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Modernization, Urbanization and Development in Latin America, 1900s - 2000s (Planning, History and Environment Series)

Arturo Almandoz
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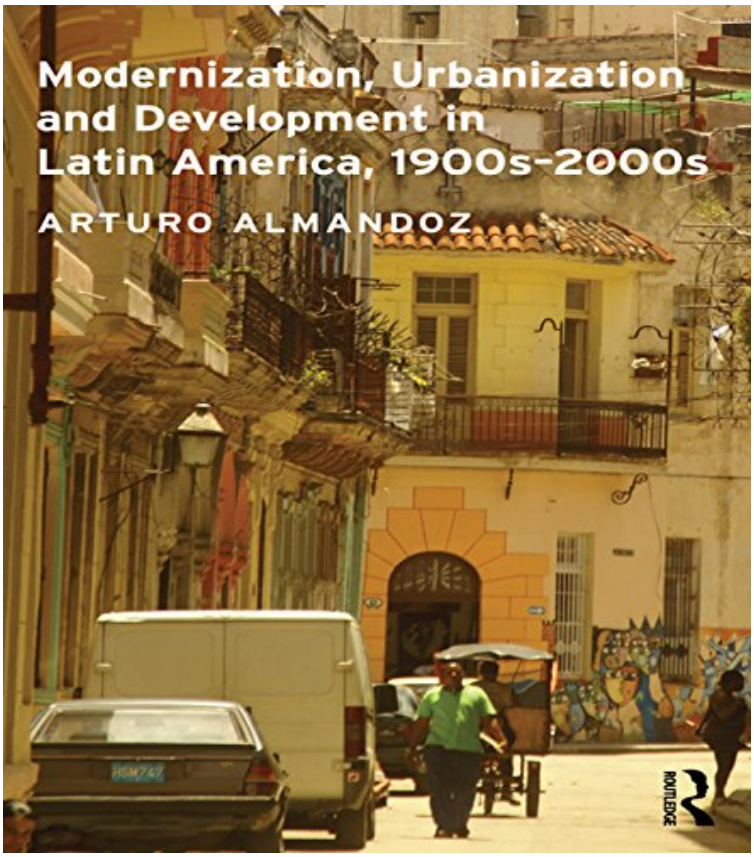

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Arturo Almandoz : Modernization, Urbanization and Development in Latin America, 1900s - 2000s (Planning, History and Environment Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Modernization, Urbanization and Development in Latin America, 1900s - 2000s (Planning, History and Environment Series):

In this book Arturo Almandoz places the major episodes of Latin Americarsquo;s twentieth and early twenty-first century urban history within the changing relationship between industrialization and urbanization, modernization and development. This relationship began in the early twentieth century, when industrialization and urbanization became significant in the region, and ends at the beginning of the twenty-first century, when new tensions between liberal globalization and populist nationalism challenge development in the subcontinent, much of which is still poverty stricken. Latin Americarsquo;s twentieth-century modernization and development are closely related to nineteenth-century ideals of progress and civilization, and for this reason Almandoz opens with a brief review of that legacy for

the different countries that are the focus of his book ndash; Mexico, Chile, Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela ndash; but with references to others. He then explores the regional distortions, which resulted from the interaction between industrialization and urbanization, and how the imbalance between urbanization and the productive system helps to explain why lsquo;take-offrsquo; was not followed by the lsquo;drive to maturityrsquo; in Latin American countries. He suggests that the close yet troublesome relationship with the United States, the recurrence of dictatorships and autocratic regimes, and Marxist influences in many domains, are all factors that explain Latin Americarsquo;s stagnation and underdevelopment up to the so-called lsquo;lost decadersquo; of 1980s.He shows how Latin Americarsquo;s fate changed in the late twentieth and early twenty-first century, when neoliberal programmes, political compromise and constitutional reform dismantled the traditional model of the corporate state and centralized planning. He reveals how economic growth and social improvements have been attained by politically left-wing yet economically open-market countries while others have resumed populism and state intervention. All these trends make up the complex scenario for the new century ndash; especially when considered against the background of vibrant metropolises that are the main actors in the book.

'Arturo Almandozrsquo;s Modernization, Urbanization and Development in Latin America, 1900sndash; 2000s is a tour de force.' - Clara Irazaacute;bal, Columbia University, USAAbout the AuthorArturo Almandoz is Professor at Simoacute;n Bolivar University, Caracas, and Professor Adjunct in Santiago's Catholic University of Chile. He has published extensively on Latin America and has taught at other universities in the region.