

Book Reviews

Discovering Statistics Using SPSS

Sage Publications
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Second Edition

The idea of writing Book review on the book "Discovering Statistics Using SPSS" by Andy field came to my mind when one day I was talking to one of my Phd student, who was very afraid of data analysis, as she was not from mathematical background. When I was doing my Phd somebody suggested me this book and I find it extremely helpful. This is an excellent book for researchers who are beginners and is extremely valuable for those who are afraid of mathematical calculations and statistics. The Book contains sixteen chapters in total and each chapter is explained in a story form so as to make it easy for the readers who have begun with the research yet not much familiar with the intricacies of it. Andy has been quiet successful in explaining the so called heavy subject with light explanations.

Chapter 1 focuses on understanding the basic

terminology of statistics as to make a strong foundation for understanding the rest of the book and further analysis. Chapter 2 meets the fundamental need of research beginners and it focuses on basics of software SPSS. As many beginners might not be aware of the procedure for entering data and creating variable in SPSS and so on. This chapter seems like making a child understand how to write A, B, C in SPSS, as simply explained.

Chapter 3 goes a little ahead, while still playing with data continues in the chapter, the major focus is on exploring variables and understanding nature of data and categorizing it into parametric and non parametric data and also understanding the hypotheses. After beautifully explaining the variables and their nature, next part of the book deals with understanding relations among the variables through correlation and regression. From simplest linear regression to complex logistic regression has been simplified with examples. I couldn't find any other book explaining this analysis in

simplest form. Further the book extends on explaining hypothesis testing using both parametric and non parametric tests along with Multivariate Analysis including Factor Analysis and MANOVA. Factor Analysis has been dealt with great depth but only focus is on Exploratory factor Analysis. To summaries, those who want to understand the basics of research and those who are at the initial stages of research and for those who requires intricate analyses, this book can be of extreme help.

The book has been very well planned and starts with the basics and ends with in depth analysis using the social science package SPSS. The chapters are easily explained with small quizzes at the end, so as to make the readers recall of their readings and also bibliographic part is magnificent.

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Old Europe and New Asia Strategies, Challenges, Responses

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Disintegration of Soviet Union accompanied by weakening of United States hegemony has transmuted the world into a relative multipolar system. Europe and Asia have emerged as the two most significant poles under this framework. Against the backdrop this book delves on the various contemporary interactions between Europe, specifically the European Union, and the emerging prominent economies of Asia, particularly China and India. It compares Asian economies with that of European Union in terms of strategic partnership, the prevailing economic and financial crises, climate change, political environment and the existing institutional reforms. It also highlights the difficulties encountered in this partnership and emphasizes on the fact that Asia and Europe could be natural partners if they overcome their internal weaknesses. This book explores the limitations of the present in Europe-Asian relations, and the potential for the future.

The ending of cold war era accompanied by disintegration of soviet union which was in itself a watershed moment from the global prospective, it's direct consequence was that it allowed scope for different economies of world to make a headway in the global economy. Europe and Asia grabber this moment and emerged as two most significant poles of the transformations. Their importance was further accentuated by the weakening of US hegemony. It ultimately transmuted the world into a relative multi polar system.

The author gives a detailed account of the strategic partnership between Europe and Asia in 12 Chapters. The foreword to the book has been written by Wang Yiwei. He is a former diplomat, presently Professor of International Studies at Renmin University, Director of Institute of International Affairs, Director of centre of European studies, and the Director of the China - European Academic Network.

He mentions that the book provides a 'candid examination' of the present opportunities and Challenges of Europe and Asian Strategic Relations. He commentates that Europe has 'slipped from the centre stage to the periphery' of the International Relations because of the ongoing Euro zone crisis and thus it is beneficial for Europe to establish

closer economic ties with Asia. He emphasized that if Europe overcomes the remnants of its negative colonial legacy and American Influence, it could reinvent itself as a significant world player by building closer ties with Asian economies.

Chapter 1-The book begins with a chapter on "Europe and the globalized world." The chapter discusses the legitimacy of European Union as an international player at world forums. It brings to light the fact that the individual players like Germany and France are not willing to give up their candidature for European Union to step in their shoes. It author warns the nation states in European Union of the fact that if they fail to cooperate in making European Union (EU) a world leader, they would become mere spectators in a G-2 world shaped by the United States and China as Europe is no longer a fulcrum in the global system of international relations. The chapter ends with a very valid question that whether EU without any legal identity at the international institutions can play a significant role in shaping the future of the new world order.

Chapter 2 -The chapter talks about the new emerging economies of Asia drawing attention to the fact that economic power is behind every political dominance and bloster the notion

that economic ties transmutates into strategic relations in the long run. It also discusses the regional trade blocs and international lending agencies. It explores the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) which will be celebrating its golden anniversary in 2017. At the end the chapter underlines the fact that there will be a shift in the spending power from west to the new emerging economies of Asia who will act as an engine of new demand growth.

