

PSCI 559
Historical Political Economy
Spring 2023
Fridays 9:30am-12:30pm, Harkness 329

Alexander Lee

Instructor:

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Office Hours: Fridays 2-4. Harkness 327

Course Goals:

This course surveys selected topics in the extensive literature on political and economic development. We will focus on differences in formal and informal institutions across countries. Topics will include the determinants of economic growth, the modernization hypothesis, distributional conflict, government corruption, the success and failure of states to deliver of public goods, among others.

Grading:

Class Participation — 30%

Three short research proposals (10% each) — 30%

Final Research Proposal — 40%

Course Policies:

Unexcused late work will be penalized a whole letter grade, and an additional letter grade for every additional 24 hours of lateness. Plagiarism or cheating will be treated seriously and reported to the Board of Academic Honesty.

Course Requirements:

Students must do all required readings, and be prepared to discuss them actively. **(30% of the grade).**

During the course, students must submit and present three short research proposal on a topic relevant to the course material, which should be a maximum of 500 words in length **(10% of the grade each)**. This proposal should outline 1) An existing theoretical or empirical puzzle, 2) an intuition as to a solution to this puzzle, 3) the data needed to test this puzzle, and 4) the identification strategy to be used. Due dates will be assigned on the first day of class.

As a final assignment, students must submit a research proposal that develops one of their shorter proposals, which should be a maximum of 3000 words in length. This proposal should outline include a more detailed literature review, discussion of theoretical hypotheses, and a serious discussion of how to obtain the data. For projects with publicly available data, successful projects will include a rough preliminary analysis. This proposal will be due two weeks after the last day of class

Readings

Introduction- January 13th

Kelly, Morgan. "The standard errors of persistence." (2019).

Nunn, Nathan. 2009. "The Importance of History for Economic Development." *Annual Review of Economics* 1:65-92

Abad, Leticia Arroyo, and Noel Maurer. "History never really says goodbye: a critical review of the persistence literature." *Journal of Historical Political Economy* 1.1 (2021): 31-68.

Culture and Religion- January 20th

Lowes, Sara, et al. "The evolution of culture and institutions: Evidence from the Kuba Kingdom." *Econometrica* 85.4 (2017): 1065-1091.

Woodberry, Robert D. "The missionary roots of liberal democracy." *American political science review* 106.2 (2012): 244-274.

Calvi, Rossella, Federico Mantovanelli, and Lauren Hoehn-Velasco. "The Protestant legacy: Missions and human capital in India." *Available at SSRN 3354891* (2019).

Becker, Sascha O., and Ludger Woessmann. "Was Weber wrong? A human capital theory of Protestant economic history." *The quarterly journal of economics* 124.2 (2009): 531-596.

Agrarian Development- January 27th

Alesina, Alberto, Paola Giuliano, and Nathan Nunn. "On the origins of gender roles: Women and the plough." *The quarterly journal of economics* 128.2 (2013): 469-530.

Nunn, Nathan, and Nancy Qian. "The potato's contribution to population and urbanization: evidence from a historical experiment." *The quarterly journal of economics* 126.2 (2011): 593-650.

Dasgupta, Aditya. "Technological change and political turnover: The democratizing effects of the green revolution in india." *American Political Science Review* 112.4 (2018): 918-938.

Dasgupta, Aditya, and Elena Ruiz Ramirez. "Explaining Rural Conservatism: Political Consequences of Technological Change in the Great Plains." 2022

Industrial Development- February 3rd

Esposito, Elena, and Scott F. Abramson. "The European coal curse." *Journal of Economic Growth* 26.1 (2021): 77-112.

Donaldson, Dave, and Richard Hornbeck. "Railroads and American economic growth: A "market access" approach." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 131.2 (2016): 799-858.

Fresh, Adriane. "Population and Political Change in Industrial Britain." (2022)

Nall, Clayton. "The political consequences of spatial policies: How interstate highways facilitated geographic polarization." *The Journal of Politics* 77.2 (2015): 394-406.

War- February 10th

Dincecco, Mark, et al. "Pre-colonial warfare and long-run development in India." *The Economic Journal* 132.643 (2022): 981-1010.

Scheve, Kenneth, and David Stasavage. "Democracy, war, and wealth: lessons from two centuries of inheritance taxation." *American Political Science Review* 106.1 (2012): 81-102.

Blank, Meredith, Mark Dincecco, and Yuri M. Zhukov. "Political regime type and warfare: Evidence from 600 years of European history." *Available at SSRN 2830066* (2017).

Besley, Timothy, and Marta Reynal-Querol. "The legacy of historical conflict: Evidence from Africa." *American Political Science Review* 108.2 (2014): 319-336.

Colonialism- February 17th

- Lee, Alexander, and Kenneth A. Schultz. "Comparing British and French Colonial Legacies: A Discontinuity Analysis of Cameroon." *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 7 (2012): 365-410.
- Feyrer, James, and Bruce Sacerdote. "Colonialism and modern income: islands as natural experiments." *The Review of Economics and Statistics* 91.2 (2009): 245-262.
- Garfias, Francisco, and Emily A. Sellars. "From conquest to centralization: Domestic conflict and the transition to direct rule." *The Journal of Politics* 83.3 (2021): 992-1009.
- Pierskalla, Jan, Alexander De Juan, and Max Montgomery. "The Territorial Expansion of the Colonial State: Evidence from German East Africa 1890–1909." *British Journal of Political Science* 49.2 (2019): 711-737.

