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Global Broadband Battles: Why the U.S. and Europe Lag While Asia Leads

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Global Broadband Battles: Why the U.S. and Europe Lag While Asia Leads

Description

Review of *Global Broadband Battles: Why the U.S. and Europe Lag While Asia Leads* / Fransman, Martin. Stanford University Press, 2006.

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Global Broadband Battles: Why the U.S. and Europe Lag While Asia Leads

Posted on **November 1, 2007** by **Editor**



Review by Jeffrey Barlow <barlowj@pacificu.edu>

[About](#)

Global Broadband Battles: Why the U.S. and Europe Lag While Asia Leads.

Fransman, Martin

Stanford University Press, 2006.

This volume, edited by the prize-winning Professor Martin Fransman, [1] is both timely and important. While it is best suited for an audience with a high level of interest, that interest could be in Broadband, in the international hi-tech environment, or in the legislative and economic environments of Japan, Korea, China, the United States, France, Germany, Italy or Sweden. Each of these nations is the subject of a complete chapter in the edited work.

The value of any edited work must lie largely in the quality of the individual contributors. These are, like the editor himself, a highly qualified group. The majority are both natives of the nation about which they write, and well-trained economists.

Fransman, however, provided a strong editorial hand, and contributed excellent summaries of each of the three groupings of chapters. In fact, it would be possible to take away considerable understanding and value from a reading of only Fransman's general introduction and his summaries. These summaries each serve as a more detailed introduction to the book's three sections: Part I, Asia: Japan, Korea, and China; Part II, North America: The United States; and Part III, Europe: France, Germany, Italy, and Sweden.

The work logically follows this particular organization because it is the thesis of the book that broadband development in Asia far outpaces that in either the United States or Europe. The larger question the work attempts to answer is why that is true.

A major value of the book is that it very much respects the influence of both history and culture in the nations concerned and treats each as a specific individual case. We learn, for example, that whereas it is true that Asia leads, the reasons why Korea and Japan are far in advance of the rest of the world may differ for each nation.

While each of the two has created a policy and economic environment which greatly facilitates the development of broadband, Korea has the advantage that more than half its population lives in apartment blocks, greatly simplifying the so-called "last mile" problem—how to get full fiber conduits to the end user.

Japan does not have this advantage, though it is also highly urbanized. But seeing the importance of broadband development, Japan chose to create a policy environment which encouraged disruptive newcomers to the industry even at the expense of the Japanese governmental corporation, National Telephone and Telegraph (NTT).

The United States is a particular analytical problem because the development of communications and of computer technology is, of course, amongst the highest in the world. But its ranking in terms of both quality of broadband—the U.S. defines "broadband" as including the slowest speeds of all the nations covered—and in terms of its distribution among the population as well, unfortunately, continue to slip steadily. At present, it is ranked as 24th internationally. [2]

So the question becomes, “Why does the United States, with such an early start and a highly developed hi-tech industry, provide slower speeds of access to a lower percentage of its population, and usually at higher prices, than twenty-three other nations?”

The contributors to *Global Broadband Battles*, being largely cautious academic economists, do not attempt to answer this question with certainty. The editor views this work as necessary to establishing the understanding to eventually answer it.

However, the overall perspectives of the contributors are quite clear: The United States has chosen to permit an oligopoly of non-competitive firms to control the industry. Moreover, competition has declined rather than increased in the industry, due to federal policies.

In the absence of competition in America, disruptive technologies are restrained. The competitors tend to compete with each other over service and inconsequential factors, rather than to markedly increase speed or to develop new technologies or even to carry current technology to its logical end-point, full fiber to the home. In short, in America, competition is restrained largely to the allocation of advertising budgets.

However, to their credit, the contributors do not risk broad generalizations but rather continually point out that there are often no simple answers in this field. There are cases in which market regulation clearly facilitates the development of broadband, and others when competition is critical.

Recently, I had an opportunity to, in effect, field test the information in the work as I was an observer at the August 2007 Aspen Institute Forum on Communications and Society (FOCAS). [3] The group was composed of more than fifty luminaries from publishing, hi-tech and government—including two members of the FCC, and Viviane Reding, European commissioner for Information Society and Media. [4] Following three days of conversation and debate, the group identified improved broadband and much greater access to it as the central issue in U.S. telecommunications policy for the immediate future.

Broadband policy is, of course, a very complex and controversial issue. I found, however, that reading *Global Broadband Battles* more than prepared me to understand its history and its present context in the sometimes highly technical discussions at FOCUS. In fact, I felt that many of the participants could have benefited from reading the work as well, as they were ill prepared to understand some of these issues, particularly as they bore upon both the history of the issue in the United States and in non-American contexts.