Chapter 3- The chapter gives a detailed picture of the political landscape of Asia. In this context the chapter elaborates the situation prevailing in two major economies of India and China in depth. It also discusses the problems faced by the two countries and argues about the various feasible solutions to overcome these problems.

Chapter 4- This chapter portrays European Union as a region surrounded by issues like aging population, fiscal crunches, economic slowdown, the black future of euro, austerity measures, vaguely defined European social model and immigration problems. The chapter also talks about the Euro zone crises and the current economic situation in Europe. The need for fiscal prudence has led to political and social upheaval in countries worst hit by the crises. The chapter also offers probable solution to the

ongoing crises taking a holistic view by focusing on the cultural aspects as well by incorporating the role of Islam in accommodating European culture.

Chapter 5- This chapter deliberates on the origin and the spread of globalization from western hemisphere to the eastern hemisphere. The chapter stresses on the fact that the new emerging economies of Asia are demanding greater role and responsibilities in redefining the structure in a new globalized world. The author admits that there is a flourishing trade relations between Europe and emerging economies of Asia like India and China are, but trade relations in the long run, can be separated from strategic relationships. The two are intertwined.

The author points out that now the time is right for Europe to devise a new Strategy for Asia. Though Asia is facing problems in the form of weak multilateral structure and wide variety of governance system, still it manages to produce some of the fastest developing economies of the world. Engagement on new terms between the two giants is the need of the hour. A system redesign is needed as the emerging economies are now demanding a place at the high table in the existing international agreements. The chapter ends with a caution that

“comprehending Asia is not an exotic luxury but a matter of necessity”.

Chapter 6- In this chapter the author briefly examines the EU-China comprehensive strategic partnership. It also discusses the direction of trade between these two partners. The chapter ends with a special focus on need for cooperation and existing opportunities in nuclear and technological sector.

Chapter 7- The Chapter starts with pointing out the similarities between European Union and India and mentions the potential areas for cooperation. It elaborates the obstacles in EU-India relations and also gives sufficient coverage to important topics like cultural patterns, strategic partnership, development assistance and defense ties. At the end the author vividly describes the need and feasibility of a free agreement between the two.

Chapter 8- This Chapter discusses the critical global issues that could have long lasting ramifications on contemporary strategic partnership in a multipolar world. It starts with briefly highlighting the salient feature of Trans Pacific Partnership which, if ratified, might change the future trading scenario. Later on the chapter also delves on contemporary issues like human rights, reserve currency, genetically modified organism, energy and climate

change. It also covers the various climate change conferences. It elaborates the role of EU and Asian economies during the conferences. At the end the chapters also covers their role in United Nations and other international Institutions like World Bank and IMF.

Chapter 9- It deals with the current geopolitical scenario prevailing in South Asia and South East Asia. It highlights the role of United States as an important extraneous factor that can cast its spell on the EU and Emerging Asia dialogue. Further it tries to explore the possibility of any dialogue between EU and Emerging Asia without domineering presence of USA and whether the two poles could play a positive role in shaping the New World Order.

Chapter 10- The chapter beautifully describes the colonial legacy carried by Asian economies. It has left them with poignant memories. It aptly depicts the significance of colonial past as it was very brutal and oppressive and has left indelible scars on the face of Asia.

It warns that if this legacy is carried forward and Europe fails to bridge the gap between the existing culture, the dialogue between the two parties would fall apart.

Chapter 11- The chapter stresses on the cultural disparities prevailing in the two continents. It advocates that Europe should formulate 'common shared values of morality and global governance' and try not to act alone but in conformity with the global community. It warns Europe that its continued insistence on imitation of western culture, values and norms for non western economies does not augur well for the future of Europe - Emerging Asia Dialogue.

Chapter 12- In the last chapter the author concludes that by 2025 the picture at world arena will change, demeaning the role of USA and Europe. It will become far more interactive and Asia will certainly play a significant role in the new multi polar system.

This book is one of its kinds in emphasizing the need for a

Europe - Emerging Asia partnership for shaping the future course of international events. The author has appropriately described the prevailing controversial legal status of European Union and its current internal crises. The book also sheds light on the growing influence of the Emerging Asian Economies like India and China in the New World Order. The book suggests that for making the world more interactive and participative, there is a need for redefining of western values, culture and norms so that the Asian economies agree to have an environment of mutual trust and cooperation with the western powers. The book is suitable for researchers and scholars in the area of international relations and diplomats. The book can act as a helpful medium in analyzing the limitations of the current Europe - Asia relations and ways of mending these relations in future.

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