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Foreign aid in 2005 was higher than ever before in history—over \$24 billion. Not only that, but it attracted an unprecedented amount of attention from the media and from politicians in 2005 and 2006. Many presidents, including George W. Bush and Bono, Tony Blair and Bob Geldof, Bill Clinton and Tony Blair, Jeffrey Sachs and Angelina Jolie, Bill Gates and others have all directed their attention to the problems of poor countries, and we witnessed an unprecedented number of people from rich countries to help address these problems by increasing aid flows.

Yet at the same time that foreign aid was attracting unprecedented amounts of funding and attention, the long-standing debates about what foreign aid could, should, or would do grew fiercer and more contentious than they had been in years.

At the Center for Global Development, we are interested in how the rich world can do better for the poor world through a variety of policy approaches to trade, migration, security and other policies, as well as through more effective deployment of foreign aid. We believe that debate about foreign aid has and will contribute to the larger struggle to make foreign aid work better for the world's poor. Bill Easterly, one of the center's first senior fellows in 2001–2002 and now a nonresident fellow, has made an outstanding (and controversial) contribution to that debate in the past decade, including the 2005 publication of his best-seller (for a development book) *The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good*.

Now in this book, he has brought together leading scholars and practitioners in the field of foreign aid to address all sides of the debate in which he has been already a major player. The chapter authors do not necessarily agree with him or with each other. They bring diverse perspectives, arguments, styles, and methodologies. What they share is a firm commitment to ideas and evidence—to bringing useful knowledge and experience to bear on