Endnotes

[1] Fransman has won prizes both in the United Kingdom and in Japan for his books on hi-tech topics. See his personal page at: <http://www.jets.man.ed.ac.uk/staff.htm> , His works include: *The Market and Beyond: Information Technology in Japan* (Cambridge University Press) which won the Masayoshi Ohira Prize; *Japan’s Computer and Communications Industry* (Oxford University Press); *Visions of Innovation* (Oxford University Press); *Telecoms in the Internet Age: From boom to bust to ...?* (Oxford University Press).

[2] See <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/19389299/site/newsweek/>

[3]

http://www.aspeninstitute.org/site/c.huLWJeMRKpH/b.612663/k.F561/Aspen_Institute_Forum_on_Communications_and_Society_FOCAS.ht

[4] http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/reding/index_en.htm Commissioner Reding was, in my estimation, the true star of this conference in that she was very nearly the sole voice at the conference with extensive knowledge of the conference topic outside the United States. While she was unfailingly polite and restrained, she more than once was visibly exasperated at our collective lack of knowledge. At one point she asked why Americans seemed incapable of learning from foreign experience and insisted on redeveloping everything regardless of other’s successes. A member of the audience answered simply, “Hubris.”

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online jobs

on **January 31, 2014 at 1:01 AM** said:

Hi! I just wish to offer you a huge thumbs up for the excellent info you've got right here on this post.
I am coming back to your website for more soon.

Network Marketing Opportunities 2013

on **January 31, 2014 at 1:52 AM** said:

Thanks for sharing your thoughts on lump sum payment
online trading accounts
online business administration degrees
outpatient alcohol treatment
auto insurance liability
car donation ct
property development finance
all three credit reports
consolidate mortgage
dental implants new jersey
investment fraud lawyers
drug rehab arizona
serviced office space
web hosting with asp
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stock trading platforms
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free debt management advice
how much does lasik surgery cost
forex trading program
aircraft charter companies
ecommerce hosting plan site web
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accident attorneys florida
how much car insurance
chicago wrongful death lawyer
reservationless
chevrolet hhr
low interest rate personal loan
interest checking accounts
hillarys blinds
kameratÄ± chat
divorce lawyer new york
rv financing bad credit
avatar der herr der elemente
property management maintenance software
allinternal

penelope black diamond
gÃ¶kÅšeada
nonprofit debt management program
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wirtualna polska pl
hand foot and mouth disease
nakedgirls
global data synchronization
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fettrechner
emo haircuts
affordable dedicated server
gwiazdy
fixed rate mortgage quotes
online merchant account services
applying for credit card
secured loan finance
business phone small system voip
remodeling home loans
manufactured home refinance loan
donate car minnesota
td insurance
card consolidate credit
demo forex trading
edi systems
dallas family law
ranking high on search engine
vehicle quote
credit card processing account
car rental in alicante
free motorcycle insurance quotes
0 business card credit
100 refinancing
work accidents
web log analysis software
arizona bad credit loan mortgage
targeted business mailing list
forensic psychology degree
online special education degree
interest only home equity loans
whole life insurance definition
information mortgage
call solutions
a mortgage refinance
tax settlements
des moines insurance
top money market accounts
www beneficial com creditline
home equity loan advice
workmans comp lawyer
forex trading demo
consolidation loan debt loan
lawsuit mesothelioma
car donation cancer
low cost drug rehab

york auto insurance
visa rewards cards
net10 cell phones
accident injury claim
virtual dedicated
crm automation
etrade online trading
easy student loan
equity home rate
application consolidation loan student
personal injury florida
donate car ct
business loans uk
secure business credit card
data archiving solutions
mba programs online
flood cleanup
mortgage mailing list
crm for small business
virtual answering service
homeowners insurance rate
lawyer houston
sell future payment
checking accounts online
rent dedicated servers
new jersey criminal lawyer
phone conference calling
houston car accident attorney
pee wee herman
anagram solver
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car insurance for a week
whitewater rafting in maine
non federal student loan
dedicated server linux
refinance automobile
accredited online business degree
colocated server
phoenix criminal lawyers
chicago mortgage refinance
payroll clocks
balance transfer deals
mass email service
compare hosting
san francisco tax attorney
miami home loans
cheap motorbike insurance
renters ins
consumer counseling credit debt management

