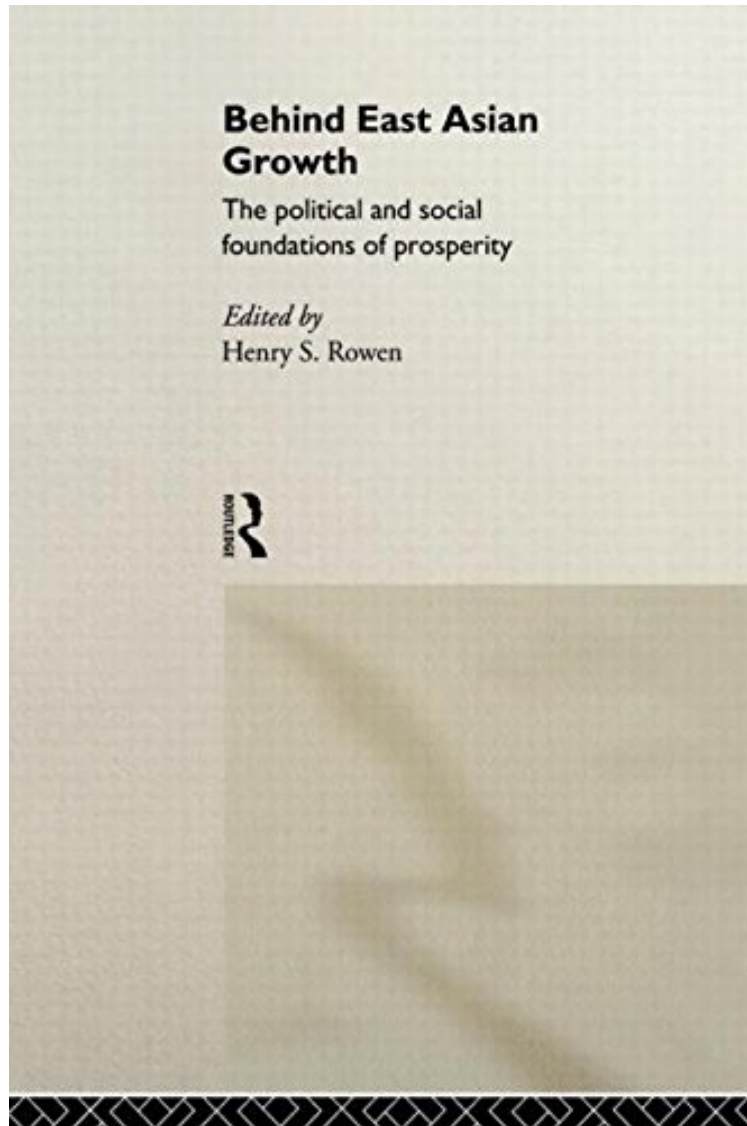


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# Behind East Asian Growth: The Political and Social Foundations of Prosperity

*From Henry S Rowan*  
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**From Henry S Rowan : Behind East Asian Growth: The Political and Social Foundations of Prosperity** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Behind East Asian Growth: The Political and Social Foundations of Prosperity:

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following review helpful. Good book (despite poor timing)By BibliophileWhen this book came out, Asia was being hit with the financial crisis. This event is therefore not mentioned. So in a sense this book is out of date. However, it remains relevant. Not only does this book explain East Asia's success until 1998, but many of the underlying causes for that success have remained in place after 1998. This is especially true of China, which receives relatively scant coverage in this book (and is thus an excellent topic for a sequel, if any).Chapters 1 and 15 (overview and conclusion) by Rowen are excellent, as is ch. 7 by Stevenson on Asian education.

East Asian countries have adopted remarkably good policies to ensure sustained economic growth, but how did they come to adopt such policies in the first place? This book produces a more thorough explanation than has previously been advanced drawing on several disciplines including contributions from anthropologists, economists, political scientists, technologists, demographers, historians and psychologists. Several contributors have held high positions in Asian governments. Four broad themes are identified:\* effective governance\* achieving and learning societies\* growth with equity\* external influences This is the most comprehensive account of the foundations of East Asia's rise. Its distinctiveness lies in the range of comparisons across the countries of East and South-East Asia and in the wide array of contributing disciplines.

From the Back CoverIn this new study the contributors have a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds that help provide the reader with a unique survey of the fundamental reasons behind East Asian growth. These are shown to be historical legacies combined with contemporary politics, but also highlighted are four key factors: effective governance: motivating factors such as external threats to the nation and nearby successful models; achieving and learning societies: solid commitment to education, particularly universal primary and secondary schooling; growth with equity: the lowest disparity of incomes in the world for any developing region; and external influences: threats from communism, Japan's early industrialisation and protection by the US. Behind East Asian Growth is a distinctive and comprehensive survey of the factors influencing the region's unique economic success. It will be welcomed by academics, the business community and policy-makers alike.About the AuthorHenry S. Rowen is Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution and Professor of Public Policy and Management at the Graduate School of Business, Stanford University.