

Weekend links: Tehran, the nature of the state, industrialisation, inequality in Mexico, indicators, and effective altruism debated

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Starting with opportunities possibly squandered, Barack Obama sounds a [pessimistic note](#) on a nuclear deal with Iran. And Robin Wright has a [good primer](#) on opponents to the deal in both Tehran and Washington.

For those with an interest in debates about the nature of the state, whether the state can promote development, and if so how, Pranab Bardhan's [working paper](#) (soon to be published in the *Journal of Economic Literature*) is excellent. Although, of course, the future and the past are different places, so to speak. And Dani Rodrik has an interesting [blog post](#) on why past models of industrialisation (and industrial development) may not prove feasible in a future, more tech-heavy world. Duncan Green also has a [great summary](#) of a talk Rodrik gave on this (with some good debate in the comments section).

Beyond industrial policy, Green's blog is brimming with good content at present including a [great post](#) on corruption and what aid can (or can't) do about it, and a mind-boggling [guest post](#) on inequality in Mexico.

Further to issues of corruption and governance (something of an inadvertent theme in this week's links!), check out this [excerpt](#) from a new book, *The Quiet Power of Indicators*, authored by a trio from New York University. They offer a valuable reminder that indicators, particularly those related to governance (the book's primary focus), can be sly creatures; they 'smuggle theories of corruption, rule of law, and development into apparently neutral systems of measurement.'

Finally, we've mentioned 'effective altruism' in passing before in our [weekend links](#). If you (like me [Camilla]) are still mulling the concept over, you may be able to find some answers in this month's Boston Review [Forum](#). It features a opening statement from Peter Singer, and nearly a dozen responses (including several heavyweight development thinkers). Among the key issues raised are the measurement, sustainability, and politics underlying the effective altruism movement.