

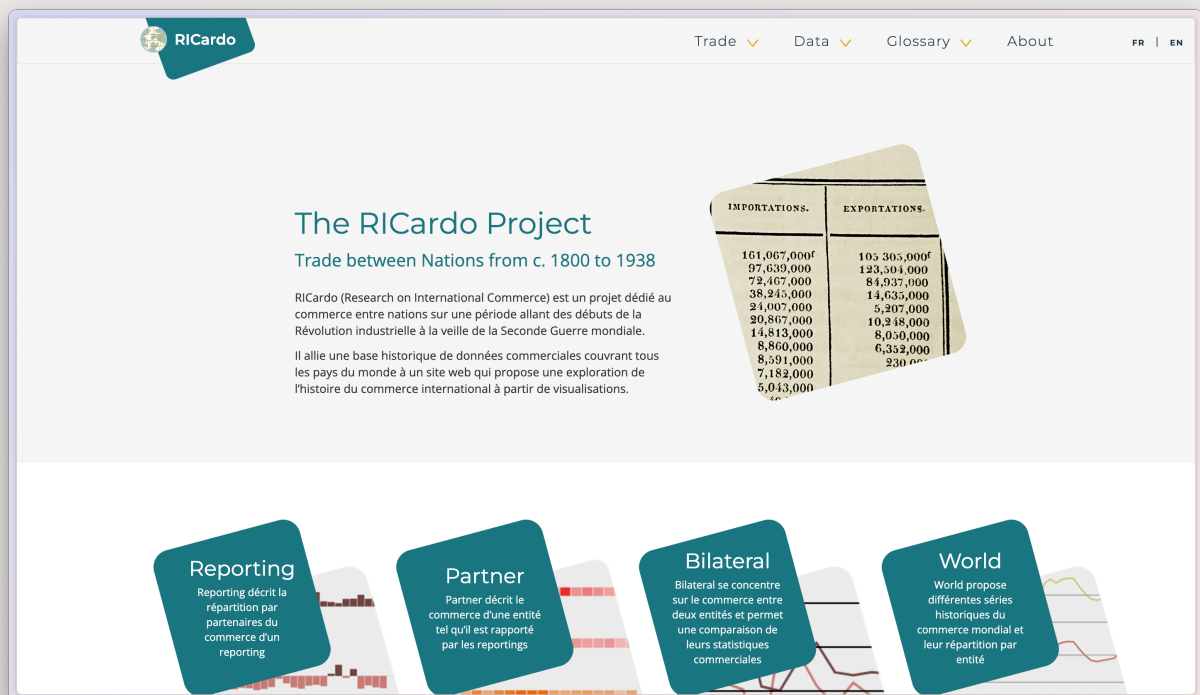
# **LEVERAGING GEOPOLITICAL HISTORY TO DEAL WITH TAXONOMIC DIVERSITY OF TRADE PARTNERS IN RICARDO**

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Trade Data, 1870-2024"**

# **THE PROBLEM**



RICardo is trying to gather a complete bilateral trade database from 1800 to 1938.

RICardo has gathered more than c. 670,000 bilateral trade flows. Without the duplicates and the zero flows, RICardo offers a database and a web interface for c. 570,000 flows.

As many of you will now, there are no standardization of partner names in trade statistics. Some trade statistics also come from various reporting entities, that can be in some cases only ports.

There are 442 different reporting entities and 2,069 partner entities, to be compared to between 90 and 140 entities in the Federico-Tena World Trade database

In addition, \*\*104 reporters are not partners (Guadeloupe & Guadeloupe Dependencies : 500 flows ; Port Simon 430 flows...)

Among important partners British West Indies (2895 flows), British colonies (other) (2334 flows), French colonies (2080),... Norway&Sweden (1544), Africa (other) (1320), ... Asian Turkey (1099)

I do not think other trade databases tackle that issue, except maybe in non-systematic ways for specific flows.

## **The different situations (both for partners and reporting)**

- Groups (eg. Norway & Sweden -- 1544 flows, partner)
- Localities (eg Port Simon -- 430 flows, reporter)
- Parts of (eg Asian Turkey -- 1099 flows, partner)
- Geographical areas (eg Africa (other) 1320 flows, partner)
- Colonial areas (eg British West Indies, 2895 flows, partner)
- Informal (eg "Germany" before 1870)

# THE SOLUTION

First, we must decide what are we interested in.

Most trade databases are about trade between autonomous geopolitical entities.

"GPH identifies any form of human social community or territory that has been involved in an international or intra-national conflict during the post-Napoleonic period and is also geographically based.



