Internet and Nation Building in Africa

Preliminary and incomplete

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November 20, 2024

Table 1: Effect of distance from the capital on political trust

	OLS			
	Political trust			
	Base sample		Border sample	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Distance from the capital	0.284***	0.270***	0.681***	0.397*
	(0.04)	(0.03)	(0.16)	(0.21)
Individual & regional controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country controls	Yes	No	Yes	No
Round FE	Yes	No	Yes	No
Country X Round FE	No	Yes	No	Yes
Ethnic homeland FE	No	No	Yes	Yes
Observations	98,235	98,235	4,189	4,189
Adjusted-R^2	0.158	0.197	0.159	0.189

Notes: The border sample includes individuals residing within a 20-kilometer buffer around a country border that overlaps with a historical ethnic homeland, as defined by Murdock (1959). Robust standard errors clustered at the region x round level for the base sample and ethnic homeland x region x round level for the border sample are in parentheses. The set of individual controls includes values of: normalized distance from the largest non-capital city, age, age squared, sex, education, employment status, rural/urban situation, personal economic conditions perception, ethnic discrimination, interest in politics, TV news consumption, radio news consumption, newspaper news consumption. The set of regional controls includes values of: nighttime light, population density, region area, president birthplace dummy. The set of country controls includes: log(GDP.p.c.), log(area), V-Dem Polyarchy index, World Bank corruption index, political regime type, colonial origin. *** / ** / * represent significance at the 0.01 / 0.05 / 0.10 levels, respectively.

Table 2: Effect of internet coverage on political trust by distance

	Base sample			
	OLS	First Stage		2SLS
	Political trust	Internet coverage	Distance × Internet coverage	Political trust
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Distance from the capital	0.463***			1.361***
	(0.05)			(0.49)
Internet coverage	0.029			1.470**
	(0.06)			(0.64)
Distance from the capital × Internet coverage	-0.480***			-2.295**
	(0.10)			(1.09)
Lightning strikes		-0.002***	-0.000	
		(0.00)	(0.00)	
Distance from the capital city × Lightning strikes		0.000	-0.001**	
		(0.00)	(0.00)	
SW F - Lightning strikes	-	19.66	-	-
SW F - Distance × Lightning strikes	-	11.13	-	-
Individual & regional controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country X Round FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	98,235	99,414	99,414	98,235
Adjusted-R^2	0.198	-	-	-

Notes: *Notes*: Robust standard errors clustered at the region x round level. The set of individual controls includes values of: normalized distance from the largest non-capital city, age, age squared, sex, education, employment status, rural/urban situation, personal economic conditions perception, ethnic discrimination, interest in politics, TV news consumption, newspaper news consumption, radio consumption. The set of regional controls includes values of: nighttime light, population density, region area, president birthplace dummy. *** / ** / * represent significance at the 0.01 / 0.05 / 0.10 levels, respectively.

Table 3: Other outcomes

	2SLS	
	Vote against ruling party	Country performance
	Base sample	Base sample
	(1)	(2)
Distance from the capital	-1.306***	1.560***
	(0.40)	(0.52)
Internet coverage	-1.370***	1.565**
	(0.47)	(0.62)
Distance from the capital × Internet coverage	2.614***	-3.065***
	(0.92)	(1.16)
Individual & regional controls	Yes	Yes
Country X Round FE	Yes	Yes
Observations	99,414	98,512

Notes: *Notes*: Robust standard errors clustered at the region x round level are in parentheses. The set of individual controls includes values of: normalized distance from the largest non-capital city, age, age squared, sex, education, employment status, rural/urban situation, personal economic conditions perception, ethnic discrimination, interest in politics, TV news consumption, newspaper news consumption, radio consumption. The set of regional controls includes values of: nighttime light, population density, region area, president birthplace dummy. *** / ** / * represent significance at the 0.01 / 0.05 / 0.10 levels, respectively.

