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The evolution of debt and equity markets in economic development

Article Published: October 1998

Volume 12, pages 519–560, (1998) Cite this article



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Summary.

As noted by Gurley and Shaw, there is a typical pattern of economic development in which the evolution of the financial system is an essential aspect of the growth process. We focus on one component of this evolution: the increasing importance of equity markets as an economy grows. We develop a growth model where capital accumulation is financed externally through a combination of debt and equity. We illustrate why equity market activity might grow - often very rapidly - as an economy develops. We also illustrate why access to equity markets may not be needed in the early stages of economic development.

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Received: December 30, 1997; revised version: May 26, 1998

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About this article

Cite this article

Boyd, J., Smith, B. The evolution of debt and equity markets in economic development. *Economic Theory* **12**, 519–560 (1998). https://doi.org/10.1007/s001990050234

Issue Date

October 1998

DOI

https://doi.org/10.1007/s001990050234

 Keywords and Phrases: Finance
 Growth
 Development.

 JEL Classification Numbers: E13
 E44
 E50
 G20
 O16.

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