

Deaton, Angus. *The great escape: health, wealth, and the origins of inequality*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2013. 360 p. Cloth, \$29.95. ISBN: 978-0-691-15354-4

Using his expertise in economic development and a broad historical lens, Deaton explains the economic progress experienced by industrialized countries that raised their material standards of living and provided health advances for their citizens. He does not overlook the societal inequities that came along with increased GDP. He notes that there has been a significant rise in income inequality in the United States since 1970, at the same time that global poverty has been reduced. He offers strategies for foreign aid, trade restrictions, and migration to serve as paths for developing countries to escape poverty successfully. With the exception of targeted health goals or local projects of “decent governments, where aid is a relatively small share of the economy,” Deaton explains why external aid, whether from national or international governmental agencies or from non-governmental organizations, has done more harm than good. (p. 318) Quoting Peter Bauer (*Dissent on Development*, 1971), Deaton emphasizes that if conditions are not present for development, no amount of external aid will be effective, and when they are, aid is not required.