Table 4: Media and institutions freedom

	2SLS: Political trust			
	Base sample			
	Media		Institutions	
	Free	Captured	Free	Captured
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Distance from the capital	-4.922	1.133***	0.078	2.151***
	(11.77)	(0.41)	(0.83)	(0.77)
Internet coverage	-3.475	1.220*	0.112	2.964***
	(10.01)	(0.68)	(1.37)	(1.06)
Distance from the capital × Internet coverage	9.210	-2.160*	0.391	-4.202**
	(21.19)	(1.22)	(1.59)	(1.90)
Individual & regional controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country X Round FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	48,174	50,061	45,238	52,997

Notes: Robust standard errors clustered at the region x round level are in parentheses. The set of individual controls includes values of: normalized distance from the largest non-capital city, age, age squared, sex, education, employment status, rural/urban situation, personal economic conditions perception, ethnic discrimination, interest in politics, TV news consumption, newspaper news consumption, radio consumption. The set of regional controls includes values of: nighttime light, population density, region area, president birthplace dummy. *** / ** / * represent significance at the 0.01 / 0.05 / 0.10 levels, respectively.

Table 5: Individual heterogeneity

	2SLS: Political trust							
	Base sample							
	Education		Urban/Rural		Age			
	< Secondary	≥ Secondary	Urban	Rural	18-25	26-35	36-44	45+
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Distance from the capital	1.208***	1.394	1.133**	1.961***	1.295**	0.965	1.438**	1.723***
	(0.31)	(1.17)	(0.52)	(0.70)	(0.57)	(0.63)	(0.56)	(0.59)
Internet coverage	1.706*	1.271	0.397	3.374***	1.439*	0.982	1.236*	2.540***
	(0.92)	(1.32)	(0.63)	(1.18)	(0.74)	(0.76)	(0.72)	(0.87)
Distance from the capital × Internet coverage	-1.909**	-2.422	-1.785*	-3.447*	-1.994	-1.477	-2.577**	-3.103**
	(0.83)	(2.41)	(0.98)	(1.81)	(1.24)	(1.38)	(1.28)	(1.39)
Individual & regional controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country X Round FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	36,389	62,039	37,348	60,887	25,442	29,913	20,074	23,246

Notes: Robust standard errors clustered at the region x round level are in parentheses. The set of individual controls includes values of: normalized distance from the largest non-capital city, age, age squared, sex, education, employment status, rural/urban situation, personal economic conditions perception, ethnic discrimination, interest in politics, TV news consumption, newspaper news consumption, radio consumption. The set of regional controls includes values of: nighttime light, population density, region area, president birthplace dummy. Education, rural/urban, and age controls are omitted from columns (1-2), (3-4), and (5-8), respectively.*** / ** / * represent significance at the 0.01 / 0.05 / 0.10 levels, respectively.

Table 6: Generalized trust

	2SLS	
	Base sample: rounds 5 & 8	
	Political trust	Generalized trust
	(1)	(2)
Distance from the capital	1.358**	-0.157
	(0.62)	(0.17)
Internet coverage	1.508	-0.101
	(0.94)	(0.23)
Distance from the capital × Internet coverage	-2.161*	0.542
	(1.22)	(0.33)
Individual & regional controls	Yes	Yes
Country X Round FE	Yes	Yes
Observations	49,404	49,362

Notes: Robust standard errors clustered at the region x round level are in parentheses. The set of individual controls includes values of: normalized distance from the largest non-capital city, age, age squared, sex, education, employment status, rural/urban situation, personal economic conditions perception, ethnic discrimination, interest in politics, TV news consumption, newspaper news consumption, radio consumption. The set of regional controls includes values of: nighttime light, population density, region area, president birthplace dummy. *** / ** / * represent significance at the 0.01 / 0.05 / 0.10 levels, respectively.

