

Gallagher, Mark, 2025. *A Seat at the Table: Tales from Nations in Transition*. Self-Published. ISBN-13:979-8286999088.

In *A Seat at Their Table: Tales from Nations in Transition*, a veteran international economic advisor takes readers behind the scenes of economic reform in fourteen countries across four continents, offering an intimate look at both the professional challenges and profoundly human moments that shaped four decades of development work. Part memoir, part economic history, this compelling collection follows the author from post-coup Liberia in the 1980s through post-Soviet transitions, Latin American democracies in flux, and Asia's economic awakening, revealing the personal stories behind the headlines. When confronted with a devastating neuromuscular disease later in his career, the author's philosophy of "pause, don't stop" carries him forward through both physical recovery and continuing global impact.

With equal measures of insight and humility, these tales capture the ethical dilemmas of development work, cultural misunderstandings that lead to unexpected friendship, and small victories that gradually bend the arc of nations toward stability and growth. From facing down armed soldiers in Liberia to designing tax systems that fund emerging democracies, from being pickpocketed in Armenia to witnessing Vietnam's chaotic street ballet of commerce, these stories illuminate the human dimension of economic transformation. Perfect for readers interested in international affairs, economics, and meaningful travel narratives, this book offers a unique perspective on global development from someone who didn't just study it—but lived it, country by country, crisis by crisis, and connection by connection. "His stories make you laugh, sigh, cringe, cry and giggle". Mark Gallagher started his USAID career as an IDI Economist in Liberia in 1973, also served in El Salvador and has been an international consultant for RTI and others. He has taught at Columbia University, George Mason University, St. John's University, The University of Jordan and Universidad Centroamericana in El Salvador. He and Cathy, his wife of 43 years, have 3 daughters and 3 granddaughters.