

Economic Development of Asia

[ECON 3355-01 \(15713\)](#)

June 1, 2015 - August 14, 2015

A History of East Asia: From the Origins of Civilization to the Twenty-First Century by Charles Holcombe, Cambridge University Press; First Edition edition (November 8, 2010)

ISBN-10: 0691090106

ISBN-13: 978-0691090108

China's Rise in Historical Perspective [by Brantly Womack (Editor) Rowman & Littlefield Publishers (July 16, 2010)

ISBN-10: 0742567222

ISBN-13: 978-0742567221

Everyday Technology: Machines and the Making of India's Modernity by David Arnold, University of Chicago Press (June 7, 2013)

ISBN-10: 0226922030

ISBN-13: 978-0226922034

Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development by Asian Development Bank, 2010

ISBN-10: 0198064667

ISBN-13: 978-0198064664

The Great Divergence: China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy by Kenneth Pomeranz, Princeton University Press

ISBN-10: 0691090106

ISBN-13: 978-0691090108

General guidelines:

THERE WILL BE NO EXAMS OR QUIZZES and THERE WILL NOT BE A FINAL EXAM.

This is an independent study course.

Papers due – Monday noon, August 3, 2015

Assignment guidelines:

ALL PAPERS HAVE TO INCLUDE CITED MATERIAL (source, date and pages cited) FROM THE ASSIGNED READINGS. Every paragraph in your papers must have at least one cited source unless it is either drawn from your own experience or is a concluding paragraph. Each paper should have a separate reference page that does not count towards your page requirements. You will lose one letter grade for each assigned source that is not "substantially" used (in other words, used in a way that indicates an understanding of what the book is saying). This may seem like a rigid requirement but since there are no exams or quizzes, it is the only way that I know (or think that I know) that you have done the reading and that the paper is yours and not found on the web. YOU MAY USE OTHER RESEARCH MATERIAL AS WELL. IF YOU USE INFORMATION FROM THE WWW, PLEASE GIVE AS COMPLETE A CITATION AS POSSIBLE INCLUDING THE URL. I have posted supplementary instructions on my webpage; please consult it and follow the instructions. You are not allowed to have two paragraphs in a row that use only non-assigned sources. As a rough rule of thumb, use only sources published this century unless there is a compelling reason to use an older source. All material that is not original to you must have a citation. Quotation marks are required only when you are using someone else's wording. If you are using their ideas and facts that are put in your own words, you still need to cite the source but quotation marks would be inappropriate. Please do not start a sentence with "I feel." Instead use phrases such as "I conclude" or "it is my judgment based upon the evidence" etc. If you present solid evidence on an issue and then follow with a rational argument to reach a conclusion, I will assume that this is not only your conclusion but it is also how you "feel."

This summer we are doing only one paper - circa 30+ pages - on one topic with multiple sections or subtopics or issues to cover:

Northern Europe historically lagged behind Asia and the Islamic world until about 1400 to 1500 when it experienced a transformation called the Renaissance or rebirth of the Greco-Roman civilization. This included advances in science and technology. It has been widely believed and still held today by many historians that this was largely a European endeavor owing nothing to the outside world. This view is increasingly disputed by scholars with a more global perspective who argue the science and technologies upon which Europe was building were derived from Asia - largely China and India - and passed through to the West through the Islamic (and occasionally Buddhist) cultures of Central Asia and the Persian and Arab world. This

latter is the position of this course and the reading. If you wish to differ with it, you still have to present it and the attempt to refute it.

The view that Asia contributed little or nothing to European development gave rise to a set of beliefs about poverty and lack of science and technology in Asia and when Europe passed Asia in development. The following table (take the numbers as rough estimates) shows that it was not until the Industrial Revolution that Europe and European populations began to surpass Asian cultures in per capita manufacturing and it wasn't until the period 1800 to 1900 that European (including countries dominated by European derived populations such as the United States) development surge way ahead of Asia and the rest of the world.

World manufacturing (1750 - 1900) (The Geography of the World Economy by Paul Knox, John Agnew, Linda McCarthy).