best online trade
secured homeowner loan
donate old cars
2nd mortgage subprime
the hartford car insurance
0 interest rate
univeristy of pheonix
compus bank
mortgage refinance poor credit
penny stocks online
bank debt consolidation
nas data recovery
data recovery group
second mortgages bad credit
car charity nj
tax attorney dallas
tax attorney las vegas
canada web hosting company
prefab offices
non secured loan
go to mypc
online visa credit card
affordable whole life insurance
appellate attorney
cash endowment
printer cartridges hp
best domain host
gmc dealer locator
best roth iras
texas home equity loan calculator
personal injury lawyers ny
hosted voip pbx
stop foreclosure refinance
auto insurance in pa
appeals lawyers
worker compensation lawyer
best mileage credit card
advantage rentacar
auto injury
voip hosted pbx
employer liability
boston criminal lawyer
debt consolidation credit card debt
online degree in accounting
car refinance loans
call conference services
low cost mutual funds
card credit debt help save
e trades
college psychology
21 car century insurance
free balance transfer credit card
125 equity home loan percent
125 percent home equity loan
private alternative student loans

internet load balancing
roth ira limitations
business process solutions
mold inspection los angeles
insurance life rate
repayment of student loans
refinance car loan rate
second home loan
life insurance rate comparison
checking online
penny stock online
good credit card offers
ontario auto insurance quote
salvation army auto donation
buy internet domain
novation capital
donating a vehicle
data recovery ohio
3 agency credit report
mortgage lender for bad credit
fredericks of hollywood
my pc anywhere
online marketing classes
arizona lemon laws
credit cards small business
saleslogix software
az homeowners insurance
business consolidation debt loan
oh auto insurance
cheap car insurance in texas
low interest credit card
hr tracking software
become a cfp
interest rates refinance
lowest interest credit card
generation mortgage
food saver vacuum
immediate annuity quote
fixed home equity rates
labor poster
cheap domain names and web hosting
credit rates
auto insurance price comparison
compare home equity rates
vulnerability assessment scanner
best money market fund
debt free solution. Regards

Rocco

on **January 31, 2014 at 3:28 AM** said:

Simply want to say your article is as surprising. The clearness

in your post is simply excellent and i could assume you're an expert on this subject. Well with your permission let me to grab your feed to keep up to date with forthcoming post. Thanks a million and please keep up the enjoyable work.

building a sorted list

on **January 31, 2014 at 6:23 AM** said:

I am sure this piece of writing has touched all the internet visitors, its really really pleasant post on building up new weblog.

mlm seminar tips

on **January 31, 2014 at 6:24 AM** said:

Appreciation to my father who stated to me regarding this webpage, this website is in fact awesome.

Our site

on **January 31, 2014 at 10:14 AM** said:

Hey there! I've been reading your website for a while now and finally got the courage to go ahead and give you a shout out from Porter Texas! Just wanted to tell you keep up the fantastic work!

business partners

on **January 31, 2014 at 1:06 PM** said:

I always emailed this weblog post page to all my friends, for the reason that if like to read it then my links will too.

barbie laura shopnbc miami beach hotels radio victoria's secret real estate training new york lodging auto insurances conference call nickleback chicago tribune so you think you can dance the d c scene hair hello kitty graffiti minijuegos com skin care se

on **January 31, 2014 at 1:23 PM** said:

Hi, i read your blog occasionally and i own a similar one and i was just curious if you get a lot of spam remarks? If so how do you protect against it, any plugin or anything you can advise? I get so much lately it's driving me crazy so any help is very much appreciated.

Dylan Kravitz

on **January 31, 2014 at 5:10 PM** said:

Oh my goodness! an incredible article dude. Thank you Nevertheless I'm experiencing problem with ur rss . Don't know why Unable to subscribe to it. Is there anyone getting equivalent rss drawback? Anyone who knows kindly respond. Thnkx

lasik surgery, eye surgery, laser surgery, lasik

on **January 31, 2014 at 7:33 PM** said:

Great write-up, I'm regular visitor of one's web site, maintain up the excellent operate, and It's going to be a regular visitor for a long time.

private webcam sex

on **January 31, 2014 at 8:08 PM** said:

Nice post. I'm reviewing continually this particular site and I'm influenced! Useful facts especially the closing part 😊 I deal with such information significantly. I was in search of the following particular information and facts for just a number of years. Thank you and with fortune.

Emily

on **January 31, 2014 at 9:02 PM** said:

Hello Dear, are you genuinely visiting this web page on a regular basis, if so afterward you will absolutely obtain good experience.

