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# Global Broadband Battles: Why the U.S. and Europe Lag While Asia Leads

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# Global Broadband Battles: Why the U.S. and Europe Lag While Asia Leads

**Description**

Review of *Global Broadband Battles: Why the U.S. and Europe Lag While Asia Leads* / Fransman, Martin. Stanford University Press, 2006.

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# Global Broadband Battles: Why the U.S. and Europe Lag While Asia Leads

Posted on **November 1, 2007** by **Editor**



**Review by Jeffrey Barlow** <barlowj@pacificu.edu>

[About](#)

*Global Broadband Battles: Why the U.S. and Europe Lag While Asia Leads.*

Fransman, Martin

Stanford University Press, 2006.

This volume, edited by the prize-winning Professor Martin Fransman, [1] is both timely and important. While it is best suited for an audience with a high level of interest, that interest could be in Broadband, in the international hi-tech environment, or in the legislative and economic environments of Japan, Korea, China, the United States, France, Germany, Italy or Sweden. Each of these nations is the subject of a complete chapter in the edited work.

The value of any edited work must lie largely in the quality of the individual contributors. These are, like the editor himself, a highly qualified group. The majority are both natives of the nation about which they write, and well-trained economists.

Fransman, however, provided a strong editorial hand, and contributed excellent summaries of each of the three groupings of chapters. In fact, it would be possible to take away considerable understanding and value from a reading of only Fransman's general introduction and his summaries. These summaries each serve as a more detailed introduction to the book's three sections: Part I, Asia: Japan, Korea, and China; Part II, North America: The United States; and Part III, Europe: France, Germany, Italy, and Sweden.

The work logically follows this particular organization because it is the thesis of the book that broadband development in Asia far outpaces that in either the United States or Europe. The larger question the work attempts to answer is why that is true.

A major value of the book is that it very much respects the influence of both history and culture in the nations concerned and treats each as a specific individual case. We learn, for example, that whereas it is true that Asia leads, the reasons why Korea and Japan are far in advance of the rest of the world may differ for each nation.

While each of the two has created a policy and economic environment which greatly facilitates the development of broadband, Korea has the advantage that more than half its population lives in apartment blocks, greatly simplifying the so-called "last mile" problem—how to get full fiber conduits to the end user.

Japan does not have this advantage, though it is also highly urbanized. But seeing the importance of broadband development, Japan chose to create a policy environment which encouraged disruptive newcomers to the industry even at the expense of the Japanese governmental corporation, National Telephone and Telegraph (NTT).

The United States is a particular analytical problem because the development of communications and of computer technology is, of course, amongst the highest in the world. But its ranking in terms of both quality of broadband—the U.S. defines "broadband" as including the slowest speeds of all the nations covered—and in terms of its distribution among the population as well, unfortunately, continue to slip steadily. At present, it is ranked as 24th internationally. [2]

So the question becomes, “Why does the United States, with such an early start and a highly developed hi-tech industry, provide slower speeds of access to a lower percentage of its population, and usually at higher prices, than twenty-three other nations?”

The contributors to *Global Broadband Battles*, being largely cautious academic economists, do not attempt to answer this question with certainty. The editor views this work as necessary to establishing the understanding to eventually answer it.

However, the overall perspectives of the contributors are quite clear: The United States has chosen to permit an oligopoly of non-competitive firms to control the industry. Moreover, competition has declined rather than increased in the industry, due to federal policies.

In the absence of competition in America, disruptive technologies are restrained. The competitors tend to compete with each other over service and inconsequential factors, rather than to markedly increase speed or to develop new technologies or even to carry current technology to its logical end-point, full fiber to the home. In short, in America, competition is restrained largely to the allocation of advertising budgets.

However, to their credit, the contributors do not risk broad generalizations but rather continually point out that there are often no simple answers in this field. There are cases in which market regulation clearly facilitates the development of broadband, and others when competition is critical.

Recently, I had an opportunity to, in effect, field test the information in the work as I was an observer at the August 2007 Aspen Institute Forum on Communications and Society (FOCAS). [3] The group was composed of more than fifty luminaries from publishing, hi-tech and government—including two members of the FCC, and Viviane Reding, European commissioner for Information Society and Media. [4] Following three days of conversation and debate, the group identified improved broadband and much greater access to it as the central issue in U.S. telecommunications policy for the immediate future.

