ECOS2025: South-East Asian Economies

Growth Facts

- Western countries led world economic growth since Industrial Revolution
- Population growth is a contributing factor towards economic growth
- Increase in education and SOL
- Decrease in poverty

East Asian growth facts

- Since 1960, NIEs grew dramatically → changed patterns of world trade and reduced millions people living in absolute poverty
- AFC (1997-98) exposed structural weaknesses of countries
- China's continued strong growth changed global pattern of trade and investment

Trade Agreements

- ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations)
 - o 10 Members discussing economic and social issues
 - o 46% of world population
 - o 25% of world GDP
 - o Peace, security, stability, disputes, terrorism, human rights, environmental issues
- Bilateral FTAs
 - o ANZCERTA trading bloc between AU and NZ in 1995
 - ChAFTA AU and China signed by Tony Abbott
- Multilateral FTAs
 - Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP)
 - Largest multilateral FTA because it includes Japan and USA
 - China is not a part of it, because if they do, they have to follow the existing rules set → disadvantage

Leaders for Modern Growth

- Japan: Shigeru Yoshida (1946-1954)
 - Led the economic restructure after WWII
 - o Before him, Japan was just dominant military power
 - Built the foundation for Japanese MNCs
- Korea: Park Chung-Hee (1961-1979)
 - Got the power by coup (seizure of power)
 - Led the miracle growth and industrialisation
 - Applied military theories to economics → to maximise efficiency in military
 - Not democratic
 - Got assassinated
- China: Deng Xiaping (1978-1992)
 - o Got power after Chairman Mao
 - Architect of modern Chinese economy

- "It doesn't matter whether a cat is white or black, as long as it catches mice." –
 don't worry if they're revolutionary or not, as long as they can be efficient and
 capable to do the job under the socialist economy
- Singapore: Lee Kuan Yew (1959-1990)
 - Small economy
 - Meritocracy led economic model (i.e. an elite group of people whose progress is based on ability and talent rather than on class privilege or wealth)
 - Smartest people worked for the government and were responsible for government policies, unlike other countries where the smartest people work for private firms
 - o Government owned enterprises
 - Maximised foreign capital
- Malaysia: Mahathir bin Mohamad (1981-2003)
 - Manufacturing led economy
 - o "Look east" policies
 - o Dictator who tried to mimic Korea and Japan

Structural Hypotheses

- Flying Geese (FG) Hypothesis
 - o Developed before Japan was a major economic power
 - Proposed by Japanese (Akamatsu 1962) as a model of dynamic comparative advantage – change of comparative advantage due to technology
 - Aimed to explain the economic development of industrialisation in latecomer economies (US → Japan → New Industrialised Economies (NIEs)
 - o Pro-trade oriented foreign direct investment (FDI) mechanism
 - E.g. outsourcing to benefit nations
- Rostow's (1960) 5 stages of economic growth
 - o 5 Stages:
 - 1. Traditional society
 - 2. Pre-conditions for take-off
 - 3. Take-off
 - 4. Drive to maturity
 - 5. Age of high mass production
 - o Problems:
 - Based on European economies
 - Not all countries start with the same endowment and follow the same process
- Dependency theory
 - Periphery view of world growth
- Import substitution
 - Based on infant industry argument new industries need to be protected until its independent but can't close the doors as well
- Big push theory
 - o Based on Stalins Soviet style command economy
 - Successful for the first 10-20 years, then stopped growing