The issue for your papers is what did Asia (or the particular country or area of your option) contribute to European development and why was Europe able to build so rapidly and successfully and these contributions while Asia was changing more slowly and falling behind to succumb to colonial occupation or influence and either fall into poverty or remain at such a level that we rightfully call poverty. Clearly sometime in the 18th century Europe forged ahead in science and technology to the extent that it was often misnamed as Western Science and Technology implying that science and technology were unique products of European and European derived populations. What we call "modern" science and technology as taught and practiced around the world is very definitively derived from the two or more centuries of European dominance.

The same set of beliefs that saw development being a uniquely European attribute, also considered Asia in the 1950s to be impoverished with little chance of transformation with the exception of Japan. The cultures and religions Asia were seen as insurmountable or almost insurmountable barriers to change. Yet from the 1960s onward we have seen various countries and regions of Asia transforming themselves with rates of change that would have been understood to be impossible if forecast in advance. China's transformation began in 1979 followed by India in the 1980s (picking up steam in the 1990s). To what extent did our views of Asian and European history distort both policies about Asian development and our ability to understand the continuing basis for this transformation? To what extent did the prior history of science and technology in Asia lay the foundation for the transformation of the region in recent decades? And to what extent does the understandings of this course contribute to better policies for Asian development by

both by the countries themselves and those working with them in both countries experiencing rapid change in Asia and those in Asia and elsewhere falling further behind?

In previous offerings of this course, the emphasis of the papers was on the historical background and explanation why China/India/Asia fell behind Europe when they had been ahead for so long. This term, given the assigned readings, this topic should be covered in the first one-third of the paper. The second third should explore the manner in which this historical background helps us to understand the rapid growth of China since 1978 or India and Viet Nam since 1990. The last third is will be an analysis of the forces of economic change in China since 1978 and in India and Viet Nam since 1990. For those adding Econ 4398, the historical background will again be about half the paper (circa 25 pages) and the last two sections will be about 25 to 35 pages long.

The same set of beliefs that saw development being a uniquely European attribute, also considered Asia in the 1950s to be impoverished with little chance of transformation with the exception of Japan. The cultures and religions Asia were seen as insurmountable or almost insurmountable barriers to change. Buddhism was considered too other worldly. Confucianism was considered too bureaucratic and Islam was considered to be too rigid and zealous. Given the assigned readings, the Islamic countries of Malaysia and Indonesia will not be included even though they both have greatly out performed expectations. Niether will the predominantly Christian country of the Philippines be included though it should be noted here that in the 1950s, after Japan, the Philippines had the highest per capita income in Asia, the fastest rate of economic growth and far and away the the highest level of education in Asia. Today, the Philippines is a laggard in all of these categories so that it would appear that their religion neither explained the success of the 1950s nor the failures thereafter. From the 1960s onward we have seen various countries and regions of Asia transforming themselves with rates of change that would have been understood to be impossible if forecast in advance. China's transformation began in 1979 followed by India and Viet Nam in the 1980s (with both picking up steam in the 1990s). By the mid-1980s there was talk (including conferences) about Asian values being the causal (or at least a major force) factor in Asian development wth some projecting that the 21st century becoming the Asian century. Corporate executives were reading Sun Tzu's The Art of War and its virtues were even celebrated in a Hollywood film. Asian values were Buddhist and Confucian values which just a few decades previously were considered insurmountable barriers to development.

Note - Beginning over 30 years ago, I have taught, worked doing development and/or lectured in all the countries of South, Southeast and East Asia from Pakistan to China (including Australia, New Zealand and Japan) except for Cambodia and Korea so I have 1st hand field experience of the development that has taken place in these regions. I have lived in some of these countries - Bangladesh, Indonesia and Viet Nam and have literally been back and forth to others more times than I can count. For some countries such as Malaysia, I am in regular contact with key people from there throughout the year and meet with them (along with my African contacts) several times a year in London and elsewhere. Thus, I am comfortable grading your papers as they seek to apply what is in the reading assignment what is observed on the ground. My vita is posted on my webpage so that one can check on my publications on development and the specifics of my work in Asia. To what extent did our views of Asian and European history distort both policies about Asian development and our ability to understand the continuing basis for this transformation? And to what extent does the understandings of this course contribute to better policies for Asian development by both by the countries themselves and those working with them in both countries experiencing rapid change in Asia and those in Asia and elsewhere falling further behind? The papers have the option of exploring briefly, the extent to which Asian values have been a factor in the success of Asian immigrants the United States