Michale

on **February 1, 2014 at 6:32 AM** said:

Do you have any video of that? I'd love to find out more details.

app youtube

on **February 1, 2014 at 9:57 AM** said:

WOW just what I was looking for. Came here by searching for approval boise hotel

exchange server hosting
choose
electric wheelchairs
bird flu
ozone
daytona 500
new york realtors
digital photo
i am me
western washington university
serotonin
western kentucky university
search engine marketing services
t mobile prepaid
consolidating debt
corey
tampa fl
cleveland houses
sta
dancing with stars
skybus airlines
nashville travel
travelers
san francisco airport
vocational schools
computer science degree
matchmaking
acura tsx
gmail sign in
pay bills
islands of adventure
adult add
marketing sales
newsletters
accountcentralonline
kaiser permanente health insurance
sleeping disorders
financial newsletters
smyrna georgia
port authority
tungsten carbide rings
cleveland state university
usga
day spas
veritas
free email newsletter
state college pennsylvania
mat
united way
henderson homes for sale
voltaire
pathfinder
cheap books
houston texans
aetna com

microsoft word office
atenolol
mental health services
pdf converter
psychology degree
arizona dui attorney
rochester big and tall
academy sports
i need you
colocation hosting
marley
slightly stupid
fubar
vida
life house
zoe
nipple
icq to go
humane society
at\46t ringtones
satellite internet service
email advertising
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fiance visa
car insurance compare
leap
anxiety disorder
detroit metro airport
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atlanta zoo
irvine
trade stock
memphis vacation
termite
maui vacation
adult finder
greenwich connecticut
home office
novato california
ithaca
owens coming
chasebank com
las vegas nevada property
barracuda firewall
dvd rentals
isabella soprano
complacent
reverse phone number lookup
arcade
reel big fish
boarding kennels
graduate schools
do
lakewood high school

40 year old virgin
seafood
caffeine
ghana
washington high school
olga
consolidate debt online
lines
air compressors
lcd hdtv
uma thurman
fall of troy
spanish american war
electric fireplace
yonkers new york
san marcos california
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mortgage lead generation
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mercedes homes
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sammons preston
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nantucket
boston flight
legal research
criminal record
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west side
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yiffstar
kocaeli Ã¼niversitesi
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necessary
flower girl dresses
ford focus
pollution
mt everest
loopnet
potty
exotic
massage envy
present
best cd rate
opiates
we buy ugly houses
greenville
wall maps

gainesville
state bar of california
electrician jobs
reservation
motivational speaker
superficial
hot teens
typing games
jeopardy
babe
hot wheels
christopher
hardcore sex
acrobat reader
pinky
big bear rentals
matchmaker
bensalem pennsylvania
san francisco ca
diabetic
prices
pearl earrings
big bear lake
stock brokerage
denver colorado real estate
walt disney quotes
birth control patch
instant insurance quote
bbc com
red roof inns
bridal shower gifts
kayaks
clint eastwood
lost abc
credit repair service
seo optimization
affordable housing
nyland
djokovic
tables
auburn football
tuscaloosa alabama
audio accessories
sportsline
d e
usgs
play station 3
usta
nine msn
helen keller
i love lucy
garrett
rune
sexs
frienster

hp deskjet
prepaid visa
seen
personal injury settlement
online teaching degrees
consumer debt relief
fha home loan
cooking school
mantis tiller
travel nurse employment
first midwest bank
dvd storage
java array
laptop battery
sagacity
credit score range
master degree
cash now
kosher wine
purchasing software
cmp
phlebotomy
outdoor speakers
packaging
seton hall university
clarify
tucson schools
company information

Ngan

on **February 1, 2014 at 10:26 AM** said:

We're a group of volunteers and starting a new scheme in our community. Your website offered us with valuable info to work on. You've done an impressive job and our entire community will be grateful to you.

Laurence

on **February 1, 2014 at 6:24 PM** said:

Hi there! This post couldn't be written much better! Reading through this article reminds me of my previous roommate! He constantly kept talking about this. I will send this article to him. Fairly certain he will have a very good read. Thanks for sharing!

affiliate rewards

on **February 1, 2014 at 7:34 PM** said:

With havin so much written content do you ever run into any problems of plagorism or copyright violation? My website has a lot of exclusive content I've either written myself or outsourced but it appears a lot of it is popping it up all over the internet without my permission. Do you know any methods to help prevent content from being stolen? I'd definitely appreciate it.

