

Sectoral Origins of Income Taxation: Industrial Development in Latin America and The Case of Chile (1900-2010)

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Abstract

Building on the fiscal sociology and sectoral approaches, this paper outlines the conditions under which the timing of the implementation of the income tax was most likely to happen. The argument stresses the role of sectoral contestation, and how the tax was an important critical juncture for state-building in Latin America. My quantitative analyses cover almost a hundred years of sectoral outputs. I also examine the Chilean case to illustrate the causal mechanisms at work. I find that higher levels of sectoral contestation—characterized by the rising of the industrial class—posed credible threats to incumbent landowners-elites, in turn accelerating inter-sectoral alliances. I focus on one such agreement, the income tax, and explain why this institution was important for state consolidation.

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There seems to be strong agreement that fiscal capacities are a prerequisite for state-building. For instance, [Levi \[1989, 1\]](#) explains for the continental cases that, “the history of state revenue production is the history of the evolution of the state.” Unfortunately, however, most efforts have been devoted to understanding the relationship between the politics of taxation and state development only in a limited number of European cases,¹ overlooking the origins of fiscal and state expansion in the developing world, and particularly, in Latin America.² In fact, in a recently edited volume, [Monson and Scheidel \[2015, 3\]](#) explain that the “New Fiscal History has furnished a valuable set of concepts and questions but so far its scope has been limited to post-classical Europe.”³ Moreover, the bulk of the research done on Latin America has mostly focused on *recent* tax reforms.⁴ For instance, [Fairfield \[2013\]](#) studies different strategies policymakers pursue to tax elites starting in 1990, [Mahon et al. \[2014, 3\]](#), [Mahon \[2004\]](#) and [Focanti et al. \[2013\]](#) have studied the causes of tax reform in Latin America starting in the 1960s, 1980s, and 1990, respectively. Similarly, [Ross \[2004\]](#) studies the relationship between taxation and representation between 1971 and 1997, whereas [Sokoloff and Zolt \[2007\]](#) study the evolution of tax institutions, comparing the U.S. with Latin America.⁵ However, comparative time series studies focusing on the structural *origins* of income taxation in Latin America seem scarce. By providing a set of broader consequences for state consolidation, this paper is an effort to fill this gap in the literature.

Building on the fiscal sociology approach, I develop an argument centered on the development of the modern fiscal apparatus in Latin America, explaining that it was product of sectoral conflicts and compromises, between the industrial and agricultural elites. The paper presents several panel-data analyses covering almost 100 years of data for a number of Latin American countries. It also presents the Chilean case to illustrate the causal mechanisms at work. I find that the emergence of the industrial sector *accelerated* the implementation of the income tax, while the expansion of the agricultural sector *retarded*, or even *precluded* fiscal development. These findings go in line with [Beramendi et al. \[2016\]](#), particularly, in that as long as agriculture is the leading economic sector, the fiscal apparatus is less likely to emerge.⁶

I argue that the early implementation of the income tax in Latin America was product of an inter-sectoral conflict that took place around in the early 1900's between the agricultural and industrial sectors. Initially, Latin American political institutions and social norms—largely inherited

¹[Schneider \[2012, 2\]](#) explains that even when we have gained considerable knowledge of fiscal expansion in the European cases, the study of developing countries is lacking especially in the presence of “new leading sectors.”

²[Di John \[2006, 5\]](#).

³Some important exceptions are [Yun-Casalilla et al. \[2015\]](#) and [Monson and Scheidel \[2015\]](#) who study a number of premodern Latin American states.

⁴Flores-Macias, in [Flores-Macias \[2017\]](#).

⁵See also [Sanchez \[2011\]](#) and [Bergman \[2003a\]](#).

⁶See for similar results [Pessino and Fenochietto \[2010, 78\]](#).

from the colonial period—were designed to serve the interests of the landowning elites.⁷ However, the economic structural transformation characterized by “a secular decline of agriculture and substantial expansion of manufacturing,”⁸ imposed tight constraints on the way politics was run by the incumbent agricultural political elites. Given the initial advantage of the landed elites, the emergence of the industrial sector lead to the reduction of inter-sectoral inequality. It also lead to the rise of bargaining power of the industrial class, positioning them as challenger elites.⁹ In other words, the political monopoly of agricultural elites was disturbed with the rising of a new and strong political elite backed by favorable material conditions rooted in industrial expansion. Industrial emergence, in turn, posed credible political, economic and military threats, to agricultural incumbents, increasing the opportunity costs of conflict, generating pressures for inter-elite compromises, particularly, the implementation of the income tax. The paper explains why industrial elites actually preferred to impose the income tax, and link this to state consolidation.

Some scholars situate the relevant state-building critical juncture either before the colonial period,¹⁰ or at the end of it.¹¹ While the literature situates these critical moments before the class compromises I identify in this paper, the paper identifies the income tax as an important *additional building block* in that process. Hence, here the focus is on state *consolidation*, rather than strictly state *formation*.

The paper is organized as follows. The argument is explained in two different sections. **The first section** explains the nature and mechanics of the sectoral conflicts that lead to income taxation, paying especial attention to the role of taxation on state consolidation in Latin America. **The following section** explains that the timing of implementing the income tax acted as a critical juncture, setting countries in a path of development/underdevelopment. To contextualize the theoretical argument, **the following section** presents the case of Chile between 1900 and 1950, focusing particularly on the cross-class economic and political dynamics that led to the implementation of the income tax. In an effort to generalize this historical evidence, the **quantitative section** presents several panel-data analyses covering almost 100 years of data for a number of Latin American countries. Lastly, the paper provides some **concluding remarks**, and discusses some pending issues.

⁷Mamalakos [1971, 90,109].

⁸Johnston and Mellor [1961, 567].

⁹Mamalakos [1971, 112] explains that in “Latin America, agriculture-linked parties lost power between 1900-1960, while those parties linked with mining, industrial, and service sectors gained power.”

¹⁰Mahoney [2010].

¹¹Kurtz [2009, 2013] explains that the first critical juncture corresponded to the post independence political economy, stressing whether local rural elites recruited their workers through servile means. In turn, Soifer [2015, 6] argues that the critical tipping point was whether “local administrators were outsiders in the communities in which they served.”

I. SECTORAL CONFLICTS AND THE ROLE OF TAXATION ON STATE FORMATION

The paper examines the well-established link between direct taxation and state-making, but it emphasizes the path-dependent consequences of sectoral conflicts on state consolidation in the Latin American context, filling an important gap in the literature of the political economy of the developing world.¹² And such, it sees the implementation of the income taxation as an important critical juncture for state consolidation.

The opening premise is that income taxation fosters state consolidation. Following Schumpeter who sees “taxation in terms of group conflicts [and] class interests,”¹³ and Musgrave [1992, 99], who explains that since taxation (especially on incomes) requires such a high degree of state penetration, this article contends that public finances offer an important element for any theory of state development.

