# Development as Freedom



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# Reviews

The best book i actually go through. It can be full of wisdom and knowledge Once you begin to read the book, it is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding.

(Prof. Greg Herzog)

## **DEVELOPMENT AS FREEDOM**



GRIN Verlag Jun 2011, 2011. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 210x148x2 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2009 in the subject Economics - Economic Cycle and Growth, grade: 1,0, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, language: English, abstract: About 2500 years ago the brilliant Greek philosopher Aristotle surveyed in his NicomacheanEthics the ends to which our conduct should be directed. He concluded with deep insight that wealth is obviously not the good we seek, for the sole purpose it serves is to provide themeans of getting something else [emphasis added] (Aristotle, 1975, p. 31). Until recent times, economists struggle for a commonly accepted primary end as an overallpolicy goal. The ideas range from income and wealth maximization (often expressed in theper capita GNP) over the pursuit of happiness as an unalienable right in the US Declarationof Independence of 1776 to well-known measures of something else such as the GrossNational Happiness in Bhutan (cf. DiTella and MacCulloch, 2008). Another, indeed veryfamous, proposal originates from the work of Amartya Sen. He suggests to define freedom asthe primary goal for societies and to measure the achievements in the space of feasible functionings, the so-called capability set. In this paper I seek to present Sen s theoretical conception of development as freedom and toprovide both the background for tracing the process of origin as well as some exemplary applicationsto give an idea of the impact of his vision on economic problems. I will focus on the theoretical structure of his conception and will not go into details regarding empirical and historical data that can easily be found in standard literature on development economics. Thetheoretical background to Sen s approach, however, is not that intensively discussed and somy aim is to contribute to the understanding of the theoretical structure of his...



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