De Soto is the famed Peruvian economist most known for his work in showing the importance of rule of law, especially property rights, in the alleviation of poverty. In this 1989 book he shows how with a few but vital changes in Peruvian law, Peru was able to defeat the Maoist terrorist threat known as The Shining Path, simply by taking away its main weapon - chronic systemic property rights abuse on the rural peasant population. Read at least the preface written in 2002 and Chapter 1.