

The Plan

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30th October 2020

Abstract

A plan for how to restart after parental leave and eventually finish the PhD.

‘Plans are worthless, but planning is everything.’ — Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Keywords— Productivity, goals, plan

1 Main Paper on HSE's and conflict

1.1 Literature

- The State and violence. General theories. Along the lines of Pinker (2012) and Tilly (1990). With increasing state penetration comes an increasing monopoly on violence (Tilly 1990) and with this, certain cultural/psychosocial effects that translate into a generally more peaceful citizenry.
- Internal organized (as opposed to communal) violence.
- How old institutions affect current institutions (formal and non-formal or networks). How old institutions were integrated into the new states. There is going to be endless variation on this, so I will need to find some illustrative examples. Emphasize that in the cases of formal integration and continued existence, these institutions will probably have *some* effect on conflict because of their legacy and continued involvement in local (if not national) conditions. In addition, I should emphasize that even when no formal institutions survive, HSE's can still affect current politics and conflict. Use good illustrative examples to make these points. Could refer to some of the examples in the first paper to save some labor.

1.2 Theory

- As predicted by the literature.
- Old institutions represent a measure of "governing capacity" that has hitherto been modestly explored. The more historical state presence the more people are used to and accept state intervention.

The state monopoly on violence should also be more consolidated. The degree of consolidation would probably vary with the degree of continuity between the historical state and the present state, but it should be a positive relationship in both cases.

The more historical state presence, the more time the cultural or psychosocial effects that Pinker (2012) hypothesize have to affect the people in the

area.

1.3 Hypothesis

H₁: Grid cells with higher levels of historical state presence experience less conflict.

1.4 Variables

- ☐ Theoretical and/or methodological grounding.
- ☐ Finding measures (data).
- ☐ Incorporate with the Geo-ISD data.
- ☐ Geography
 - ☐ "Ruggedness", mountains or elevation.

Provides shelter for rebels and prevents "exit-options" for subjects, to the benefit of stationary bandits (states).

What is more, ruggedness could affect (negatively) the chances that cartographers and (to a lesser extent) historians have place a state there.
 - ☐ Rivers. Provide natural boundaries useful for state building. Navigable rivers bind cities together (again useful for state building). Rivers could often be navigated by explorers, thus increasing the likelihood that maps include a state there.
 - ☐ Jungle. Potentially some circumscription/limiting escape option effects, and certainly an impediment to Western explorers and surveyors.
- ☐ Distance from X.
 - ☐ Capital. In many cases the old capitals became the new capitals, around which I expect relatively high levels of HSP (historical state

presence). Capitals probably (source) experience more of some forms of violence (coups, violent protests, etc., and less of other forms (combat deaths).

- Coast. Helpful for trade and communication and this state building. Dramatically increases the odds of being discovered by Western explorers. Also increases the odds of early colonization. Increases odds of being involved in slave trading. Connection to conflict is less clear, but perhaps through Nunn (2008) slave trade leads to lasting trust issues leads to conflict-mechanism.
- Europe. Institutional "spillover" could lead to increased chance of HSP. Ease of discovery (when distance to coast and desert is taken into account) is certainly affected. Proximity to Europe could be correlated with conflict due to increased likelihood of being a transit-country for drugs and/or people being smuggled into Europe across the Mediterranean, and potentially through increased exposure to European neo-colonial interests.
- Exposure to slave trade. Partially explained in the distance to coast variable. Can be measured directly for some countries at least using data from Nunn (2008). Can be related to statebuilding in costal regions, and potentially state "de-building" inland. To capture slaves you must have an army. As stated by Tilly (1990) among others, an increasing army creates the need for a state. Someone must surely have written something about this for East Africa. Inland I believe the slave trade (capturing of slaves) primarily led to devastation and not the "Tillian", *conflict* → *state* → *conflict* → *etc.*, but I will need some sources on this.
- Population. Madison project data for historical population. Correlates with current population which affects the likelihood of conflict events. Related to state building (and thus HSP) because states need a certain population to coalesce and an inclusion criteria in the ISD.
- Disease prevalence (missionary mortality rate).

- ☐ Resources.
 - ☐ Gold.
 - ☐ Silver.
 - ☐ Copper.
 - ☐ Iron.
- ☐ Spatial interdependence.
- ☐ Past Conflict.
- ☐ Regional and country-fixed effects.

1.5 Data

- ☐ How the old maps were made.
- ☐ Compare old maps to new. Do they agree on the core areas?
- ☐ Benefits of the Geo-ISD.
- ☐ Drawbacks.
- ☐ Alternative measures.

1.6 Analysis

- ☐ Cross section to avoid post-treatment bias.
- ☐ Alternative models.

2 Communal violence

- ☐ Talk to Ole Magnus.

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References

- Nunn, N. (2008), ‘The long-term effects of Africa’s slave trades’, *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* **123**(1), 139–176.
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- Tilly, C. (1990), *Coercion, Capital, and European States, A.D. 990-1990*, Studies in Social Discontinuity, Basil Blackwell, Cambridge, Mass.

5 Appendix