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**Summary**

East Asia in the postwar period achieved a miraculous success in economic catching-up by technology-borrowing from the West. Many intuitive arguments hint that the rich endowment in education in East Asia was critical for its miraculous success. However, empirical studies on the macroeconomic role of education for East Asian countries have been so limited so far that researchers in economics are still uncertain about even basic questions such as whether and how education contributed to the East Asian Economic Miracle. This paucity of the empirical analyses can be attributable to the lack of detailed dataset for education stock. This paper presents nearly-100-year-long annual estimates of education stock for Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, the Philippines and the US, which the author newly estimated. The data in this paper provide detailed information such as average years of schooling by age groups, by gender, by levels of education, and by types of education. Based on this dataset, this paper investigates similarities and differences in the pattern of educational development among those four countries. In order to describe the characteristics of the East Asian Miracle, this paper invents a new terminology of ‘military-style heavy industrialization.’ This word refers to the situation in which a mass of homogeneously not very highly educated (so-so educated) people collaborate methodically in factories (instead of military camps). This paper argues that Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Thailand succeeded in forming uniform societies, which were suited for ‘military-style heavy industrialization.’ This paper also discusses why the Philippines failed in industrialization from the viewpoint of human capital formation.