

Chapter 5

The Current State of Economic Geography in East Asia

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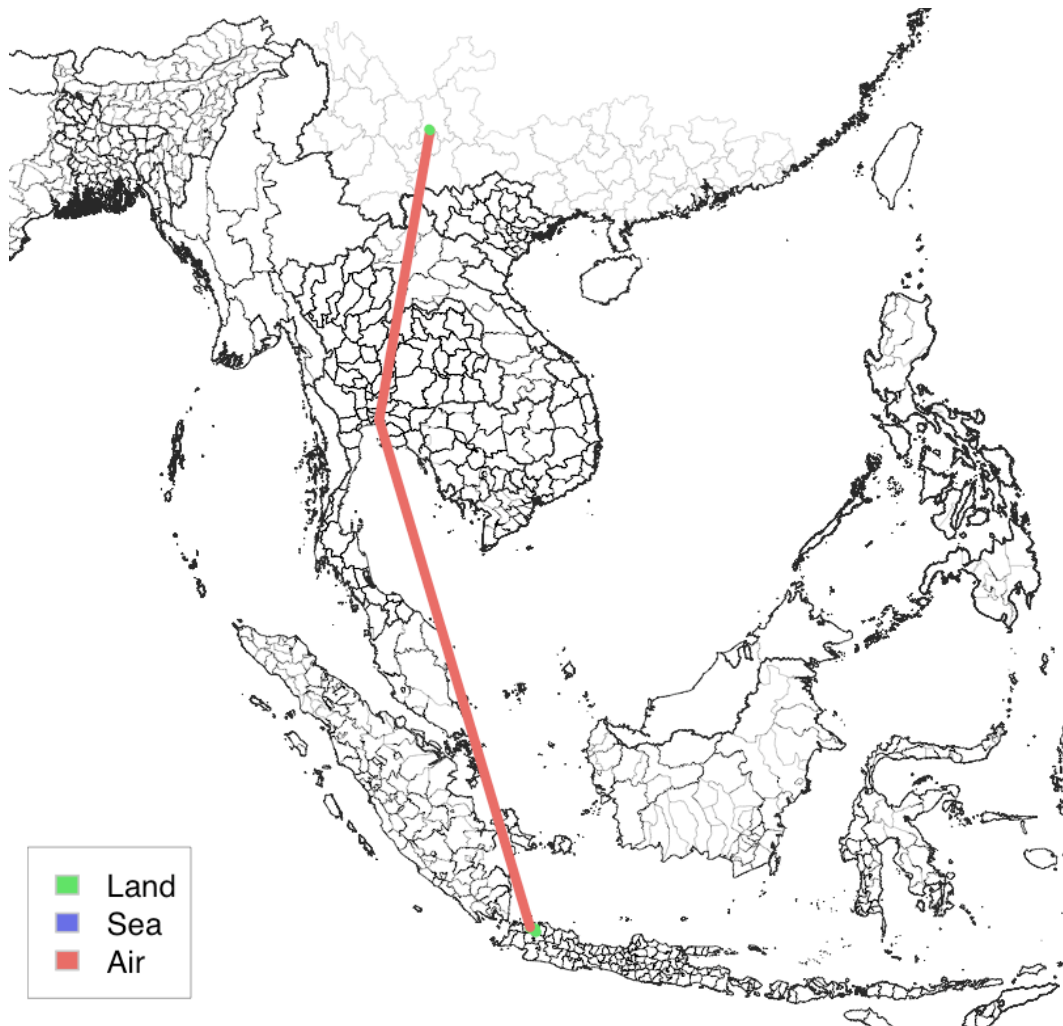
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Figure 5-2: Modal Choice between Jakarta and Kunming (E&E Industry)



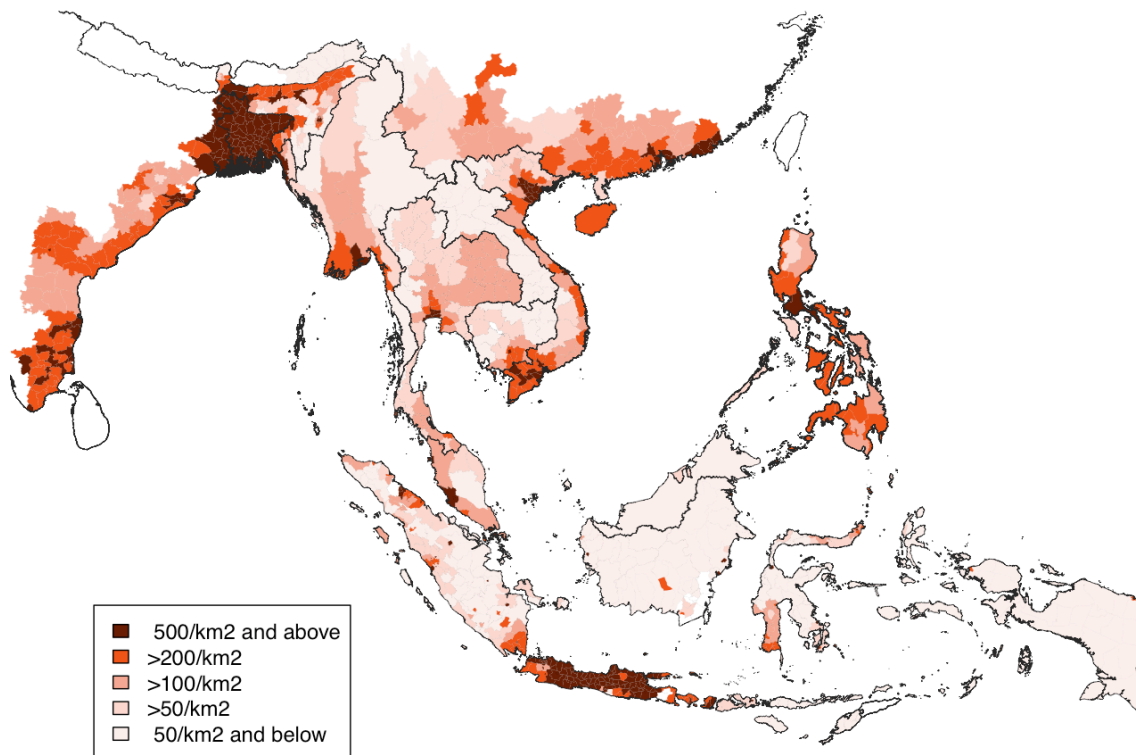
5. The Current State of Economic Geography in East Asia