Broadband policy is, of course, a very complex and controversial issue. I found, however, that reading *Global Broadband Battles* more than prepared me to understand its history and its present context in the sometimes highly technical discussions at FOCUS. In fact, I felt that many of the participants could have benefited from reading the work as well, as they were ill prepared to understand some of these issues, particularly as they bore upon both the history of the issue in the United States and in non-American contexts.

## Endnotes

[1] Fransman has won prizes both in the United Kingdom and in Japan for his books on hi-tech topics. See his personal page at: <http://www.jets.man.ed.ac.uk/staff.htm> , His works include: *The Market and Beyond: Information Technology in Japan* (Cambridge University Press) which won the Masayoshi Ohira Prize; *Japan’s Computer and Communications Industry* (Oxford University Press); *Visions of Innovation* (Oxford University Press); *Telecoms in the Internet Age: From boom to bust to ...?* (Oxford University Press).

[2] See <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/19389299/site/newsweek/>

[3]

[http://www.aspeninstitute.org/site/c.huLWJeMRKpH/b.612663/k.F561/Aspen\\_Institute\\_Forum\\_on\\_Communications\\_and\\_Society\\_FOCAS.ht](http://www.aspeninstitute.org/site/c.huLWJeMRKpH/b.612663/k.F561/Aspen_Institute_Forum_on_Communications_and_Society_FOCAS.ht)

[4] [http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_barroso/reding/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/reding/index_en.htm) Commissioner Reding was, in my estimation, the true star of this conference in that she was very nearly the sole voice at the conference with extensive knowledge of the conference topic outside the United States. While she was unfailingly polite and restrained, she more than once was visibly exasperated at our collective lack of knowledge. At one point she asked why Americans seemed incapable of learning from foreign experience and insisted on redeveloping everything regardless of other’s successes. A member of the audience answered simply, “Hubris.”

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**online jobs**

on **January 31, 2014 at 1:01 AM** said:

Hi! I just wish to offer you a huge thumbs up for the excellent info you've got right here on this post.  
I am coming back to your website for more soon.

**Network Marketing Opportunities 2013**

on **January 31, 2014 at 1:52 AM** said:

Thanks for sharing your thoughts on lump sum payment  
online trading accounts  
online business administration degrees  
outpatient alcohol treatment  
auto insurance liability  
car donation ct  
property development finance  
all three credit reports  
consolidate mortgage  
dental implants new jersey  
investment fraud lawyers  
drug rehab arizona  
serviced office space  
web hosting with asp  
cash back credit  
stock trading platforms  
business insurance lead  
how to do an intervention  
free debt management advice  
how much does lasik surgery cost  
forex trading program  
aircraft charter companies  
ecommerce hosting plan site web  
rn to bsn degree  
accident attorneys florida  
how much car insurance  
chicago wrongful death lawyer  
reservationless  
chevrolet hhr  
low interest rate personal loan  
interest checking accounts  
hillarys blinds  
kamelÄ± chat  
divorce lawyer new york  
rv financing bad credit  
avatar der herr der elemente  
property management maintenance software  
allinternal

penelope black diamond  
gÃ¶kÅšeada  
nonprofit debt management program  
hairstyles 2007  
wirtualna polska pl  
hand foot and mouth disease  
nakedgirls  
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fettrechner  
emo haircuts  
affordable dedicated server  
gwiazdy  
fixed rate mortgage quotes  
online merchant account services  
applying for credit card  
secured loan finance  
business phone small system voip  
remodeling home loans  
manufactured home refinance loan  
donate car minnesota  
td insurance  
card consolidate credit  
demo forex trading  
edi systems  
dallas family law  
ranking high on search engine  
vehicle quote  
credit card processing account  
car rental in alicante  
free motorcycle insurance quotes  
0 business card credit  
100 refinancing  
work accidents  
web log analysis software  
arizona bad credit loan mortgage  
targeted business mailing list  
forensic psychology degree  
online special education degree  
interest only home equity loans  
whole life insurance definition  
information mortgage  
call solutions  
a mortgage refinance  
tax settlements  
des moines insurance  
top money market accounts  
www beneficial com creditline  
home equity loan advice  
workmans comp lawyer  
forex trading demo  
consolidation loan debt loan  
lawsuit mesothelioma  
car donation cancer  
low cost drug rehab

