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Rationales for the Implementation of Competition Law in EU, the US and Asia: **Content Analysis and Data Visualization Approach**

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Abstract: In recent years, many of the Asian countries follow suit to implement competition law. Are there any differences with regards to the intention to implement competition law? Are they driven by similar lines of reasoning? Many of the previous research shed light on one or two Asia countries reasons for implementing competition law. Others focus on the US antitrust law or EU competition law only. This paper compares and contrasts the similarities and differences with regards to the major motives in implementing competition laws/antitrust laws. We first used content analysis to categorize the reasons for implementation of competition law. After that, data visualization method is used to study the the reasons mentioned by official websites and academic journals which lead to the implementation of competition laws in different countries.

Keywords: antitrust law; Asia; case study; competition law; consumer welfare; content analysis; economic efficiency; EU.

1 Introduction

A perfectly competitive market equilibrium exists when all firms act optimally (Little 1993). The first fundamental theorem of welfare economics suggested that free competitive economies are efficient (Lloyd 1998). It, however, obviates competitive behavior in the real world as we do not have perfect knowledge about competition and markets (Little 1993). Retail concentration is increasing with the market power concentrated on a few large companies (Matsui 2010). It is often of the view that vertical integration hampers competition by allowing companies

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to harm competitors and gain market power. Over-integration of world markets often leads to high bureaucratic costs and reduced competitive incentives (Calliess and Mertens 2011).

In the US, stand-alone stores are replaced by centrally programed and professionally managed mega chain stores such as Wal-Mart (Baily 1993). Likewise, the EU cartel-statistics revealed an increase in fines is imposed on the violations of competition law over the past 10 years (Herold 2014). Thus, variety of goods and services which are available in the market drops substantially, leading to a reduction in consumer welfare (Li and Li 2013).

In view of these, many people call for action in introducing competition laws and regulations to prevent company expansion ends up with one large monopoly firm. Competition law, also known as anti-monopoly law in China and antitrust law in the US, smoothen the competition process in market and provides a good business environment (Li and Li 2013). In general, competition law is enacted to control certain business conduct which is harmful in competitive market. It also promotes competition and prevents large companies exploit their market powers (Li and Young 2008). Competition law provides innovation incentive, enhances consumer welfare by facilitating competition, improving quality and services, ensuring a level playing field and lowering products prices (Li and Li 2013).

According to Parakkal (2011), competition law is more likely to be enacted in countries with the following characteristics:

- 1. Larger economies which are more likely to enjoy the benefits from competition;
- An open country will be more likely to enact a competition law to protect domestic firms from market power abuse by large international cartels and firms.
- 3. A country that depend more on foreign direct investment as a share of national income as it signals foreign investors that the country has legal provisions to address competition issues.
- 4. A country that has a more industrialized economy with greater need for a competition law than a pre-industrialized society.
- 5. The less state involvement via public expenditure represents a step closer to a free-market economy and hence a lower probability of enacting a competition law.

Table 1 is a revised version of (Parakkal 2011) based on Department of Justice (2015), The Brunei Darussalam International Chamber of Commerce and Industry (2003), Republic of the Philippines Department of Justice (2015), Abdul Razzaq Abdullah and Partners (2015), The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China (2007), Malaysia Competition Commission (2014b),



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. 2010), Guyana (2006), Honduras (2005), Barbados (2003), Bolivia (2008), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2001), Botswana (2005), Cape Kenya (1988), Poland (1918) Republic of Korea (1980) New Zealand (1986), Pakistan (1970), Philippines (1987), South Africa (1998), . 2002), Ghana (2000), Kazakhstan (1991), Jordan (2004), Latvia (2000), Lebanon (2006), Luxembourg (2011), Madagascar (2005), Czech Republic (1991), Ethiopia (2003), Faeroe Islands (1997), Fiji (1992), Hungary (1990), Indonesia (1999), the Kyrgyz Republic verde (2000), China (2008), Dominican Republic (2008), Ecuador (2011), Estonia (2001), Hong Kong (2013), India (2002), Ireland . 1994), Liechtenstein (1992), Lithuania (1992), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (1999), Malawi (1998), Malta (1994), Malaysia (2012), Mauritius (2003), Montenegro (2005), Morocco (2000), Mozambique (2007), Myanmar (2015), Namibia (2003), taly (1990), Belarus (1992), Moldova (1992), Azerbaijan (1993), Jamaica (1993), Albania (1995), Algeria (1995), Georgia (1996), he Russian Federation (1991), Senegal (1994), Serbia (1990), Slovenia (1993), St. Vincent and the Grenadines (1998), Tanzania Mexico (1993), Mongolia (1993), Netherlands (1997), Panama (1996), Papua New Guinea (1996), Peru (1991), Romania (1996), 1994), Tunisia (1991), Turkey (1994), Ukraine (1992), Uzbekistan (1996), Repuiblica Bolivariana de Venezuela (1992), Zambia Afghanistan (2011), Antigua and Barbuda (2001), Armenia (2000), Bangladesh (2012), Belgium (2006), Brazil (2011), Burundi Argentina (1933), Australia (1974), Brunei (1932), Canada (1985), Chad (1968), Chile (1973), Colombia (1959), Congo (1968) El Salvador (1970), Finland (1988), France (1989), Gabon (1989), Germany (1909), Greece (1977), Iran (1925), Japan (1947), . 1994), and imbabwe (1996), Cyprus (1999), Iceland (1993), Norway (1993), Israel (1994), Zimbabwe (1996), Thailand (1999) Mali (1998), Bulgaria (1998), Burkina Faso (1994), Cameroon (1998), Costa Rica (1994), Côte d'Ivoire (1991), Croatia (1995), Spain (1989), Sweden (1953), Switzerland (1962), the United Kingdom (1948), and the United States (1890), Gabon (1989)

