

EE460: Thai Economy

Rethinking growth

National Economic and Social Development Plans

Sufficient economy

Happiness

Bhanupong

Lecture 2

GDP per capita can be raised over the long term through:

- 1. Capital deepening:** an increase in the economy's stock of capital—plant and equipment—relative to its workforce.
- 2. Technological progress:** the ability to produce more output without using any more inputs—capital or labor.

Rethinking growth

- Rethinking growth
Zagha, Nankani, and Gill (2006) Finance & Development, March
- <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2006/09/basics.htm>
- Growth is a complex process of economic, social, and political transformation.
- New economic concepts were created to capture some of its dimensions.
- Development *strategies follow* those new concepts.

Development Theories

- Lewis: Dual economy, surplus labor
- Schultz: human capital
- Gerschenkron and Rostow: Stages of development, takeoff, and catching up
- Seer, Prebish, Hirschmann: Structuralism

How many years would it take to double GDP?

- **The rule of 72:** If an economy grows at x percent per year, output will double in $72/x$ years.
- If Thailand has a 9 percent annual growth rate, then real GDP will take 8 years to double $(72/9) = 8$.
- It would take 18 years to double GDP if it grows at 4 % annually.

Successful growers avoided downturns and kept growth *steady*

Number of years(1960-2002) which growth rate was:

	negative	<1	<2	>2
LDCs	14	19	24	18
Thailand	5	8	16	27
OECD	3	3	4	38

Lessons of the 1990s

- Expectations about the impact of **economic reforms** on growth were unrealistic.
- A simple tariff cut would not automatically lead to growth, other trade incentives must be available: improving trade-related infrastructure, competitive exchange rates.

Lessons from the 1990s

- Democracy is ***not*** a shield against governments exerting their authorities to benefit elites.
- Informed citizens, low social polarization, and political competition are needed.
- Reforms should promote ***growth***, not just efficiency (need to provide incentives for expanding capacity).

Necessary conditions

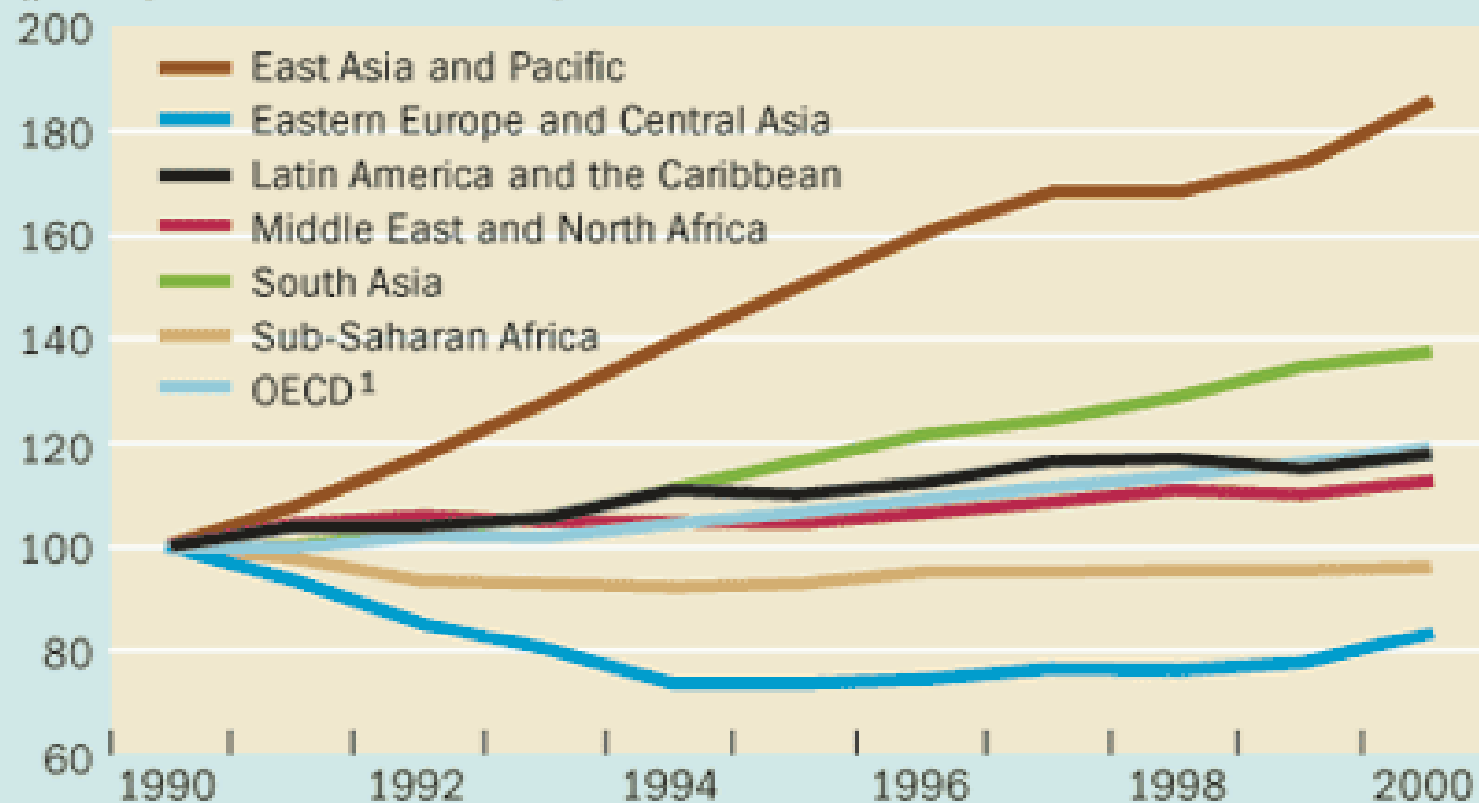
- The necessary conditions for economic growth can be created in numerous ways—**not** all of them *equally* conducive to growth (macroeconomic stability, market allocation of resources, openness to international trade).
- Stabilization and macroeconomic management need to be growth-oriented (decisive responses to shocks and macroeconomic policies that reduce vulnerabilities and cost of shocks).