york auto insurance  
visa rewards cards  
net10 cell phones  
accident injury claim  
virtual dedicated  
crm automation  
etrade online trading  
easy student loan  
equity home rate  
application consolidation loan student  
personal injury florida  
donate car ct  
business loans uk  
secure business credit card  
data archiving solutions  
mba programs online  
flood cleanup  
mortgage mailing list  
crm for small business  
virtual answering service  
homeowners insurance rate  
lawyer houston  
sell future payment  
checking accounts online  
rent dedicated servers  
new jersey criminal lawyer  
phone conference calling  
houston car accident attorney  
pee wee herman  
anagram solver  
nyc weather  
indiansex4u com  
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car insurance for a week  
whitewater rafting in maine  
non federal student loan  
dedicated server linux  
refinance automobile  
accredited online business degree  
colocated server  
phoenix criminal lawyers  
chicago mortgage refinance  
payroll clocks  
balance transfer deals  
mass email service  
compare hosting  
san francisco tax attorney  
miami home loans  
cheap motorbike insurance  
renters ins  
consumer counseling credit debt management

best online trade  
secured homeowner loan  
donate old cars  
2nd mortgage subprime  
the hartford car insurance  
0 interest rate  
univeristy of pheonix  
compus bank  
mortgage refinance poor credit  
penny stocks online  
bank debt consolidation  
nas data recovery  
data recovery group  
second mortgages bad credit  
car charity nj  
tax attorney dallas  
tax attorney las vegas  
canada web hosting company  
prefab offices  
non secured loan  
go to mypc  
online visa credit card  
affordable whole life insurance  
appellate attorney  
cash endowment  
printer cartridges hp  
best domain host  
gmc dealer locator  
best roth iras  
texas home equity loan calculator  
personal injury lawyers ny  
hosted voip pbx  
stop foreclosure refinance  
auto insurance in pa  
appeals lawyers  
worker compensation lawyer  
best mileage credit card  
advantage rentacar  
auto injury  
voip hosted pbx  
employer liability  
boston criminal lawyer  
debt consolidation credit card debt  
online degree in accounting  
car refinance loans  
call conference services  
low cost mutual funds  
card credit debt help save  
e trades  
college psychology  
21 car century insurance  
free balance transfer credit card  
125 equity home loan percent  
125 percent home equity loan  
private alternative student loans

internet load balancing  
roth ira limitations  
business process solutions  
mold inspection los angeles  
insurance life rate  
repayment of student loans  
refinance car loan rate  
second home loan  
life insurance rate comparison  
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penny stock online  
good credit card offers  
ontario auto insurance quote  
salvation army auto donation  
buy internet domain  
novation capital  
donating a vehicle  
data recovery ohio  
3 agency credit report  
mortgage lender for bad credit  
fredericks of hollywood  
my pc anywhere  
online marketing classes  
arizona lemon laws  
credit cards small business  
saleslogix software  
az homeowners insurance  
business consolidation debt loan  
oh auto insurance  
cheap car insurance in texas  
low interest credit card  
hr tracking software  
become a cfp  
interest rates refinance  
lowest interest credit card  
generation mortgage  
food saver vacuum  
immediate annuity quote  
fixed home equity rates  
labor poster  
cheap domain names and web hosting  
credit rates  
auto insurance price comparison  
compare home equity rates  
vulnerability assessment scanner  
best money market fund  
debt free solution. Regards

**Rocco**

on **January 31, 2014 at 3:28 AM** said:

Simply want to say your article is as surprising. The clearness

in your post is simply excellent and i could assume you're an expert on this subject. Well with your permission let me to grab your feed to keep up to date with forthcoming post. Thanks a million and please keep up the enjoyable work.

**building a sorted list**

on **January 31, 2014 at 6:23 AM** said:

I am sure this piece of writing has touched all the internet visitors, its really really pleasant post on building up new weblog.

