



## The Informal Economy: Studies in Advanced and Less Developed Countries

From Brand: Johns Hopkins University Press



**The Informal Economy: Studies in Advanced and Less Developed Countries**  
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A New York roofer requests payment in cash. A Bogota car mechanic sets up "shop" on a quiet side street. Four Mexican immigrants assemble semiconductors in a San Diego home. A Leningrad doctor sells needed medicine to a desperate patient. All are part of a growing worldwide phenomenon that is widely known but little understood. The informal or underground economy is thriving today, not only in the Third World countries where it was first reported and studied but also in Eastern Europe and the developed nations of the West.

*The Informal Economy* is the first book to bring together studies from all three of these settings and to integrate them into a coherent theoretical framework. Taking an international perspective, the authors dispel a number of misconceptions about the informal economy. They make clear, for instance, that it is not solely a province of the poor. Cutting across social strata, it reflects a political and economic realignment between employers and workers and a shift in the regulatory mission of the government. Throughout, the authors' theoretical observations serve not only to unify material from diverse sources but also to map out directions for further research.

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### Editorial Review

Review

*The Informal Economy* makes it clear that the economic arrangements recorded in official statistics are not the only ones worth studying.

(Nancy Foner *Science*)

[An] intensely interesting and readable set of case studies... The 'moving boundaries' of definition make it possible to include an extraordinary diversity of materials from the cocaine economy of Bolivia to the vibrant small-firm economy of the Italian 'Red belt,' from Malaysia to Mexico City to Miami and New York. There are interesting data on informal personal incomes and outlays of the Soviet population, and an essay on the 'informalization' of the British economy under Thatcherism.

(Lisa R. Peattie *Studies in Comparative International Development*)

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**Patsy Marshall:**

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**Corinne Schlegel:**

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**Samuel Freeman:**

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