



## Hernando de Soto | Class of 1967

Hernando de Soto Polar is a Peruvian economist mostly known for his work on the informal economy and on the importance of business and property rights. He has written several works on the topics, including *The Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else*, which explores the role of property rights in economic development. His ideas have sparked considerable debate and discussion in the field of Development Economics, and he is known as a prominent advocate for policies aimed at improving legal frameworks in developing countries.



© Hernando de Soto.

Hernando de Soto won numerous prizes and awards, including the Freedom Prize, the Templeton Freedom Award, the Milton Friedman Prize for Advancing Liberty and the Friedrich-August-von-Hayek Prize.



© Hernando de Soto.

Hernando de Soto ran for the Peruvian presidency in the 2021 election, finishing fourth out of 18 nominees.



© Hernando de Soto.

Several presidents have acknowledged the merit of de Soto's work, including Bill Clinton, who referred to him as "the world's most important living economist".

