

Union and its economic satellites experienced improving living standards during postwar reconstruction.

However, in subsequent decades, the overall picture turned into one of general disappointment, apart from of course East Asia's export-led economic miracle that extended into the 1990s. Since the initial postwar bounce, Latin America, South Asia, Africa and the Middle East have had their ups and downs and on balance failed to keep up with the best performing economies, while members of the Soviet bloc lapsed into stagnation and an eventual relapse into more or less developing country status as "transition economies". Accordingly, membership in the convergence club was in flux:

	Joined Convergence Club	Possible Members	Fallen Out
1950 to 2000	China, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia [post 1965], Indonesia [post 1978], India [post 1980] Yugoslavia, Romania, Bulgaria Greece, Turkey, Israel, Egypt, Botswana Mexico, Columbia, Nicaragua, Honduras		Venezuela, Peru, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Togo, Benin, Tanzania, Nigeria, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, South Africa Former Soviet Union (Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania)

While Dowrick and DeLong do not split the period, it is evident that the entire postwar era was not one of persistent trends. Importantly, growth of per capita incomes in the developing countries tailed off badly after the 1970s (see figure below). Moses Abramovitz quite explicitly dates the breakpoint, noting "the retardation in productivity growth suffered by the same group of followers since 1973".<sup>7</sup> The departures from the convergence club are thus clustered in the

<sup>7</sup> Moses Abramovitz, "Catching Up, Forging Ahead, and Falling Behind", *The Journal of Economic History*, 46(2) June 1986: 385-406; at pg 385.