

## **The Regional Structure of Japanese Industry and the Kanto Industrial Area**

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In the postwar Japan, a high level of heavy-chemical-industry has been built by an intense capital accumulation, leaving light-industry and agriculture in low levels, and centralization of the heavy chemical industry in a local area has developed itself as well. This paper, through analyses of basic statistics on the regional structure of Japanese industry, has come to conclusions as follows.

(1) In the postwar period, the Keihin industrial area which was formed in the prewar period has expanded to Kanto district, and the Kanto industrial area, concentrating 36% of all employees in the heavy chemical industry, has been formed as a centre of Japanese industry.

(2) In the Kanto industrial area huge industrial establishments containing 1,000 employees or more have been concentrated, and the spread of these establishments has formed the skeleton of industry of this area in two lines—(a) material industries (iron and steel, petroleum, chemical industry, and so on) have been centralized on the shore of the Tokyo-Bay, (b) mechanical industries have expanded to inland prefectures.

(3) The Kanto industrial area, bringing in materials from areas all over the country, and raising density of the trade within its own area, acts as a main axis of production and circulation of the Japanese heavy chemical industry.