5.1 Population

Figure 6 shows the population density of the region covered in the simulation. We will find some agglomeration of population in this region. For instance, the population of Indonesia agglomerates in Java Island. Bangladesh is uniformly highly populated.

China and India seem to have a few highly populated regions. For the other countries, the areas surrounding capital cities are highly populated, although Vietnam has two core cities—one in the north (Hanoi) and another in the south (Ho Chi Minh).

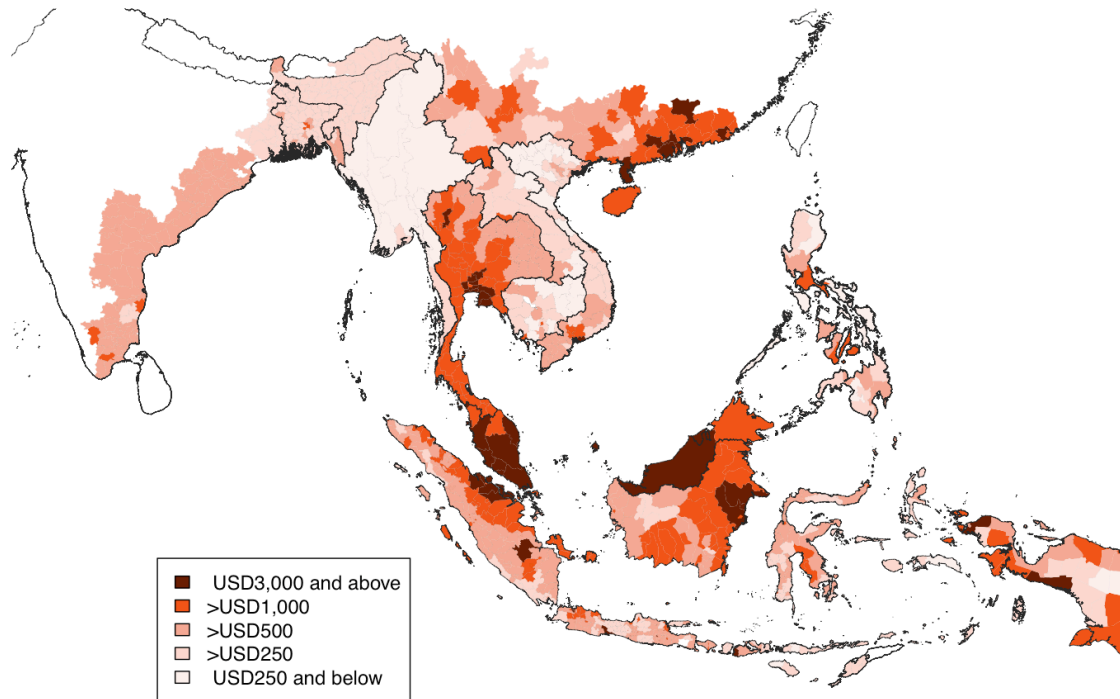
Figure 6: Population Density (2005)



5.2 GDP per capita

Figure 7 shows the GDP per capita of the region covered in the simulation. There is a large diversity in the income level. Singapore is an exceptionally rich region, and Malaysia and the other regions that contain the capital cities of each country follow. The regions that have plenty natural resources are also rich. CLMV countries lag behind, but some parts of Vietnam have become richer than other regions.

Figure 7: GDP per capita (2005)



5.3 Industrial Agglomeration

Figure 8 shows the places of industrial agglomeration of the region covered in the simulation. In this paper, we basically try to use the relative importance of each industrial sector within a region. More specifically, we frequently use the Revealed Symmetry Comparative Advantage (RSCA) index to see the relative importance of each industrial sector in each region. RSCA takes the value between -1 to +1. If the share of an industrial sector in a region exactly matches the regional average, RSCA takes 0, which means that the industry in that region has neither advantage nor disadvantage. If the share of an industry in the region is larger than the average, RSCA for the industry takes a positive value and vice versa.

The food sector holds the most advantages in a large number of regions. The category “others” contains various sectors, but resource-based industry is a representative. The textile and garments industry agglomerates in a large part of Cambodia and in some parts of Thailand, Bangladesh, Vietnam, and China. The automotive industry agglomerates in some parts of Thailand and China, in Tamil Nadu of India, and the region around Jakarta in Indonesia, Selangor in Malaysia, and a few regions in northern Vietnam. The E&E industry agglomerates mainly in Singapore and Malaysia, some parts of China, the Philippines, and a few regions in Thailand.

Figure 8: Comparative Advantage in the Manufacturing Sector (2005)

