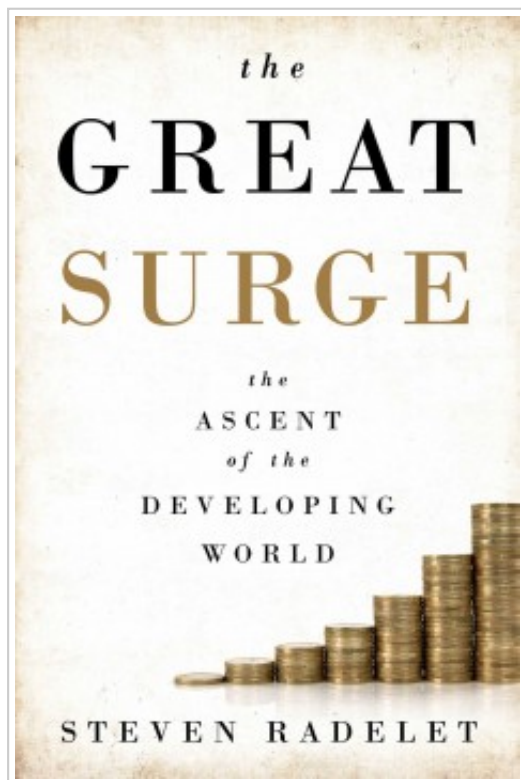


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## The Great Surge

The Ascent of the Developing World

by Steven Radelet

**Price: \$28.00**(Hardcover)

Published: November 10, 2015

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

**From the Publisher:** The untold story of the global poor today: A distinguished expert and advisor to developing nations reveals how we've reduced poverty, increased incomes, improved health, curbed violence, and spread democracy—and how to ensure the improvements continue.

We live today at a time of great progress for the global poor. Never before have so many people, in so many developing countries, made so much progress. Most people believe the opposite: that with a few exceptions like China and India, the majority of developing countries are hopelessly mired in deep poverty, led by inept dictators, and living with pervasive famine, widespread disease, constant violence, and little hope for change. But a major transformation is underway—and has been for two decades now. Since the early 1990s more than 700 million people have been lifted out of extreme poverty, six million...

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## What We Say

Good news! The media is not always good at passing along good news, especially when it involves things not happening, like people not starving to death or young people getting an education rather than being denied one or communities not being wiped out by disease. Nonetheless, Steven Radelet does a strong job of marshaling his facts to make clear that humanity is in the midst of one of the most remarkable accomplishments in history. To be blunt, in country after country around the world, hundreds of millions of people have been lifted out of poverty at a rate never seen before. Indeed, because of population growth, never before in history has the actual number of people in poverty fallen. They've fallen as a percentage before, which is an important metric. But to fall overall is even more impressive. It's a surge that has taken place over decades, beginning with the end of World War II and sent into high gear with the end of the Cold War. Radelet doesn't focus on just the poverty rate. He looks at poverty, health care, education and democracy. And before you can offer some caveats or raise some questions he does it for you. He demonstrates remarkable strides made across countless countries (and he repeatedly takes China out of the equation just so you can see how one country hasn't skewed the results). He is conservative when determining which countries have functioning democracies, however fragile. He paints a vivid story of the success in Africa, a story virtually ignored or misunderstood because it seems to go against what everyone "knows" about Africa. Radelet is not a wide-eyed optimist. Nonetheless, after charting multiple possibilities for the future and recognizing the many ways progress can be slowed or halted (it rarely moves forward in a smooth line), he remains strongly convinced that humanity can and will continue to see this stunning progress continue. Who would have expected the world to beat various ambitious targets for fighting poverty around the globe...five years ahead of time? The storytelling is minimal and Radelet's prose simply straightforward. He's getting out the news as clearly and concisely as possible. The more people know what has already been accomplished, the more they may rally around what can be done in the next 30 years. It's an inspiring possibility and anyone hungering for good news should start right here. -- Michael Giltz

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## What Others Say

"Powerful, lucid, and revelatory, *The Great Surge* makes a vital argument and offers indispensable prescriptions about sustaining global economic progress into the future." - **George Soros, chairman of Soros Fund Management**

"Steven Radelet in a brilliant new book demonstrates out how the world has actually gotten better in recent years, not by a little but by a lot. This is a careful antidote to today's fashionable pessimism and should be read by everyone." - **Francis Fukuyama, author of *The End of History***

"With the airwaves filled with news of insurrection, desperation, and still stubborn diseases, this book jars you out of a clichéd response. With his typical care and detail, Steve describes humanity's greatest hits over the last twenty years—never have we lived in a time when so many are doing so well. The job surely isn't done, but these pages provide the evidence the job can be done, if we choose to do it." - **Bono, lead singer of U2 and co-founder of ONE and (RED)**

"Steven Radelet is one of the leading development thinkers and practitioners in the world today. This captivating book shows that progress for the world's poor is not just..."