

讲义

Latin American growth

拉丁美洲的增长

A land of useless workers

一片无用工人的土地

Why are Latin Americans so strikingly unproductive?

为什么拉美人的生产力如此低下?

选自: The Economist June 10th 2023 edition The Americas

In 1962 Latin America's income per person was three times that of East Asia. By 2012 both regions had the same level. By 2022 East Asia's was roughly 40% higher than Latin America's. When the differences in purchasing power are taken into account, Latin Americans' GDP per person has been stuck at little more than a quarter of that of their neighbours in the United States for the last three decades. According to the World Bank, between 2010 and 2020 Latin America was the world's slowest-growing regional economy.

1962年,拉丁美洲的人均收入是东亚的三倍。到2012年,这两个地区有同样的人均收入水平。到2022年,东亚的人均收入比拉丁美洲高出约40%。如果考虑到购买力的差异,在过去三十年里,拉丁美洲的人均GDP一直停留在其邻国美国的四分之一多一点。根据世界银行的数据,2010年至2020年期间,拉丁美洲是世界上增长最慢的区域经济体。

【词汇】

1. **strikingly** /'straɪkɪŋli/ adv. 考研 in a way that is interesting and unusual enough to attract attention 引人注目的地; 异乎寻常地; 显著地

例: The two polls produced strikingly different results.

两次投票产生的结果截然不同。

2. **unproductive** /,ʌnpɹə'dʌktɪv/ adj. not producing very much; not producing good results 产量少的; 效果不佳的; 无益的

例: The movement is known for occupying farms it considers unproductive, and offering them to landless workers.

据悉这场运动占领它认为不高产的农场, 将之送给无地工人。

3. **stuck** /stʌk/ adj. 考研 in an unpleasant situation or place that you cannot escape from 陷(入); 困(于)

例: Many home sellers remain stuck in a recessionary rut.

许多房屋的卖主仍然陷在经济衰退的困境中。

【词组】

1. **purchasing power**: money that people have available to buy goods with (人民的) 购买力

例: The cost of houses has risen faster than purchasing power.

房屋成本的上涨速度快于购买力。

2. **take into account**: to consider particular facts, circumstances, etc. when making a decision about something 考虑到; 顾及

例: Coursework is taken into account as well as exam results.

除考试结果外, 课程作业也要计入成绩。

Now things are set to get even worse. Growth is expected to be 1.9% in 2023 and stay below 2% for 2024, compared with over 4% on average in other emerging markets. The World Bank also predicts that Latin America will remain at the bottom of the pack in terms of economic growth per person until 2030. The pandemic hit Latin America hard: it had the highest number of excess deaths of any region between March 2020 and October 2021. Since then, economic recovery has stalled.

现在情况将变得更加糟糕。预计拉丁美洲 2023 年的增长率为 1.9%，2024 年将保持在 2% 以下，而其他新兴市场的平均增长率超过 4%。世界银行还预测，直至 2023 年，拉丁美洲的人均经济增长仍将垫底。疫情对拉丁美洲的打击很大：在 2020 年 3 月至 2021 年 10 月期间，拉丁美洲的超额死亡人数是所有地区中最高的。从那时起，经济复苏停滞不前。

【词汇】

1. **pack** /pæk/ n. 四级 高考 考研 all the people who are behind the leaders in a race, competition, etc. (统称) 竞赛中的落后者

例: measures aimed at keeping the company ahead of the pack

旨在使公司领先所有竞争对手的措施

2. **stall** /stɔ:l/ v. 六级 考研 雅思 to stop something from happening until a later date; to stop making progress 暂缓; 搁置; 停顿

例: Growth has stalled, the currency is digesting a 32% devaluation in February and inflation is likely to reach 30%.

增长停滞,二月份货币贬值 32%,通货膨胀率有可能达到 30%。

【词组】

1. **be set to** : likely to do something; ready for something or to do something 有可能的; 做好准备的

例: Interest rates look set to rise again.