Angola, The Bahamas, Bahrain, Belize, Benin, Bermuda, Bhutan, Darussalam, Cambodia, Cayman Islands, Central African Republic, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sao Tom and Principe, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Sudan, Suriname, the Comoros, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Eritrea, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Macao, Maldives, **Furkmenistan**, Uganda

competition

2015), Saudi Arabia (2004), Singapore (2004), the Arab Republic of Egypt (2005), The Gambia (2007), the Lao People's Democratic

Republic (2004), the Sevchelles (2009), Swaziland (2008), the Syrian Arab Republic (2008), Tajikistan (2000), Tonga (2002), Togo . 2003), Trinidad and Tobago (2006), United Arab Emirates (2013), Uruguay (2001), Vietnam (2004), the Republic of Yemen (2005)

Nepal (2007), Nicaragua (2006), Oman (2014), Papua New Guinea (2002), Paraguay (2013), Portugal (2003), Qatar (2006), Samoa

(Dentons 2015), CADE (2016), Government of Canada (2016), Kokkoris (2010), Holmes (2004), LEX Logmannsstofa (2016), Commerce Commission New Zealand (2014), Competition Appellate Tribunal (2009), Korea Fair Trade Commission (2016), Conseil De La Concurrence (2016), The Antitrust Authority (2016), Competition Authority of Kenya (2016), Konkurranse Tilsynet (2015), Competition Commission of Pakistan (2015), OECD (2006), World Bank (1999), Scott (2009), Federal Trade Commission (2016), Organisation For Economic Co-operation and Development (2006), Republic of South Africa Government (2014), Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (2009), World Intellectual Property Organisation (1947), Coloma (2007), Australian Competition Law (2016), The Antitrust Authority (2011), Wong (2013), Deutsche Gesetzestexte (2005), United Nations (2012), United Arab Emirates Government (2012), Harris (2001), World Intellectual Property Organisation (2006), European Commission (2012), Suruhanjaya Persaingan Malaysia (2015), Londono (2010), The State Council of the People's Republic of China (2007), The Brunei Darussalam International Chamber of Commerce and Industry (2003), Bundeswettbewerbsbehorde (2014), Belgian Federal Government (2006), Autoritedela Concurrence (2016), Autoridade Da Concorrencia (2010), Dutch Competition Authority (1997), OECD (1997), Finnish Competition and Consumer Authority (2014), World Intellectual Property Organisation (2012), Błachucki (2013), Antimonopoly Office of the Slovak Republic (2001), OECD (2012), World Intellectual Property Organisation (2010), Marín-Tobar (2013), World Intellectual Property Organisation (1989), Wasina (2004), Hosseini (2015), World Intellectual Property Organisation (2005), Oo (2015), Sultanate of Oman The Public Authority for Consumer Protection (2015), Mersan Lawyers (2016), Tuiletufuga (2015), World Intellectual Property Organisation (2001), Swaziland Competition Commission (2007), World Trade Organization (2006), World Intellectual Property Organisation (2002).

2 Hypothesis

EU competition policy comes from three distinct sources: (1) The European Coal 4 and Steel Community, drafted by an American on assignment with occupation forces in Germany, were an amalgam of the US antitrust. (2) Article 65 of the ECSC Treaty forbade agreements which impede competition. Article 66 of the ECSC Treaty established the strictest merger control in the world. European Economic Community competition policy was built upon the experience of ECSC competition policy which was influenced by the US (Martin 2015).



Hence, we speculate that given all the competition laws are built upon the similar sources, we lay down the first hypothesis:

H1: the reasons for implementation of competition law are similar.

Fair Competition is the best way to allocate resources and provide consumers with more alternatives. It limits the abuse of monopoly power, acts against the limitation of/unfair competition and ensures level playing field. It protects smaller firms from the competition of the larger enterprises. In Intel case, however, political considerations played more important role than economics behind the enforcement of EU antitrust law. Tackling monopolistic pricing is a major concern. Hence, we may draw the conclusion that promotion of consumer welfare is not the top reason of why competition law should be implemented (Li and Li 2013).

De Ven (2006) points out that there is "growing concerns that academic research has become less useful for solving practical problems and that the gulf between theory and practice in the professions is widening." Not in the same vein, however, as Pringle (2001) states in his paper "the academy and the practice: in principle, theory and practice are different. But, in practice, they never are." Hence, it will be interesting to study the differences between the two, if any.

H2: The aim and objectives for implementing competition laws in the US, EU and Asian countries are no different in academia and governments' point of view, going in line with Pringle (2001).

3 Research Method

We adopt the content analysis to study the reasons for implementing competition law in EU, the US and Asia countries. Content of textual materials are studied by grouping similar context together (Li 2013) such that there will be rigor classification and measurement of data (Li and Li 2013). Content analysis has been used in Li and Tsoi (2014); Li (2015). We search for the official and academic researchers' reasons for implementation of the competition laws in Asian countries, EU and the US. Content analysis was used to categorize the academic researchers and official line of reasoning for competition law into: (1) countries, (2) the name of the competition law, (3) reasons for implementing competition law. We then analyse the reasons of implementing competition law by using data visualization which has been used by Li et al. (2015).



3.1 Content Analysis

According to Uysal and Canan (2015), content analysis is defined as "a research technique for making replicable and valid inferences from texts or other meaningful matter) to the context of their use." It is a research method which is used to acquire reliable with a wide range of information under specific aims and objectives (Uzunboylu and Birinci 2014). Content analysis is a qualitative method which is used to investigate the trends in research (Erdogan 2015) and communication. It examines the patterns and structures of textual data which help the researchers identify, develop and aggregate them to observable constructs and seize the textual meaning (Vitouladiti 2014). Researchers establish their context of inquiry, making the texts become meaningful (Hanefar, Siraj, and Sa'ari 2015) by means of systematic analysis of text (Faucher and Garner 2015).