**mlm seminar tips**

on **January 31, 2014 at 6:24 AM** said:

Appreciation to my father who stated to me regarding this webpage, this website is in fact awesome.

**Our site**

on **January 31, 2014 at 10:14 AM** said:

Hey there! I've been reading your website for a while now and finally got the courage to go ahead and give you a shout out from Porter Texas! Just wanted to tell you keep up the fantastic work!

**business partners**

on **January 31, 2014 at 1:06 PM** said:

I always emailed this weblog post page to all my friends, for the reason that if like to read it then my links will too.

**barbie laura shopnbc miami beach hotels radio victoria's secret real estate training new york lodging auto insurances conference call nickleback chicago tribune so you think you can dance the d c scene hair hello kitty graffiti minijuegos com skin care se**

on **January 31, 2014 at 1:23 PM** said:

Hi, i read your blog occasionally and i own a similar one and i was just curious if you get a lot of spam remarks? If so how do you protect against it, any plugin or anything you can advise? I get so much lately it's driving me crazy so any help is very much appreciated.

**Dylan Kravitz**

on **January 31, 2014 at 5:10 PM** said:

Oh my goodness! an incredible article dude. Thank you Nevertheless I'm experiencing problem with ur rss . Don't know why Unable to subscribe to it. Is there anyone getting equivalent rss drawback? Anyone who knows kindly respond. Thnkx

**lasik surgery, eye surgery, laser surgery, lasik**

on **January 31, 2014 at 7:33 PM** said:

Great write-up, I'm regular visitor of one's web site, maintain up the excellent operate, and It's going to be a regular visitor for a long time.

**private webcam sex**

on **January 31, 2014 at 8:08 PM** said:

Nice post. I'm reviewing continually this particular site and I'm influenced! Useful facts especially the closing part 😊 I deal with such information significantly. I was in search of the following particular information and facts for just a number of years. Thank you and with fortune.

**Emily**

on **January 31, 2014 at 9:02 PM** said:

Hello Dear, are you genuinely visiting this web page on a regular basis, if so afterward you will absolutely obtain good experience.

**Michale**

on **February 1, 2014 at 6:32 AM** said:

Do you have any video of that? I'd love to find out more details.

**app youtube**

on **February 1, 2014 at 9:57 AM** said:

WOW just what I was looking for. Came here by searching for approval boise hotel

exchange server hosting  
choose  
electric wheelchairs  
bird flu  
ozone  
daytona 500  
new york realtors  
digital photo  
i am me  
western washington university  
serotonin  
western kentucky university  
search engine marketing services  
t mobile prepaid  
consolidating debt  
corey  
tampa fl  
cleveland houses  
sta  
dancing with stars  
skybus airlines  
nashville travel  
travelers  
san francisco airport  
vocational schools  
computer science degree  
matchmaking  
acura tsx  
gmail sign in  
pay bills  
islands of adventure  
adult add  
marketing sales  
newsletters  
accountcentralonline  
kaiser permanente health insurance  
sleeping disorders  
financial newsletters  
smyrna georgia  
port authority  
tungsten carbide rings  
cleveland state university  
usga  
day spas  
veritas  
free email newsletter  
state college pennsylvania  
mat  
united way  
henderson homes for sale  
voltaire  
pathfinder  
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houston texans  
aetna com

microsoft word office  
atenolol  
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psychology degree  
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rochester big and tall  
academy sports  
i need you  
colocation hosting  
marley  
slightly stupid  
fubar  
vida  
life house  
zoe  
nipple  
icq to go  
humane society  
at\46t ringtones  
satellite internet service  
email advertising  
interest only mortgage calculator  
etfs  
fiance visa  
car insurance compare  
leap  
anxiety disorder  
detroit metro airport  
buy a house  
atlanta zoo  
irvine  
trade stock  
memphis vacation  
termite  
maui vacation  
adult finder  
greenwich connecticut  
home office  
novato california  
ithaca  
owens coming  
chasebank com  
las vegas nevada property  
barracuda firewall  
dvd rentals  
isabella soprano  
complacent  
reverse phone number lookup  
arcade  
reel big fish  
boarding kennels  
graduate schools  
do  
lakewood high school

