

“death of distance”—the conditions were in some ways unusually propitious for a wider group of countries to join the convergence club. The apparent continued importance of geographical location in determining which countries joined this club is therefore at least *prima facie* puzzling—especially given the seemingly strong confirmation by East Asia of the expectations of the main workhorse economic theories. After all, East Asia is far more geographically remote from the prime centres of innovation than North Africa or Latin America. While Japan has since become an important innovator, it started its technological ascent as an adopter of technology that was produced primarily in the US on the opposite side of the planet.

For those who are inclined to be sceptical, there are more questions than answers as regards the source of the income disparities to be seen between the rich and poor countries in our globalized economy.