Table 7: Effect of distance from the capital on institutional trust (President, Parliament, Electoral commission)

	Trust in institutions (President, Parliament, Electoral commission)					
	OLS					2SLS
	Base sample		Border sample		Base sample	Base sample
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Distance from the capital	0.295***	0.301***	0.563***	0.306	0.483***	1.738***
	(0.04)	(0.03)	(0.16)	(0.20)	(0.05)	(0.58)
Internet coverage					0.016	2.035***
					(0.06)	(0.71)
Distance from the capital $\times$ Internet coverage					-0.458***	-2.992**
					(0.10)	(1.32)
Individual & regional controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country controls	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Round FE	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Country X Round FE	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ethnic homeland FE	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Observations	98,499	98,499	4,202	4,202	98,499	98,499
Adjusted-R^2	0.164	0.198	0.148	0.184	0.200	-

Notes: The border sample includes individuals residing within a 20-kilometer buffer around a country border that overlaps with a historical ethnic homeland, as defined by Murdock (1959). Robust standard errors clustered at the region x round level for the base sample and ethnic homeland x region x round level for the border sample are in parentheses. The set of individual controls includes values of: normalized distance from the largest non-capital city, age, age squared, sex, education, employment status, rural/urban situation, personal economic conditions perception, ethnic discrimination, interest in politics, TV news consumption, radio news consumption, newspaper news consumption. The set of regional controls includes values of: nighttime light, population density, region area, president birthplace dummy. The set of country controls includes: log(GDP.p.c.), log(area), V-Dem Polyarchy index, World Bank corruption index, political regime type, colonial origin. *** / ** / * represent significance at the 0.01 / 0.05 / 0.10 levels, respectively.

Table 8: Effect of distance from the capital on trust in president

	Trust in president					
	OLS					2SLS
	Base sample		Border sample		Base sample	Base sample
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Distance from the capital	0.287***	0.262***	0.799***	0.343	0.473***	1.517**
	(0.05)	(0.03)	(0.19)	(0.25)	(0.06)	(0.63)
Internet coverage					0.047	1.659**
					(0.07)	(0.81)
Distance from the capital × Internet coverage					-0.521***	-2.654*
					(0.12)	(1.41)
Individual & regional controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country controls	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Round FE	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Country X Round FE	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ethnic homeland FE	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Observations	97,261	97,261	4,149	4,149	97,261	97,261
Adjusted-R^2	0.137	0.180	0.180	0.215	0.182	-

Notes: The border sample includes individuals residing within a 20-kilometer buffer around a country border that overlaps with a historical ethnic homeland, as defined by Murdock (1959). Robust standard errors clustered at the region x round level for the base sample and ethnic homeland x region x round level for the border sample are in parentheses. The set of individual controls includes values of: normalized distance from the largest non-capital city, age, age squared, sex, education, employment status, rural/urban situation, personal economic conditions perception, ethnic discrimination, interest in politics, TV news consumption, radio news consumption, newspaper news consumption. The set of regional controls includes values of: nighttime light, population density, region area, president birthplace dummy. The set of country controls includes: log(GDP.p.c.), log(area), V-Dem Polyarchy index, World Bank corruption index, political regime type, colonial origin. *** / ** / * represent significance at the 0.01 / 0.05 / 0.10 levels, respectively.

Table 9: Effect of distance from the capital on trust in parliament

	Trust in parliament					
	OLS					2SLS
	Base sample		Border sample		Base sample	Base sample
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Distance from the capital	0.282***	0.279***	0.560***	0.471**	0.453***	1.124***
	(0.04)	(0.03)	(0.17)	(0.21)	(0.05)	(0.39)
Internet coverage					0.007	1.169**
					(0.06)	(0.52)
Distance from the capital $\times$ Internet coverage					-0.442***	-1.776**
					(0.10)	(0.89)
Individual & regional controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country controls	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Round FE	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Country X Round FE	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ethnic homeland FE	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Observations	96,182	96,182	4,111	4,111	96,182	96,182
Adjusted-R^2	0.130	0.160	0.102	0.127	0.161	-