看样子利率又要提高了。

【特殊名称】

1. **excess death** : The difference between the actual number of deaths and the expected number of deaths in a specific period of time, usually used to assess the impact of natural disasters, epidemics and other events on population mortality. 超额死亡

指在特定时间段内实际死亡人数与预期死亡人数之间的差值,通常用于评估自然灾害、疫情等事件对人口死亡率的影响。

Why are Latin American economies in such bad shape? The region is not short of workers, one reason often given for a **sluggish** economy. Latin America's population growth has been among the strongest in the world. Some of the places with the slowest-growing economies, such as Brazil and Mexico, have had the biggest population **spurts**. Over the past 30 years the working age population of the region has more than doubled. The ratio of workers to **dependents** continues to rise and is not expected to peak until 2030. By contrast China hit its peak in 2011.

为什么拉丁美洲的经济状况如此糟糕? 该地区并不缺乏工人,而工人缺乏是经济低迷的一个常见原因。拉美的人口增长一直是世界上最强劲的之一。一些经济增长最慢的地方,如巴西和墨西哥,却有最大幅度的人口激增。在过去 30 年里,该地区的劳动年龄人口增加了一倍多。工人与受抚养人的比例继续上升,预计到 2030 年才会达到顶峰。相比之下,中国在 2011 年就达到了峰值。

【词汇】

1. **sluggish** /'slʌɡɪʃ/ adj. GRE GMAT 专八 雅思 托福 moving, reacting or working more slowly than normal 缓慢的; 迟缓的

例: Large cuts in real wages help explain why the jobs market has hummed along in an otherwise sluggish economy.

实际工资大削减有助于解释为什么就业市场在萧条的经济中仍高歌猛进。

2. **spurt** /spɜ:rt/ n. 托福 a sudden increase in speed, effort, activity or emotion for a short period of time 短时间激

增, 迸发

3. **dependent** /dɪ'pendənt/ n. 四级 考研 a person, especially a child, who depends on another person for a home, food, money, etc. 受抚养者 (尤指孩子); 靠他人生活者

Weak investment is one possible cause of low productivity. If policymakers and firms do not **plough** capital **into** new technology, infrastructure and education, workers lag behind their competitors. Latin America invests the **equivalent** of just 20% of its regional GDP, compared with 25% of GDP for the average emerging market.

投资不力是生产力低下的一个可能原因。如果政策制定者和企业不把资本投入到新技术、基础设施和教育中,工人就会落后于他们的竞争对手。拉丁美洲的投资仅相当于其地区 GDP 的 20%, 而新兴市场的平均投资额为 GDP 的 25%。

【词汇】

1. **equivalent** /ɪ'kwɪvələnt/ n. 四级 六级 GRE GMAT 考研 a thing, amount, word, etc. that is equal in value, meaning or purpose to something else 相等的东西; 等量; 对应词

【词组】

1. **plough ... into**: to invest a large amount of money in a company or project 把 (大批资金) 投入; 大量投资于
例: The government has ploughed more than \$20 billion into building new schools.
政府已投放 200 多亿美元兴建新学校。

In any case the **IMF** thinks that blaming investment for slow growth mixes up cause with effect. According to its analysis, it is Latin America's low growth that has caused its low investment. Domestic investment relies on household savings, which the region's workers have relatively little of due to their low wages. And foreign capital is scarce because investors think putting their money elsewhere will **yield** a better return.

无论如何, 国际货币基金组织认为, 将增长缓慢归咎于投资, 是混淆了因果关系。根据其分析, 是拉丁美洲的低增长造成了其低投资。国内投资依赖于家庭储蓄, 而该地区的工人由于工资低, 储蓄相对较少。而外国资本是稀缺的, 因为投资者认为把钱投到其他地方会获得更好的回报。

【词汇】

1. **yield** /ji:ld/ v. 四级 GMAT 考研 to produce or provide something, for example a profit, result or crop 出产（作物）；产生（收益、效益等）；提供

例：Higher-rate deposit accounts yield good returns.

