

經濟成長與民主政治 ——臺灣的實證經驗

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本文利用 VECM 模型，探討臺灣 1966-2009 年經濟成長與民主化程度間之 Granger 因果關係，結果發現：所得、貿易、人力資本與實體資本等經濟面變數並不會 Granger 影響政治民主化。臺灣經驗證實了晚近 Acemoglu et al. (2002；2003；2008) 等新制度經濟學的看法，亦即影響政治體制的根本因素在於國家地理環境所塑造之民族性與傳統文化，而所得與全球化等經濟因素尚居於次要地位。此外，政治體制對所得變化之影響力亦不顯著。計量結果指出：真正影響經濟發展的因素還是人力資本的累積，不論是民主體制抑或是威權領導，只要政府採取正確的教育與經濟政策，即可有效推動經濟成長，此一結論與 Lipset (1959) 強調人力資本的主張一致。

關鍵字：經濟成長、民主政治、全球化、人力資本、實體資本

Economic Growth and Democracy: Some Empirical Evidence in Taiwan

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ABSTRACT

This article applies the VECM model to investigate the causal relationship between economic growth and democracy during 1966–2009 in Taiwan. The results obtained show that economic factors, such as income, trade, human capital and physical capital, do not Granger cause political democratization. On the other hand, democratization does not Granger cause growth, either. This evidence supports the propositions of the neo-institutional economics, such as those of Acemoglu et al. (2002, 2003, 2008), that is, it is the culture or ethnicity shaped by the geography rather than economic factors that can significantly influence the form of government. On the other hand, the form of government also cannot influence economic growth. Among the factors examined in this study, human capital accumulation is the key factor that can stimulate economic growth, implying that better education and growth-enhancing economic policy can effectively promote economic development despite the form of government. Our finding is consistent with Lipset's (1959) view that human capital plays a fundamental role in economic growth.

Key Words: economic growth, democracy, globalization, human capital, physical capital