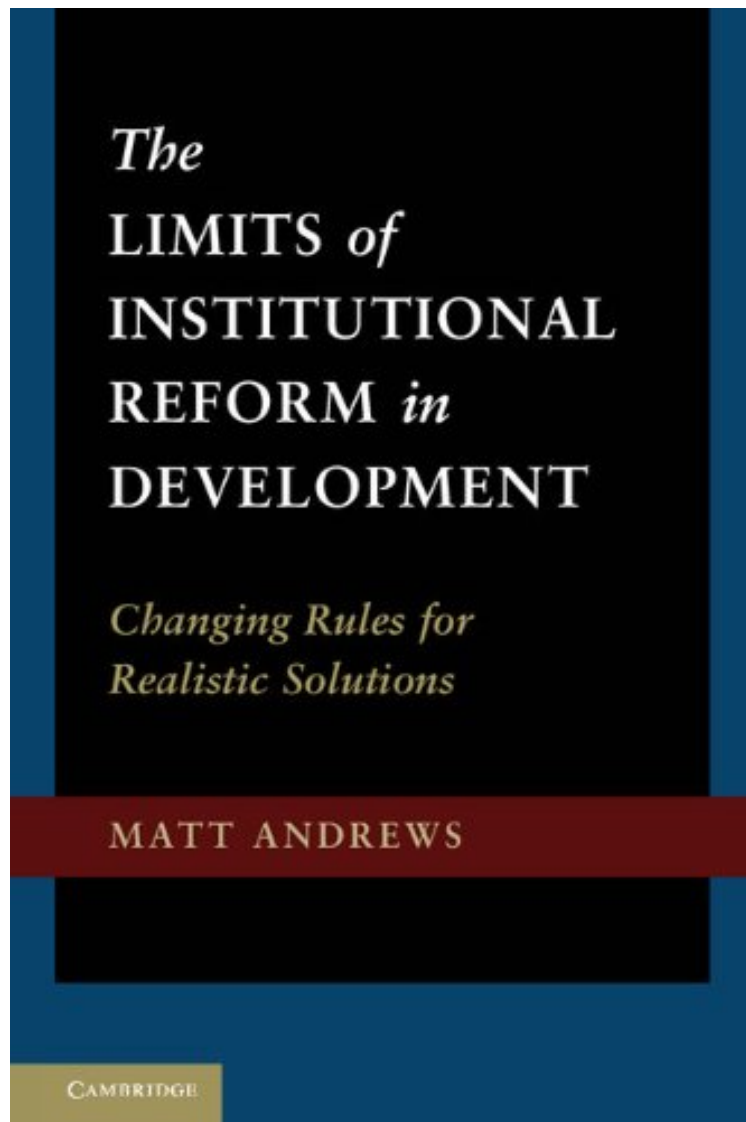


The Limits of Institutional Reform in Development: Changing Rules for Realistic Solutions

Matt Andrews

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Matt Andrews : The Limits of Institutional Reform in Development: Changing Rules for Realistic Solutions before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Limits of Institutional Reform in Development: Changing Rules for Realistic Solutions:

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governments face, the author skilfully unravels why the expected success of many reforms have not materialised. This book is not just about compiling a list of problems, it also unpacks an innovative tool that governments and other reform stakeholders can use when designing and implementing reforms. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This a very good book By A. S. Muller This book writes up things that I have seen for years in the are of rule of law development. It gives things a name and places them in a conceptual framework. The fact that so much is based on empirical analysis adds to the strength of the argument made. A must read for those working on institutional reform. 1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read for Country Development By Doug Hadden This book should not be missed by anyone involved in aid, country development, policy or the public sector in developing countries. Matt Andrews identifies the gap between design and outcomes. Unlike other observers, Andrews diagnoses the underlying causes and provides a prescription for success called Problem-Driven Iterative Adaptation (PDIA). Andrews delves into the soft underbelly of PFM reform. He describes how reform comes with "considerable expense, and with great anticipation" yet fails to achieve desired results despite decades of practical experience. Improved management of public financials is accepted as an important element in improved governance. Andrews finds a gap between legal reform and informal practices. [More on this at: <http://www.freebalance.com/blog/?p=4218>] He shows the dangers of coming to development with the solution in mind and the insidious effects of so-called "best practices". [More on this at: <http://www.freebalance.com/blog/?p=4226>]. The book could have been improved by taking showing where conventional thinking cannot explain development project failures [More on this at: <http://www.freebalance.com/blog/?p=4224>], but this is a minor criticism given the practical advice in the book.

Developing countries commonly adopt reforms to improve their governments yet they usually fail to produce more functional and effective governments. Andrews argues that reforms often fail to make governments better because they are introduced as signals to gain short-term support. These signals introduce unrealistic best practices that do not fit developing country contexts and are not considered relevant by implementing agents. The result is a set of new forms that do not function. However, there are realistic solutions emerging from institutional reforms in some developing countries. Lessons from these experiences suggest that reform limits, although challenging to adopt, can be overcome by focusing change on problem solving through an incremental process that involves multiple agents.