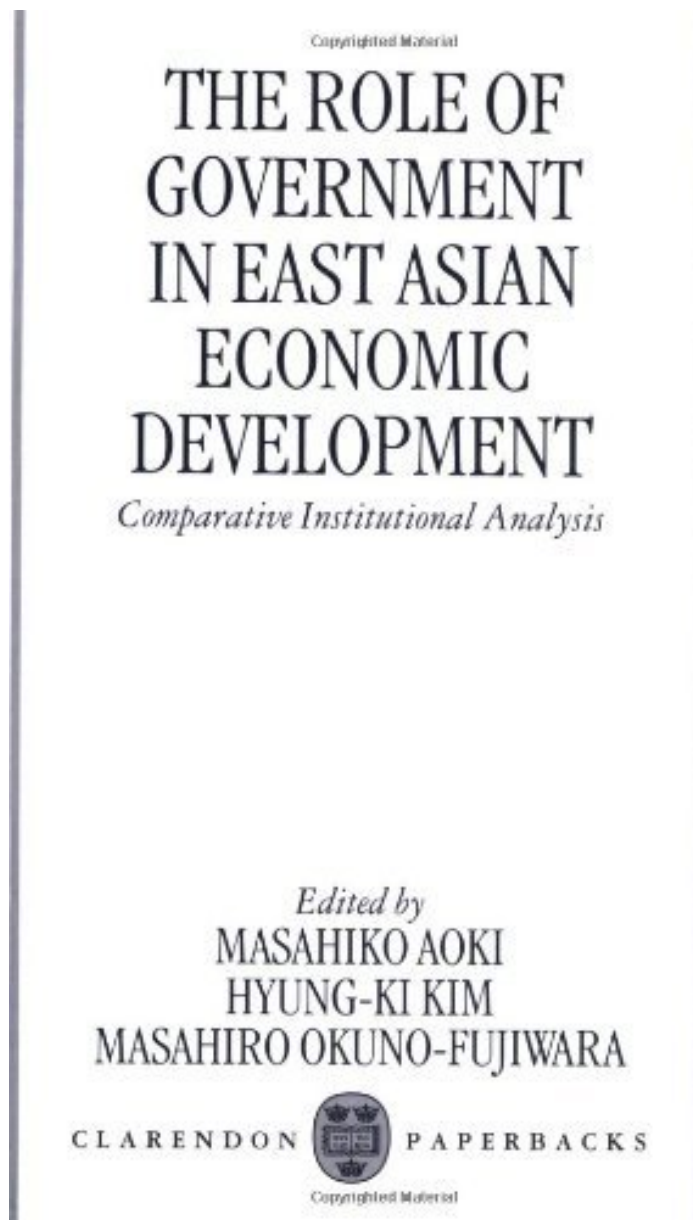


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## The Role of Government in East Asian Economic Development: Comparative Institutional Analysis (Clarendon Paperbacks)

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7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Good Approach to explore the true reason of development  
By Shoulong Mao  
Usually, scholars like to treat the strong role of government as the major reason of the high-speed development of East Asian countries and regions. The failure of them is that they never pay attention to the institutional foundations of the speedy development in East Asia. This book provides an alternative way to discuss the true reason of speed development in East Asia and offers some impressive arguments. To me, the most interesting points of this book are that East Asia has special social capital and institutional foundations for proper development and the strong role of government might not be the major reason. I suggest that the students of public sector economics, public administration and political science at least in China and other East Asia countries might have look at it and I believe this book is really one with much creative ideas. It is also helpful for government officials who prefer proper institutional foundation construction for sustainable development in developing world.

This collection of papers stems from a recent World Bank project focused upon the contentious issue of whether government has played any positive role in the success of the so-called "high-performing" Asian economies. It goes beyond the influential World Bank volume *The East Asian Miracle* to chart a middle ground that recognizes diversity among the different East Asian economies, as well as the evolutionary nature of government intervention.

Matsuyama's chapter is an insightful piece of writing, a worthy and intellectually stimulating addition to any student economic development course. The collection gives more comfort to those who advocate development by interventionism than to those who do not. The exceptions to this verdict include Matsuyama's chapter. - Ian Dickson. *Economic Record*. March 1998. The rich institutional detail contained in the country specific chapters make it a valuable reference for students of East-Asian developments - Heather Smith in *Asian-Pacific Economic Literature* May 1999 This volume will certainly gain empathy from those social scientists who are keenly aware of the importance of institutions and histories as key determinants of economic development. The volume is full of new exciting concepts. The Asian perspectives developed in this volume have succeeded in 'disclosing certain limits of the neo-classical approach which evolved primarily in Anglo-American academia' the stated goal of the volume. About the Author Masahiko Aoki is at Stanford University. Hyung-Ki Kim is at World Bank.