40 year old virgin  
seafood  
caffeine  
ghana  
washington high school  
olga  
consolidate debt online  
lines  
air compressors  
lcd hdtv  
uma thurman  
fall of troy  
spanish american war  
electric fireplace  
yonkers new york  
san marcos california  
prime  
mortgage lead generation  
state auto insurance  
mercedes homes  
corporate greeting cards  
sammons preston  
clinics  
nantucket  
boston flight  
legal research  
criminal record  
voice recorder  
caitlyn  
thomson  
bized  
wholesale apparel  
2008 cadillac cts  
tv shows online  
blue cross blue shield of texas  
west side  
bourne  
yiffstar  
kocaeli Ã¼niversitesi  
unfinished furniture  
necessary  
flower girl dresses  
ford focus  
pollution  
mt everest  
loopnet  
potty  
exotic  
massage envy  
present  
best cd rate  
opiates  
we buy ugly houses  
greenville  
wall maps

gainesville  
state bar of california  
electrician jobs  
reservation  
motivational speaker  
superficial  
hot teens  
typing games  
jeopardy  
babe  
hot wheels  
christopher  
hardcore sex  
acrobat reader  
pinky  
big bear rentals  
matchmaker  
bensalem pennsylvania  
san francisco ca  
diabetic  
prices  
pearl earrings  
big bear lake  
stock brokerage  
denver colorado real estate  
walt disney quotes  
birth control patch  
instant insurance quote  
bbc com  
red roof inns  
bridal shower gifts  
kayaks  
clint eastwood  
lost abc  
credit repair service  
seo optimization  
affordable housing  
nyland  
djokovic  
tables  
auburn football  
tuscaloosa alabama  
audio accessories  
sportsline  
d e  
usgs  
play station 3  
usta  
nine msn  
helen keller  
i love lucy  
garrett  
rune  
sexs  
frienster

hp deskjet  
prepaid visa  
seen  
personal injury settlement  
online teaching degrees  
consumer debt relief  
fha home loan  
cooking school  
mantis tiller  
travel nurse employment  
first midwest bank  
dvd storage  
java array  
laptop battery  
sagacity  
credit score range  
master degree  
cash now  
kosher wine  
purchasing software  
cmp  
phlebotomy  
outdoor speakers  
packaging  
seton hall university  
clarify  
tucson schools  
company information

**Ngan**

on **February 1, 2014 at 10:26 AM** said:

We're a group of volunteers and starting a new scheme in our community.  
Your website offered us with valuable info to work on. You've done an impressive  
job and our entire community will be grateful to you.

**Laurence**

on **February 1, 2014 at 6:24 PM** said:

Hi there! This post couldn't be written much better!  
Reading through this article reminds me of my previous roommate!  
He constantly kept talking about this. I will send this article to him.  
Fairly certain he will have a very good read. Thanks  
for sharing!

**affiliate rewards**

on **February 1, 2014 at 7:34 PM** said:

With havin so much written content do you ever run into any problems of plagorism or copyright violation? My website has a lot of exclusive content I've either written myself or outsourced but it appears a lot of it is popping it up all over the internet without my permission. Do you know any methods to help prevent content from being stolen? I'd definitely appreciate it.

**Samsung mobile price in Uae**

on **February 1, 2014 at 9:55 PM** said:

I'm not sure where you are getting your information, but great topic. I needs to spend some time learning much more or understanding more.

Thanks for magnificent information I was looking for this information for my mission.

**money illusion**

on **February 1, 2014 at 10:34 PM** said:

Hi there, yup this piece of writing is in fact fastidious and I have learned lot of things from it concerning blogging. thanks.

**cash flow youtube**

on **February 2, 2014 at 12:59 PM** said:

Good article! We will be linking to this particularly great article on our website. Keep up the great writing.

**earn online legit**

on **February 2, 2014 at 10:45 PM** said:

great submit, very informative. I wonder why the other specialists of this sector do not notice this. You should continue your writing. I'm sure, you have a huge readers' base already!

