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## SYMPOSIUM

### Long-run development in a comparative perspective

#### Foreword

The three papers of this symposium were presented at a workshop organized by EACES on the "Comparison of Economic Development of China and India" as part of the XVII Scientific Conference of AISSEC which took place in Perugia in June 2009. We have decided to select from among the papers of the panels of the workshop those papers whose contents provide a more general assessment of long-run development in a comparative perspective.

The first paper, by Andrea Boltho and Maria Weber, asks whether "...China [did] Follow the East Asian Development Model?", and thus looks from a novel perspective at the Chinese phase of rapid growth, a perspective that is generally overlooked in the extant literature. This comparison between the East-Asian model of growth, as experienced in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, and that of China, finds remarkable similarities and, of course, also differences. What is striking is how little that fact of China's communism plays a role in the emerging picture.

The second paper, by Hans-Jürgen Wagener, asks "Why Europe?", that is, why did modern economic growth start in Europe and not in, say, China or India, which were at least as rich and, from many aspects, as endowed with technological knowledge. In the attempt to solve this riddle the paper provides a fascinatingly wide vista of the economic-theoretical and historical foundations of the ascent of Europe and its offspring in the last few centuries, and provides a convincing answer.

The third paper, by Michael Keren, "China and India—a Note on the Influence of Hierarchy vs. Polyarchy on Economic Growth", tries to show that traditional tools of comparative economics can be of use in the attempt to better understand and compare the patterns of growth of China and India, and by extension, possibly of other countries too.

We warmly thank all the organizers of the XVII AISSEC Scientific Conference in Perugia (25-27 June 2009) and professors Marcello Signorelli and Enrico Marelli who organized the EACES workshop.