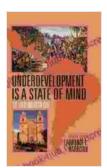
The Latin American Case: A Long and Winding Road to Economic Development



Underdevelopment Is a State of Mind: The Latin

American Case by Lawrence E. Harrison

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Latin America is a region of great contrasts. It is home to some of the world's most developed countries, such as Chile and Costa Rica, as well as some of the world's poorest countries, such as Haiti and Nicaragua. The region has also experienced periods of great economic growth, as well as periods of severe economic crisis.

The economic history of Latin America is a complex one, and there is no single explanation for the region's uneven development. However, there are a number of factors that have played a role, including:

 Colonialism: Latin America was colonized by Spain and Portugal for over 300 years. During this time, the region was exploited for its natural resources and its people were subjected to forced labor. This left a lasting legacy of underdevelopment.

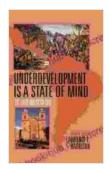
- Political instability: Latin America has been plagued by political instability since independence. This has made it difficult for the region to develop stable economic policies.
- Economic dependence: Latin America has been heavily dependent on the export of primary commodities, such as oil, copper, and coffee.
 This has made the region vulnerable to fluctuations in global prices.

Despite these challenges, Latin America has made significant progress in recent decades. The region has experienced a period of sustained economic growth, and poverty has been reduced. However, there are still a number of challenges that need to be addressed, including:

- Income inequality: Latin America is one of the most unequal regions in the world. This inequality is a major obstacle to economic development.
- Corruption: Corruption is a major problem in Latin America. This undermines the rule of law and makes it difficult for businesses to operate efficiently.
- Environmental degradation: Latin America is home to some of the world's most pristine natural resources. However, these resources are under threat from pollution and deforestation.

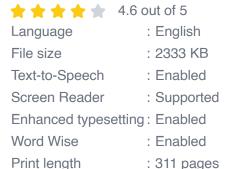
Despite these challenges, there is reason to be optimistic about the future of Latin America. The region has a number of young, dynamic economies, and there is a growing middle class. With the right policies, Latin America has the potential to achieve sustainable economic development.

The economic history of Latin America is a complex one, filled with both challenges and opportunities. The region has made significant progress in recent decades, but there are still a number of challenges that need to be addressed. With the right policies, Latin America has the potential to achieve sustainable economic development.



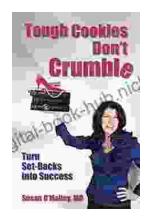
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