

What is the main question(s) raised in the paper (the issue)?

In 1960s, the technology level of electronics industry in Taiwan was similar to that in Mexico and Malaysia, which are all far behind the level of Japan. What makes ICT industry in Taiwan develop well and outperform Mexico and Malaysia, even being comparable with Japan to some extent nowadays?

Why should we care about it (the significance)?

As the rapid growth of The Four Asian Tigers during 60s to 90s is a rare phenomenon throughout human history, this article helps us get a clearer understanding about the background, mechanism, and process of economic development in Taiwan.

What is the author's answer (the findings)?

There are several factors together stimulate the economic development in Taiwan over these decades.

First, the low wage level and relatively high labor quality attract labor-intensive industries in 60s. The former results from mass migration from China and the struggle of industrial transformation then; the latter, which might be relevant to so-called “working attitude”, may stem from Japanese colonization.

Besides, the lack of union movement, fewer regulations on FDI, and the quality of infrastructure also present as incentives for investment decisions of foreign companies, while Export Processing Zones may have little impact.

On the basis of industrial progress in 60s, factories for products with higher technology requirements started moving to Taiwan, rather than other countries like Mexico or Malaysia, and thus helped develop local supply chain. After waves of technology upgrading, ICT industry in Taiwan owns advanced manufacturing skills and an integrated local supply chain from upstream to downstream.

How did the author get there (the strategy)?

By cross validation of various documents or materials, and stringing them together.