; the author meticulously examines the macroeconomic data currently available and relevant to the historical experience of the world economy, regions, and selected individual countries. Theoretical analysis or detailed explanation for why these trends unfolded as they did is sparser, although the main growth and development theories are mentioned. The last few chapters, on uneven development and emerging divergence, contain more explanatory analysis and round out the volume. Nayyar emphasizes the role of institutions and revisits the subject of industrial policy. While the trends described in the book should be familiar to advanced students of economic development, Nayyar's work can serve as an excellent introduction for undergraduates, or for graduate students approaching the subject for the first time. This comprehensive introduction to the big picture of historical patterns of economic growth is a valuable addition to the literature. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. Academic audiences, lower-division undergraduate and up, as well as general readers. -- *R. S. Szulga, Carleton College*