**notch pepper spray garmin nuvi mountains luxor robotics trex gulf shores hotels detroit movers 53 bank live quotes petmed civilization olympia washington satellite phones white plains new york sound cards university of hawaii lockers rcn com scottsdale ho**

on **February 3, 2014 at 8:35 AM** said:

What's up to every one, it's in fact a pleasant for me to go to see this web site, it includes useful Information.

**personal loan apply**

on **February 3, 2014 at 12:06 PM** said:

Good day! Do you know if they make any plugins to protect against hackers? I'm kinda paranoid about losing everything I've worked hard on. Any tips?

**starting an internet business**

on **February 3, 2014 at 3:49 PM** said:

Howdy great blog! Does running a blog similar to this take a large amount of work? I have no knowledge of computer programming but I was hoping to start my own blog in the near future. Anyhow, if you have any suggestions or tips for new blog owners please share. I know this is off subject nevertheless I just had to ask. Appreciate it!

**Sammie**

on **February 3, 2014 at 6:10 PM** said:

I was wondering if you ever thought of changing the structure of your website? Its very well written; I love what youve got to say. But maybe you could a little more in the way of content so people could connect with it better. Youve got an awful lot of text for only having 1 or 2 pictures. Maybe you could space it out better?

**advertising research foundation**

on **February 3, 2014 at 9:09 PM** said:

It's going to be finish of mine day, except before ending I am reading this enormous article to increase my know-how.

**Jannie**

on **February 3, 2014 at 10:52 PM** said:

Hi to every one, the contents present at this web page are actually awesome for people experience, well, keep up the nice work fellows.

**mobile marketing exchange**

on **February 4, 2014 at 12:53 PM** said:

Howdy! I know this is kinda off topic however , I'd figured I'd ask. Would you be interested in trading links or maybe guest writing a blog post or vice-versa? My site covers a lot of the same subjects as yours and I believe we could greatly benefit from each other. If you are interested feel free to shoot me an e-mail. I look forward to hearing from you! Fantastic blog by the way!

**Annetta**

on **February 4, 2014 at 3:38 PM** said:

An outstanding share! I have just forwarded this onto a co-worker who had been doing a little homework on this. And he in fact bought me lunch simply because I discovered it for him... lol. So let me reword this.... Thank YOU for the meal! But yeah, thanks for spending the time to discuss this subject here on your blog.

**pathway Profits-online ed 4 e commerce**

on **February 4, 2014 at 7:12 PM** said:

Very soon this web page will be famous amid all blogging people, due to it's good articles

**how to make money from home**

on **February 4, 2014 at 10:19 PM** said:

It's a shame you don't have a donate button! I'd definitely donate to this outstanding blog! I guess for now i'll settle for bookmarking and adding your RSS feed to my Google account. I look forward to fresh updates and will talk about this site with my Facebook group. Chat soon!

**Christal**

on **February 5, 2014 at 4:51 AM** said:

Everything is very open with a very clear explanation of the challenges. It was really informative.

Your site is very helpful. Thank you for sharing!

**Stocks Ready To Split**

on **February 5, 2014 at 4:59 AM** said:

This is the right web site for anyone who really wants to find out about this topic. You know so much its almost tough to argue with you (not that I actually would want to...HaHa). You definitely put a brand new spin on a subject which has been written about for a long time. Wonderful stuff, just excellent!

**Augusta**

on **February 5, 2014 at 2:23 PM** said:

Great blog! Do you have any tips and hints for aspiring writers? I'm hoping to start my own site soon but I'm a little lost on everything. Would you advise starting with a free platform like WordPress or go for a paid option? There are so many choices out there that I'm completely overwhelmed .. Any ideas? Thanks a lot!

**money zen app**

on **February 5, 2014 at 6:45 PM** said:

These are genuinely impressive ideas in about blogging.

You have touched some nice things here. Any way keep up writing.

Global Broadband Battles book. Read reviews from world's largest community for readers. Broadband communications have become the most important focus in ... Japan and Korea lead the world in broadband penetration, and yet neither country dominates the global information and communications industry. The European Union has developed an effective new regulatory framework for electronic communications, yet follows both Asia and the United States. Global Broadband Battles explains these issues while analyzing the dynamic drivers of the broadband industry, including many of the technologies involved. ...more. Get A Copy.