According to fiscal sociologists, indirect taxes do not foster a strong fiscal apparatus.¹⁴ According to Best [1976, 53], “indirect taxes are but substitutes for direct taxes,”¹⁵ and hence they are typically administered by weak states.¹⁶ Since indirect taxes are easier to levy,¹⁷ this kind of revenue is generally considered “unearned income,”¹⁸ or “easy-to-collect source of revenues.”¹⁹ Given the relatively lower costs states have to incur to collect them, indirect taxes—particularly tariffs—have a very low impact on state-building. Since customs administrations have always been concentrated in a few critical locations, especially ports, tariffs and customs duties, did not require an elaborate fiscal structure,²⁰ compromising state consolidation. In fact, when early Latin American states depended heavily on international trade taxes, the state apparatus tended to be less developed.²¹

Industrial and agricultural elites have different preferences towards taxation.²² Since land fixity increases the risk premium of the landed elite's main asset,²³ they systematically resist taxation. In turn, as capital can be reinvested in nontaxable sectors,²⁴ industrialists' preferences toward taxation

¹²Gabriel Ondetti explains in Flores-Macias [2017] that to “[his] knowledge, there is no study that explicitly applies [the] notion [of path dependence] to explain variance in contemporary tax burdens.”

¹³Monson and Scheidel [2015, 14].

¹⁴However, see Brewer [1990, 56]. The English state made extensive use of its navy to prevent smuggling and enforce the excise, an indirect tax. The excise employed an important number of state agents and helped to develop skilled state bureaucracies and an efficient fiscal system.

¹⁵However, under certain circumstances, indirect taxes are more efficient. Kiser [1994, 291] explains that when the levels of tax variability are high, direct taxation can actually have negative effects, especially when overtaxation is a possibility.

¹⁶This view is also supported by Moore [2004a, 14].

¹⁷Krasner [1985, 46] explains that “tariffs and export taxes are easier to obtain than direct taxes, which require high levels of bureaucratic skill and voluntary compliance.” See also Flores-Macias in Flores-Macias [2017].

¹⁸Moore [2004b, 304].

¹⁹Coatsworth and Williamson [2002, 10].

²⁰Bertola and Ocampo [2012, 132].

²¹Campbell [1993, 177].

²²Acemoglu and Robinson [2009, 289], Best [1976, 50].

²³Robinson [2006, 512]. However, see Freeman and Quinn [2012].

²⁴Hirschman [1970]. See Ronald Rogowski in Drake and McCubbins [1998, ch. 4]. However, see Bates and Lien

are more elastic.

These conflicting sectoral preferences about taxation have broader implications for state centralization, and consolidation.²⁵ Since the landowning classes opposed taxation, and since taxation fostered state centralization, ultimately, the sectoral conflict over taxation had bigger consequences for state consolidation. Where the landowning class was powerful, income taxation came in late, compromising state formation. However, when the emergence of a challenger capitalist class posed credible threats to agricultural incumbents, the conflict was likely to be resolved in favor of expanding the early fiscal apparatus, particularly, by implementing the income tax, fostering state building. This particular paper builds on [Mares and Queralto \[2015, 3\]](#), who find that the income tax was adopted “at a time when the economic power of incumbent landowning elites was severely threatened by the rise of a new economic elite linked to the emerging manufacturing sector.” Similarly, leveraging a number of cases, including some Latin American countries, [Beramendi et al. \[2016, 18\]](#) explain that as industrialists depended more on infrastructure implemented at the local level such as roads, railroads and bridges, they “[*preferred*] to shoulder a higher tax burden through progressive direct taxation.”²⁶

The nature of the sectoral threats is rooted into the greater access industrialists had to military resources. Favorable material conditions permitted the capitalist class to buy off factions of the early state armies (as the Chilean case illustrates). From a sectoral inequality point of view, the emergence of strong industrial political elites implied a reduction in levels of inter-elite economic inequality, closing the gap respect to access to military resources each elite had. Importantly, having both elites access to similar military resources, war was most likely to exhaust all existent assets without producing positive outcomes for either sector,²⁷ putting heavier pressures to reach agreements rather than engaging in armed conflicts. Here I focus on one such agreement, the implementation of the income tax law. Critically, credible sectoral threats—as the paper contends—made the political incorporation of non-agricultural political elites more likely.

The implementation of the income tax law had positive spillovers on state consolidation. Income taxation was not only important because of the new revenue it collected, but also for state consolidation.²⁸ Kaldor points out that the revenue service is the “point of entry.” Once this institution is established, the expected marginal cost of improving/implementing other “state-capacities” is

[1985, 15].

²⁵[Hechter and Brustein \[1980, 1085\]](#) explain that “state formation will be most likely to the degree that powerful individual actors form two groups on the basis of *divergent* economic and political interests.”

²⁶Relatedly, [Flores-Macias \[2014\]](#) finds that Colombian elites were willing to impose higher taxation levels on themselves, upon the establishment of an elite-government alliance, fostering closer monitoring levels, particularly regarding public spending.

²⁷Richard Salvucci in [Uribe-Uran \[2001, 48\]](#).

²⁸[Musgrave \[1992, 98\]](#), [Moore \[2004b, 298\]](#).

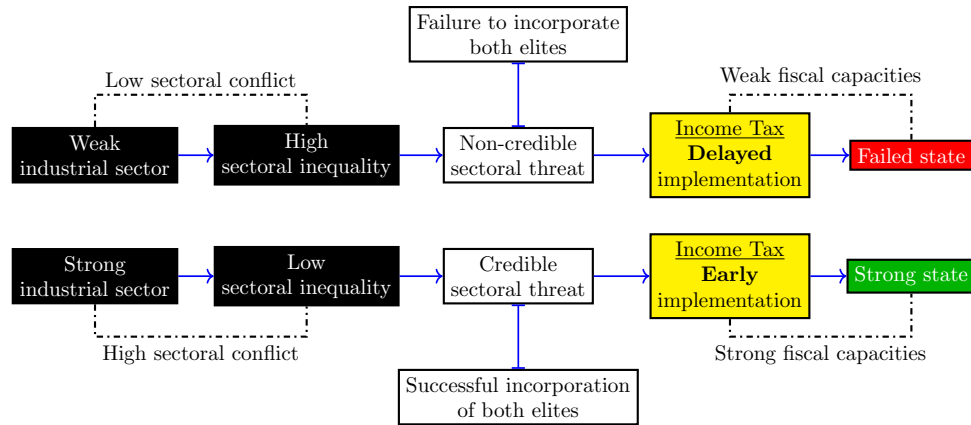


Figure 1: *Causal Argument*

lower.²⁹ In other words, there were *technical complementarities*³⁰ between implementing the income tax, and fostering overall levels of state institutionalization. The literature is consistent in that the *introduction* of the income tax has is associated with state expansion. For instance, Besley et al. [2013] explain that *implementing* the income tax law is “associated with investments in public administrative structures that support tax collection” in a number of countries, including Chile, while Dincecco and Troiano [2015, 3] find “a positive and significant relationship between the introduction of the income tax, and (1) per capita total expenditures, (2) per capita education expenditures, and (3) per capita health expenditures.” In Chile, bureaucrats that were sent to collect and administer taxes eventually learned to solve land disputes and dispense justice, among other state tasks. For instance, it was necessary to send official emissaries to check on accounting books of the refinery in the north, the winery in the central valley, and the *hacienda* in the south. Eventually, these delegations became more complex, increasing the density of state presence in the territory. Others have found that literacy levels rose in 1907 from 40% to 66% in 1925,³¹ the share of national revenue accounted for by income taxes after implementing the income tax in 1924, rose from 6% in 1920 to 23.7% in 1940,³² and that the dependence on custom taxes decreased from 70.2% to 41.1% during those same years.³³ Finally, I find in a different project that the income tax in Chile produced state-capacities overtime.³⁴ All these developments suggest that policies that expanded the reach of

²⁹In Brautigam et al. [2008, 15].