3.2 Data Visualization

Data visualization refers to "the use of computer-supported, interactive, visual representations of data to amplify cognition, or the acquisition and use of knowledge" (Dilla and Raschke 2015). It is a kind of graphic that is used to examine the data (Kelleher and Wagener 2011). It visualizes all kinds of quantitative information from simple univariate to large multivariate data sets (Quispel and Maes 2014). It is a process of mapping information to visuals eliminating the details of numbers that focuses on the driving factors for a business. Basic objective of the data visualization is to convey the information with graphical methods in a clear and effective way. Presenting the data graphically provides a new and distinct point of view about incidents and their correlations (Dur 2012).

4 The Major Purpose of Implementing Antitrust Law in the US

In the US, the congress passed the Sherman Act, the first antitrust law in 1890 provided a comprehensive charter of economic liberty that aimed at preserving competition as the rule of trade. Subsequently, the Congress passed two more antitrust laws: the Federal Trade Commission Act and the Clayton Act in 1914 (Federal Trade Commission 2015).



Table 2: Reasons for Implementing Antitrust Law in the US under the Lens of Academia.

Author	The major purpose of antitrust law
White (2010) Douglas	It provides an injunction to stop the merger from proceeding, restrain the unilateral exercise of market power by a seller. It ensures the utmost liberty of contract, and conditions should not be conductive to that freedom should be eliminated,
(1999)	encourages the entrepreneurial spirit, ensures an equal opportunity and companies grow by satisfying the needs of consumers instead of by devious tactics, gains freedom and democratic, protects citizen or entrepreneur.
Karamanian	It promotes international competition, exempt collective export activities from the provisions of Sherman Act and the Federal
(2002)	Trade, precludes foreign plaintiffs from bringing antitrust suits in the US when the alleged unlawful, avoid criminal enforcement proceedings against international cartels affecting US commerce, help support the assertion of US regulators that the US has
	"transformed the world" and changed Europe's "kind of de facto understanding that cartel arrangements were tolerated".
Hinloopen	By implementing antitrust law, illegal cartels will be less likely to be formed and less stable.
(2003)	
Golodner	It strengthens the economy. As small business needs innovating and spurring entrepreneurship. These conditions can be fulfilled
(2001)	by having a competitive economy and the ability to complete with the others.
Wood (2002)	It promotes consumer welfare
Gates (1998)	It recognizes the potential of joint ventures and the importance of innovation
	It encourages innovation, allows competitor cooperation as procompetitive effects are substantial
Gifford and	It protects consumer welfare.
Kudrle (2003)	
Calvani	Antitrust law is now moving towards economic efficiency, i.e. consumer welfare as the guiding principle. Competition is usually
(1982)	associated with allocative or economic efficiency. It focuses on the elimination of the dead weight welfare loss that may result
	from anti-competitive pricing practices.
Gal (2004a)	It limits the conduct of economic actors so as to ensure that the competition's benefits are not frustrated by the erection of
	private barriers for trade. It limits the abuses of monopoly power of dominant firms, by preventing mergers and prohibiting the
	cartelistic activity as well as other types of cooperative conduct which would harm the social welfare.

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Author	The major purpose of antitrust law
McAfee and Vakkur (2004)	It prevents a successful firm from competing vigorously, punishes non-cooperative behavior, prevents a hostile takeover and discourages the entry of a rival.
Evans (2008)	Private parties and competition authorities can challenge the practices of the leading firms under the antitrust laws in most of the jurisdictions.
Page (1999) Giocoli (2009)	It promotes public good conception. It enhances competition.
Marjancik (1998)	Consumers benefits due to lower health care costs and improved services.
Shelanski (2012)	It encourages competition in industries.
Sage,	It affects the quality of care via finance and delivery. It protects consumer from firms to engage in conduct anticompetitive,
Hyman and	deceptive or unfair agreements. It includes improper conduct for which no defense is acceptable. It protects competition and
Greenberg (2003)	competitive process. With antitrust law, it reduces medical profession collective control with regards to the service terms. It improves access and quality from the price competition and addresses a fair price. It prevents health care service providers from collectively level lower the prices. It ensures generic drugs introduce to the market without any improper interference from big pharmaceutical companies.

The major purpose of implementing antitrust law in the US may probably be best represented in the landmark case in the US National Society of Professional Engineers v. US cited by Roberts (1996) "The Sherman Act reflects a legislative judgment that ultimately competition will produce not only lower prices, but also better goods and services...The assumption that competition is the best method of allocating resources in a free market recognizes that all elements of a bargain-quality, service, safety, and durability-and not just the immediate cost, are favorably affected by the free opportunity to select among alternative offers. Even assuming occasional exceptions to the presumed consequences of competition, the statutory policy precludes inquiry into the question of whether competition is good or had."

Antitrust law ensures the utmost liberty of contract, satisfying the needs of consumers, enhances freedom and democratic, protects citizen or entrepreneur (Douglas 1999). It provides an injunction to stop the merger from proceeding, restrain the unilateral exercise of market power by a seller (White 2010). In recent years, it is of the view that the US antitrust has shifted towards a focus on economic welfare which mirrored that in European Commission in 90s. The efficiency criteria can be found in Article 2(1)(b) of the European Community Merger Regulation (Calliess and Mertens 2011).

Antitrust laws cover all types of industries in the US. Somebody sued eBay for tying its online payments service to its transaction service. Others in the European Community claimed that Apple violated the competition laws by limiting the music player to play music from competing music stores and the ability of competing music players to play the music purchased from its music stores. Even though the US Federal Trade Commission decided not to block Google's acquisition of DoubleClick, it expressed its intent to watch the markets closely with regards to online advertising in 2007. Detail line of reasoning in implementing antitrust law can be found in Table 2.

5 The Major Purpose of Implementing **Competition Law in EU**

In EU, competition law mainly comes from two sources. Article 101 of the Treaty prohibits the agreements between two or more independent market operators that restrict competition. It covers both the horizontal and vertical agreements, e.g. the creation of a cartel between competitors, which involve market sharing or price-fixing. Second, Article 102 of the Treaty prohibits firms which hold a dominant position to abuse the position, e.g. by limiting production charging



unfair prices, refusing to innovate to the predisposition of consumers (European Commission 2015).

