In the twenty-first century, land deals in the Global South have become increasingly prevalent and controversial. Transnational access to arable land in impoverished “land-rich” countries in Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa, and Southeast Asia highlights the link between the shifting geopolitics of economic development and problems of food security, climate change, and regional and international trade. Drawing on ethnographic and archival research, *Upland Geopolitics* uses the case of Chinese agribusiness investment in northern Laos to study the unbalanced geography of the new global land rush. Connecting the current rubber plantation boom to a longer trajectory of foreign intervention in the region, *Upland Geopolitics* reveals how legacies of Cold War conflict continue to pave the way for transnational enclosure in a socially uneven landscape.

**Michael B. Dwyer** is assistant professor of geography at Indiana University Bloomington.

“A corporate land concession is not simply a legal contract. It is a complex geopolitical and social operation in which governance, rent seeking, and promises of development intersect and collide on particular terrain. Intrigued by the chronic opacity of global land deals, Dwyer explores their making with insight and skill.”

—Tania Li, coauthor of *Plantation Life: Corporate Occupation in Indonesia’s Oil Palm Zone*

“An original and brilliant book that is embedded in geopolitics and global capitalism. It will appeal to scholars and activists alike who are deeply concerned about the future of humanity and our planet.”

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