³⁰Which are situations in which “an increase in the output of [a] commodity [...] lowers the marginal costs of producing [other] commodity” (Hirschman [1958, 67]).

³¹Engerman, Sokoloff and Mariscal, in Engerman and Sokoloff [2011, Ch. 5].

³²Engerman, Sokoloff and Zolt, in Engerman and Sokoloff [2011, 178]. Humud (1969, p. 154) documents that the income tax was widely enforced, generating considerable resources for the Chilean treasury (in Bowman and Wallerstein [1982, 451-452]).

³³Engerman, Sokoloff and Zolt, in Engerman and Sokoloff [2011, Ch. 6].

³⁴Bahamonde [b].

the state, increased considerably *after* implementing the income tax.

II. THE TIMING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INCOME TAX: LATE AND EARLY IMPLEMENTERS

When countries implement the income tax is a substantively important quantity of interest. Income taxation should have positive spillover effects on state development, only if its implementation is situated during the formative years of the polity. Otherwise, once other major institutions are set in place (and once there is a clear set of winners and losers), even if some kind of direct taxation is (lately) imposed, it should be very costly to alter the underlying incentives of that particular institutional order. Since late implementers had lower levels of sectoral conflict—too low to trigger a critical juncture—they kept reproducing the legacies of the post-colonial backwards institutions.

While all countries in the region eventually implemented some system of direct taxation (see [Figure 2](#)), the process late implementers went through, did not reflect the domestic sectoral dynamics explained in this paper, but other forces. While early implementers consolidated the state *in light* of taxation, late implementers evolved *despite* taxation. Moreover, implementing the income tax in contexts where the post-colonial agricultural economic elites were still the ruling political elites, represents a missed opportunity to transform the state. In fact, I find somewhere else that in a number of Latin American countries that, when the income tax is adopted under contexts of sectoral contestation, economic growth is more likely to be sustained in the long run.³⁵

The political incorporation of industrial elites promoted lower levels of defection. Industrial elites were willing to impose an income tax on their own incomes, in exchange of being able to participate in the political life of the polity. In turn, political incorporation altered the post-colonial (backwards) institutional order by crystallizing a process of state consolidation via the expansion of the fiscal system. This reasoning is in line with [Beramendi et al. \[2016, 7\]](#) who argue that “so long as agricultural elites are the dominant political power-holders in society, then fiscal capacity should remain relatively small, because such elites will prefer *not* to invest in greater fiscal capacity.”³⁶

To add some context, a brief example about two divergent cases is presented. Chile imposed the income tax law very early, in 1924, and the Chilean *Servicio de Impuestos Internos* is among the finest tax institutions in Latin America.³⁷ Unlike Chile, Guatemala imposed the income tax law very late, in 1963. By 1967, the national income tax office employed only 194 people, with only 9 of them with a college degree.³⁸ In fact, Cabrera and Schneider not only find that “Guatemala

³⁵[Bahamonde \[a\]](#).

³⁶Emphasis in original. See also for a similar approach [Ansell and Samuels \[2014\]](#) and [Collier and Collier \[2002\]](#).

³⁷[Bergman \[2003b\]](#), [Fairfield \[2010, 38\]](#).

³⁸[Di John \[2006, 5\]](#).

collects among the lowest tax levels in Latin America,” but also that “the revenues it does collect are gathered inefficiently.”³⁹ That is, while Guatemala did eventually implement income taxation, the persistence of backwards institutions, have precluded Guatemala to implement a modern fiscal apparatus. This paper contends that endogenous sectoral conflicts played an important role in those regards. In this case in particular, non-agricultural elites have not been strong enough to trigger a critical juncture. When these endogenous forces have been weak, or inexistent, income taxation was implemented for other reasons, not transforming the state. In fact, the income tax law in Guatemala was implemented exogenously by the US-backed dictator Colonel Enrique Peralta Azurdia, not necessarily reflecting the inter-sectoral domestic dynamics. Next section expands the Chilean case.

III. UNPACKING THE MECHANISMS: CHILE 1850-1950

A two-sector society Historians still debate whether agriculturalists and industrialists comprised two *different* elites. Some claim that this dualism is incorrect.⁴⁰ They argue that since landowners also invested in industry,⁴¹ there was a blurry class division between the mining, banking and agricultural sectors.⁴² I contend that there are a series of stylized facts that suggest that there was indeed a structural cleavage between the two sectors.

However, there were certain practices that masked the sectoral cleavage. For example, it was common that industrialists invested in real estate. However, in many instances they did so *just* to obtain credit. Kirsch [1977, 59] explains that “in a *rural society* land offered one of the best guarantees for loans [since] loans could not be secured by equipment, machinery, or inventory. Only real estate was acceptable collateral.”⁴³ In fact, this practice shows how the credit system was oriented to give unfair advantage to the landed elites.⁴⁴ Similarly, Zeitlin [1984, 174] finds that while there were some instances where there were mixed investments, “the combined ownership of capital and landed property was a distinctive quality of *certain* [elites] actors.”⁴⁵ There were also other instances where miners invested in banking. However, Segall [1953] argues that Chilean

³⁹In Mahon et al. [2014, 128].

⁴⁰See for example Mamalakis [1976, 125].

⁴¹Kirsch [1977, 57, 95] who cites Bauer [2008]. See also Coatsworth and Williamson [2002, 23] argue that “[t]he only landowners that mattered in 19th century Latin American politics were those for whom land represented but one asset in a much broader portfolio.” In the same vein, Bauer [2008, 180] argues that “[m]iners and merchants bought haciendas but landowners in turn invested in banks, insurance companies, commercial firms and the incipient industrial sector.”

⁴²Bauer [2008, 30, 44, 94, 108].

⁴³Emphases are mine.

⁴⁴Unda [2017, 9] explains that in Mexico the lack of credit had previously been one of the industrial sector’s main obstacles. In fact, industrial elites started to comply with the income tax in exchange of having credit policies more adequate to the industrial sector. Similarly, Mamalakis [1969, 11] develops a theory of sectoral clashes. The leading sector becomes dominant thanks to the interplay between the government, the dominant sector, and the central bank.