Chart 1

Widely varying results

Economic regions grew at vastly different paces during the 1990s despite undertaking broadly similar reform policies.

(per capita GDP; 1990 = 100)



Source: World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2003*.

¹Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Lessons of the 1990s

- Governments need to be accountable, not bypassed.
- Discretion is needed but **checks and balances** can lead to better decision making.
- Governments should abandon formulaic policymaking in which any reform goes and **concentrate on supporting growth.**
- Identify the **binding constraints** to growth and deal with them as the growth process unfolded through experimentation and trial and error.
- What are the lessons of the 2000s?

Timeline of development planning

1st Development Plan (1961-1966)

Import substitution

Infrastructure Investment

Promotion of private investment

Institutional establishment: Board of Investment (BOI) National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), Bureau of the budget (BOB), Fiscal Policy Office (FPO)

Early economic plans: Objectives and Missions

2nd Development plan (1967-1971)

Export promotion

Growth was driven by public investment in infrastructure

3rd Economic and social development plan (1972-1976)

Investment in rural area and education

Economic and Social Development Plans

4th Plan (1977-1981)

Increasing security spending,

Reducing social gaps,

Restoring *natural resources*

5th plan (1982-1986)

Public and private **cooperation**,

Rural development and investment

Economic and Social Development Plans

6th plan (1987-1991)

Maintain economic growth

Upgrade quality of life

7th plan (1992-1996)

income distribution,

improve quality of live and **environment**

Recent trend of (indicative) economic plans

8th plan (1997-2001)

Human-centered development

Public **participation**

Sustainable development

9th plan (2002-2006)

Competitiveness

Financial immune system

Self-reliant and resilient society

A policy shift?

10th Plan (2007-2011)

- *Sufficiency economy*
- Green growth
- Sustainable development

Sufficiency economy philosophy

- **Sufficiency economy** is a philosophy that His Majesty the King expressed in his speech more than 25 years ago before the economic crisis as a guide line for the Thai people to lead their lives.

Economic moderation

Dr. Sumeth Tantiwechakul, Secretary General of H.M., NGO-Chai Pattana Foundation, Former President of Thammasat University Council

“Economic, social, political and environment problems are caused by ***excessive consumption***”

- Avoid creating debt without sufficient returns.
 - ***We must cut down expenses***
 - Adhere to the principle of enough to live on.
 - Do not spend more than what one can afford.
 - Seek to enhance income gradually.
-
- Is the idea in sharp contrast with the paradox of thrift?