Under the lens of academics, the major reason to implement competition law is to avoid market abuse, prevent pricing fixing anti-competitive behaviors, and removes trade barriers and discriminatory practices. It also promotes welfare and benefits for citizens (Zahariadis 2004; Isac 2010) and smoothens the economic progress. In the UK, Zahariadis (2004) suggested that the major purpose of implementing competition law is to shape the EU rules with regards to national markets, allows the institutions to change while focusing on harmonizing policy outputs, protect individual freedom from abuses by corporate power (Zahariadis 2004). It also prohibits firms from abusing a dominant position (Little 1993). Detail explanation of implementing competition law in EU can be found in Table 3.

In some overseas countries such as Lebanon, competition law has some more important political implication for EU. The competition law of the EU's objective with regards to consumer welfare has been subsidiary to that of market integration the EU. Another major objective is to promote market power so as to provide a better position for the EU firms to compete with Japanese and the US firms (Beirut 2003).

Table 3: Reasons for Implementing Competition Law in EU.

Author	Country/region	Reasons for implementing competition law
Zahariadis (2004)	EU	It shapes the EU rules which governs the national markets, addresses government response to the EU policy regimes, allow institutions to change while focusing on harmonizing policy outputs, protect individual freedom from abuses by corporate power.
Graef (2015)	EU	It encourages more new firms to enter the market, leading to more competition and consumer choice. It protects the interests of users in the data protection field.
Andrieş and Căpraru (2014)	EU	The existence of competition promotes profit efficiency. It increases profit efficiency and competition
Barros (2003)	EU	It fosters competition and develops a level playing field.
Humphreys (2006)	EU	Regulatory competition plays an important role in our society as the governments are keen to promote technological development. This will be the central to economic competitiveness as the growing conviction continues in the emerging society of information.



Table 3 (Continued)

Author	Country/region	Reasons for implementing competition law
McElwee (2010)	EU	To ensure that the game is not disrupted by collusion activities among the stakeholders. Even though co-operation between market players sometimes creates better outcomes, there are many occasions that collusion does not subvert the game. Hence, we see an attempt to prevent cartel and other anti-competitive agreements in competition law. It ensures that the game continues to be played. Where a market is close to monopoly, some existing players may be forced to exit due to the dominant party's potential for exclusionary behavior. Hence, we see an ex ante attempts which aim to prevent a dominant position arising by controlling merger.
Damro (2006)	EU	Competition policies are used to regulate foreign actors' behaviors especially both firms and governments. In both trade and investment which domestic competition might be damped by the anticompetition, oligopolistic and monopolistic business concentrations. Which used as the private market access barriers.
Aydin and Thomas (2012)	EU	It promotes consumer walfare, economic efficiency, innovation, defenses smaller firms and enhances welfare.
Evens and Donders (2016)	EU	Champions will gain competitive advantage with effective merger control which promote fair competition in the market. It also prevents dominant parties from any monopoly rent-seeking or inefficent act.
Don, Kemp and Van Sinderen (2008)	EU	It avoids abusing the market, prevents pricing fixing and anti-competitive behaviors, trade barriers as well as discriminatory practices. It also promotes welfare for European citizens and economic progress.
Isac (2010)	EU	It ensures that competition among several undertakings exists in the market as competition is beneficial for all types of consumers. It also ensures lower prices and a wider choice of products.
Little (1993)	EU	Article 85 prohibits the agreements which shares or portions markets, restricts competition between one or more firms, fixes prices, limits production or sales. This applies to both horizontal agreements between competitors and vertical agreements between firms at different stages of trade. Article 86 prohibits firms from abusing a dominant position for service or product and from making unfair use of commercial acts by imposing unfair prices or others.
Peyer (2011)	EU	It compensates the victims of anticompetitive conduct.

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Table 3 (Continued)

Author	Country/region	Reasons for implementing competition law
Fornaciari (2010)	EU	It protects consumer especially those in health care sector. It protects the patients from any anticompetitive, deceptive or unfair conduct, anticompetitive practices including abuse by dominant position and distribution agreements. Efficient allocation of goods and services can be brought by competitive markets via the lowest prices and the best quality. Competition enhances efficiency gains. Lowering the cost of output production, improving the product quality or inventing a new product will create additional value. It contributes all rounded improvements on production, distribution of goods and improve or promote economic progress. Consumers take advantage from fair share of resulting benefits.
de Streel (2008)	EU	It aims to achieve 6 principles of a good governance which includes transparency, flexibity, European harmonization, proportionality, technological neutrality, and legal certainty
Mossialos and Lear (2012)	EU	It maximizes economic efficiency and provides more choices for consumers.
Bruneckiene, Pekarskiene, and Soviene (2014)	EU	Prosecution and punishment of cartels is the major goal of the European Commission's competition policy.
Kee and Hoekman (2007)	EU	Competition law lead to more industries and firms stay in the long run among all the countries.
Jashari and Memeti (2012)	Macedonia	It ensures the freedom of business, trade, security and equal protection of legal position among different entities in the market.
Lefter and Oprea (2011)	Romania	It delegates responsibilities to sanction and commission unfair competition deeds.
Van Sinderen and Kemp (2008)	The Netherlands	It maximizes consumer surplus, ensures consumers receive a fair share of economic benefits of the markets that work properly. It concerns with economic efficiency and social welfare. Besides, economic growth and employment can be promoted from competition. It also achieves positive effects on employment growth and productivity, consumer welfare and achieves economic growth in the long run.
Priddis (2007)	UK	It maximizes consumer welfare, achieves innovation, economic efficiency and competitiveness.