Statebuilding- March 3rd [No class February 24th]

- Garfias, Francisco, and Emily A. Sellars. "When State Building Backfires: Elite Coordination and Popular Grievance in Rebellion." *American Journal of Political Science* (2021).
- Dell, Melissa, and Pablo Querubin. "Nation building through foreign intervention: Evidence from discontinuities in military strategies." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 133.2 (2018): 701-764.
- Acemoglu, Daron, et al. "The consequences of radical reform: The French Revolution." *American economic review* 101.7 (2011): 3286-3307.
- Dell, Melissa, Nathan Lane, and Pablo Querubin. "The historical state, local collective action, and economic development in Vietnam." *Econometrica* 86.6 (2018): 2083-2121.

Land and Property Policy- March 17th

- Lee, Alexander. "Land, State Capacity and Colonialism: Evidence from India" *Comparative Political Studies*, 2019, 52(3), 412-444
- Banerjee, Abhijit, and Lakshmi Iyer. "History, institutions, and economic performance: The legacy of colonial land tenure systems in India." *American economic review* 95.4 (2005): 1190-1213.
- Heldring, Leander, James A. Robinson, and Sebastian Vollmer. *The economic effects of the English Parliamentary enclosures*. No. w29772. National Bureau of Economic Research, 2022.
- Sokoloff, Kenneth L., and Stanley L. Engerman. "Institutions, factor endowments, and paths of development in the new world." *Journal of Economic perspectives* 14.3 (2000): 217-232.

Slavery and Forced Labor- March 24th

- Nunn, Nathan, and Leonard Wantchekon. "The slave trade and the origins of mistrust in Africa." *American Economic Review* 101.7 (2011): 3221-52.
- Dell, Melissa, and Benjamin A. Olken. "The development effects of the extractive colonial economy: The dutch cultivation system in java." *The Review of Economic Studies* 87.1 (2020): 164-203.
- Dell, Melissa. "The persistent effects of Peru's mining mita." *Econometrica* 78.6 (2010): 1863-1903.
- Acharya, Avidit, Matthew Blackwell, and Maya Sen. "The political legacy of American slavery." *The Journal of Politics* 78.3 (2016): 621-641.

Repression and Political Violence- March 31st

- Charnysh, Volha, and Evgeny Finkel. "The death camp Eldorado: political and economic effects of mass violence." *American political science review* 111.4 (2017): 801-818.
- Rozenas, Arturas, Sebastian Schutte, and Yuri Zhukov. "The political legacy of violence: The long-term impact of Stalin's repression in Ukraine." *The Journal of Politics* 79.4 (2017): 1147-1161.

Kung, James Kai-Sing, and Shuo Chen. "The tragedy of the nomenklatura: Career incentives and political radicalism during China's Great Leap famine." *American Political Science Review* 105.1 (2011): 27-45.

Couttenier, Mathieu, et al. "The violent legacy of conflict: evidence on asylum seekers, crime, and public policy in Switzerland." *American Economic Review* 109.12 (2019): 4378-4425.

Why Europe?- April 7th

Blaydes, Lisa, and Eric Chaney. "The feudal revolution and Europe's rise: Political divergence of the Christian west and the Muslim world before 1500 CE." *American Political Science Review* 107.1 (2013): 16-34.

Lee, Alexander, and Jack Paine. "The Great Revenue Divergence." *International Organization* (2022): 1-42.

Ahmed, Ali T., and David Stasavage. "Origins of early democracy." *American Political Science Review* 114.2 (2020): 502-518.

Jedwab, Remi, Noel D. Johnson, and Mark Koyama. "The economic impact of the Black Death." *Journal of Economic Literature* 60.1 (2022): 132-78.

Why Northwestern Europe?-April 14th

Acemoglu, Daron & Simon Johnson & James Robinson. "The Rise of Europe: Atlantic Trade, Institutional Change, and Economic Growth," *American Economic Review*, American Economic Association, vol. 95(3), pages 546-579, June 2005.

Acharya, Avidit and Alexander Lee. "Path Dependence in European Development: Medieval Politics, Conflict and State Building" *Comparative Political Studies* 2019, 52 (13-14), 2171-2206.

Abramson, Scott F., and Carles Boix. "Endogenous Parliaments: Urban Agglomeration, Technological Accumulation." *International Organization* 73.4 (2019), pp. 793-837

Stasavage, David. *Public debt and the Birth of the democratic state: France and Great Britain 1688–1789*. Cambridge University Press, 2003. Introduction.

Why not Southern Italy? April 21st

Putnam, Robert D., Robert Leonardi, and Raffaella Y. Nanetti. *Making democracy work: Civic traditions in modern Italy*. Princeton university press, 1994. P. 83-137, 142-148.

Fontana, Nicola, Tommaso Nannicini, and Guido Tabellini. "Historical roots of political extremism: The effects of Nazi occupation of Italy." (2018).

D'Attoma, John. "Divided nation: The north-south cleavage in Italian tax compliance." *Polity* 49.1 (2017): 69-99.

Caprettini, Bruno, Lorenzo Casaburi, and Miriam Venturini. "Redistribution, voting and clientelism: Evidence from the Italian land reform." (2021).

Why (not) China? April 28th

Fernández-Villaverde, Jesús, et al. "Fractured-land and political fragmentation." Working Paper, 2020.

Dincecco, Mark, and Yuhua Wang. Violent Conflict and Political Development over the Long Run: China versus Europe, *Annual Review of Political Science*, 21: 341-58, 201

Broadberry, Stephen, Hanhui Guan, and David Daokui Li. "China, Europe, and the Great Divergence: a study in historical national accounting, 980–1850." *The Journal of Economic History* 78.4 (2018): 955-1000.

Jia, Ruixue. "The legacies of forced freedom: China's treaty ports." *Review of Economics and Statistics* 96.4 (2014): 596-608.