高利率的存款会产生丰厚的收益。

【特殊名称】

1. **IMF** : International Monetary Fund 国际货币基金组织（联合国专门机构，关注贸易和经济的发展） (the organization within the United Nations that is concerned with trade and economic development)

Instead, several long-term trends contribute to Latin America's productivity problem. One is education. Before covid-19 Latin American 15-year-olds were, on average, three years behind their peers in the OECD on science, maths and English tests. This gap is likely to be worse now: according to UNICEF, the UN's children's fund, schools in Latin America and the Caribbean had some of the longest lockdowns, remaining fully closed for 158 days from March 2020 to February 2021, compared with the global average of 95 days.

相反，几个长期趋势导致了拉丁美洲的生产力问题。一个是教育。在新冠疫情之前，拉丁美洲 15 岁的孩子科学、数学和英语考试中平均比经合组织的同龄人落后三年。这一差距现在可能会更大：根据 UNICEF(联合国儿童基金会)的数据，拉丁美洲和加勒比地区的一些学校停课时间最长，从 2020 年 3 月到 2021 年 2 月全面关闭了 158 天，而全球平均水平为 95 天。

【词汇】

1. **Caribbean** /,kæri'bi:ən/, /kə'rɪbiən/ n. the region consisting of the Caribbean Sea and its islands, including the West Indies, and the coasts that surround it 加勒比海地区（指加勒比海及其岛屿，包括西印度群岛及其周围海岸）

【特殊名称】

1. **UNICEF** : United Nations Children's Fund 联合国儿童基金会 (an organization within the United Nations that helps to take care of the health and education of children all over the world)

【长难句】

according to UNICEF, the UN's children's fund, schools in Latin America and the Caribbean had some of the longest

lockdowns, remaining fully closed for 158 days from March 2020 to February 2021, compared with the global average of 95 days.

句子主干部分为 schools in Latin America and the Caribbean had some of the longest lockdowns, 意为: 拉丁美洲和加勒比地区的一些学校停课时间最长

according to UNICEF 为状语, 意为: 根据 UNICEF 的数据

the UN's children's fund 为同位语, 补充说明 UNICEF, 意为: 联合国儿童基金会

remaining fully closed for 158 days from March 2020 to February 2021 为伴随状语, 意为: 从 2020 年 3 月到 2021 年 2 月全面关闭了 158 天

compared with the global average of 95 days 是比较状语, 意为: 而全球平均水平为 95 天

A second problem is that the region has lots of oligopolies. In Chile the 50 biggest firms account for more than 70% of GDP. In Colombia state-owned conglomerates account for 25% of the revenue of the largest 100 businesses. Latin American firms enjoy bigger markups than those in the rest of the OECD. Governments make the problem worse, often cordoning off industries from potential new entrants or pushing up costs with red tape. In the absence of disruption, which takes away pressure to innovate, old, unproductive firms survive. Over the last three decades Latin American countries have, on average, got far less diverse in terms of what they produce, with exports coming from less-productive industries, according to Shannon O'Neil, of the Council on Foreign Relations, an American think-tank.

第二个问题是, 该地区有大量寡头垄断企业。在智利, 50 家最大的公司占到 GDP 的 70% 以上。在哥伦比亚, 国有企业集团占最大 100 家企业收入的 25%。拉丁美洲的企业比经合组织其他国家的企业享有更高的利润。政府使问题变得更糟, 经常封锁行业, 不让潜在的新企业进入, 或者用繁文缛节推高成本。在没有干扰的情况下, 创新的压力消失了, 旧有的、低生产力的公司得以生存。美国智库外交关系委员会的 Shannon O'Neil 表示, 在过去三十年里, 拉丁美洲国家生产的产品多样性平均而言大大降低, 出口产品来自生产力较低的行业。

【词汇】

1. **oligopoly** /ˌɑːlɪˈɡɑːpəli/, /ˌɒlɪˈɡɑːpəli/ n. a market in which there are only a few companies producing or selling a product or service. This can result in less competition and higher prices for customers. 寡头垄断
2. **markup** /ˈmɑːkʌp/ n. an increase in the price of something based on the difference between the cost of producing it and the price it is sold at 涨价; 利润

3. **entrant** /'entrənt/ n. GMAT 专八 a company that starts operating in an area of business where other companies already operate 进入者: 在其他公司已经经营的业务领域开始经营的公司

【词组】

1. **cordon off**: to stop people from getting into an area by surrounding it with police, soldiers, etc. 包围, 警戒, 封锁
例: Gunfire followed as police quickly cordon off the area, which is close to a number of embassies.