⁴⁵Emphasis is mine.

bankers, after the crisis of the mining sector around the 1870s, acquired a number of mineral deposits given as collateral years before, again suggesting that the lack of economic dualism is rather apparent. Similarly, but for the Argentinean case, [Hora \[2002, 609\]](#) explains that “the image of an entrepreneurial elite with assets *scattered throughout several spheres of investment* does not appear entirely correct.”⁴⁶

In addition to that, the nature of the main factors of production of agriculturalists (land), and industrialists (capital), accelerated the sectoral cleavage. Borrowing from the Lewis model of economic growth, I explain elsewhere that there were a number of structural conditions that should have prevented massive cross-sectoral investments.⁴⁷ Given the transference of labor from agriculture to the industrial sector,⁴⁸ and given that the agricultural sector is determined to lag behind the industrial sector,⁴⁹ elites invested in both sectors should experiment important allocative inefficiencies, and deadweight losses, putting heavy pressures to invest in one sector, or the other, but not both. Granger-causality tests and VAR models (not shown here), show that in developed Latin American countries, agricultural expansion caused industrial expansion (modern growth). The opposite is true in non-developed Latin American countries: industrial expansion caused agricultural expansion (backwards growth).⁵⁰

Sectoral Antagonism In all Latin American economies during, and right after the colonial period, agriculture was the most important sector, economically and politically.⁵¹ And by extension, the economic interests of the agricultural elite were the only economic interests represented in politics.⁵² For example, [Collier and Collier \[2002, 106\]](#) argue that initially, the “national government was dominated by the central part of the country, with owners of large agricultural holdings playing a predominant role.”⁵³ Moreover, political institutions, and social norms inherited from the colonial period, were designed to allocate economic inputs (and hence *growth*) in a way that benefited the landowning class only.⁵⁴

⁴⁶Emphasis is mine.

⁴⁷[Bahamonde \[a\]](#).

⁴⁸The industrial sector uses capital and labor with increasing returns to scale, while agriculture uses land (which is fixed) as the main input ([Jorgenson \[1961, 311\]](#), [Ranis and Fei \[1964, 59\]](#), [Jorgenson \[1967, 291\]](#), [Skott and Larudee \[1998, 279-280\]](#) and [Vollrath \[2009, 290\]](#)).

⁴⁹To clarify, “the agricultural sector declines relative to the overall economy but continues to expand absolutely” ([Nerlove \[1994, 14\]](#)). In other words, it is the “the proportional contribution of agriculture to the growth” that decays ([Kuznets \[1961, 45\]](#)), implying that in the long run the agricultural sector “must also grow,” ([Ranis and Fei \[1961, 534\]](#)) especially given the continuing dependence on a constant supply of food ([Nicholls \[1963, 2\]](#)).

⁵⁰The developed/non-developed typology presented in [Mahoney \[2010, 5\]](#) was used.

⁵¹[Keller \[1931, 13\]](#).

⁵²[Wright \[1975, 45-46\]](#). [Mamalakos \[1969, 19\]](#) refers to this period as the *traditional pattern of government-export sector coalition*.

⁵³Similarly, [McBride \[1936, 15\]](#) explains that “Chile’s people live on the soil. Her life is agricultural to the core. Her government has always been of farm owners. Her Congress is made up chiefly of rich landlords. Social life is dominated by families whose proudest possession is the ancestral estate.” Emphases are mine.

⁵⁴[Bahamonde \[a\]](#).

However, despite that in some cases a strong industrial sector emerged, their corresponding elites were kept from participating in politics with the same privileges, and conditions, the landowning political elites had. Consequently, the opportunity costs of implementing policies designed to enhance the agricultural sector were low. Zeitlin [1984, 13] argues that “landowners controlled both the vote and the labor power of the agrarian tenants (*inquilinos*) and dependent peasants (*minifundistas*), and this was the *sine qua non* of their continuing political hegemony.” In Congress, and the presidency itself, landowners were the single most important group,⁵⁵ leaving the modern sector heavily under-represented.⁵⁶ Consequently, fiscal pressures in favor of agricultural taxes were minimal compared with mining taxes,⁵⁷ leaving the agricultural sector systematically—and substantially—undertaxed relative to other sectors.⁵⁸ Historians explain that “[i]n those areas where the government did interfere in the countryside, the effect was to strengthen the position of the landowning class.”⁵⁹ For example, the little public infrastructure that existed, mostly benefited the agricultural sector.⁶⁰

This asymmetry led these two “antagonistic elites”⁶¹ to confront in the civil wars of 1851-1859, and 1891, between a “large landed property [elite against a] productive capital [elite].”⁶² President Balmaceda’s overthrowing explains the sectoral nature of these conflicts. On the one hand, he was mainly supported by the landed elites, but later overthrown in 1891 by a mainly industrial/mining coalition.⁶³ While his agenda on “industrial” infrastructure (mainly roads and railroads) benefited mostly agricultural areas,⁶⁴ his attitude towards the banking sector (closely linked to the mining sector)⁶⁵ was “all but confiscatory.”⁶⁶ On the other hand, however, he failed to secure a coalition with his own sector. Zeitlin [1984, 127] explains that the “decline of wheat exports [...] came precisely when a vast new market for agriculture was growing in the nitrate territory.” As the agricultural sector supplied the industrial areas with foodstuff, it simultaneously increased the sectoral dependence of

⁵⁵Bauer [2008, 45].

⁵⁶As Baland and Robinson [2008, 1748] argue, “[c]ongressional representation was heavily weighted in favor of rural districts.”

⁵⁷Mining was one of the first manifestations of industrial activity. For example, while an agricultural income tax was imposed, it was weak and abolished after the civil war of 1891.

⁵⁸Best [1976, 56]. Bauer [2008, 81] provides a very plausible explanation for why the agricultural sector was “structurally” protected against taxation. As he explains, “[t]he availability of an easily accountable source of public revenue—bags of nitrate or bars of cooper—meant that any need for the Chilean government to intrude into the affairs of landowners was reduced [...] the state kept its political hands off the countryside until the overwhelming urban demands for more food and political support in the 1960s.” Zeitlin [1984, 38] also points out that “public revenues came almost exclusively from taxes on mining and its exports.”

⁵⁹Bauer [2008, 118].

⁶⁰Rippy [1971], Marichal [1989], Zeitlin [1984], Bauer [2008].

⁶¹Keller [1931, 37-38].

⁶²Zeitlin [1984, 23].

⁶³Zeitlin [1984, 186].

⁶⁴Zeitlin [1984, 124].

⁶⁵Zeitlin [1984, 118].

