Comments on Professor Brada’s Paper

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- Uegaki: On the part of historical perspective (Gerschenkron)
- Mizobata: On the part of today’s problems
Alexander Gerschenkron


- The book, which is important but difficult to comprehend

- Special wording like: “Prerequisites and their substitutes for industrialization”, “Stages of backwardness”, “Great spurt”, “Advantage of backwardness”…
Old BRICS

- Under Gerschenkron’s historical perspective, Prof. Brada refers to the economic history of …

- France, Germany, Italy, Imperial Russia, and Japan, and settler countries like Argentina, Australia, Canada, South Africa, and United States as “Old BRICS”
Old BRICS

- Brada: “Italy and Russia fall into middle – income trap”
- Brada: South Africa and Argentina could not avoid the Middle-income trap
Core of Gerschenkron's Theory

The degree of backwardness of a country is associated with its type of industrialization… saying “the more backward a country, the more likely …”
Core of Gerschenkron's Theory
(more precisely)

(1) The normal prerequisites for industrialization, in which backward countries are lacking, can be *substituted* by other factors

(2) Those factors, in turn, determine the type of industrialization of the backward countries
Russia and China

I’d like to concentrate our attention on Russia and China under G’s perspective.

But, I don’t refer to the socialist revolutions: 1917 and 1949.

Instead, I talk about reforms of Gorbachev to Putin and reforms of Deng Xiaoping (Backwardness in 1980s).

One was a miserable failure, the other has made a success.
Russia and China

- Uegaki’s question (1): Comparison of substitutes for prerequisites for industrialization of the both countries just before the reforms (reforms of Gorbachev, El’tsin and Putin vs. reforms of Deng Xiaoping)

- Simply saying, what kinds of backwardness at the beginning of the reforms have led to the different results of the two countries?
Gerschenkron and China

Gerschenkron warned the political danger of backwardness like...

“Economic backwardness, rapid industrialization, ruthless exercise of dictatorial power, and the danger of war have become inextricably interwind in Soviet Russia” (p. 29)
Gerschenkron and China

Gerschenkron’s warning...

“The Soviet experience demonstrates *ad oculos* [remarkably] the formidable dangers inherent in our time in the existence of economic backwardness…The road may lead from backwardness to dictatorship and from dictatorship to war” (p. 29)
Gerschenkron and China

- Gerschenkron’s ominous story
  - Backwardness → Lacking in prerequisites for industrialization → Appearance of substitutes → Special type of industrialization → Distortion of political system
Gerschenkron and China

Uegaki’s question (2) : Did and will China’s special type of industrialization lead to political distortion?

Or even a special type of industrialization of China will, any way, result in “normal” democracy?
Thank you