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**A REVIEW ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC  
DISPARITIES IN CHINA IN RECENT 10 YEARS**

**ОБЗОР РАЗВИТИЯ РЕГИОНАЛЬНЫХ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКИХ  
ДИСПРОПОРЦИЙ В КИТАЕ ЗА ПОСЛЕДНИЕ 10 ЛЕТ**



**Guo Yongchao**, 2-year postgraduate student, Smolensk State University, Xinxiang South Taihang travel Co. LTD. Xinxiang City, Henan Province, China

**Го Юнчао**, аспирант 2 курса Смоленского государственного университета, Xinxiang South Taihang travel Co. LTD. Город Синьсян, провинция Хэнань, Китай

**Abstract.** With the rapid development of China's economy, regional economic differences have become a hotspot in social research. This paper collects literatures on China's regional economic disparities from 2012 to 2021, and summarizes them from five aspects: research scale, research method, evolution of regional economic disparities, influencing factors and countermeasures.

**Аннотация.** С быстрым развитием экономики Китая региональные

экономические различия стали горячей точкой в социальных исследованиях.

В этом документе собрана литература о региональных экономических диспропорциях Китая с 2012 по 2021 год и обобщена по пяти аспектам: масштаб исследования, метод исследования, эволюция региональных экономических диспропорций, влияющие факторы и контрмеры.

**Keywords:** China, regional economic differences, the research reviewed

**Ключевые слова:** Китай, региональные экономические различия, обзор исследований

In 1978, China carried out “reform and opening up” and entered a period of rapid economic development, with some regions rapidly leading the economy. However, with the progress of science and technology, economic development and industrial reform, China's regional economic differences are increasingly obvious, becoming the focus of social attention. This paper will sort out the research literature on China's regional economic disparities in the past 10 years from the following five aspects.

### **Research Scale**

Most of the literatures analyzed regional economic differences from the national level, and some scholars studied them from the economic zone, provincial level, city and county level (Table 1).

Table 1. Research scale of some scholars

No.	Author	Time	Research scale
1	Li Yu	2013	Eastern and western regions
2	Wang Zhichen	2020	Six provinces in central China
3	Wang Kun	2012	Western China
4	Sun Jianping	2021	Five port groups
5	Gu Lili	2015	13 provinces of major grain-producing areas
6	Zhuang Yun	2020	Mainland China
7	Liu Zezhao	2015	Key cities along the "Silk Road Economic Belt" in China
8	Song Yangyang	2017	Yunnan Province
9	Liu Jing	2012	Hei Longjiang Province
10	Hua Mingfang	2017	State-level poverty-stricken counties

### Research Methods

Most literatures use the combination of qualitative and quantitative research, using economic coefficient, spatial model and other methods for data analysis.

Zhang Weishi (2012) provided a new perspective to explain the generation mechanism of China's regional disparities based on the theoretical analysis framework of soft input. Guan Xingliang (2012), based on the connotation and characterization method of spatial field energy, discussed the spatio-temporal characteristics of the three regions in China. Zhang Li (2014) empirically tested the

relationship between institutional quality and regional economic growth differences in China by using unit root test, co-integration test and Granger causality test.

Sun Jiuwen (2014) used standard deviation coefficient, coefficient of variation, Gini coefficient, Theil index and geographically weighted regression model (GWR) to analyze the evolution law of regional economic development differences in China from 1978 to 2012. Peng Xin (2015) used Gini coefficient, Mann-Kendall, Markov chain, spatial autocorrelation, spatial error model and geographically weighted regression method to conduct a phased study on China's regional economic differences. Feng Changchun (2015) used Theil index second-order decomposition and ESDA spatial statistical method to explore the spatio-temporal evolution of regional economic differences in China. Li Qiang (2021) analyzed the evolution characteristics and driving mechanism of China's economic development pattern from 2000 to 2018 by using multiple temporal and spatial analysis methods including imbalance index, coefficient of variation, Natural Breaks (Jenks) classification, ESDA and geographic detector model.

Jiang Xiaojun (2019) measured the time series evolution and scale nesting characteristics of regional economic differences at different spatial scales with comprehensive index model, difference index model and scale nesting model.

### **Influencing factors**

Through sorting out the research literature, it is found that there are many factors leading to regional economic differences in China, including location

resources, policy system, scientific and technological innovation, capital, industrial transfer and other factors.

### **3.1 Location Resources**

Cai Jingfeng (2015) put forward spatio-temporal difference is the internal reasons for the difficult balanced development of regional economy. He Xionglang (2013) pointed out that the factors promoting economic development mainly lie in the quality of factor endowment.

### **3.2 Policy System**

Han Fuguo (2012) conducted multidimensional data analysis on the finalists of the five China Local Government Innovation Awards (2001-2010) and found that administrative reform was significantly correlated with economic growth. Huang Hui (2013), Zhang Li (2014) and Yang Dongmei (2016) believe that institutional differences are an important reason for regional economic growth differences in China. Zhang Pengfei (2018) pointed out that different economic policy orientations among regions determine regional differences in economic growth performance.

### **3.3 Scientific and technological innovation**

Qi Weina (2014) found that the increase of R&D expenditure and technology market turnover had a positive effect on the economy. Li Zaijun (2017) pointed out that the difference in comprehensive innovation ability has a great overall impact on economic difference. Ye Xiuqun (2015) showed that technological innovation and the improvement of higher education had an obvious positive promoting effect

on regional economic growth.

### **3.4 Capital**

Lin Muxi (2012) found that social capital has a significant impact on regional growth differences. Zhang Jiazi (2015) believes that foreign direct investment is an important reason for the difference in regional economic development in China, while Chen Yuanyuan (2014) believes that domestic investment has the greatest force on regional economy.

Empirical studies by Wang Hanfeng (2018) and Tang Shenlu (2019) show that FDI has a direct impact on regional economic disparities in China, and domestic investment is an important force to promote economic growth.

### **3.5 Industrial transfer**

The results of Zhuang Yun (2019) show that the transformation of regional development strategy and industrial transfer play an important role in narrowing China's regional economic differences. Li Jingjing (2019) points out that industrial transfer can promote China's regional economic growth and reduce the imbalance of regional economic.

### **3.6 Other Factors**

In addition to the above influencing factors, some scholars also put forward other influencing factors, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Other factors of some scholars

No.	Author	Research conclusion
1	Li Feng	Internet development promoted regional economic convergence in China.
2	Nie Zhengyan	logistics industry has a significant positive impact on China's economic growth.
3	Wang Defa	The development of the second board market narrowed regional economic growth disparities.
4	Xie Junyi	The contradiction of regional interests is also the factor.
5	Deng Kangqi	There is a two-way causal relationship between regional credit disparity and regional economic disparity.

### Strategy

In view of the current regional economic differences in China, various scholars put forward suggestions and strategies, mainly focusing on the following aspects: First, policy support, change ideas and actively seek development; Secondly, regional integration to improve urban agglomeration spatial governance system; Thirdly, Strengthening infrastructure construction to lay a foundation for coordinated development; Fourth, pay attention to personnel training and enhance the driving force of regional economic development.

### **Conclusion**

Through combing the literature on the development of regional economic disparities in China in recent 10 years, it is found that the research scale is wide and the research methods are diverse. However, in the economic development of various regions, scientific and reasonable measures should be taken to ensure the coordinated development of different regions.

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