爆炸发生后响起了枪声, 警方迅速封锁了位于大使馆附近的案发地。

2. **red tape**: official rules that seem more complicated than necessary and prevent things from being done quickly 繁文缛节; 官僚作风

例: You have to go through endless red tape to get a residence permit.

你必须经过无休止的繁琐手续才能得到居留许可。

【长难句】

Over the last three decades Latin American countries have, on average, got far less diverse in terms of what they produce, with exports coming from less-productive industries, according to Shannon O' Neil, of the Council on Foreign Relations, an American think-tank.

句子主干部分为 Latin American countries have got far less diverse in terms of what they produce, 意为: 拉丁美洲国家生产的产品多样性平均而言大大降

Over the last three decades 为时间状语, 意为: 在过去三十年里

on average 为状语, 意为: 平均而言

with exports coming from less-productive industries 为伴随状语, 意为: 出口产品来自生产力较低的行业

according to Shannon O' Neil 是状语, 意为: Shannon O'Neil 表示

of the Council on Foreign Relations 为后置定语, 修饰限定 Shannon O' Neil, 意为: 外交关系委员会的 (Shannon O'Neil)

an American think-tank 为同位语, 补充说明 the Council on Foreign Relations, 意为: 美国智库

Latin America needs an economic-policy **rethink**. On the one hand, Latin America's **riches** of **copper**, rare-earth minerals and lithium have sparked interest from **multinationals**. The **trick** will be getting these big companies to convert their interest from the region's

拉丁美洲需要对经济政策进行反思。一方面, 拉丁美洲丰富的铜、稀土矿物和锂引发了跨国公司的兴趣。诀窍是让这些大公司将其兴趣从该地区的资源转向其产业。拉美各国政府希望迫使前来

resources to its industries. Latin American governments want to force companies that come for their minerals to refine them in the region, and then build batteries and electric vehicles there.

购买矿物的公司在该地区提炼这些矿物,然后在那里制造电池和电动汽车。

【词汇】

1. **rethink** /,ri:'θɪŋk/ n. an act of thinking again about an idea, a course of action, etc., especially in order to change it
重新考虑
 2. **riches** /'rɪtʃɪz/ n. large amounts of money and valuable or beautiful possessions 财富; 财产
 3. **copper** /'kɒ:pər/ n. 四级 GMAT 考研 (symbol Cu) a chemical element. Copper is a soft red-brown metal used for making electric wires, pipes and coins. 铜
 4. **multinational** /,mʌlti'næʃnəl/, /,mʌltɑɪ'næʃnəl/ n. 考研 专八 a company that operates in several different countries, especially a large and powerful company 跨国公司
 5. **trick** /trɪk/ n. 四级 高考 考研 a way of doing something that works well; a good method 技巧; 诀窍; 窍门
- 例: Tiffany revamped her sitting room with simple decorative tricks.

蒂法尼采用简单的装饰技巧将起居室翻新。

But doing so will require **shrewd** policymaking and a better business environment to make companies stay. A smaller informal sector and more competition would go a long way towards achieving that goal. If they do not grasp these opportunities now, policymakers are at risk of **ushering in** a new decade of sluggish growth—and **yet** another slogan to describe it.

