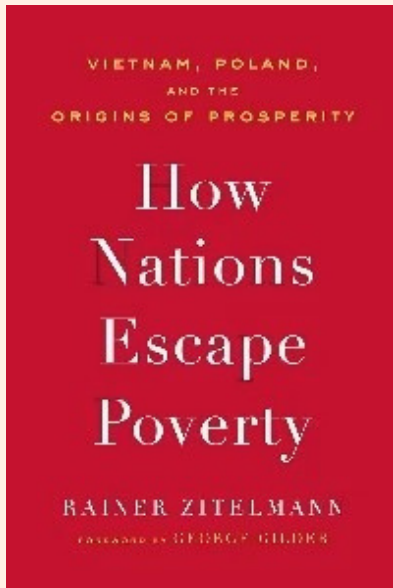


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Tej Parikh 5 HOURS AGO



Over the 20th century, the Polish and Vietnamese economies were both ravaged by war and poor governance. Now, economists and policymakers see both countries as symbols of developmental success. In *How Nations Escape Poverty* by Rainer Zitelmann (Encounter Books, £21.99) the author,

a German historian and sociologist, outlines how the two nations have managed to turn things around.

Zitelmann's thesis is unashamedly pro-capitalist. His argument is that Poland and Vietnam's successes owe themselves to economic growth focused on wealth creation and enterprise, and the reformers that encouraged it. Although there are mechanisms by which too much inequality can strain economic dynamism, Zitelmann reminds us that income differentials can, and have been, both a side-effect of rapid economic growth and an important entrepreneurial motivator that can bring dynamism to once opportunity-strained nations. This is a novel read that brings a different perspective on how the tenets of capitalism are viewed by people in emerging nations. It is also a useful insight into two fascinating countries that are set to play an important part in the 21st century.