Proponents of the idea argue that

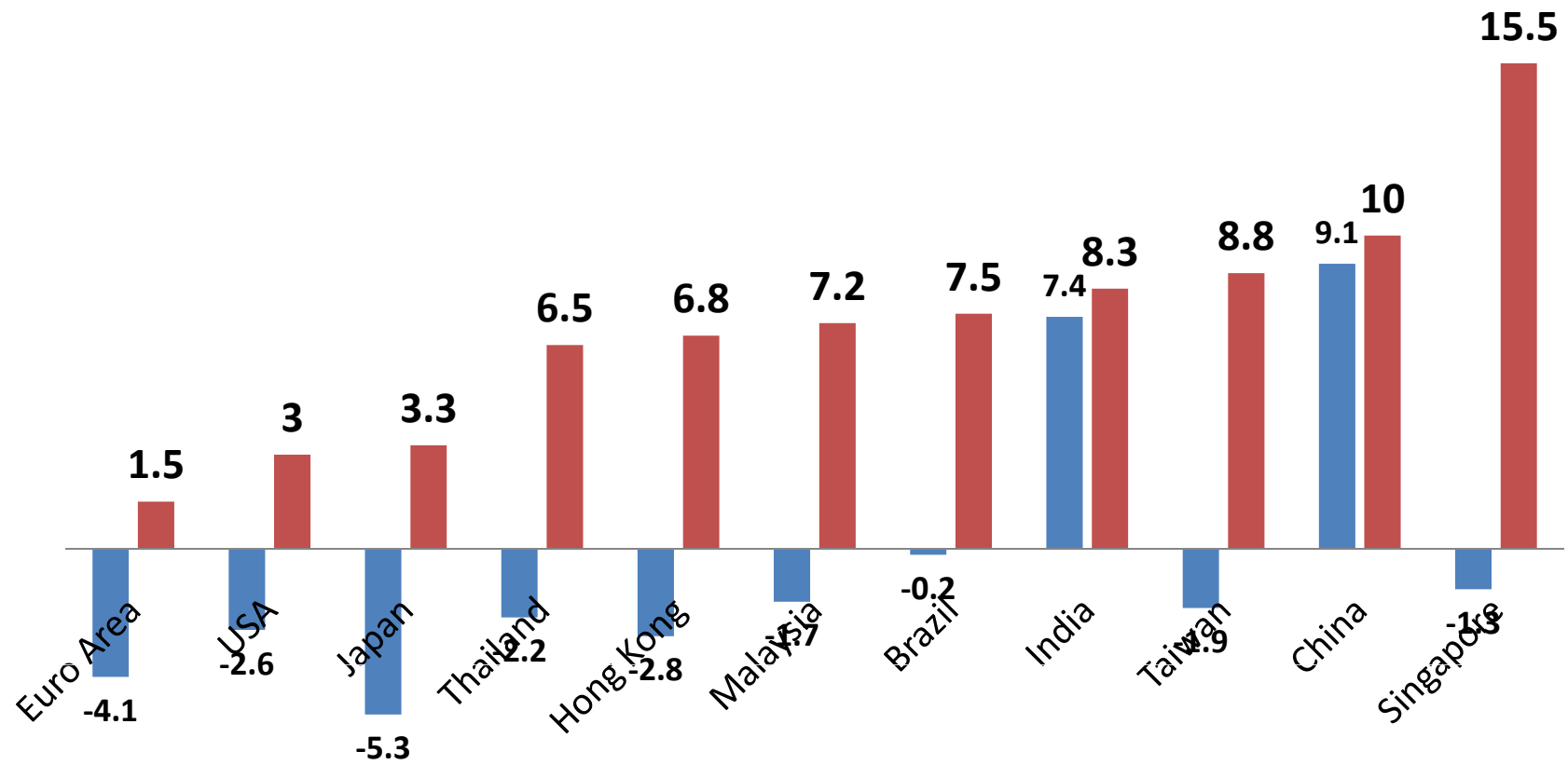
- (A) It can be applied at all levels, all disciplines, and all sectors of the economy: Agriculture, rural areas, finance, real estate, international trade and investment
- (B) Under similar principles of selectiveness, moderation, rationality, internal and social immunization, **sufficient economy will serve as immunization of the country to get through any crisis to maintain a stable and durable existence under the currents of changes and globalization.**

Is the idea based on Thai culture?

- It serves as a guideline in development, following a middle path, on the basis of carefulness, moderation, reasonableness, **internal protection from shocks**, knowledge , well-informed, prudence, carefulness and righteousness .
- The core values of honesty, integrity, diligence, endurance, and sharing.

Global recovery after the GFC

■ 2009 ■ 2010



Happiness in Thailand

- If growth is set too low, will so be the progress in cutting poverty?
- Is growth good for the poor?
- How do we measure happiness?
- UNDP also lauded “Gross National Happiness” theory of Bhuthan’s King Jigme.
- Should we abandon GDP and adopt GNH instead?

Richard Layard

Happiness

New York: Penguin Press, 2005

- Once subsistence income is guaranteed, making people happier is **not easy**.
- If we want people to be happier, we really have to know what conditions generate happiness and how to cultivate them.