但要做到这一点,需要精明的政策制定和更好的商业环境以使企业留下来。规模较小的非正规部门和更多的竞争将对实现这一目标有很大的帮助。如果政策制定者现在不抓住这些机会,就有可能迎来一个新的增长缓慢的十年——以及另一个描述它的口号。

【词汇】

1. **shrewd** /ʃru:d/ adj. GRE GMAT 考研 专八 雅思 托福 clever at understanding and making judgements about a situation 精明的; 敏锐的; 有眼光的; 精于盘算的

例: He was a shrewd lawyer with a talent for uncovering paper trails of fraud.

他是个精明强干的律师,能从一连串文件中找出诈骗的蛛丝马迹。

<同义替换>astute

2. **yet** /jet/ adv. 四级 高考 考研 used to emphasize an increase in number or amount or the number of times something happens (强调次数或数量的增加)

例: She was undernourished, an observation that prompted yet another unasked question.

她营养不良, 这个观察引出了另一个未提出的问题。

【词组】

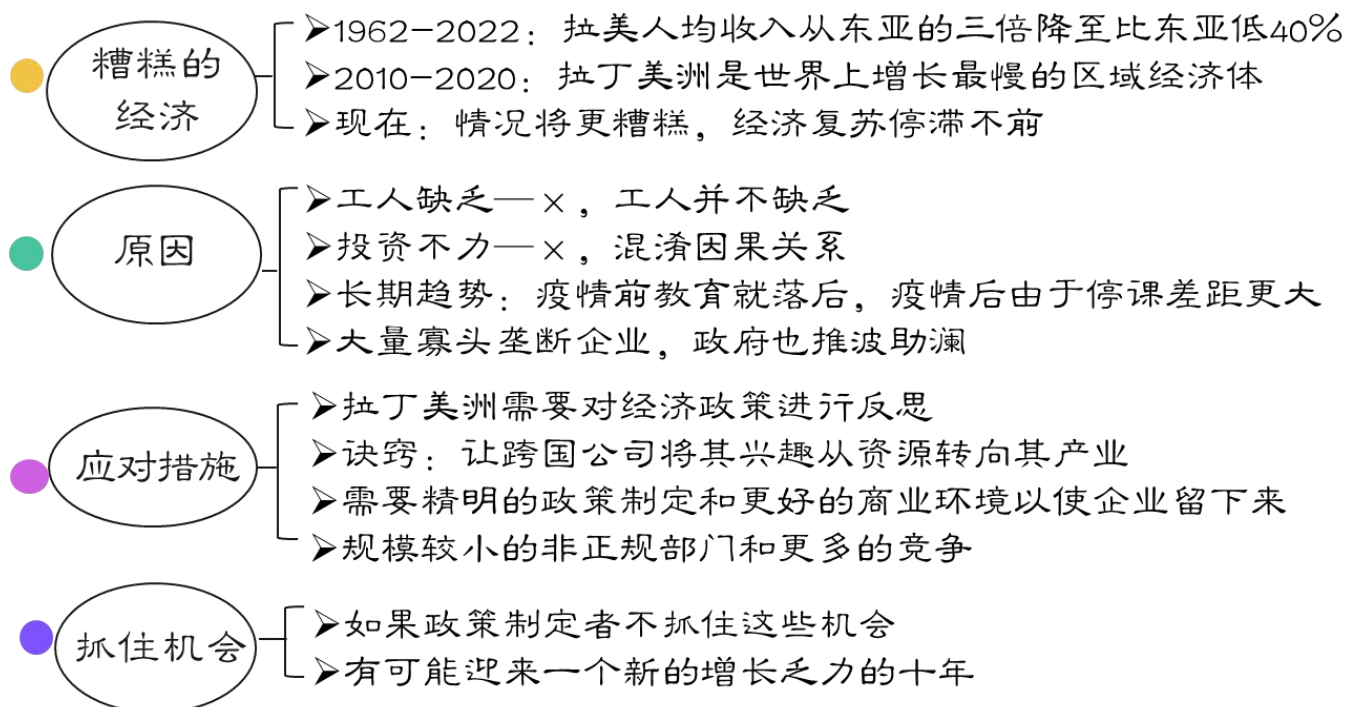
1. **usher in** : to be the beginning of something new or to make something new begin 开创; 开始; 开启

例: The change of management ushered in fresh ideas and policies.