⁶⁶Zeitlin [1984, 175].

the agricultural elites on the industrial sector, forcing the “landed proprietors [to] become dependent to a considerable extent on the continuing prosperity of the major nitrate capitalists.”⁶⁷ While it would be inaccurate to say that Balmaceda was *completely* supported by agriculturalists, and *completely* opposed by industrialists, this example illustrates how a failed inter-sectoral alliance, and a biased strategy regarding the provision of public goods against industrialists, led these two groups to a series of military conflicts.

However, lower levels of inter-elite inequality gave both elites access to similar military resources, preventing subsequent conflicts. While *Balmacedistas* managed to secure the support of the army, *congresistas* (the anti-Balmaceda group) managed to gather support of the navy.⁶⁸ Ultimately, the conflict left a permanent scar in the Chilean society. While the civil war lasted only nine months, it took 10,000 lives (out of a total population of 3 million people), and cost more than \$ 100 million,⁶⁹ a significant amount for a small country. This legacy materialized in an inefficient, but politically stable system for several years. In part, the immobilism was due to the fact that the political reforms that gave way to the “parliamentary” period, came out from inter-elite alliances.⁷⁰ However, the intention to avoid more violence (at least among the elites) tended to persist. For instance, while all “ministers, counselors of state, members of the constituent congress [,] municipal officials, provincial governors and intendants, members of the judiciary and even the lowest functionaries and ordinary employees of Balmaceda’s government were investigated [or] brought to trial,”⁷¹ there were a number of amnesties issued. Similarly, there were a number of *aborted* coups in 1907, 1912, 1915 and 1919.⁷² All in all, there seemed to be a clear avoidance to more conflict.⁷³

Under such circumstances, there were heavier pressures for a sectoral compromise. Three institutional components were considered: an income tax, industrial protectionism, and equal access to the state.⁷⁴ In fact, [Lederman \[2005, 53\]](#) and [Haber \[2005, 18\]](#) find that in Chile, the timing of protectionist and income taxation cycles matches.

Implementing the Income Tax The income tax law was passed in Chile in the middle of big political instability. In 1920, President Alessandri obtained a very close victory against Luis Barros

⁶⁷[Zeitlin \[1984, 129\]](#).

⁶⁸[Leonard et al. \[2013, 176\]](#).

⁶⁹[Zeitlin \[1984, 86\]](#).

⁷⁰[Collier and Collier \[2002, 108\]](#).

⁷¹[Zeitlin \[1984, 87\]](#).

⁷²[Collier and Collier \[2002, 109\]](#).

⁷³Similarly, [Geddes \[1991\]](#) argues that competition between two rival parties of about the same size creates clearer incentives to invest in political institutions.

⁷⁴The SOFOFA pursued a very strong protectionist agenda. [Sokoloff and Zolt \[2007, 122\]](#) explain that the expansion of “manufacturing production [...] helped to nurture the development of a powerful constituency for higher tariffs.”

Borgoño,⁷⁵ who was supported by “the dominant political and landed aristocracy.”⁷⁶ Governability was seriously compromised as the election let the senate in control of the landowning class, who roundly opposed tax reforms.⁷⁷ Particularly, the opposition had “serious differences [...] over [Alessandri’s] legislative program, especially in connection with the proposed income tax.”⁷⁸ In 1924, the income tax law was passed. As others explain, the non-agricultural “accepted taxation, *while demanding state services and expecting to influence how tax revenues were spent*.”⁷⁹ The law taxed 2% on professional income above 2,400 pesos, 3.5% on net profits in industry and commerce above the same sum, 5% on income from mining, and 9% per cent on incomes from real estate.⁸⁰ Humud (1969, p. 154) explains that in “1930 [the tax] would become second only to import duties in size.”⁸¹

The Chilean case suggests a number of hypotheses. First, there existed a structural economic cleavage between the industrial and agricultural sectors. Second, agricultural political elites implemented policies that played in their own favor. Third, the rising of the industrial class challenged the landowning classes. Fourth, given their similar degree of economic and military resources, both elites compromised the income tax. As explained before, implementing the income tax early had positive consequences to state consolidation. The next section is an attempt to generalize, and test, one particular link of this chain: the rising of the industrial classes, and the early implementation of the income tax.

IV. ECONOMETRIC ANALYSES

Following the economic development typology suggested in Mahoney [2010, 5], nine polities were selected. Three “higher level” countries (Argentina, Chile and Venezuela), three “intermediate level” countries (Mexico, Colombia and Perú), and three “lower level” countries (Ecuador, Nicaragua and Guatemala). Sectoral conflict, and particularly, the degree in which the industrial elites challenged incumbent landowners, was proxied via industrial and agricultural sectoral growth rates, as presented in the MOxLAD data.⁸² The dataset spans from 1900 to (potentially) 2010.⁸³ According to Astorga

⁷⁵Collier [1999, 111].

⁷⁶Haring [1931, 2].

⁷⁷Haring [1931, 5].

⁷⁸Haring [1931, 3].

⁷⁹Carmenza Gallo, in Brautigam et al. [2008, 165]. Emphases are mine. She refers specifically to the mining elites.

⁸⁰James [1924, 552].

⁸¹Bowman and Wallerstein [1982, 451-452].

⁸²“These data build on the studies and statistical abstracts of the Economic Commission for Latin America, but also rely on Mitchell’s International Historical Statistics, International Monetary Fund’s International Financial Statistics, the World Bank’s World Development Indicators and a variety of national sources.” I used the *agriculture value-added* and *manufacturing value-added* variables. The former measures “the output of the sector net of intermediate inputs and includes the cultivation of crops, livestock production, hunting, forestry and fishing.” The later “[r]eports the output of the sector net of intermediate inputs.” Both of them are expressed in local currency at 1970 constant prices.

⁸³As I explain later, I test this argument within the duration model approach. Since countries are censored once they implement the income tax law, they leave the sample (potentially) before 2010.

