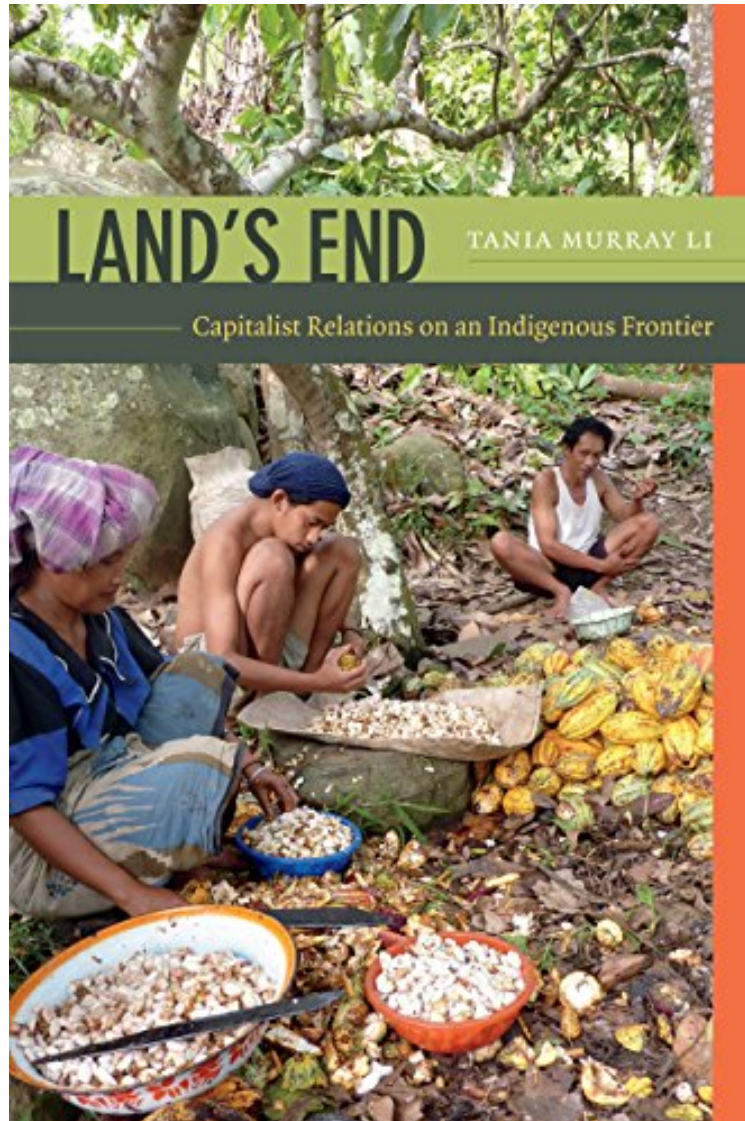


(Download free ebook) Landrsquo;s End: Capitalist Relations on an Indigenous Frontier

Landrsquo;s End: Capitalist Relations on an Indigenous Frontier

Tania Murray Li

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Tania Murray Li : Landrsquo;s End: Capitalist Relations on an Indigenous Frontier before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Landrsquo;s End: Capitalist Relations on an Indigenous Frontier:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An exceptional look at development issues written in a very ...By KelsAn exceptional look at development issues written in a very accessible way. The introduction is a little dry because of the theories discussed; but for people with a background or interest in economics and development, it is insightful and proposes a framework for understanding the rest of the book. The rest of the chapters are very engaging, relatable, and understandable without the introduction.This book represents 20 years of data, plus the prior historical

context for these people, and fairly represents conflicts individuals face on the path to development. Li's results show that development is neither the uplifting, empowering force some believe in, nor the force of annihilation brought in by big corporations that others believe in. It can start on an internal level with consequences that are neither equally empowering or equally destructive for all people. Li also shows many of the shortcomings of development agencies which are often detached from the groups they provide aid to, and her study suggests some ways that development projects could be more effective.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A must read

By Jackie

The book grapples with a world wide issue, of economic inequality, loss of land, and standard of living, on a local, personal scale. While the book may begin slowly, as you read further you become intrigued in the lives of the highlanders, and the nature of their check mate. It is a must for anyone trying to understand the complexities of capitalist relations, as well as those searching for an honest account of the issues surrounding development agendas.

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Eminently readable, surprising, and politically relevant ethnography

By dmc_runs

This is what ethnography should look like: eminently readable yet theoretically grounded, nuanced yet incisive, and both theoretically and politically relevant. Her prose is beautiful and she weaves theory seamlessly into narratives, giving something for both academic and non-academic readers to chew on. Her findings about rural farmers at the margins, for whom capitalism is not brought about with a decisive land grab or "development" scheme, but rather slowly and almost accidentally brought on by their own actions, is both surprising and informative. She challenges both the right's simplistic narrative that the market will save the poor - she demonstrates the reverse - and the left's romantic and idealized narratives about the "alternative development" paths for smallholder farmers. The book is one I'd recommend highly to anyone interested in rural development or food justice, as well as, of course, any student of the anthropology of capitalism, agrarian studies, or political ecology.

Drawing on two decades of ethnographic research in Sulawesi, Indonesia, Tania Murray Li offers an intimate account of the emergence of capitalist relations among indigenous highlanders who privatized their common land to plant a boom crop, cacao. Spurred by the hope of ending their poverty and isolation, some prospered, while others lost their land and struggled to sustain their families. Yet the winners and losers in this transition were not strangers—they were kin and neighbors. Li's richly peopled account takes the reader into the highlanders' world, exploring the dilemmas they faced as sharp inequalities emerged among them.

The book challenges complacent, modernization narratives promoted by development agencies that assume inefficient farmers who lose out in the shift to high-value export crops can find jobs elsewhere. Decades of uneven and often jobless growth in Indonesia meant that for newly landless highlanders, land's end was a dead end. The book also has implications for social movement activists, who seldom attend to instances where enclosure is initiated by farmers rather than coerced by the state or agribusiness corporations. Li's attention to the historical, cultural, and ecological dimensions of this conjuncture demonstrates the power of the ethnographic method and its relevance to theory and practice today.

"For anyone interested in ongoing dispossession and enduring inequalities, this powerful and compelling book is essential. Tania Murray Li shows how access to land, labor, and food eroded gradually and insidiously for many people, in a manner that undermined oppositional movements."