



## Best of the blog 2022

By Karen Downing  
16 December 2022

This is our last blog for the year. Thank you to everyone who has written for, read, commented on, promoted and supported the Devpolicy Blog in 2022. We hope you are able to enjoy some rest over the holiday period until we resume on Monday 9 January 2023.

Here are suggestions for your summer reading and a recap of the year in lists of some of our favourite and most popular blogs.

### **Summer reads**

Despite limitations to his approach, [there's a lot to like in Stefan Dercon's answer](#) to the overarching question of why some countries grow rich and others don't, says Stephen Howes. And if Dercon's book promotes discussion of the tough question of whether an aid recipient country's governing elite is pro- or anti-development, it will have made an invaluable contribution.

Thousands of people are alive and living better lives as a result of his "dogged and indefatigable behind-the-scenes work". Discover [the most influential humanitarian you've never heard of](#) in Gordon Peak's review of Robert D. Kaplan's biography of Bob Gersony.

"Identifying the wheels of change that have existed all along, brings us closer to [understanding the deep roots of inequality](#)," says Matthew Woolf in his review of Oded Galor's *The Journey of Humanity*.

Humour can force us to confront ourselves, the organisations we work for and the systems we're part of. "Good satire," writes Gordon Peake in his [review of some examples](#), "can make for powerful writing."

And if you have time, there's plenty more good reading among the [Devpolicy reviews](#).

### **Aid and development**

#### **Australian aid**

[The urgent need for an Australian aid transparency reset](#)

[Australian public opinion about aid: is it changing, and does it matter?](#)

[Australia's development finance review: a DFI at last?](#)

[What happened to Australia's leadership on disability inclusion? A tale of two summits](#)

Plus discussion of the [2022 Australian aid budget](#) and all the Devpolicy [monthly aid news](#) for 2022.

## **Global development**

[The “polycrisis” and global development finance: options and dilemmas](#)

[Beyond the rhetoric - why INGOs need to change](#)

[China's Global Development Initiative: soft power play or serious commitment?](#)

[Wrecking ball: the Ukraine crisis and global aid](#)

[Power shift? USAID and localisation](#)

[Belt and Road Initiative in Malaysia - a tool for domestic political elites](#)

[Fewer adjectives, more focus on economic growth for development](#)

[Aid's quiet achiever? An update on Japan's development assistance](#)

[The spiralling debt crisis, and what to do about it](#)

## **The Pacific and Timor-Leste**

[The Pacific digital transformation: is everyone a winner?](#)

[Social protection in the Pacific and Timor-Leste: the state of play](#)

[Insurance for all in the Pacific](#)

[Shifting the dial on child malnutrition in the Pacific and Timor-Leste](#)

[‘Pacific family’: what does it really mean?](#)

## **Pacific Islands and geopolitics**

[Washington's charm offensive and the US-Pacific Island Country Summit](#)

[What the US should do in Solomon Islands](#)

[Smiles in Suva: the 51st Pacific Islands Forum leaders' meeting](#)

[‘Partners in the Blue Pacific’ initiative rides roughshod over established regional processes](#)

[The Pacific is not a geostrategic chessboard](#)

## **PNG**

[Is PNG’s economic bust over?](#)

[PNG’s Sovereign Wealth Fund: the clock is ticking](#)

[Revisiting the Morauta central banking reforms](#)

[No fall in mobile internet prices in PNG](#)

[Papua New Guinea: government, economy and society](#)

[Introducing the PNG MP Database](#)

Plus analysis and commentary on the [2022 PNG elections](#).

## **Fiji**

[Fiji’s choice](#)

[Fiji’s economy in an election year](#)

## **Pacific migration and labour mobility**

[Pacific temporary workers in Australia seeking asylum](#)

[Brain drain concerns and solutions](#)

[The RSE scheme: raising standards to change the narrative](#)

[Labour mobility in the Pacific: transformational and/or negligible?](#)

[Australia’s new Pacific Engagement Visa](#)

[Australia and New Zealand in the Pacific: the difference is migration](#)

[A pathway to permanency for Pacific meat workers](#)

[Pacific labour mobility growth: winners and losers](#)

## **Personal stories**

[Reflecting on two months in Port Moresby](#)

[Art and violence in Papua New Guinea](#)

[Why many Papua New Guineans reject the COVID-19 vaccine, and why I changed my mind](#)

[Life of an international aid worker in a COVID-19 world](#)

## **Farewells**

[Tributes to Brij Lal](#)

[Bikpla kumul i pundaun: the political life of Sam Basil](#)

[Ben Micah: admission and contrition](#)

## **About the author/s**

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