1. Record Nr. UNINA9910788237803321

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ISBN

Titolo Fiscal Policy and Economic Development / / Alex Mourmouras, Peter

Rangazas

Pubbl/distr/stampa Washington, D.C.:,: International Monetary Fund,, 2008

1-4623-9514-7 1-4527-5917-0 9786612841064 1-4518-7013-2 1-282-84106-8

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (35 p.)

Collana IMF Working Papers

IMF working paper; ; WP/08/155

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Disciplina 336.3015195

Soggetti Fiscal policy - Econometric models

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Public investments Labor economics Economic development

Wages United States

Lingua di pubblicazione

Inglese

Formato

Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico

Monografia

Note generali

Description based upon print version of record.

Nota di bibliografia

Includes bibliographical references.

Nota di contenuto

Contents; I. Introduction; Figures; 1. Selected Industrial Countries: Government Purchases (share of GDP); Tables; 1. Government in Developed and Developing Countries; 2. Growth Rate in Productivity per Hour Worked (Annualized Percent); II. Related Literature; A. Growth of Government; B. Taxation and the Traditional Sector; C. Land Inequality and Development; III. The Model; A. Production; B. Households; C. Equilibrium; D. Government; IV. Explaining Fiscal Policy; V. Government Debt; VI. Calibration Experiments; A. Calibrating the Model B. Historical Growth Experience of Currently Developed Countries2. Calibrated Parameters; 3. Predicted (Dashed) versus Actual (Solid) Government Purchase Share; 4. Predicted (Dashed) versus Actual (Solid) Government Investment Share; C. Growth of Currently Developing Countries; 5. Predicted (Dashed) versus Actual (Solid) Labor Productivity Growth Rates: 6. Tax Rates: 7. Share of Labor Force in Modern Sector: VII. Conclusion; 8. Labor Productivity Growth Rates; References; Appendix

Sommario/riassunto

This paper offers possible explanations for three generally observed facts about fiscal policy and development: (F1) The relative size of government increases as an economy develops, (F2) The rise in government and taxation are associated with rising or constant economic growth rates, and (F3) Today's developing countries have larger government sectors than did today's developed countries at similar stages of development. The explanations for these facts are based on the structural transformation from traditional (mostly agricultural) to modern (industrial and post-industrial) production, rising public infrastructure investment, and less representative governments in many of today's developing economies.