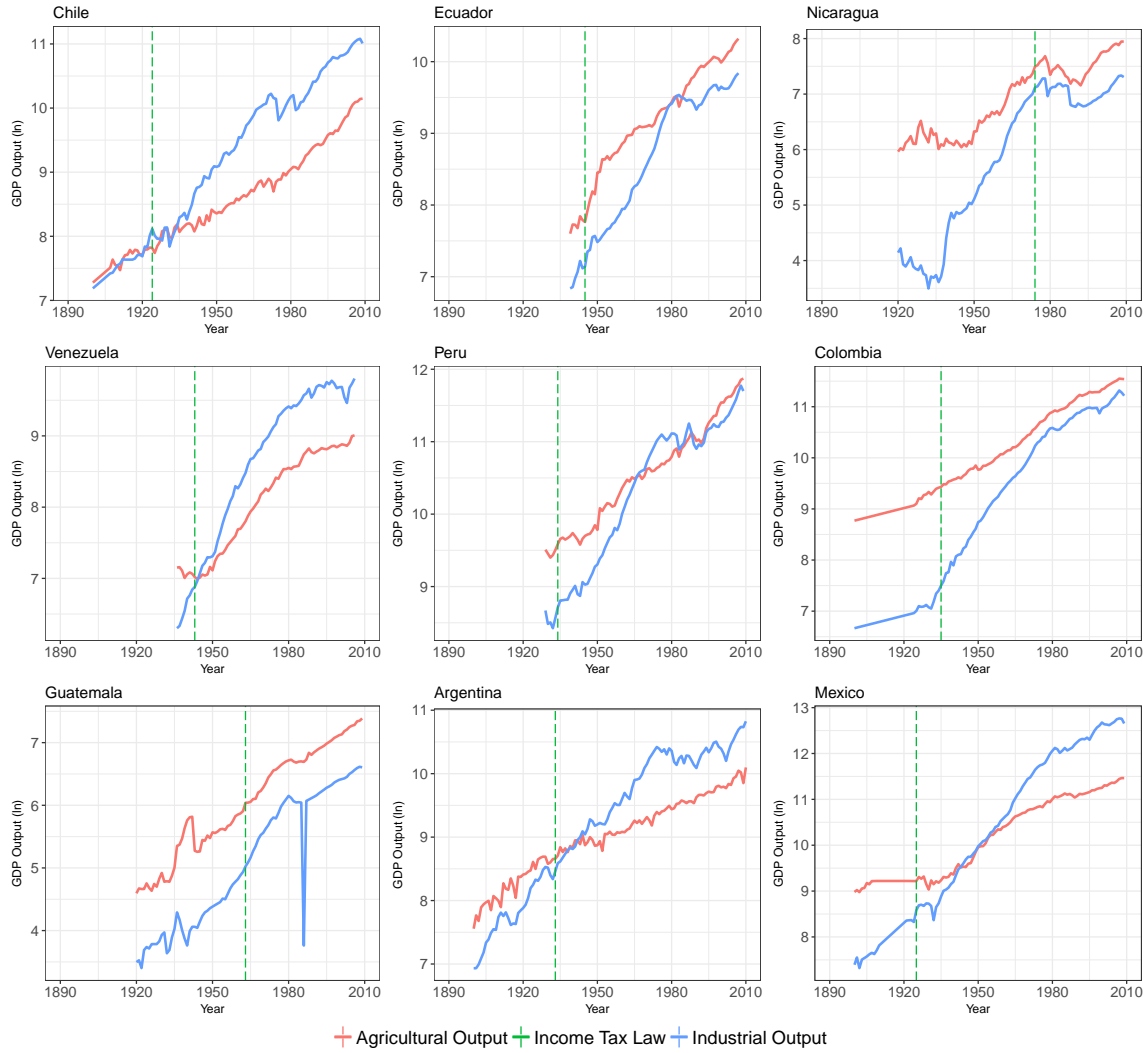


Figure 2: Industrial and Agricultural Outputs, and The Passage of the Income Tax Law.

Note: Figure shows historical sectoral outputs, and year of the passage of the income tax law. Following convention, the figure shows logged values.

Source: *MOxLAD*, and other sources compiled by the author (see *Table 1*).

et al. [2005, 790], these data provide extended comparable sectoral value-added series in constant purchasing power parity prices.⁸⁴

Using secondary information, *Table 1* states when the income tax was implemented. *Figure 2* shows both sectoral outputs (independent variables) and the year when the income tax law was passed (dependent variable). Since population has been associated with the probability elites expand the franchise,⁸⁵ and consequently the tax base, I include total country-year population as a control

⁸⁴Using a similar strategy, *Thies* [2005] also uses data on taxation and compare those data between cross sections.

⁸⁵*Engerman and Sokoloff* [2005, 892-893].

variable.

Country	Available Data	Year Income Tax	Law	Source
Chile	1900 - 2009	1924	<i>Ley 3996</i>	Mamalakis [1976, 20] and <i>LeyChile.Cl</i> (official)
Peru	1929 - 2009	1934	<i>Ley 7904</i>	Gobierno del Perú [1934] (official)
Venezuela	1936 - 2006	1943	<i>Ley 20851</i>	<i>Gaceta Oficial</i> (official) and Ventura and Armas [2013, 27]
Colombia	1900 - 2009	1935	<i>Ley 78</i>	Figueroa [2008, 9]
Argentina	1900 - 2010	1933	<i>Ley 11682</i>	Infoleg.Gob.Ar (official)
Mexico	1900 - 2009	1925	<i>Ley de Impuesto sobre la Renta</i>	Unda [2017, 8]
Ecuador	1939 - 2007	1945	-	Aguilera and Vera [2013, 135]
Nicaragua	1920 - 2009	1974	<i>Ley 662</i>	Legislacion.Asamblea.Gob.Ni (official)
Guatemala	1920 - 2009	1963	<i>Decreto 1559</i>	Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios Fiscales [2007, 165]

Table 1: *Sample, Data Available and Year the Income Tax was Implemented*

Table 2 shows 3 models.⁸⁶ Following Aidt and Jensen [2009], Model 1 computes the lagged conditional hazard ratio of a country which has not yet adopted the income tax, adopts it in a given year, as a function of industrial and agricultural outputs.⁸⁷ Countries drop out of the sample when they adopt the income tax. Lagging the independent variables should account for non-contemporaneous factors that might confound the contribution of sectoral growths, such as prior state capacities, among others. Model 2 shows the estimated coefficients of a generalized estimating equation (GEE). Generalized estimating equations were introduced by Liang and Zeger [1986] to fit clustered, repeated/correlated, and panel data.⁸⁸ This method is especially well suited to analyze binary data,⁸⁹ something particularly useful given the nature of the dependent variable (e.g. whether a polity has implemented the income tax or not). GEE methods require analysts to parameterize the working correlation matrix. Though Hedeker and Gibbons [2006, 139] explain that “the GEE is robust to misspecification of the correlation structure,”⁹⁰ Zorn [2006, 338] explains that whereas

⁸⁶All tables were produced using the `texreg` package (Leifeld [2013]). All Cox models were computed using the `survival` R package (Therneau [2015]). The GEE logistic regression was computed using the `geepack` package (Hojsgaard et al. [2016]). The simulations were performed using the `simpH` R package (Gandrud [2015]).

⁸⁷I do not combine both variables nor do I construct an index. Since I am interested in the *contribution* of each individual sector in the acceleration of the implementation of the income tax law (keeping constant the other), keeping both variables separately is a better strategy.

⁸⁸Zorn [2006, 322].

⁸⁹Hanley et al. [2003].

⁹⁰Carlin et al. [2001, 402] argue that “[r]elatively minor differences in estimates may arise depending on how the estimating equations are weighted, in particular within the generalized estimating equation (GEE) framework.” ?