Notes: The border sample includes individuals residing within a 20-kilometer buffer around a country border that overlaps with a historical ethnic homeland, as defined by Murdock (1959). Robust standard errors clustered at the region x round level for the base sample and ethnic homeland x region x round level for the border sample are in parentheses. The set of individual controls includes values of: normalized distance from the largest non-capital city, age, age squared, sex, education, employment status, rural/urban situation, personal economic conditions perception, ethnic discrimination, interest in politics, TV news consumption, radio news consumption, newspaper news consumption. The set of regional controls includes values of: nighttime light, population density, region area, president birthplace dummy. The set of country controls includes: log(GDP.p.c.), log(area), V-Dem Polyarchy index, World Bank corruption index, political regime type, colonial origin. *** / ** / * represent significance at the 0.01 / 0.05 / 0.10 levels, respectively.

Table 10: Effect of distance from the capital on trust in electoral commission

	Trust in electoral commission					
	OLS					2SLS
	Base sample		Border sample		Base sample	Base sample
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Distance from the capital	0.319***	0.365***	0.366*	0.206	0.529***	2.588***
	(0.04)	(0.03)	(0.19)	(0.23)	(0.06)	(0.84)
Internet coverage					0.003	3.252***
					(0.07)	(0.95)
Distance from the capital × Internet coverage					-0.418***	-4.606**
					(0.11)	(1.93)
Individual & regional controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country controls	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Round FE	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Country X Round FE	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ethnic homeland FE	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Observations	94,926	94,926	4,035	4,035	94,926	94,926
Adjusted-R^2	0.118	0.144	0.094	0.137	0.145	-

Notes: The border sample includes individuals residing within a 20-kilometer buffer around a country border that overlaps with a historical ethnic homeland, as defined by Murdock (1959). Robust standard errors clustered at the region x round level for the base sample and ethnic homeland x region x round level for the border sample are in parentheses. The set of individual controls includes values of: normalized distance from the largest non-capital city, age, age squared, sex, education, employment status, rural/urban situation, personal economic conditions perception, ethnic discrimination, interest in politics, TV news consumption, radio news consumption, newspaper news consumption. The set of regional controls includes values of: nighttime light, population density, region area, president birthplace dummy. The set of country controls includes: log(GDP.p.c.), log(area), V-Dem Polyarchy index, World Bank corruption index, political regime type, colonial origin. *** / ** / * represent significance at the 0.01 / 0.05 / 0.10 levels, respectively.

Table 11: Effect of distance from the capital on political trust

	OLS							
	Vote against ruling party				Country performance			
	Base sample		Border sample		Base sample		Border sample	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Distance from the capital	-0.164***	-0.101***	-0.462***	-0.334***	0.183***	0.153***	0.272*	-0.034
	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.09)	(0.09)	(0.04)	(0.03)	(0.16)	(0.20)
Individual & regional controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country controls	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Round FE	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Country X Round FE	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Ethnic homeland FE	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Observations	99,414	99,414	4,247	4,247	98,512	98,512	4,203	4,203
Adjusted-R^2	0.082	0.147	0.167	0.249	0.140	0.161	0.166	0.184

Notes: The border sample includes individuals residing within a 20-kilometer buffer around a country border that overlaps with a historical ethnic homeland, as defined by Murdock (1959). Robust standard errors clustered at the region x round level for the base sample and ethnic homeland x region x round level for the border sample are in parentheses. The set of individual controls includes values of: normalized distance from the largest non-capital city, age, age squared, sex, education, employment status, rural/urban situation, personal economic conditions perception, ethnic discrimination, interest in politics, TV news consumption, radio news consumption, newspaper news consumption. The set of regional controls includes values of: nighttime light, population density, region area, president birthplace dummy. The set of country controls includes: log(GDP.p.c.), log(area), V-Dem Polyarchy index, World Bank corruption index, political regime type, colonial origin. *** / ** / * represent significance at the 0.01 / 0.05 / 0.10 levels, respectively.