

Research Question: Integration of Roman provinces

The integration of a province to the Roman empire opens new trading possibilities and modifies the cultural trait of its inhabitants. The research question aims at investigating the coevolution of culture and trading when a province is integrated to the empire.

Multiple hypotheses are envisioned to explain variations in culture and trading. To verify them, Agent Based simulations are run, and their outcomes are compared to the data present in the database. The remaining of the document list three hypotheses and the data necessary to validate them.

Imitation of the culture from the leader

This hypothesis is proposing a top-down approach to the co-evolution of culture and trading. The first inhabitants to benefit from an integration within the Roman empire are the leaders of the province. In order to influence the politics of the empire (to their favour) these leaders should modify their cultural trait towards the ones present within the empire. Subsequently, the other inhabitants have an interest to adapt their cultural trait so as to match the one of their leader.

In order to study this hypothesis, the following elements are ideally needed from the database:

- Persons sending and receiving the goods
- Social status of the receiver and sender
- Province and town where the receiver and sender lives
- Date of reception of the good
- Type of good and volume of shipment

Modification of the culture through trading

In opposition to the previous hypothesis, a bottom-up approach is now proposed. The integration of a province leads to its roads being used by other provinces for trading purposes. As a consequence a number of goods previously unseen are travelling to the newly integrated province. Additionally persons are travelling with these goods bringing new ideas to the province. The presence of these opportunities to the inhabitants of the province could explain the modification of the culture within a province.

In order to study this hypothesis, the following elements are ideally needed from the database:

- Persons sending and receiving the goods
- Province and town where the receiver and sender lives
- Date of reception of the good
- Type of good and volume of shipment
- Route taken by the good
- Who transported the good

Modification of the culture through military presence

The integration to the empire leads also to the presence of military forces within the province. These forces are assumed to have cultural traits close to the ones of the core of the Roman empire. As a consequence, goods to sustain this way of life have to be shipped regularly and distributed within the province. The presence of this strong demand may have lead to the adoption of some of the products.

In order to study this hypothesis, the following elements are ideally needed from the database:

- Persons sending and receiving the goods
- Province and town where the receiver and sender lives
- Link between military power and the sender/receiver
- Date of reception of the good
- Type of good and Volume of shipment
- Military operation/presence in the receiving province