

# Asia's rich and poor

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# Asia's inequality

- Growth with equity

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- Asia's inequality has increased over the past decades or so in 15 of the 21 countries

# Gini coefficient

- 0 means perfect equality, 1 is perfect inequality
- China: 0.41 in 1993, 0.47 in 2004
- Brazil: 0.57

## Differences in measurement

- Latin America are based on income those in Asia are mainly based on expenditure
- the income coefficient is typically a fifth higher than that based on expenditure.
- If so, China's income coefficient will become  $0.47 \times 1.2 = 0.56$ , almost the same as Brazil

# Main cause of inequality in China

- the differing fortunes of rural and urban households
- widening gap between those with and without skills

# Poverty if falling

- poverty: the number of people living on less than \$1 a day
- China: 28% (poor vs. total population ratio) in 1993 to 11% in 2004

# Does rising inequality matter

so long as poverty is falling?

## 日治初期米價騰貴

- 高淑媛 (2006), “日本統治台灣初期之米價騰貴問題”
- 米價上升, 時「地方紳商頻頻向總督府陳情」... 「米價日昂一日, 貧民殊甚吃苦也」... 建議「出示米價, 嚴禁出港」(嘉義城, 1896.4)
- 「出示嚴禁外運台灣米粟, 並將每上粟 10 石定為金 15 大圓」(嘉義城, 1897.3)
- 地方紳商為何如此關心米價與貧民?