



# Comments on Professor Brada's Paper

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# Division of Labor

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

# Alexander Gerschenkron

- ▶ *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective*. Harvard UP. 1962.
- ▶ 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