

Assignment 1: Presentation

The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development:
An Empirical Investigation **Acemoglu et al. (2001)**

Group 23

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FEM11087 Applied Microeconometrics

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Research Question and Data

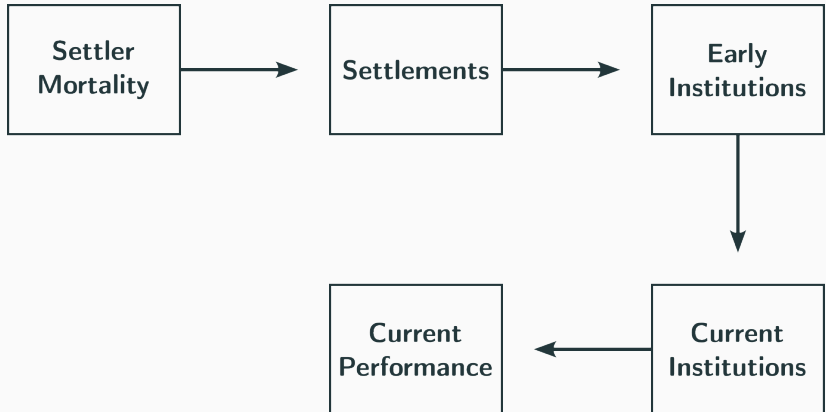
Do differences in **institutional quality** explain the variation in **economic performance** across countries?

- **GDP per capita (1995):** log GDP per capita, PPP-adjusted from World Bank.
- **Protection against expropriation (1985-1995):** scale 0-10, higher score = less risk. From Political Risk Services.
- **European settler mortality:** log of deaths per 1000 European settlers¹, largely compiled from Curtin (1964, 1968, 1989, 1998) and Gutierrez (1986).
- **Control variables:** geography/climate, colonial history, natural endowments, disease environment, etc.

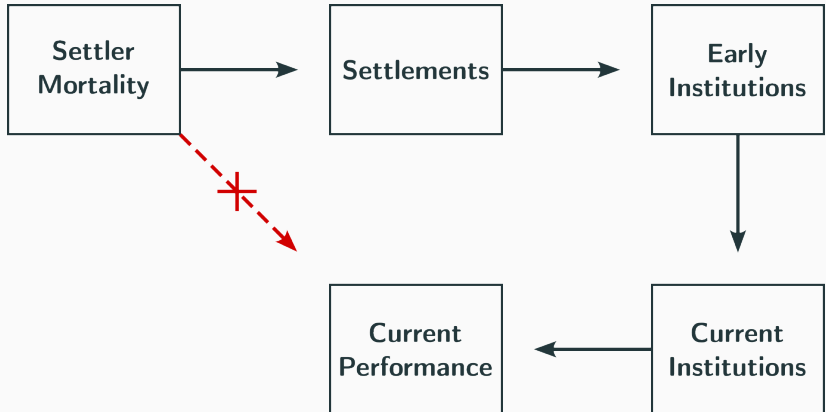
¹soldiers, bishops and sailors stationed in colonies between XVII and XIX centuries

Assumptions

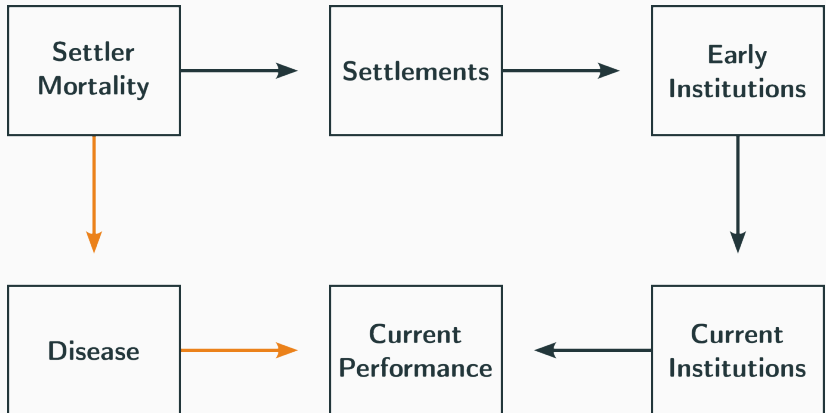
Key Assumptions



Key Assumptions



Possible Violations



Critical Assessment

Thank you!

References

Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson. **“The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation”**. In: *American Economic Review* 91.5 (Dec. 2001)