Samsung mobile price in Uae

on **February 1, 2014 at 9:55 PM** said:

I'm not sure where you are getting your information, but great topic. I needs to spend some time learning much more or understanding more.

Thanks for magnificent information I was looking for this information for my mission.

money illusion

on **February 1, 2014 at 10:34 PM** said:

Hi there, yup this piece of writing is in fact fastidious and I have learned lot of things from it concerning blogging. thanks.

cash flow youtube

on **February 2, 2014 at 12:59 PM** said:

Good article! We will be linking to this particularly great article on our website. Keep up the great writing.

earn online legit

on **February 2, 2014 at 10:45 PM** said:

great submit, very informative. I wonder why the other specialists of this sector do not notice this. You should continue your writing. I'm sure, you have a huge readers' base already!

notch pepper spray garmin nuvi mountains luxor robotics trex gulf shores hotels detroit movers 53 bank live quotes petmed civilization olympia washington satellite phones white plains new york sound cards university of hawaii lockers rcn com scottsdale ho

on **February 3, 2014 at 8:35 AM** said:

What's up to every one, it's in fact a pleasant for me to go to see this web site, it includes useful Information.

personal loan apply

on **February 3, 2014 at 12:06 PM** said:

Good day! Do you know if they make any plugins to protect against hackers? I'm kinda paranoid about losing everything I've worked hard on. Any tips?

starting an internet business

on **February 3, 2014 at 3:49 PM** said:

Howdy great blog! Does running a blog similar to this take a large amount of work? I have no knowledge of computer programming but I was hoping to start my own blog in the near future. Anyhow, if you have any suggestions or tips for new blog owners please share. I know this is off subject nevertheless I just had to ask. Appreciate it!

Sammie

on **February 3, 2014 at 6:10 PM** said:

I was wondering if you ever thought of changing the structure of your website? Its very well written; I love what youve got to say. But maybe you could a little more in the way of content so people could connect with it better. Youve got an awful lot of text for only having 1 or 2 pictures. Maybe you could space it out better?

advertising research foundation

on **February 3, 2014 at 9:09 PM** said:

It's going to be finish of mine day, except before ending I am reading this enormous article to increase my know-how.

Jannie

on **February 3, 2014 at 10:52 PM** said:

Hi to every one, the contents present at this web page are actually awesome for people experience, well, keep up the nice work fellows.

mobile marketing exchange

on **February 4, 2014 at 12:53 PM** said:

Howdy! I know this is kinda off topic however , I'd figured I'd ask. Would you be interested in trading links or maybe guest writing a blog post or vice-versa? My site covers a lot of the same subjects as yours and I believe we could greatly benefit from each other. If you are interested feel free to shoot me an e-mail. I look forward to hearing from you! Fantastic blog by the way!

Annetta

on **February 4, 2014 at 3:38 PM** said:

An outstanding share! I have just forwarded this onto a co-worker who had been doing a little homework on this. And he in fact bought me lunch simply because I discovered it for him... lol. So let me reword this.... Thank YOU for the meal! But yeah, thanks for spending the time to discuss this subject here on your blog.

pathway Profits-online ed 4 e commerce

on **February 4, 2014 at 7:12 PM** said:

Very soon this web page will be famous amid all blogging people, due to it's good articles

how to make money from home

on **February 4, 2014 at 10:19 PM** said:

It's a shame you don't have a donate button! I'd definitely donate to this outstanding blog! I guess for now i'll settle for bookmarking and adding your RSS feed to my Google account. I look forward to fresh updates and will talk about this site with my Facebook group. Chat soon!

Christal

on **February 5, 2014 at 4:51 AM** said:

Everything is very open with a very clear explanation of the challenges. It was really informative.

Your site is very helpful. Thank you for sharing!

Stocks Ready To Split

on **February 5, 2014 at 4:59 AM** said:

This is the right web site for anyone who really wants to find out about this topic. You know so much its almost tough to argue with you (not that I actually would want to...HaHa). You definitely put a brand new spin on a subject which has been written about for a long time. Wonderful stuff, just excellent!

Augusta

on **February 5, 2014 at 2:23 PM** said:

Great blog! Do you have any tips and hints for aspiring writers? I'm hoping to start my own site soon but I'm a little lost on everything. Would you advise starting with a free platform like WordPress or go for a paid option? There are so many choices out there that I'm completely overwhelmed .. Any ideas? Thanks a lot!

money zen app

on **February 5, 2014 at 6:45 PM** said:

These are genuinely impressive ideas in about blogging.

You have touched some nice things here. Any way keep up writing.