## Geopolitical entities of the world by political status since 1816

GeoPolHist is a quantitative tool designed to address the fundamental questions: **"What is a country?"** and **"How many countries are there in the world?"** Based on the lists of states and dependencies developed by [Correlates of War project](#), GeoPolHist offers a comprehensive dataset and visual documentation that identify the political status of every geopolitical entity that has existed since 1816. It enables a historical approach to world politics grounded in the distinction between sovereign and non-sovereign entities.

See the [methodology](#) and [data set](#) sections to learn more.

### Explore Geopolitical entities

#### Biggest number of sovereigns

[Spatley Is.](#) - 13 sovereigns  
[Katanga \(State of Katanga\) \(Misi's Yeke Kingdom\)](#) - 11 sovereigns  
[Tientsin \(Tianjin\)](#) - 11 sovereigns  
[Burkina Faso \(Upper Volta\)](#) - 10 sovereigns  
[Kresy](#) - 10 sovereigns

#### Biggest number of colonies

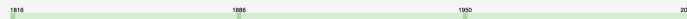
[United Kingdom](#) - 146 colonies  
[France](#) - 44 colonies  
[Spain](#) - 30 colonies  
[Netherlands](#) - 14 colonies  
[United States of America](#) - 13 colonies

#### Most recently dissolved

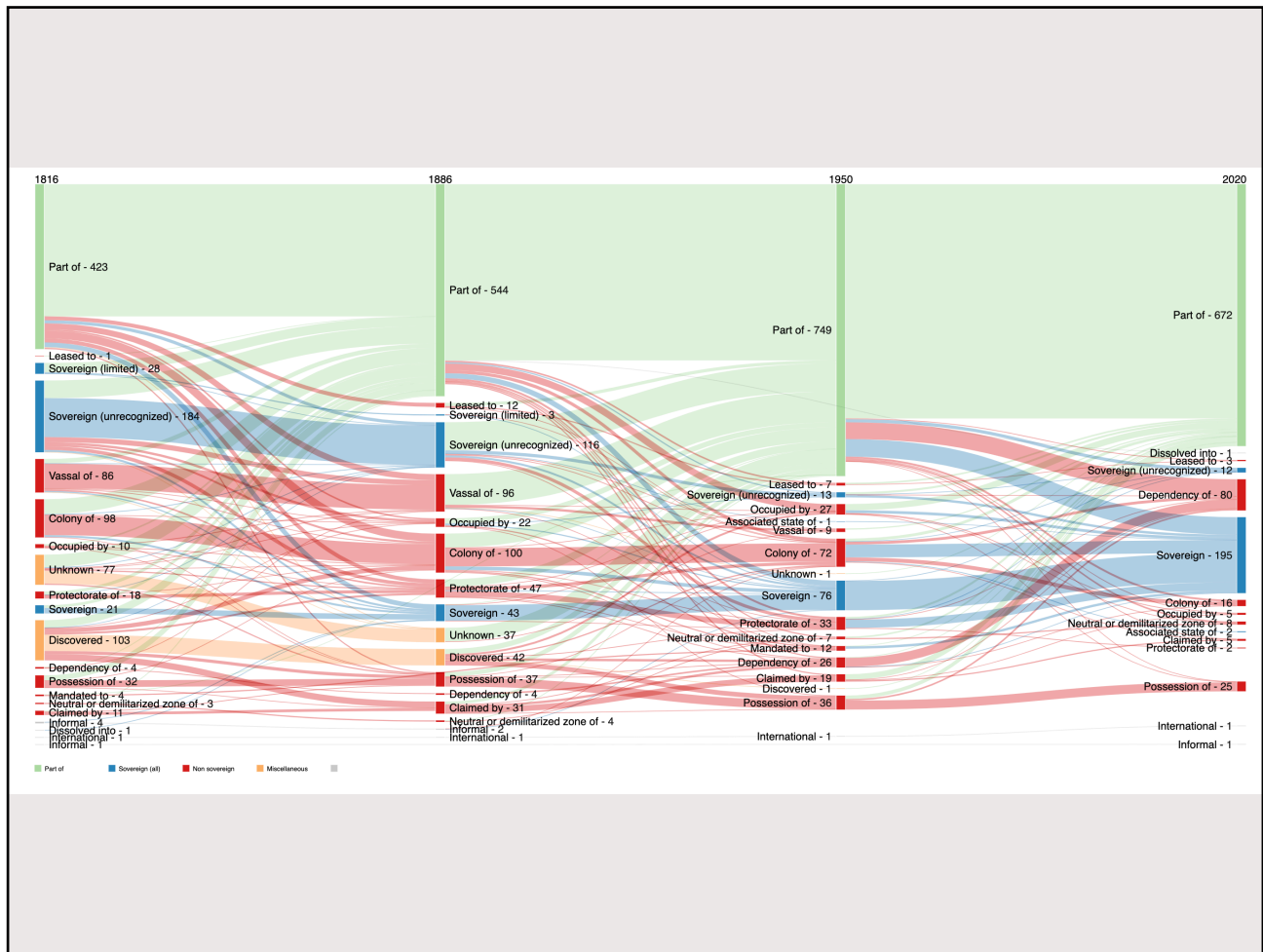
[Anhalt K then](#) - 1853  
[Saxe Gotha Altenburg](#) - 1826  
[Saxe Coburg and Gotha](#) - 1920  
[German Democratic Republic](#) - 1990  
[Austria-Hungary \(Austrian Empire\)](#) - 1918