6 Aims and Objectives for Implementing **Competition Laws in Asian Countries**

In many Asian countries, competition law aims to promote competition. For example, the Fair Trade Practices Policy was enacted on 26 October 2005 to protect and promote competition (Malaysia Competition Commission 2014a). It stated that the business operator shall not maintain purchasing or selling prices of goods or services or act in unreasonably fixing; requiring business operators to restrict services, purchase, production or distribution of goods, or restrict opportunities in selling or purchasing goods, receiving or providing services or securing credits from other business operators directly or indirectly; reducing purchase, services, production, deliveries distribution or importation without justifiable reasons, destroying or causing damage to goods in order to reduce the quality to that lower than the market demand; intervening the operation of business of other people without justifiable reasons (Table 4).

Table 4: The Official Reasons to Implement Competition Law.

Departments which oversees/governs competition law	Name of the competition law	Country	The major official reason to implement competition law
Suzuki (2002)	The Anti-Monopoly Act	Japan	The Anti-Monopoly Act prevents the existence of large-scale conglomerates.
Competition Promotion and Consumer Protection Directorate (2011)	Competition Act	Afghanistan	It promotes and sustains competition in markets, enhances economic efficiency and consumer welfare and ensures the freedom of trade.
Ministry of Commerce Bangladesh (2010)	The Competition Act	Bangladesh	It encourages and maintains competition via controlling, preventing or eliminating anti-competitive agreements/ arrangements among enterprises, or combinations/abuse of dominant positions of market power which adversely and significantly limit the freedom to trade/access to markets which restrain competition that are detrimental to economic efficiency and consumer welfare.



Table 4 (Continued)

Departments which oversees/governs competition law	Name of the competition law	Country	The major official reason to implement competition law
Ministry of Economic Affairs (2015)	National Competition Policy	Bhutan	The Royal Government adopts the National Competition Policy, instead of a competition law is to promote consumer welfare, efficiency, competitiveness.
The Brunei Darussalam International Chamber of Commerce and Industry (2003)	Monopolies Act Cap. 73 of the Laws of Burnei (1932, revised in 1984, 2003)	Burnei	It protects monopoly thereunder and makes provisions to grant certain monopolies in Brunei Darussalam
The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China (2007)	Anti-Monopoly Law	China	It prevents and stops monopoly behavior, protects fair competition, increase economic efficiency, ensures consumers and society benefit, enhances the healthy development of socialist market economy.
Department of Justice (2015)	Competition Ordinance, Chapter 619	Hong Kong	It establishes Competition Tribunal and Competition Commission; prohibits mergers that substantially lessen competition; provides for incidental and connected matters; prevents/restricts distort competition.
Competition Commission of India New Delhi (2007)	The Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007	India	It prevents practices which have adverse effect on competition, promotes and sustains competition in markets, protects consumers' interests and ensures the freedom of trade in markets of India as well as matters connected therewith.
Law of the Republic of Indonesia (1999)	Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 5 of 1999 Concerning the Ban on Monopolistic Practices and Unfair Business Competition	Indonesia	It maintains public interest and improves the national economy efficiency as a means to improve public welfare. It creates a conducive business climate via healthy business competition and hence secures equal business opportunity for small. Middle and large scale entrepreneurs.



Table 4 (Continued)

Departments which oversees/governs competition law	Name of the competition law	Country	The major official reason to implement competition law
The Antitrust Authority (2011)	Restrictive Trade Practices Law, 5748-1988	Israel	It prevents unfair business competition and/or monopolistic practices by entrepreneurs and creates business activities effectiveness and efficiency. It governs the restrictive arrangement by persons conducting business with at least one of the parties restricts itself in a manner that reduce or eliminate the business competition between it and other parties. It also oversees a restraint relating to the price to be demanded, offered or paid and the profit to be obtained;
Japan Fair Trade Commission (1947)	Act on Prohibition of Private Monopolization and Maintenance of Fair Trade (Act No. 54 of	Japan	the quality, quantity or types of services or assets in the business; division of the market according to location or according to persons with whom business is to be conducted. It promotes free and fair competition, stimulates the creative initiative of enterprises, encourages business activity, increases the level of employmen
	April 14, 1947)		and actual national income, thereby promotes democratic and the development of the national economy and secures the interests of consumers by 1) prohibiting unreasonable restraint of trade, private monopolization, unfair trade practices, 2) preventing excessive concentration of economic power and



Table 4 (Continued)

Departments which oversees/governs competition law	Name of the competition law	Country	The major official reason to implement competition law
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Ministry of Industry (2004)	The Competition Law of the year 2004	Jordan	3) eliminating unreasonable restraints on production, sale, price, technology and other unjust restrictions on business activity via agreements and combinations, etc. Alliances, practices and agreements that contravene, limit, prejudice or prevent competition shall be prohibited especially the aim is to: 1- Fix the prices of services, conditions of sale or products, quantities of service provision or production. 3- Share the market according to geographical regions/quantities of service provision, sales or purchases, customers that negatively affects competition.
			4- Set barriers to Enterprises' entry into market.5- Collusion in bids or tenders
Agency of the Republic Kazakhstan for Competition Protection (Antimonopoly	Competition law	Kazakhstan	It regulates monopolistic activities prohibition and restriction, competition development and unfair competition.
Agency) (2008) Fair Trade Commission Republic of Korea (2011)	Monopoly Regulation and Fair Trade Act	South Korea	It initiates enterprisers to protect consumers, strive for the balanced development of the national economy by promoting free and fair competition via the prevention of market dominance abuse and enterprisers' excessive concentration of economic power, improper concerted practices regulation and unfair trade practices.

