

In the paper, *The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation* written by Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson, an interesting question is being looked at in terms of European Colonization. The question that the paper presents is: *Is there a correlation between mortality rates of countries being colonized by European countries in the 17th - 19th centuries and their current GDP per Capita.* The idea behind this assertion is that mortality rates of colonized nations influenced the colonizers view of the country. If mortality rates were high, they would not attempt to create a new European nation amongst the colonized by implementing their own policies and institutions but rather would implement scarce or no institutions and governing rule and merely extract necessary goods and resources from the country. The data they used when looking deeper into this question was data pulled from a variety of sources including 'PurchasingPower Parity Basis, from World Bank, World Development Indicators, CD-Rom, 1999.' With the goal of brevity I will not list all of the data sources but rather indicate that they can be found in the Appendix Table A of this paper.

When attempting to answer this question, the authors took a multi step approach. They devised that the question was split up into a few break downs in the following order. Mortality Rate Colonized -> Type of Settlement -> Early Institutions Formed -> Current Institutions Adapted from those earlier -> Current GDP Per Capita. When diving into the data the authors measured the mortality rate's affect on the current institutions, and then current institutions affect on GDP per Capita.

When the authors plotted their findings of each of these experiments the results were consistent with the question. The data did indeed show that those nations with higher mortality rates do indeed have a higher risk of expropriation today (meaning poor institutions considering that governments or other institutions have power to take property). They then found that countries with higher risk of expropriation do indeed have a lower GDP per capita. This led to the conclusion that there can be a correlation found within the question at hand.

A question I would present as a branch off of this current one is a look into a full circle relationship. Whether or not low mortality rates when colonized lead to a low GDP per Capita (as we have seen can be understood as possible) and whether this then leads to a higher crime rate / lower life expectancy. If sickness and the approach colonizers took centuries ago could affect how long and safely people live today.