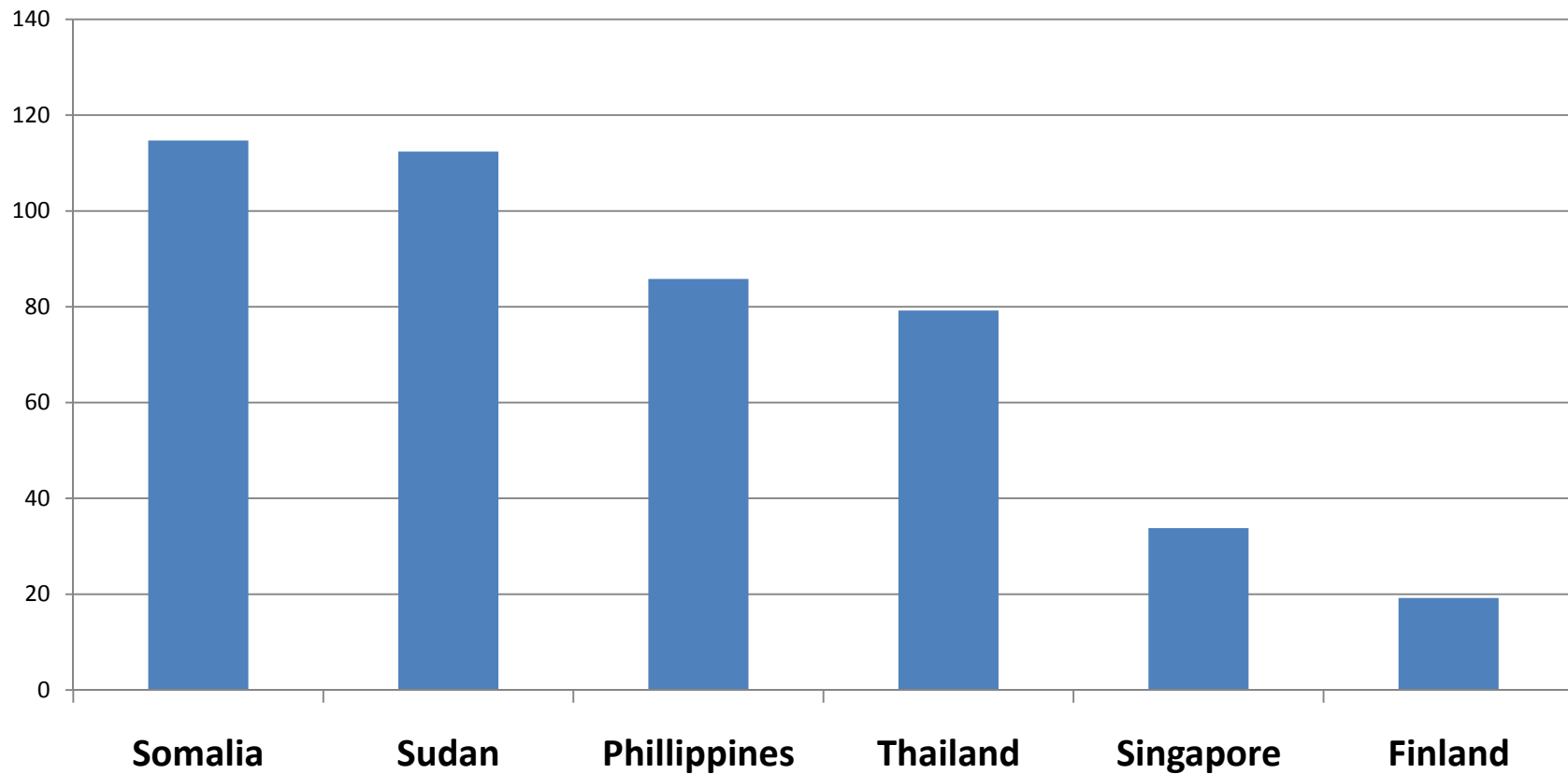
Sources of happiness

1. Proportion of people who say that other people can be **trusted**.
2. Proportion of people who belong to **social organizations**.
3. Divorce rate
4. Unemployment rate
5. Religious belief
6. **Quality of government**

Quality of government

Failed States Index

FSI 2009



What makes people happy?

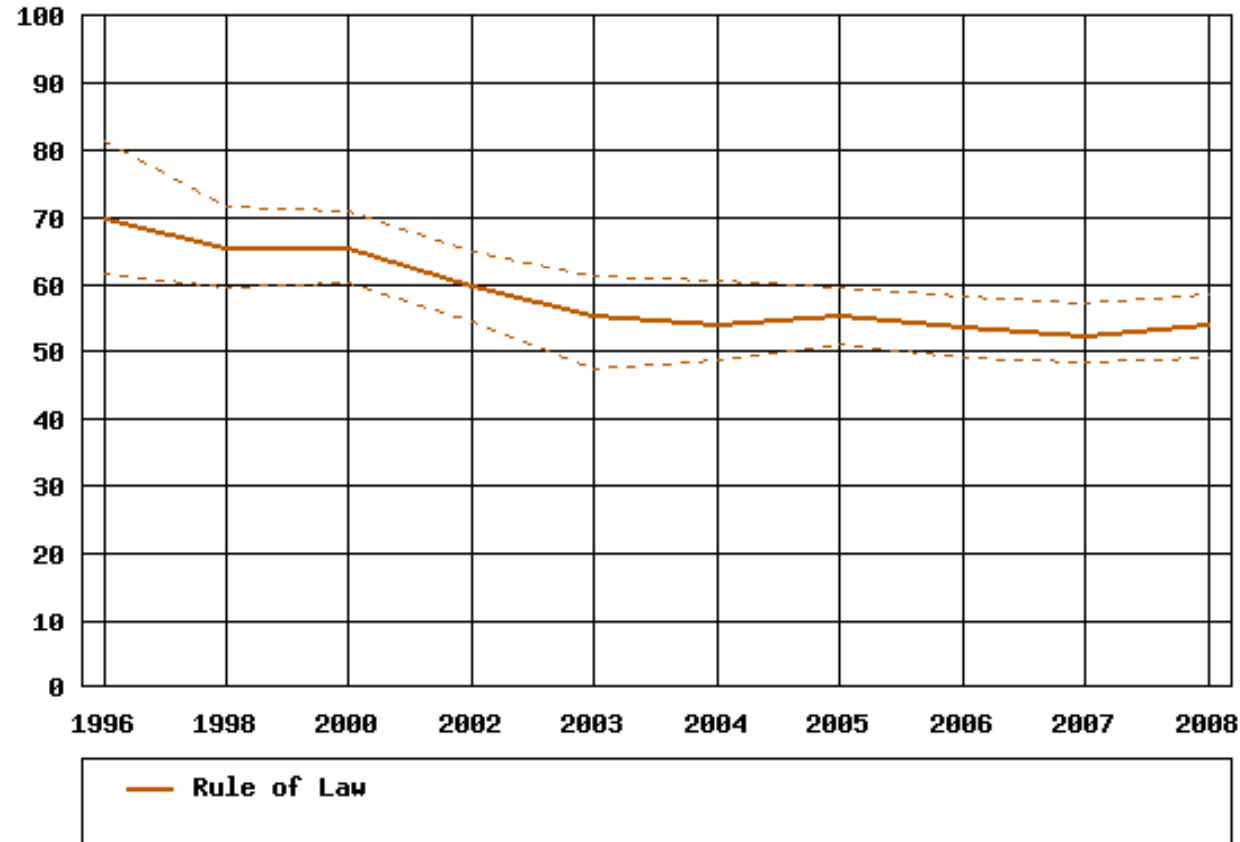
- We are programmed to seek happiness.
- Humans are **social** beings, wanting to trust each other.
- People are deeply attached to the **status quo**.
- Human beings are **status conscious**.
- Human beings are very **adaptable**.
- **Extra income** increases happiness *less and less* as people get richer.