Table 4 (Continued)

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Departments which oversees/governs competition law	Name of the competition law	Country	The major official reason to implement competition law
Abdul Razzaq Abdullah and Partners (2015)	The Commercial law Number 68 of 1980	Kuwait	It provides regulations and rules which prevents unfair practices and ensure free trade. It forbids the bad effects of monopoly, at least a certain amount of profit can be distributed to the sufferer as compensation.
President of the Kyrgyz Republic (2002)	Law of the Kyrgyz Republic On Competition	Kyrgyzstan	It maintains the conditions which creates and maintains the effective functional operation of work and services and the development of competitive relations.
Minister of Commerce (2004)	Decree On Trade Competition, 2003	Laos	It encourages business activities to function efficiently in the market economy mechanism according to the Government of the Lao PDR, promotes fair trade competition, protects the rights and legal interests of consumers.
Republic of Lebrnon Minitry of Economy and Trade (2011)	Competition Law	Lebanon	By preventing abuses of dominance and anti-competitive practices, promoting economic efficiency and innovation, maximizing consumer welfare, it ensures competition and market access.
Malaysia Competition Commission (2014b)	The Fair Trade Practices Policy (FTPP)	Malaysia	It protects and promotes competition; creates dynamic and competitive entrepreneurs; provides fair and competitive market opportunities for businesses; prohibits anticompetitive practices including those originating from outside the Malaysian territory which affects the domestic territory; generates efficiency and equity, prohibits unfair trade practices in the economy, promote SMEs' rights to participate in the market place, promotes consumer welfare; and encourages socioeconomic growth



Table 4 (Continued)

Departments which oversees/governs competition law	Name of the competition law	Country	The major official reason to implement competition law
(The Authority For Fair Competition and Consumer Protection 2015)		Mongolia	To shape healthy market and support sustainable economic growth
Nepal Law Commission (2007)	Act number 35 of the year 2063 (2006/07)	Nepal	It makes the national economy more liberal, open, market- oriented and competitive by maintaining fair competition between the persons/enterprises producing/distributing, goods/services to producers/ distributors by means of competition, encourage to make the produced services and goods, protects the markets against undesirable interference, It enhances national productivity by developing business which is available to consumers at competitive price by enhancing goods' quality/services via restrictive trade practices and monopoly control, preserving economic interests and general public's decency by dealing with unfair competition in various trade practices.
Sultanate of Oman The Public Authority for Consumer Protection (2014)	Royal Decree Bearing No. 67/2014	Oman	It stabilizes the principles of the market rules, regulates the freedom of practicing any economic activity which includes pricing such that there should be no restriction on integral competition.
Competition Commission of Pakistan (2010)	The Competition Act of 2010	Pakistan	It enhances economic efficiency, engenders free competition in commercial activity, protects consumers from anticompetitive behaviors.
Republic of the Philippines Department of Justice (2015)	The Corporation of the Philippiness (1980)	Philippines	It ensures level playing field by enforcing and providing guidance for competition policies and laws, promotes the culture



Table 4 (Continued)

Departments which oversees/governs competition law	Name of the competition law	Country	The major official reason to implement competition law	
	The Price Act (1992) The Consumer Act of the Philippiness (1992) The Intellectual Property Code of the Philippiness (1997) The Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act of 1998 The Anti-Dumping Act of 1999 The Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001		of competition, so as to move towards the effective, equitable and economic justice.	
Ministry of Economy and Commerce (2015)	Amiri Decree No. (19) of 2006	Qatar	It prevents monopoly practices and protects the existence of competition via taking the informed decisions according to complete and integrated information studies and data, specialized research which is related to economic activities.	
The Council of Competition Protection (2013)	Royal decree No. (M/25)	Saudi Arabia	It protects and encourages fair competition; combats monopolistic practices which affects lawful competition.	
Competition Competition Act Commission Singapore (2015)		Singapore	To processes in the administering and enforcement of the Act, protectonsumers and businesses from anti-competitive practices and set out the various powers.	
Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (2003)	Consumer Affairs Authority Act	Sri Lanka	It promotes competitive pricing and ensures healthy competition among traders, manufacturers of services and goods.	
Fair Trade Commission (2011)		Taiwan	It maintains trading order, ensures fair competition, promotes economic prosperity and stability.	



entrusting any person as a sole

Table 4 (Continued)

Departments which oversees/governs competition law	Name of the competition law	Country	The major official reason to implement competition law	
Thailand Government Gazette (1999)	Trade Competition Act, B.E. 2542 (1999)	Thailand	Business operator should not enter into an agreement with other business operator to do any act which amounts to monopoly, reduction of competition of any particular goods or any particular service in the market by: 1. fixing selling and buying prices of goods or services or restrict the volume of goods and services; entering into an agreement to have market domination or control; 2. fixing an agreement or condition in a collusive manner to enable one party win a bid or tender for the goods or services/ to prevent one party from participating in a bid or tender fo the goods or services; 3. fixing the geographical areas or restrict the distribution/ purchase of goods or services therein of fixing customers to whom each business operator may sell goods or provide services to the exclusion of other business operators from competition in the distribution of goods/services 4. fixing the quantity of goods or services that each of the business operator may manufacture, distribute, purchase, or provide services to restrict the quantity lower than the market demand; 5. Reducing the quality of goods or services below the previous production, distribution or provision, appointing or	

Table 4 (Continued)

Departments which oversees/governs competition law	Name of the competition law	Country	The major official reason to implement competition law
			distributor/provider of the same goods or services; fixing the procedures or conditions in connection with the purchase or distribution of goods or services to ensure uniform/agreed practice.
CIS Leading Counsel Network (2011)	Article 780 of the Civil Code of Turkmenistan (2000), Article 9 of the Law of Turkmenistan "On Commerce," Article 16 of the Law of Turkmenistan "On Foreign Investments" (2008), Article 245 of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan, etc.	Turkmenistan	It aims at protecting enterprises and other entities from conducts, monopolistic practices and promotes free markets' formation on the basis of competition and entrepreneurship development.
Maktoum (2014)	Federal Law No. 4 of 2012 on the Regulation of Competition	UAE	It protects and promotes antimonopoly and competition practices through the following: It provides a stimulating environment for organizations which enhances competitiveness efficiency, consumer interest and achieve the goal of sustainable development. It maintains a competitive market by market mechanisms according to economic freedom principle, by prohibiting restrictive agreements, the acts and behaviors which lead to the Dominant Position abuse, controlling the operations of the economic concentration, avoiding anything which would endanger, limit or prevent Competition.