	(1) Cox (1 lag)	(2) Logit GEE	(3) Conditional Logit (FE)
Manufacture Output $_{t-1}$	4.923*** (1.851)		
Agricultural Output $_{t-1}$	-4.208** (1.638)		
Total Population	0.000*** (0.000)		
Manufacture Output (ln)		1.924*** (0.514)	0.668*** (0.143)
Agricultural Output (ln)		-1.596*** (0.603)	-0.941*** (0.281)
Total Population (ln)		1.259 (1.052)	1.030*** (0.391)
AIC	12.796		4505.538
R ²	0.059		0.341
Max. R ²	0.085		0.997
Num. events	9		610
Num. obs.	241	842	842
Missings	0		0
PH test	0.388		
Num. clust.		9	

*** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$. Robust standard errors, models 1 and 2. Country fixed effects in 3. Intercept omitted.

Table 2: *Sectoral Origins of Income Taxation: Income Tax Law and Industrial Development*

the choice of estimator makes little or no difference, the unit on which the data are grouped makes a big difference. Hence, following the advice of [Hardin and Hilbe \[2013, 166\]](#), who point out that when “the observations are clustered (not collected over time) [...] the exchangeable correlation structure” should be used, I assume an “independence” working covariance structure, which also corrects for small-sized panel designs.⁹¹ From a substantive standpoint, GEE models provide an estimated marginal mean, or the *weighted average* of all cluster-specific effects (or conditional means). Model 3 is a conditional logit (or “fixed effects” model). One important advantage of this strategy is the ability to account for country-specific effects. For example, fiscal development could be a function of country-specific prior state-building capacities.⁹² A number of scholars rightly argue that post-colonial state-capacities are in part a function of pre-colonial state-capacities.⁹³ Fixed-effects should be able to account for these, and other unobserved or hard-to-measure covariates, which if left unaccounted for, would introduce omitted variable biases.⁹⁴ [Table A1](#) in the appendix section shows other models, including one with a different transformation to capture different shapes of the baseline hazard, and another one to account for possible spatial dependency. The result do not vary. All models suggest that the rise of a strong industrial sector largely accelerated the implementation of the income tax law. Moreover, a strong agricultural sector not only has zero impact on fiscal

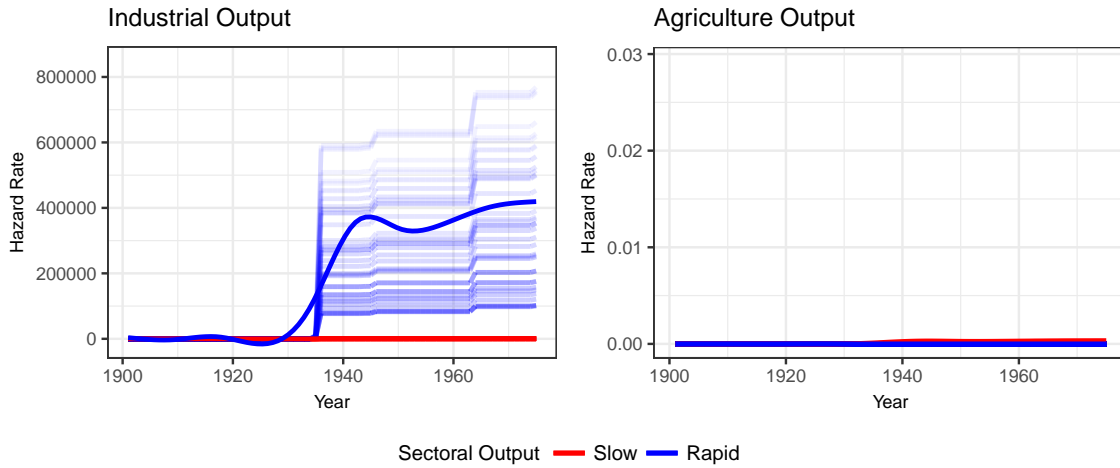


Figure 3: Hazard Rate of Implementing the Income Tax Law.

Note: Using estimations of Model 1 in Table 2, figure shows 5,000 simulations with different sectoral growth speeds. ‘Slow’ is the minimum value, while ‘rapid’ is the maximum value for each sectoral output. The figure also shows the 95% confidence intervals.

development, but a negative one.

Using the estimations from Model 1, I follow Gandrud [2015] and King et al. [2000], and in Figure 3, simulate 5,000 times the Hazard Rate of implementing the income tax law, conditional on industrial, and agricultural growth rates.⁹⁵ While the outcome of interest does *not* depend *directly* on time,⁹⁶ sectoral outputs do grow in time.⁹⁷ Consequently, it will be necessary to account for this tendency by allowing estimations to vary with time as well.⁹⁸ Since the Hazard Rate “is the probability that a case will fail at time t ,”⁹⁹ I take advantage of this quantity of interest which allows some dependency on both time, *and* the covariates.¹⁰⁰ Figure 3 strongly suggest that the faster the agricultural sector develops, the less likely the implementation of the income tax. This relationship does not change at later stages of development, suggesting that polities with a strong agricultural elite are not associated with fiscal development. However, rapid industrial development is associated with an earlier implementation of the income tax law.

and Gardiner et al. [2009, 227] make the same point.

⁹¹Hardin and Hilbe [2013, 166] explains that if “the number of panels is small, then the independence model may be the best; but [analysts should] calculate the sandwich estimate of variance for use with hypothesis tests and interpretation of coefficient,” which is what I report in Table 2.

⁹²I thank Matthias vom Hau for this suggestion.

⁹³Wimmer [2015, 10], Mahoney [2010] and Lange et al. [2006, 1426].

⁹⁴Angrist and Pischke [2008].

⁹⁵Box-Steffensmeier and Jones [2004, 15] explain that the Hazard Rate is the most common quantity of interest analysts focus on. Figure 3 shows 95% confidence intervals.

⁹⁶See Figure A1.

⁹⁷As seen in Figure 2.

⁹⁸The economics literature refers to these kinds of time series “integrated” or I(1) processes.

⁹⁹Licht [2011, 231].

¹⁰⁰Box-Steffensmeier and Jones [2004, 15].

What the quantitative analyses suggest are twofold. First, the stronger the industrial sector, the earlier the tax is implemented. Second, agricultural expansion, in fact, *delays* the implementation of the income tax. In simple, industrial expansion is the one to “blame for” implementing the income tax. Substantively, *when* countries implement their income taxes is an important factor for state development. Particularly, *early* implementers situated the timing of implementing this state-making institution before the post-colonial order was crystallized, impeding the consolidation of the landed political elites. Early implementers in fact were able to consolidate the state *in light* of taxation. These results are robust to a number of alternative hypotheses, specifications and functional forms. In concrete, I do not find evidence in favor of spatial dependency, neither do I find different results once the variables are lagged-logged (to capture different shapes of the baseline hazard).¹⁰¹ Furthermore, every approach used (duration model, pooled model, and fixed effect model) in [Table 2](#) gives exactly the same substantive results. Importantly, the simulation plot shows very clear patterns. As long as the landowning elites are the most influential elites (backed up by the expansion of their material conditions), fiscal development, and the positive spillovers on state consolidation associated with it, are expected to be very unlikely to emerge. Moreover, by simulating a quantity of interest in [Figure 3](#) that accounts for possible time dependency (e.g., the hazard rate), I am able to incorporate—at least indirectly—different waves of democratization, and other factors that are expected to happen as time goes by, such as the impact of international markets, like crises or economic booms.