How to measure quality of government

- Governance indicator
- Press freedom index
- Regulatory quality
- Political stability
- Voice and accountability
- Rule of law
- www.govindicators.org

Rule of law

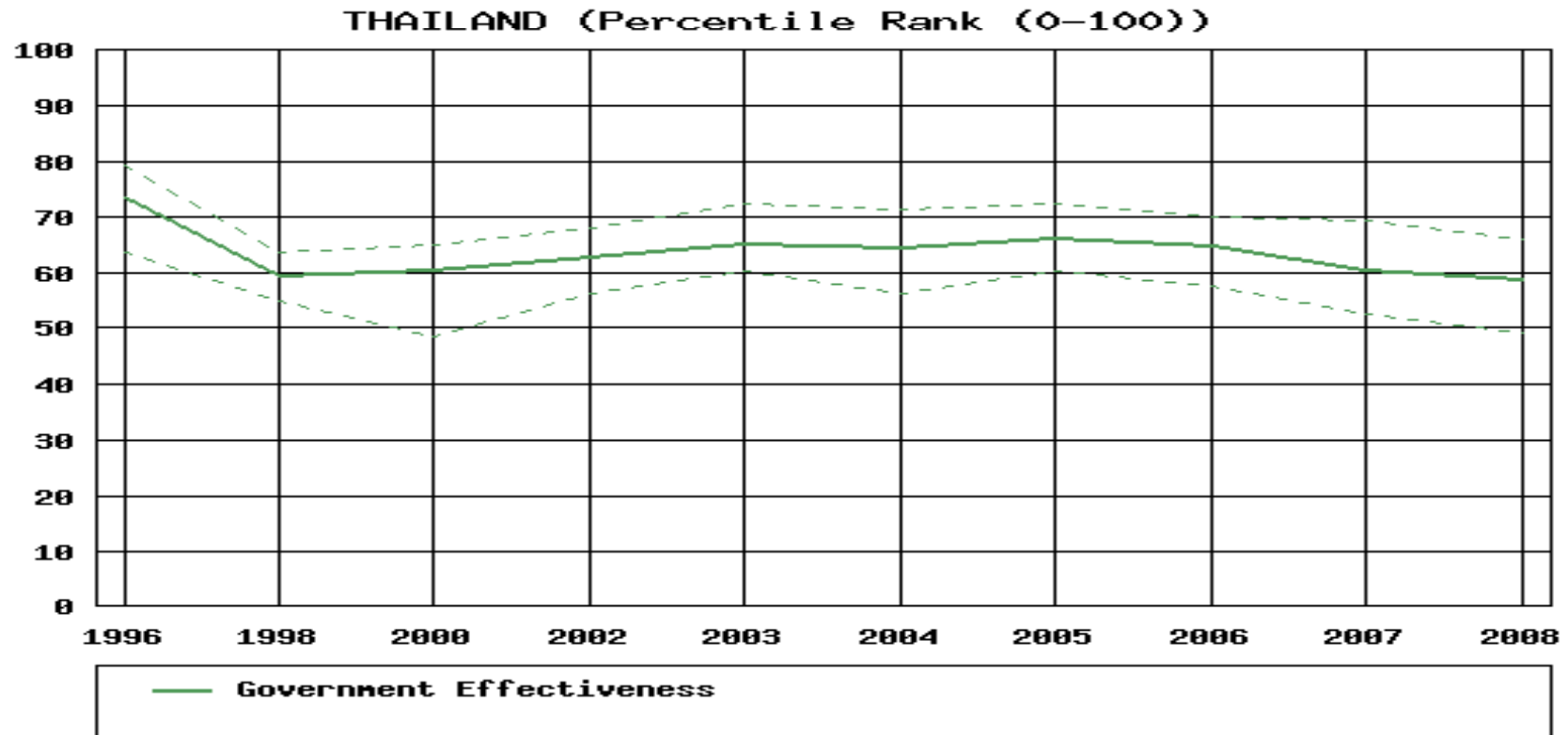
THAILAND (Percentile Rank (0-100))