Table 4 (Continued)

Departments which oversees/governs competition law	Name of the competition law	Country	The major official reason to implement competition law
The Republic of Uzbekistan Senate (2011) ^a	Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan	Uzbekistan	It adjusts the relations in the competition of goods and financial markets.
Vietnam Competition Authority (2015)	Competition Law No. 27/2004/QH11	Vietnam	It controls acts which restrict competition or would result in competition restriction, especially in global economic integration and market opening-up; protection from unfair competition acts the legitimate rights of enterprises to create, sustain and do business in a fair competitive environment.

There is no official website/competition law for the following countries: Burma, Iraq, Maldives, North Korea, Syria, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Yemen, Cambodia. This Table is a revised and updated version based on Li et al. (2015). There is no official competition law/competition authority in Bahrain, however, Legislative Decree No. 7 (Law of Commerce) prohibits some unfair competition acts (Li et al. 2015). ^aThis is only a translated document.

7 Academic's Point of View on the Role of Competition Law in Asia

Competition law has a relative long history in some of the Asian countries, e.g. the Israeli Competition Act dated back to 1959 (Gal 2004a). Similar to the EU competition law, competition law in Malaysia is implemented to promote economic development by promoting the competition process (Lee 2014). Free and fair trade, efficiency, safeguard firm-level competitiveness and enhance consumer welfare are some of the common benefit of competition law. Lee and Fukunaga (2014) suggest that it protects economic efficiency and enhances consumer welfare, promotes competition among firms and companies in Indonesia and Vietnam. It also prevents the monopolistic behaviors or mergers in Indonesia. Besides, competition law in Korea prevents conglomerates. Similar aims and objectives for competition law can also be found in Japan (Li and Li 2013) (Table 5).



Table 5: Academic Reasons for Implementing Competition Laws in Asia.

Author	Country	The aim of competition/antitrust/antimonopoly law
Clarke (2011)	Asia (Central) ^a	It prevent firms in the same industry to form cartels or collusion, prevent the mega firms from abusing the market power; mandatorily requires firms to notify the competition agency about mergers, prohibit and investigate mergers.
Luu (2012)	Asia	It ensures and protects the competitive environment, eliminates the private barriers in the world trading system which includes anti-competitive behavior, monopoly power and dominant power abuse or unfair governmental regulatory framework. It provides more foreign investment and consumer welfare. It creates competitive environment. The competitiveness of SMEs and market opportunities to compete with large companies will be enhanced. It stops abuse by using the dominant position as well as promoting fair competition.
Liu (2012)	Asia	It warrants fairness.
Davies (2010)	China	It promotes the healthy development of the socialist market economy, enhances economic efficiency, prevents and restrains monopolistic conducts, protects fair competition in the market, safeguards the interests of social public interests and consumers.
Fox (2008)	China	It prohibits abuse of administrative powers (which include the flow of goods from one province to another) to restrict competition.
Harris (2006)	China	It promotes and protects market competition, prohibits monopolistic behavior, ensures healthy development in the socialist market economy, safeguards the socialist market economy's healthy development of the social economy as well as the legitimate rights, public and consumers' interests.
Huang et al. (2010)	China	It safeguards consumers' and the public's interests, enhances economic efficiency, promotes socialist market economy's development, prevents and restrains monopolistic conduct, protects fair competition.
Li and Young (2008)	China	It enhances economic efficiency, lowers prices and introduces the latest innovative goods and services. It prohibits firms from taking part in coordinated activities which aim at and result in eliminating or restricting any kind of competition. It also deals with firms which take advantage from the dominant market position
Owen, Sun and Zheng (2008)	China	It promotes economic efficiency, protects businesses and customers, prevents wealth transfers due to the exercise of unjustified market power. It ensures that goods are produced by the firm at the lowest cost, goods flow to consumers who value the goods and promotes economic efficiency. It promotes private competitive markets to state-owned enterprises or regulate monopolies.

Table 5 (Continued)

Author	Country	The aim of competition/antitrust/antimonopoly law
		It prohibits the horizontal agreements and abuse of market power, addresses issues which include bribery, deceptive, coercive sales as well as appropriation of business secrets. It protects against certain improper pricing behaviors which includes price fixing, predatory pricing, price discrimination, encourage competition, strike a balance between the anticompetitive aspects activities and allows the legitimate activities of trade associations, copes with foreign investors acquiring Chinese companies through acquisitions and mergers.
Parakkal (2011)	China	It requires notifications and reviews for pre-merger. China's enactment of Anti-Monopoly Law in 2007 protects domestic economic actors and provides leverage over the increasing number of multinational corporations in China. It ensures level playing field or advances the free market
Shi (2006)	China	It prescribes unfair competition and counteracts monopoly, focuses on anti-monopoly provisions so as to popularize the free market value.
Sun (2011)	China	It protects rival's competitive rights, market competition and consumers' interests. It promotes transformation, market competition and economic system development. It eliminates monopoly to ensure that there will not be unfairly high consumer price and less variety of goods. It also prevents market leader such as Coca Cola from using its market dominant position which adversely affect the SME enterprises.
Wang (2008)	China	It prohibits the abuse of dominant position, monopoly agreements, merger/acquisition reporting. It controls, stops and prevents monopolistic conduct, protects fair market, improves economic and production efficiency and efficient resources allocation, consumer and public interests, promotes the socialist market economy development.
Wei (2013)	China	It rules against the abuse of dominance and monopoly agreements.
Ho and Chan	Hong	It provides consumers' the right against the unscrupulous
(2003)	Kong	business practices.
Li and Young	Hong	It exterminates the barriers for new firms' entrance and
(2008)	Kong	promotes free competition which will not be distorted by any anti-competitive practices which includes price fixing, market sharing and others. This will benefit by keeping operating costs at competitive level. By appointing an independent Competition Commission, it will have the power to investigate and determine whether there is any infringement of the competition law as the commission is part of the regulatory body.

