

Thailand and Vietnam

Assignment #3

Part 1: Country Profile

Vietnam:

Brief Socio-Economic Profile

Vietnam has experienced remarkable growth in the last 25 years. According to the world bank, Vietnam had been undergoing economic and political reform that spurred the country from among the poorest to its current state in the lower middle income economy bracket. Economically, Vietnam has been growing among the fastest of our time with about 6-7% growth in GDP per capita. However, as of 2015, there has been a slight slowdown in growth due to a drought afflicting the nation. There has been a significant reduction of poverty although this still remains a problem.

Strength

Vietnam's government is open to change and reform which will create a boost in progress towards the pressing issues it currently faces. This will lead to improvements in social equality and reinvented infrastructures. Vietnam is also pushing international integration to give the country greater opportunity for future progress and improvement. Vietnam is active in its approach to improve the quality of the nation

Weakness

Vietnam is facing the potential threat of climate. The country is vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters which put to risk all progress and future advancement. All of this is because the country has been experiencing rising temperatures, sea levels, and frequency of storms.

Thailand:

Brief Socio-Economic Profile

According to the world bank, Thailand became an upper middle income economy in 2011. Thailand's socio-economic profile is a story of commendable achievement for its sustained strong economic growth and remarkable reduction in poverty. Growth numbers are slowing, but the Thai government is undergoing strong action to re-engage the country's previous trajectory by installing a reform program with the goal of becoming a high income economy in sight. Thailand's economy had been growing at a rate of 7.5%, but experienced a slow after the Asian Crisis dropping rates to about 5%. Thailand has since made incredible gains in welfare medically insuring its people and installing a form of social security.

Strength

Thailand is in the process of reinventing itself to push its economy to the next level. The ability for the Thai government to handle itself in an organized fashion is a great strength as it plans to attain results through targeted reform. The reforms address economic stability, human capital, equal economic opportunities, environmental sustainability, competitiveness, and effective government bureaucracies

Weakness

Today, Thailand's rate of economic growth has been on the decline. This is what is prompting the government's heavy action towards improving the economic growth. Also, despite levels of inequality declining for the last 30 years, the distribution in Thailand are unequal in comparison to other countries in East Asia. The growing disparities in household income and consumption are apparent and significant throughout Thailand. This leaves pockets of poverty in the Northeast, North, and Deep South.

Questions:

2A:

Summarize the similarities and differences in value of the indicators between the two countries.

There is a very clear and obvious disparity between Vietnam and Thailand. On all fronts, Thailand reigns superior in defining characteristics of success. This includes literacy rates, however slight, to respective GNI's per capita and expenditures on education. This is a strong indication that Thailand's government and GDP can afford the increased focus on welfare and development.

The only levels in which Vietnam out classes Thailand is in its employment level percentages. Vietnam holds a higher rate of employment for both industry and agriculture making its economy more reliant on these sources of employment than Thailand is. However, the difference in employment levels are much more than made up for by Thailand's service employment economy. Thailand therefore possesses a comparatively much more powerful service employment engine for it's economy. This also makes Thailand overall more employed.

2B:

Make a few short observations about the evolution of the situation, (change) for each country.

Looking back 10 years, Thailand generally outclassed Vietnam in all facets. The similarity however lies in that both nations experienced higher numbers of growth. Going back further another 10 and 20 years, it is very clear that Thailand was just booming as headways into the country it is today. Thailand was beginning to experience massive growth while Vietnam was in it's infancy, trailing by a number of years.

3C:

Comment upon the utility of (socio) economic variables in producing categories of development for the different countries of the world e.g. do you believe that the variables/indicators used for this assignment justify the category in which your selected countries were put ?

Socio-economic variables, in my opinion, serve to cover angles and viewpoints of certain populations that general measures for achievement may fail to encompass or even outright acknowledge. When you consider the measure that is GDP, one fails to gain an idea for other aspects of a country such as welfare, equality, and population. This is where socio-economic variables can paint a more detailed picture. I found the literacy rate to be an interesting value as literacy is indispensable in urban scapes. It is thus clear that in an industry of services, an economy maybe reliant on literacy. This is well reflected as Thailand's employment percentage is significantly higher in the services sector than any other of its own employment industries and much much higher than Vietnam's, which coincidentally holds a slightly lower literacy rate.

Employment, expenditures, and income shareholders are all metrics that are missed if only GDP is considered. I think they give meaningful insight to the reality of a nation on where it stands fundamentally where as GDP is almost a measure that solely relates to the rest of the world.

The intricacies of a country's state can only be revealed upon examination of these variable, and therefore give a clearer picture as to which income category the nation falls in. The variables are what make a country's economy, the parts that when added together, amount to the appropriate income bracket. For Vietnam and Thailand, this happens to be lower-middle and upper-middle respectively.