Source: Kaufmann D., A. Kraay, and M. Mastruzzi 2009: Governance Matters VIII: Governance Indicators for 1996-2008

Note: The governance indicators presented here aggregate the views on the quality of governance provided by a large number of enterprise, citizen and expert survey respondents in industrial and developing countries. These data are gathered from a number of survey institutes, think tanks, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations. The WGI do not reflect the official views of the World Bank, its Executive Directors, or the countries they represent. The WGI are not used by the World Bank Group to allocate resources.

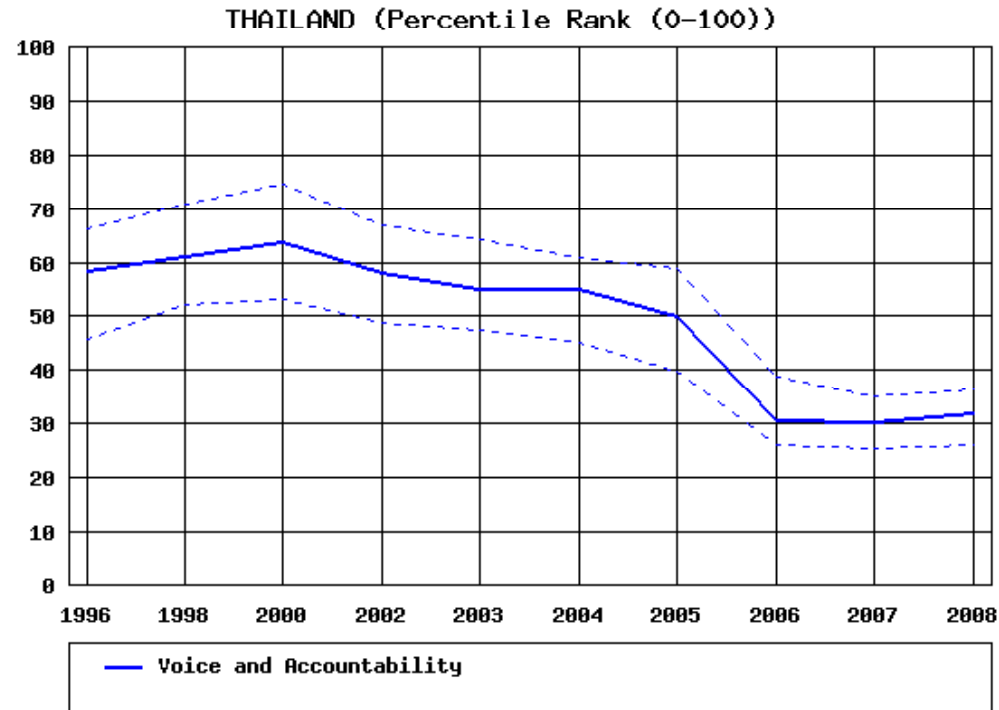
Government effectiveness



Source: Kaufmann D., A. Kraay, and M. Mastruzzi 2009: Governance Matters VIII: Governance Indicators for 1996–2008

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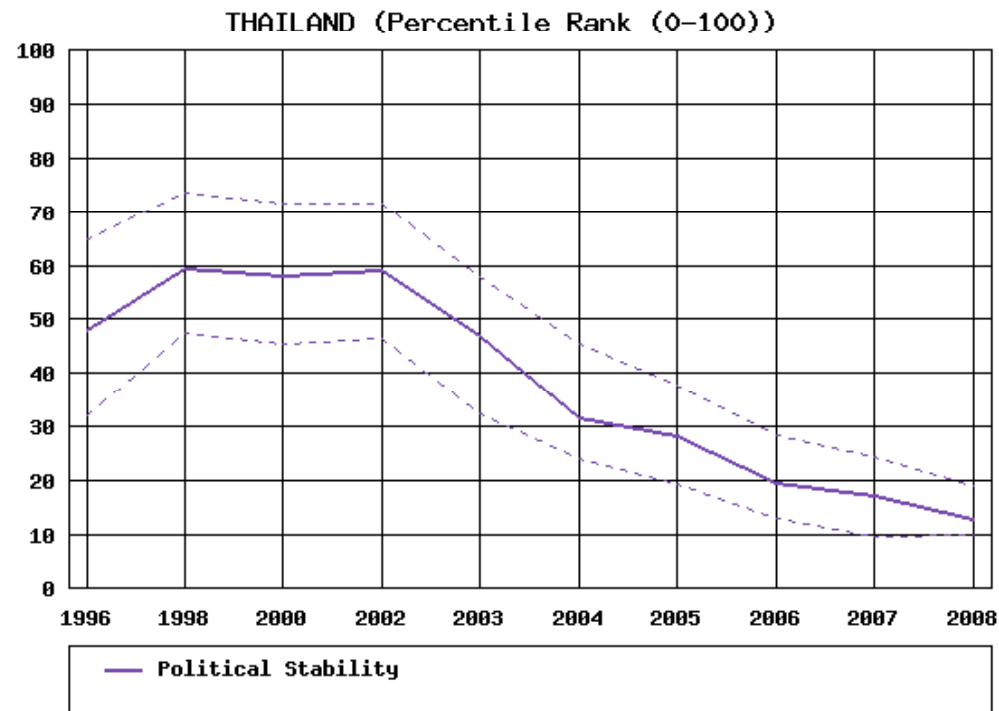
Voice and Accountability