Table 5 (Continued)

Author	Country	The aim of competition/antitrust/antimonopoly law
		It addresses abuse from dominant market position, mergers and acquisitions by addressing both side of the agreement (horizontal and vertical).
Bhattacharjea (2008)	India	It enforces fair business conduct.
Patel et al. (2011)	India	By maintaining quality goods and introducing new products to market, it promotes consumer welfare, economic growth, innovation and competition. It prevents unfair trade practices and behaviors which restricts competition. It limits the abuse of monopoly power.
Singh, Singh and Singh (2013)	India	It ensures the efficient allocation of resources which protect consumers' welfare and preserves competition.
Lee and Fukunaga (2014)	Indonesia	It ensures efficiency, free and fair trade, firm-level competitiveness as well as consumer welfare
Pangestu et al. (2002)	Indonesia	It ensures fair competition, protects consumers, ensures market mechanisms worked for efficiency outcomes, solves the problem of the lack of regulations and effective institutions.
Sirait (2009) Gal (2004b)	Indonesia Israeli	It protects and promotes procompetitive conduct. It combats monetary problems, creates an economic infrastructure to serve for the small/developing economy.
Porter and Sakakibara (2004)	Japan	It breaks up the "zaibatsu," the obstacles to democratizatio and competition in Japan.
Suzuki (2002) Takigawa (2009)	Japan Japan	It prevents the emergence of large-scale conglomerates. It safeguards consumer welfare. The Japanese government introduces pro-competitive regulatory reforms to revitalize the economy in Japan and emphasizes more on competition policy.
Lee (2014)	Malaysia	It promotes economic development by protecting and promoting the competition process.
Lee and Fukunaga (2014)	Malaysia	It enhances economic development, efficiency, and consumer welfare.
Novikov (2004)	Russia	It removes commodities which violates the pricing procedure established by statutory regulations; creates or maintains a shortage in the market or raise prices; sets monopoly high clow prices; reduces or ceases the production of commodities for which there is a demand or consumer orders.
Lee and Fukunaga (2014)	Singapore	It enhances market efficiency and economy-level of competitiveness.
Kwon (2004)	South	It promotes fair trade and free competition.



Table 5 (Continued)

Author	Country	The aim of competition/antitrust/antimonopoly law
Shin (2002)	South Korea	It controls business conglomerates (chaebols) in South Korea (it was ineffective because of the insufficient attention on market power).
Yu and Hong	South	It prohibits mergers via coercion, restricts competition in
(2005)	Korea	trade or other unfair methods. It enhances efficiency.
Lee and Fukunaga (2014)	Thailand	It enhances economic growth, efficiency, fair and free trade.
Poapongsakorn (2002)	Thailand	It enhances competitiveness by improving the enforcement mechanism. It protects competition process, consumers and prevents rapid increase in services and goods prices. It promotes economic efficiency, maximizes social welfare and prevents monopolistic behaviors such as bid rigging and price fixing.
Lee and Fukunaga (2014)	Vietnam	It enhances consumer welfare and efficiency.
Doan and Stevens (2012)	Vietnam	It increases international integration and stimulates competition. The improvement in competition leads to immense growth in number of firms.

8 Discussion and Conclusion

What are the differences between the reasons for implementing competition law in the US, EU and Asia then? The following data visualization diagrams for academic research papers show the frequency of the words which explain the rational of implementing competition law. The larger the word means the reasons have been mentioned relatively more times in journal articles than the others in the same region/country. For example, in Figure 1, the size of the word "efficiency" is larger than the word "fair," that means there are more articles suggest that efficiency is a more mentioned reasons for implementing competition law than fair.

Previous literatures suggest that competition law ensures competitiveness and competition in the market. Despite all the three countries implement competition law to protect consumers, the literatures have different opinions on the reasons for implementing competition law (Figures 1–3). Consumer welfare is one of the common reasons but is not the most mentioned factor (note that the welfare mentioned in the above figures refers to consumer welfare). The US, however, considers quality as an important reason for implementing competition law. In





Figure 1: Reasons for Implementing Competition Law in EU (27 Academic Journal Articles).



Figure 2: Reasons for Implementing Competition Law in Asia (44 Academic Journal Articles).



Figure 3: Reasons for Implementing Competition Law in the US (19 Articles).





Figure 4: Official Reasons for Implementation of Competition Law.

Asia, many countries consider antimonopoly as strong reason for implementing competition law and efficiency as one of the major reasons which is different from the US and EU.

Efficiency is one of the main reasons in Asia but it is of less importance in EU. The US considers efficiency as the least important among all. We conject that is due to the difference in level of economic development. Many Asia countries are developing countries; efficiency is one of the most important concerns as they can hardly afford any loss of resources. In the EU, whist many of the European countries locate in the Eastern side of Iron Curtain are developing countries, the Western side are wealth and well-developed. Whist developing nations like Serbia, Hungary, etc. cannot afford to waste any resources, developed nations are rich and can afford to lose some resources. For example, country like France may not aim at efficiency (if we consider their working hour and output). The US, beyond doubt, is a rich country with GDP rank number one among all countries in the World (World Bank 2015).

With regards to official reason of why competition should be implemented, EU, the US and 55 Asian countries' official reasons for implementing competition laws (refer to the previous Sections 4 to 6) show that many countries implement it for consumer to enhance competition (Figure 4). Nevertheless, unlike the academic research articles on EU and Asia countries, the number of official documents which stress on consumer and fairness is less than competition. Efficiency, works against monopoly/antimonopoly are also some of the common official reasons for implementing competition law.

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