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Economic relations between Japan and Visegrad Group countries: Abstract

The purpose of my Ph.D. dissertation is to analyse the economic relations between Japan and Visegrad Group countries and to determine the influence of political factor on those relations. There are two hypotheses to be verified during research:

- Economic relations between Japan and Visegrad Group countries are limited
- Political factor does not influence economic relations between analysed countries

The dissertation is composed of six chapters. Chapter One is an introductory and presents basic theories used in the thesis: International Political Economy, Geo-economics, International trade theory as well as Theory of Foreign Direct Investment.

Chapter Two examines Japanese foreign policy towards East-Central Europe. The chapter consists of three parts. Part One focuses on the changes in perception of East-Central Europe by Japanese policymakers over the time. Part Two investigates how the relations between Japan and European Union have evolved. Part Three addresses the issue of cooperation between Japan and Visegrad Group as a whole.

Chapter Three is subdivided into five parts and provides an outline of economic relations between Japan and the Republic of Poland. Part One illustrates the historical background of cooperation before 1989. Part Two analyses how political transformation has influenced the cooperation between these countries. Part Three presents trade relations between above countries, whilst Part Four analyses capital involvement of Japanese enterprises in Polish economy. Part Five provides summary of conducted research.

Chapter Four concentrates on economic cooperation between the Czech Republic and Japan. Part One describes political conditions for mutual cooperation until 1989. Part Two presents Japanese-Czech relations after 1989. Part Three analyses trade relations between above

countries, whilst Part Four presents Japanese Foreign Direct Investment in the Czech Republic. Part Five provides summary of above analyses.

Chapter Five presents economic relations between the Slovak Republic and Japan. Part One describes political cooperation during World War II. Part Two presents Japanese-Slovak relations after the split of Czechoslovakia. Part Three analyses trade relations between above countries. Part Four presents Japanese FDI in Slovakia. Part Five provides summary of above analyses.

Chapter Six concentrates on economic cooperation between Japan and Hungary. Part One presents diplomatic relations between Japan and Hungary until 1989. Part Two presents Japanese-Hungarian relations after democratic reforms. Part Three analyses trade relations between above countries. Part Four presents Japanese Foreign Direct Investment Hungary. Part Five provides summary of above analyses.

Conclusions are drawn in Chapter Seven. My research proved the hypotheses to be correct. There is little cooperation on economic side between Japan and Visegrad Group countries. It is caused by many factors. One of them is lack of presence of East-Central Europe in Japanese foreign policy strategy. I suggest that closer cooperation on political level will also have a positive effect on economic relations between analysed countries.