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Comparing Globalizations: A Disaggregated Approach

Juan Eugenio Corradi © Copyright Opinión Sur

Abstract: This is the first of a series of articles that will examine the impact of globalization on countries with distinct “geopolitical endowments” owing to their size, their human and natural resources, and their global neighborhood. How do you investigate globalization? With these initial notes, I try to show upfront, and in plain language, my general orientation as well as the rules of the method applied. Of course, I invite the reader to send comments and suggestions. (see complete article)

Generating the Inflection Point for Accelerated, Balanced Local Development

(with a reference to Tarija, Bolivia)

Roberto Sanón Mizrahi © Copyright Opinión Sur

Abstract: Now and again, certain local conditions arise that create golden opportunities for impelling accelerated, balanced development. To take advantage of them, it will be necessary to adopt *a new set foundational decisions* for the locale. On the economic level, this means identifying or implementing *(i) local*

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economic structuring projects, (ii) "locomotive" projects, and (iii) direct support to the base of the productive apparatus. Strategic efforts in education will help support this process.

What instruments are available at the local level to initiate or consolidate this endeavor? *Oftentimes, the tools available are not compatible with the nature of the effort that needs to be executed.* Therefore, a new battery of instruments is proposed: *local funds or trusts* to invest in locomotive projects, *community business developers* to identify and structure good economic opportunities for the region, *a support fund* for microcredit lenders, and Business Schools, Technical Institutes, NGO's, and specialized consultants to bring business know-how and modern business engineering to the base of the productive apparatus. To act as a catalytic element, we propose the formation of a kind of *local initiative engine* that can mobilize diverse forces and groups in the region, draw up proposals, help to introduce initiatives, and monitor trajectories. It would act as a team with a pluralistic vision, firmly committed to generating the inflection point for accelerated, balanced local development. A reference to the state of Tarija in Bolivia is included. [\(see complete article\)](#)

In Search of the Chapaco Miracle. From natural gas to entrepreneurial development in Tarija.

Eduardo Remolins © Copyright Opinión Sur

Abstract: Tarija is a very special province in Bolivia because, by regional standards, it boasts a relatively high level of human development (measured by income, health, and education); because, though it is not a densely-populated province (400,000 inhabitants, less than 5% of the country), it is richly endowed with natural resources.

The case in Tarija is similar to the case in many Latin American regions where a rich endowment of natural resources is linked with the desire to use these resources to build a dense and self-sustainable economic web.

Regions like Tarija are ready to pursue programs that educate, stimulate, and promote entrepreneurial activity. However, the challenge lies in going beyond just adding material on "the entrepreneurial spirit" to an existing course of study; this is good, but not enough.

What could a region like Tarija do to boost the level of entrepreneurial activity in the short and middle range? Put simply, it can pass on values, abilities, and experiences connected with business activity. [\(see complete article\)](#)

Mesoeconomic Intervention in the Fight against Poverty

Roberto Sansón Mizrahi © Copyright Opinión Sur

Abstract: This article is the continuation of a previous article published in Opinión Sur 15 titled *The Mesoeconomy of the Poor: A critical dimension in the fight against poverty*. In this second text, we point out that just as large national and regional policies constitute the setting for macroeconomic intervention, and the conditions that production units function in are the setting for microeconomic intervention, webs or productive networks are the primary setting for the deployment of mesoeconomic intervention.

Recognizing the poor who work as members of webs or productive networks has very practical implications on economic policy. It enables identifying certain nodes or crucially-important areas within the web to concentrate transformation or support efforts on. In these cases, mesoeconomic intervention will impact the trajectory of the web in more than one sense. The article also covers aspects of web competitiveness and improving members' productivity, with a very brief reference to the effectiveness and efficiency of mesoeconomic intervention. [\(see complete article\)](#)

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