East Asia and Latin America, in Comparative Perspective. Lessons for development policy, Anthony Elson. In the middle of the twentieth century (1950), Latin America was the most developed region outside the industrial countries, with an average level of real GDP per capita more than 2½ times that of East Asia (excluding growth volatility has been significantly higher for Latin America than for East Asia since 1980. A comparison of other indicators of macroeconomic performance also shows dramatic differences between the two regions: Table 2: Real GDP growth per capita: East Asia and Latin America. The Latin American and East Asian newly industrializing countries (NICs) frequently have been taken to represent two contrasting development orientations: Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina are seen as having given primacy to an inward-oriented (import-substituting) mode of development, while Taiwan, South Korea, Hong Kong, and Singapore are associated with an outward-oriented (export-promoting) model. Ever since the societies of Latin America began to expand their role as exporters of primary products in the late nineteenth century, issues related to inward- and outward-oriented models of development have been an important feature of that region’s political life. This pattern of economic growth in Latin America was perceived as quite acceptable by In a report by the IADB entitled Pathways to Growth: Comparing East Asia and Latin America four major conclusions were drawn. First, East Asian countries invested far more than Latin American nations in physical and human infrastructure. The terrible state of infrastructure accounts for a significant dimension of what is called the Costo Brasil, the Brazil Cost, a generic term to describe the infrastructure, bureaucratic and economic obstacles to doing business in Brazil. Asia-Pacific countries such as South Korea have combined protectionism of their own market with strong export orientation to third markets. One of the features of today’s Asia-Pacific economic landscape is the prevalence of global value chains.