V. DISCUSSION: SLOW INDUSTRIAL GROWTH AND LACK OF CONTESTATION

Historically, agriculturalists were a hegemonic group protected by practices inherited from institutions originated in colonial times. These norms survived due to institutional inertia, perpetuating their advantaged position. However, the emergence of a strong industrial elite altered the inter-sectoral balance of political power, making unsustainable the political monopoly run by the landed elites. Given the initial advantage of the landed elites, the emergence of the industrial sector reduced the levels of inter-sectoral inequality, in turn generating political, economic and military threats to agricultural incumbents. Moreover, low inequality also increased the opportunity costs of conflict, putting pressures for inter-elite compromises.

The data analyses suggested that faster industrial growth accelerated the hazard of implementing the income tax. I interpreted the Chilean case through the lenses of the fiscal sociology paradigm. Leveraging historical evidence, I find that industrial elites accepted to be income taxed

¹⁰¹[Table A1](#).

by agriculturalist incumbents in exchange of having access to state politics. Importantly, all these elite compromises took place during the formative years of the Chilean state, and during a period of structural indetermination, where no elite had a clear economic/military/political advantage, fostering the incorporation of all major economic elites into the same national project. When the income tax was implemented under politically contested circumstances, this institution expanded the overall state-capacities by crystallizing a series of reforms, dismantling the old institutional order inherited since colonial times. Given the initial advantage of the landed elites, the emergence of a strong industrial sector increased levels of sectoral contestation. Countries with low levels of state-capacities did eventually implement the tax. However, later implementation had to do more with exogenous forces, leaving unaltered the backwards institutional order inherited since colonial times.

Both the argument, and the empirical findings, are situated within the broader literature on political and economic development, particularly within the fiscal sociology paradigm, emphasizing how fiscal development fosters state-making. Concretely, this paradigm proportionates a theory of state-building as it links the mechanics between the state-led effort of taxing incomes, and the expansion of other state services. Future research should explore more avenues of fiscal expansion, emphasizing domestic channels of political development, particularly considering different types of bargaining dynamics between the agricultural and industrial elites. To the best of my knowledge, [Beramendi et al. \[2016\]](#) and this paper, are among the few of such accounts.¹⁰²

¹⁰²In p. 19, they argue that their “paper is among the first to systematically establish that fiscal development may take place even in the absence of interstate military competition and warfare.”

VI. APPENDIX

I. Kaplan-Meier Curves: Ruling out Spurious Time Dependency

It is important to rule out the possibility that income taxation and sectoral development, are not linked through a spurious, time-dependent relationship. In other words, the occurrence of the outcome of interest (income taxation), should not be directly related to time itself, but to the rise of the industrial elite. Within the framework of survival analyses, [Figure A1](#) shows the failure rate of the sample average country of implementing the income tax, if industrial development had increased/decreased by half (rapid/slow).¹⁰³ The figure clearly shows that the implementation of the income tax law is largely accelerated when the size of the industrial sector increases, and that this relationship does not depend directly on time. It is important to note that this figure shows the unparameterized behavior of the failure rate, e.g., the empirical distribution of failures that comes directly out of the data, before any model is actually estimated.

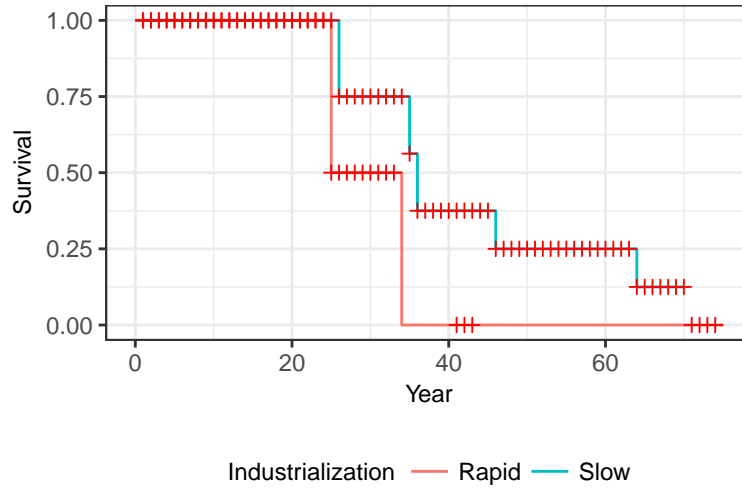


Figure A1: *Kaplan-Meier Curves: Size of the Industrial Sector and the Accelerated Rate of the Imposition of Income Tax Law*

¹⁰³“Failure” in this case means “implementing” the income tax law.

II. Alternative Models: Lagged-logged Independent Variables and Spatial Dependence

Model 1 is a Cox regression, but with lagged logged variables. By including time-transformed variables, in the form of a lagged dependent variable (to account for partial adjustment of behavior)¹⁰⁴ or “the use of the natural log transformation [to capture] different forms (or “shapes”) of the baseline hazard,”¹⁰⁵ Model 2 accounts for possible spatial-temporal dependence.¹⁰⁶ Given that most countries in the sample are contiguous neighbors, it is reasonable to expect a “domino” effect.¹⁰⁷ Theoretically, being the first country in implementing the income tax, might not require the same level of domestic “effort” than being the last one. Early-implementers might not have prior experience, being harder for them to pass the law. To account for this possible spatial-temporal dependence, a cumulative count of countries which have implemented the law at time t was included.¹⁰⁸

	(1) Cox (1 lag, ln)	(2) Spatial Dependence
Manufacture Output $_{t-1}$ (ln)	7.685* (3.333)	
Agricultural Output $_{t-1}$ (ln)	-6.971* (3.227)	
Total Population (ln)	5.059* (2.228)	4.676* (2.682)
Manufacture Output (ln)		7.148 (4.815)
Agricultural Output (ln)		-6.465 (4.636)
AIC	10.894	11.056
R ²	0.068	0.065
Max. R ²	0.088	0.085
Num. events	9	9
Num. obs.	232	241
Missings	0	0
PH test	0.877	0.667

*** $p < 0.001$, ** $p < 0.01$, * $p < 0.05$, $cdot p < 0.1$. Robust standard errors in all models

Table A1: *Sectoral Origins of Income Taxation: Alternative Explanations*

¹⁰⁴Wawro [2002].

¹⁰⁵Box-Steffensmeier and Jones [2004, 75].

¹⁰⁶I thank both Christopher Zorn and David Darmofal for this suggestion.

¹⁰⁷For a more detailed spatial take on fiscal expansion, see Thies et al. [2016].

¹⁰⁸I clustered the standard errors at the counting variable level. Clustering by the counting variable allows me to cluster by early or late implementers.

..... **Word count:** 10,190

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