### Three periods in the political history of the world since 1816

Over the past two centuries, the political landscape of the world can be understood as a developmental process unfolding in three distinct phases, each characterized by the predominance of a particular political status. From 1816 to the Berlin Conference of 1884-85, 14% of the world's geopolitical entities were (unrecognized) sovereign states. Between 1886 and 1949, 20% held the status of colony, possession, or protectorate. Since 1950, 16% of entities have been considered sovereign in the strict sense.



The database GeoPolHist, extending the list of states and dependencies developed by the Correlate of War project, lists all geopolitical entities that have existed since 1816.



It also provides us with the way to identify colonies, dependants, parts of, etc

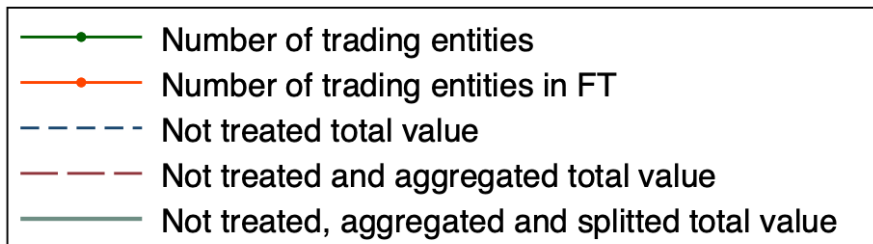
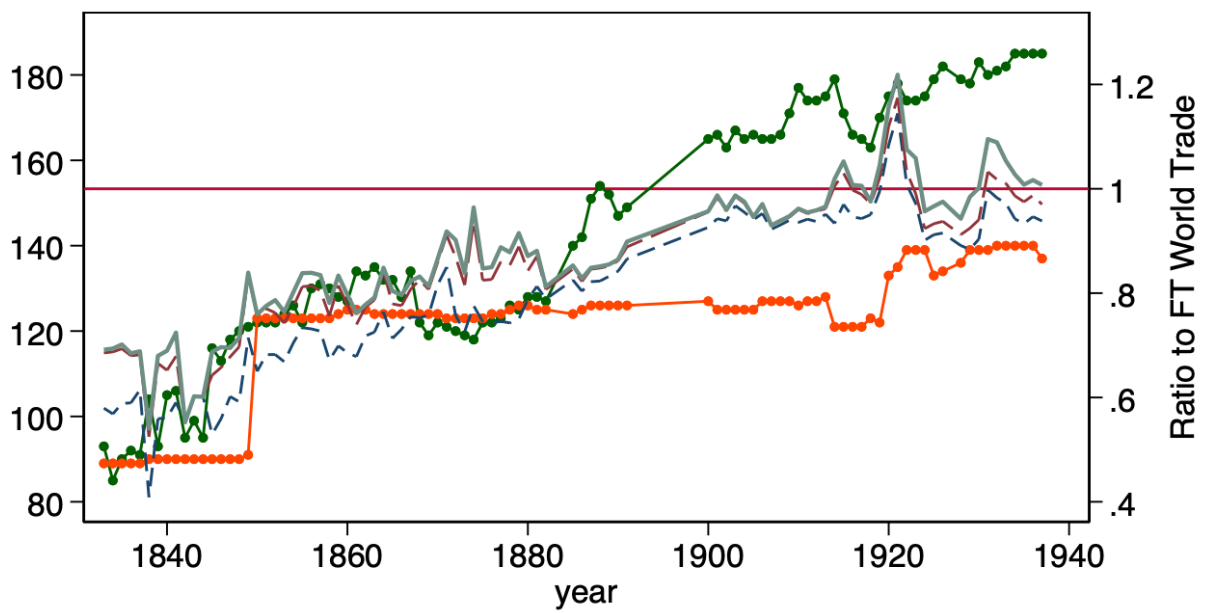
# Algorithm

- keep existing trade flows between GPH autonomous cited
- generate missing flows by aggregating existing flows
- *generate missing flows by splitting existing flows*
- discard internal flows
- discard all other flows (to entities which are not autonomous or to multiple entities we couldn't split)

Here are the steps of the algorithm.  
The one in italics is the only one that necessitate an hypothesis : we take the chronologically nearest split in a 21 years window (+/- 10 years)



# **PRELIMINARY RESULTS**



# CONCLUSION