For a very long time, mainstream economists were reluctant to engage any intellectual exercise that could be construed as facilitating industrial growth. The legacy of the failure of industrial policies based on development strategies inconsistent with comparative advantage has certainly led many economists to conclude that it may be impossible for any government to successfully pick winners. But things have changed lately, and a rich body of research now exists and several approaches have recently been suggested by various authors to reopen the debate on the government's role in promoting growth. How can developing countries grow their economies? Most answers to this question center on what the rich world should or shouldn't do for the poor world. In *The Quest for Prosperity*, Justin Yifu Lin—the first non-Westerner to be chief economist of the World Bank—focuses on what developing nations can do to help themselves. Since the end of the Second World War, prescriptions for economic growth have come and gone. Often motivated more by ideology than practicality, these blueprints have had mixed success on the ground. Drawing lessons from history, economic analysis, and practice, Lin e-Book Review. Published: 31 March 2013. Lin, Justin Yifu: The Quest for Prosperity. How Developing Economies Can Take Off. XVII, 321pp. Princeton University Press, Princeton and Oxford, 2012. Cite this article. Kerekes, M. Lin, Justin Yifu: The Quest for Prosperity. How Developing Economies Can Take Off. J Econ 109, 93–95 (2013). https://doi.org/10.1007/s00712-013-0339-3. Download citation.