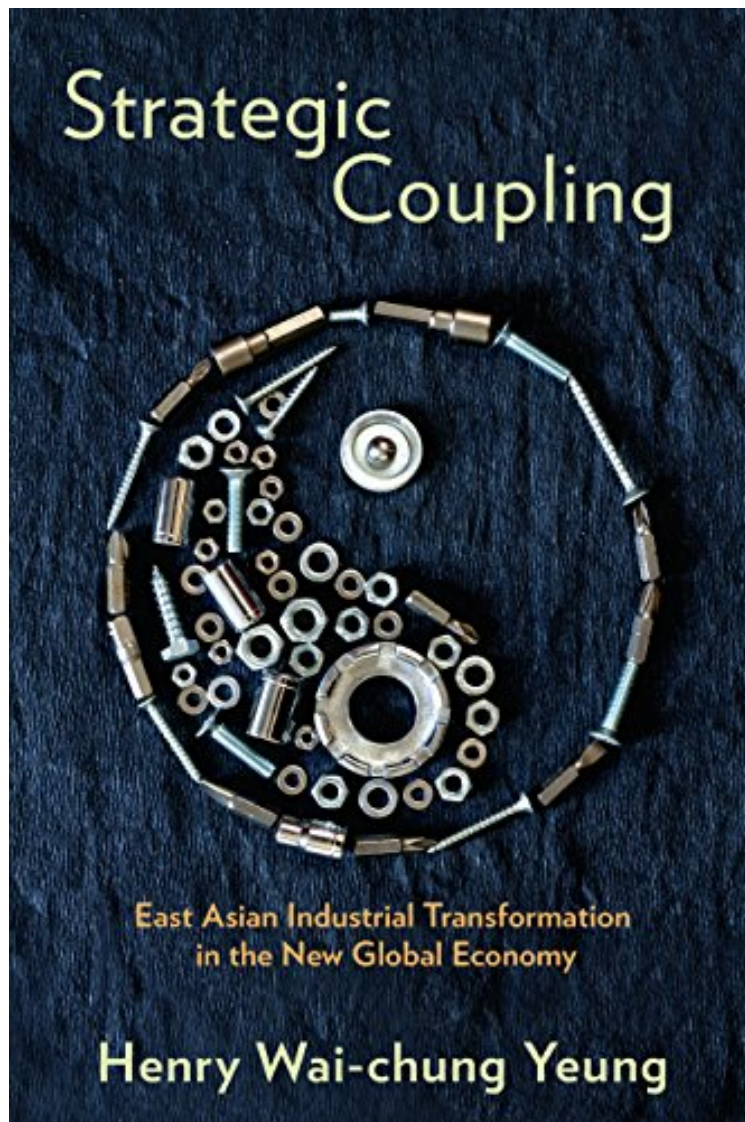


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Strategic Coupling: East Asian Industrial Transformation in the New Global Economy (Cornell Studies in Political Economy)

Henry Wai-chung Yeung

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Henry Wai-chung Yeung : Strategic Coupling: East Asian Industrial Transformation in the New Global Economy (Cornell Studies in Political Economy) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Strategic Coupling: East Asian Industrial Transformation in the New Global Economy (Cornell Studies in Political Economy):

In *Strategic Coupling*, Henry Wai-chung Yeung examines economic development and state-firm relations in East Asia, focusing in particular on South Korea, Taiwan, and Singapore. As a result of the massive changes of the last twenty-five years, new explanations must be found for the economic success and industrial transformation in the region. State-assisted startups and incubator firms in East Asia have become major players in the manufacture of products with a global reach: Taiwan's Hon Hai Precision has assembled more than 500 million iPhones, for instance, and South Korea's Samsung provides the iPhone's semiconductor chips and retina displays. Drawing on extensive interviews with top executives and senior government officials, Yeung argues that since the late 1980s, many East Asian firms have outgrown their home states, and are no longer dependent on state support; as a result the developmental state has lost much of its capacity to steer and direct industrialization. We cannot read the performance of national firms as a direct outcome of state action. Yeung calls for a thorough renovation of the still-dominant view that states are the primary engine of industrial transformation. He stresses action by national firms and traces various global production networks to incorporate both firm-specific activities and the international political economy. He identifies two sets of dynamics in these national-global articulations known as strategic coupling: coevolution in the confluence of state, firm, and global production networks, and the various strategies pursued by East Asian firms to attain competitive positions in the global marketplace.

"*Strategic Coupling* is a timely and excellent contribution to our knowledge. Anyone who wishes to understand how East Asia gained and maintained prominence in high technology industries in the new world of globally fragmented production should read this book. *Strategic Coupling* teaches us how the world works, and as such reveals as much about the future of the United States as it does about the future of Korea, Taiwan, and Singapore." Dan Breznitz, Munk Chair of Innovation Studies, University of Toronto

About the Author Henry Wai-chung Yeung is Professor of Economic Geography and Co-Director of GPN@NUS Centre at the National University of Singapore. He is an elected Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences (UK) and a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (UK). He is the author of *Transnational Corporations and Business Networks*, *Entrepreneurship and the Internationalisation of Asian Firms*, and *Chinese Capitalism in a Global Era* and coauthor of *Global Production Networks*.