Source: Kaufmann D., A. Kraay, and M. Mastruzzi 2009: Governance Matters VIII: Governance Indicators for 1996-2008

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Political Stability



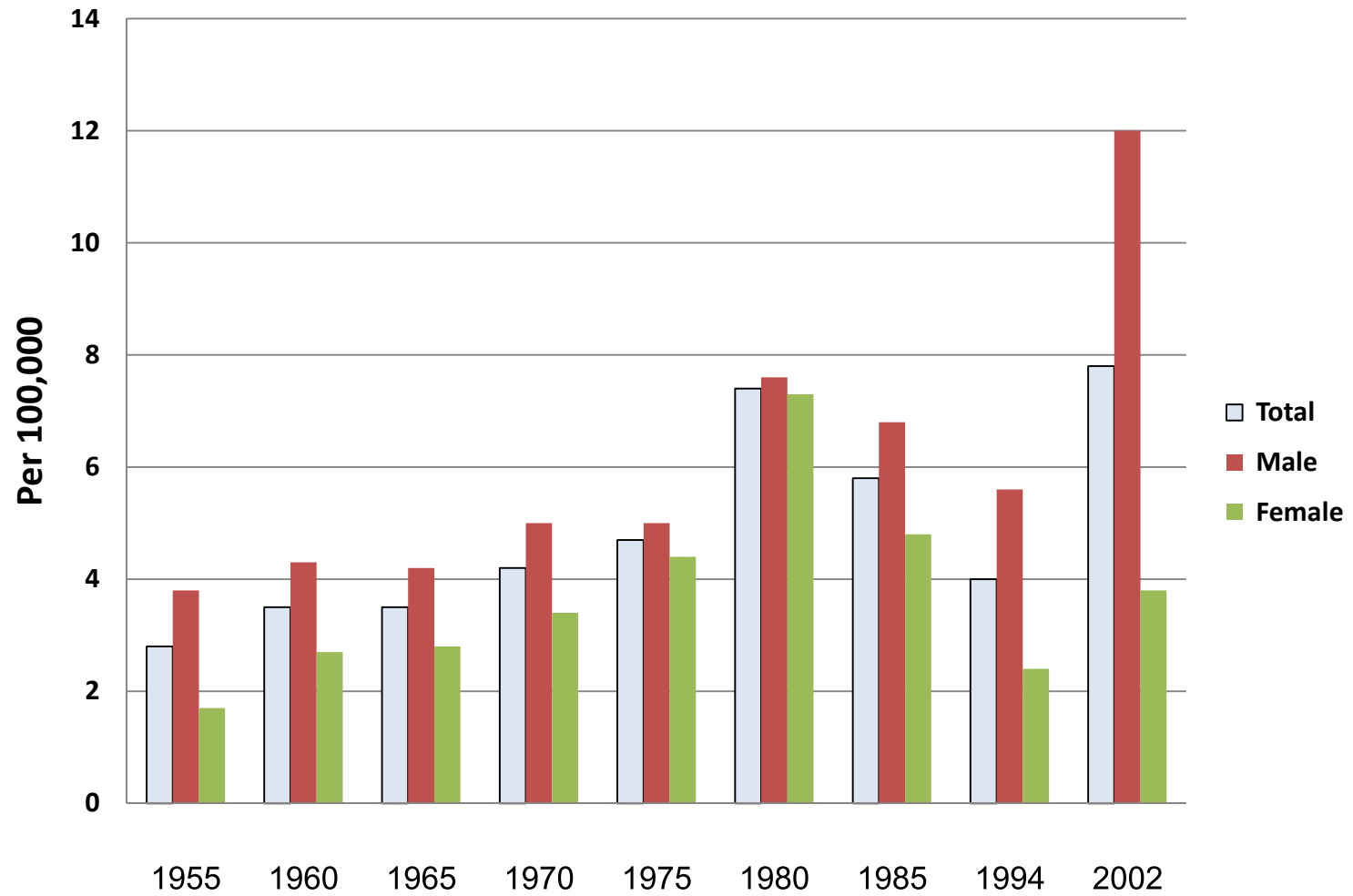
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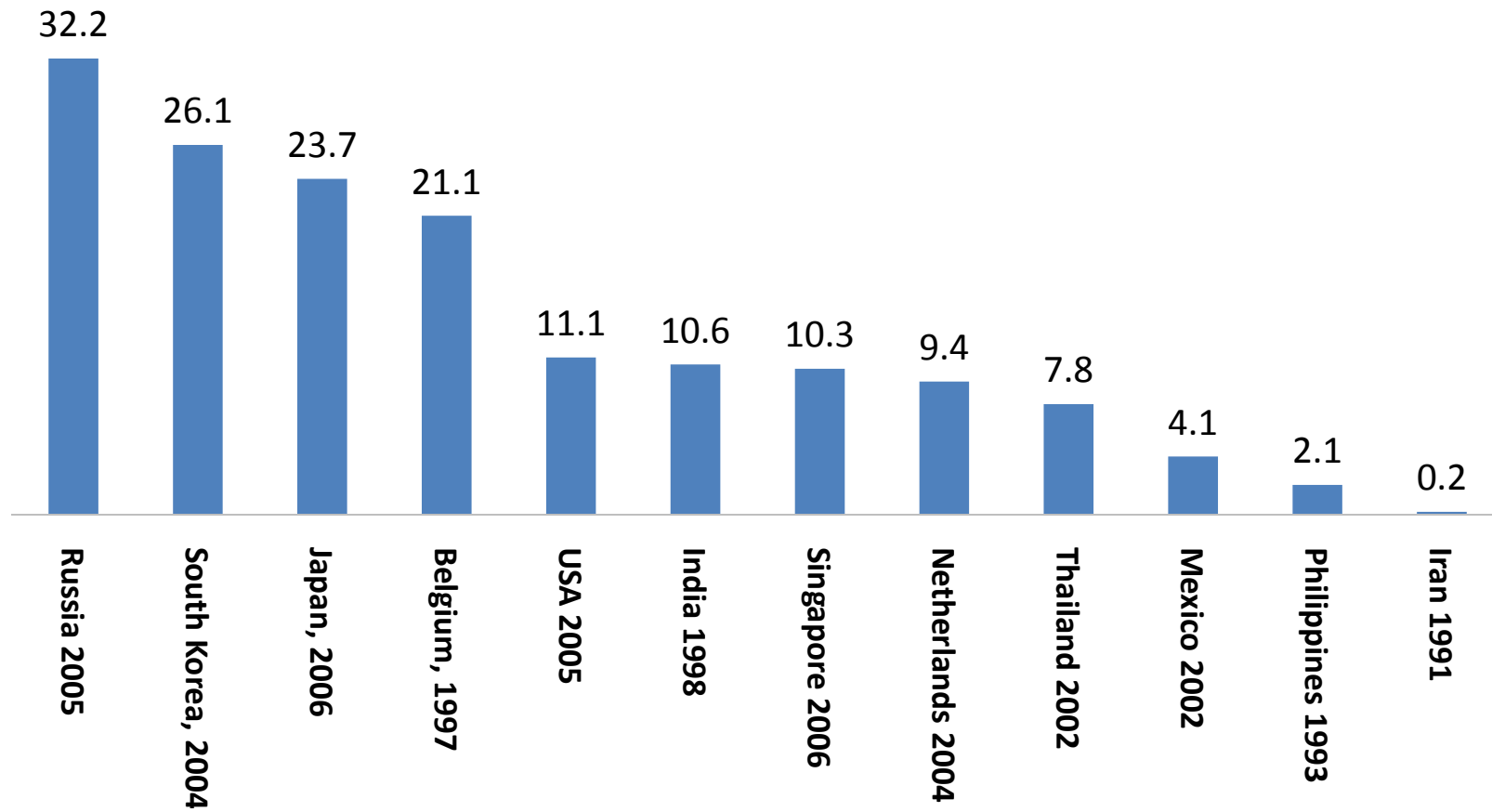
Can public policy make people happy?

- “The biggest disease today is not leprosy or tuberculosis, but rather the feeling of being unwanted, uncared for and deserted by everybody” Mother Teresa
- Public policy can more easily remove misery than augment happiness.
- To live happily is an inward power of the soul” Aristotle
- Hence, happiness depends on your inner life as much as on your outer circumstances.

Suicide rates in Thailand



Number of suicides per 100,000 people, per year



Research questions

1. Explain how Thailand's economic development plans evolved around development theories and changing socio-political environment.
2. Utilize Layard's sources of happiness to examine the impact of economic development on happiness of the Thais over the past three decades.
3. Select two development plans that you think they had provided the most important contribution to the Thai economy. Provide evidence to support your arguments.
4. Can sufficient economy principle serve as immunization for a country under globalization?
5. Is Gross National Happiness more superior than Gross national Product?