更换领导班子带来了新思想和新政策。

总结

1) 文章架构



2) 同义替换

✓ 缓慢的

sluggish

policymakers are at risk of ushering in a new decade of sluggish growth

政策制定者有可能迎来一个新的增长缓慢的十年

slow

blaming investment for slow growth

将增长缓慢归咎于投资

其他: tardy/dilatory

例: The boss is unsatisfied with the tardy tempo.

老板不满于这种缓慢的进度。

✓ 稀缺; 缺乏

short

The region is not short of workers

该地区并不缺乏工人

scarce

And foreign capital is scarce

而外国资本是稀缺的

其他: lacking/deficient/devoid/scanty

例: What is lacking is an insight into the particularity of our societal system.

缺乏的正是对我们社会制度特殊性的洞察。

3) 一词多义✓ **stuck**

✓ 文章原句: Latin Americans' GDP per person has been stuck at little more than a quarter of that 拉丁美洲人的人均 GDP 一直停留在四分之一多一点

✓ 释义:

① **in an unpleasant situation or place that you cannot escape from** 陷(入); 困(于)

Many home sellers remain stuck in a recessionary rut.

许多房屋的卖主仍然陷在经济衰退的困境中。

② **unable to move or to be moved** 动不了; 无法移动; 卡住; 陷住

She got the key stuck in the lock.

她把钥匙卡在锁里了。

③ **unable to answer or understand something** 被难住; 答不上来; 卡壳

They used the dictionary when they got stuck on words.

他们被生词难住时就查阅字典。

④ **unable to get rid of somebody/something that you do not want** 摆脱不了; 甩不掉

I was stuck with him for the whole journey.

一路上我一直没能摆脱他。

✓ **pack**

✓ 文章原句: Latin America will remain at the bottom of the pack 拉丁美洲仍将垫底

✓ 释义:

① **all the people who are behind the leaders in a race, competition, etc.** (统称) 竞赛中的落后者

measures aimed at keeping the company ahead of the pack

旨在使公司领先所有竞争对手的措施

② **a container, usually made of paper, that holds a number of the same thing or an amount of something, ready to be sold** (商品的) 纸包, 纸袋, 纸盒

You can buy the envelopes in packs of ten.

你可以整沓地买信封, 每沓十个。

③ **a set of different things that are supplied together for a particular purpose** 全套东西

Send for your free information pack today.

今天就来信索取免费资讯包。

④ **a large bag that you carry on your back** 大背包

We passed a group of walkers, carrying huge packs.

我们与一批背着超大行囊的步行者擦肩而过。

4) 仿写训练

✓ 描述导致问题的原因

✓ 文章原句:

Instead, several long-term trends contribute to Latin America's productivity problem. One is education. Before covid-19 Latin American 15-year-olds were, on average, three years behind their peers in the OECD on science, maths and English tests... A second problem is that the region has lots of oligopolies...

✓ 句型:

... contribute to ... problem. ...导致了...问题

One is ... 一个是...

A second problem is ... 第二个问题是...

✓ 仿写示例:

Several factors contribute to mental health problems in adolescents. One is their study. Students are overburdened with studies and under too much pressure, which to a certain extent deprives adolescents of the time and space necessary for their overall physical and mental health development. A second problem is the family. Family is the most important place in the life of an adolescent and can also have an impact on his or her psychological development.

✓ 仿写作业——描述导致中国环境问题的原因

多个原因导致了中国的环境问题。

一个是来自人口的压力。这构成了对中国生态环境的最大威胁。

第二个问题是，中国的工业化起步晚，起点低，且面临快速发展的重任。人们很容易重视近利，失之远虑，以损害环境为代价追求经济的繁荣。

5) 主题词总结

今日主题——经济	
1. purchasing power	购买力
2. regional economy	区域经济
3. emerging market	新兴市场
4. economic growth	经济增长
5. economic recovery	经济复苏
6. investment	投资
7. productivity	生产力
8. markup	利润