

Studies in Economic History

Tomoko Hashino  
Keijiro Otsuka *Editors*

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# Industrial Districts in History and the Developing World

 Springer

# **Studies in Economic History**

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Editors

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# Preface

This book attempts to shed new light on the development of industrial districts in the past and at present. The industrial district, which refers to the geographical concentration of enterprises producing similar or closely related commodities in a small area, plays a significant role in the development of manufacturing industries not only historically in Europe and Japan but also at present in emerging East Asian economies and low-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The book identifies similarities and dissimilarities in the development patterns of a variety of industrial districts and explores the reasons for them. More specifically, the book examines whether Marshallian agglomeration economies provide sufficient explanations for the development patterns of industrial districts and seeks to discover common key factors that support the sustainable development of industrial districts but which did not receive enough attention in the literature. We are proud to say that this is the first systematic study that addresses the issue of these missing key factors.

In spite of the common issues studied by economic historians and development economists regarding the role of industrial districts, the dialogue between the two groups of researchers has been largely absent or at best weak. Thus, the editors of this volume organized a session entitled “Visiting Industrial Districts in History and the Developing World” at the 17th World Economic History Congress in Kyoto, Japan, in August 2015 by inviting both economic historians and development economists. Many authors of this volume, including Tetshushi Sonobe, Jordi Domenech, Jianqing Ruan, and the two of us, were presenters in this session. Pierre Vernus also participated. Through active discussions and mutual learning in Kyoto, we all agreed to publish a collected volume of case studies on industrial districts in history and the developing world. To enrich this volume, we invited Hubert Schmitz and Bernard Musyck to contribute their study on the postwar development of four industrial districts in Europe. We appreciate their positive response to our request.

The ultimate purpose of this book is to synthesize the results of all the case studies by economic historians interested in Spain, France, and other European countries and Japan and those by development economists interested in China, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Tanzania, and other countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Because, to our knowledge, collaboration between economic historians and development economists

is rare, all the authors in this volume are hoping to prove that this type of collaboration is exceedingly fruitful.

In the course of preparing this volume, we have received useful support and comments from a large number of researchers. In particular, we would like to thank Takeshi Abe, Steve Broadberry, Janet Hunter, Debin Ma, Tetsuji Okazaki, Maarten Prak, Izumi Shirai, and Masayuki Tanimoto. We also benefited from valuable comments given by Osamu Saito, Yukihiro Kiyokawa, Ryoshin Minami, Konosuke Odaka, and Mataji Umemura, who have built the academic tradition at the Institute of Economic Research in Hitotsubashi University, in which economic development is properly regarded as a long-term historical process. We would also like to thank Yasuko Maeshima, Megumi Nishino, and Kumi Ogata for their editorial assistance. Finally, we are grateful for the financial support from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS KAKENHI Grant numbers (C) 25380425 and 25101002).

Kobe, Japan

Tomoko Hashino  
Keijiro Otsuka

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He has been working extensively on the Green Revolution, land tenancy, property rights and natural resource management, cluster-based industrial development, and poverty dynamics. His studies are primarily survey-based with comparative perspectives between Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

He received the Purple Ribbon Medal from the Japanese government in 2010 and was selected as an honorary life member of the International Association of Agricultural Economists in 2012, fellow of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (formerly the American Agricultural Economics Association) in 2013, and a distinguished fellow of the African Association of Agricultural Economists in 2013. He is the coauthor or coeditor of 23 books.



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