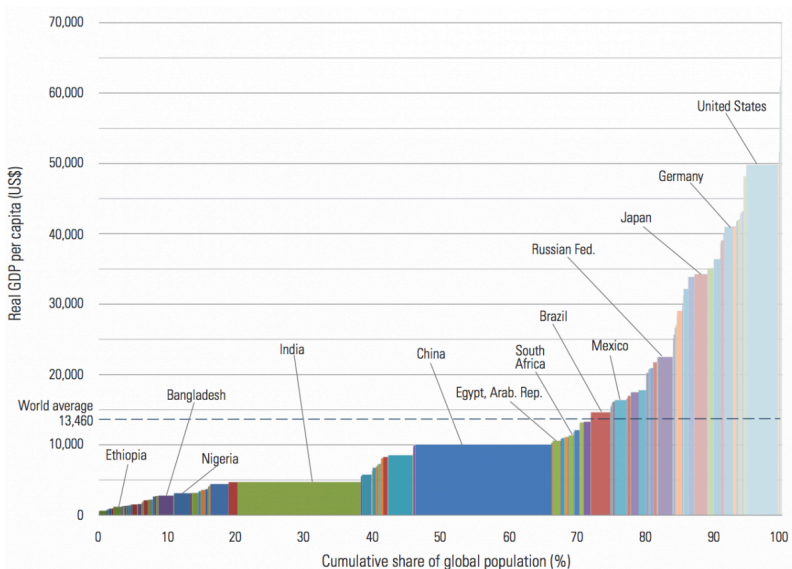


Economics from a Historical Perspective

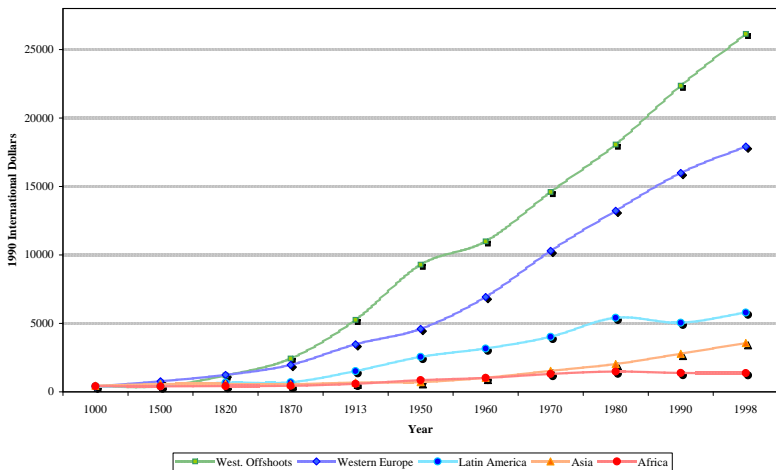
Nathan Nunn
Harvard University

October 22, 2015

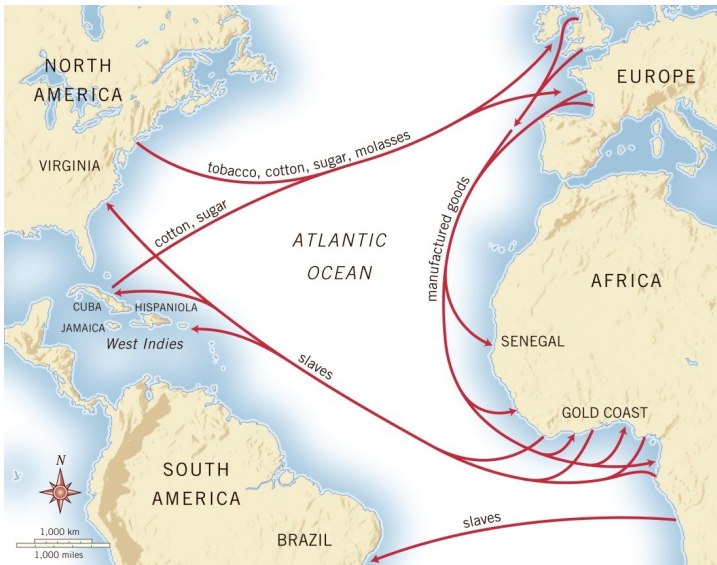
Global Distribution of World Income, 2011



The Evolution of Regional Incomes



Historical Divergence: The Triangular Trade



The Rise of Western Europe (Acemoglu et al., 2005)

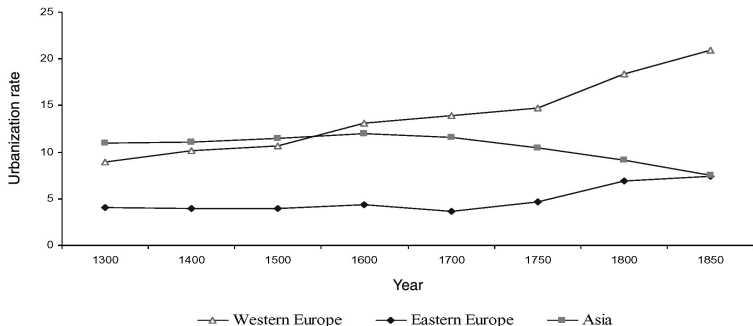


FIGURE 1A. WESTERN EUROPE, EASTERN EUROPE, AND ASIA: URBANIZATION RATES, WEIGHTED BY POPULATION, 1300–1850

The Rise of the Atlantic Traders (Acemoglu et al., 2005)

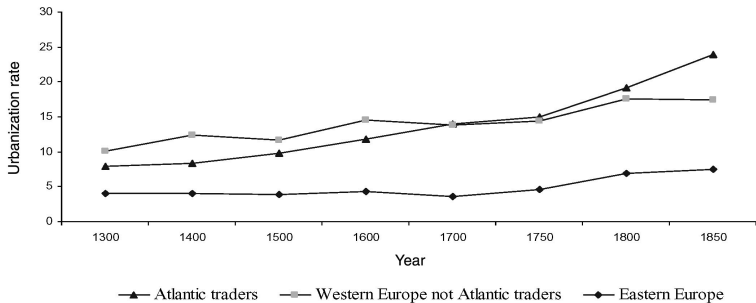
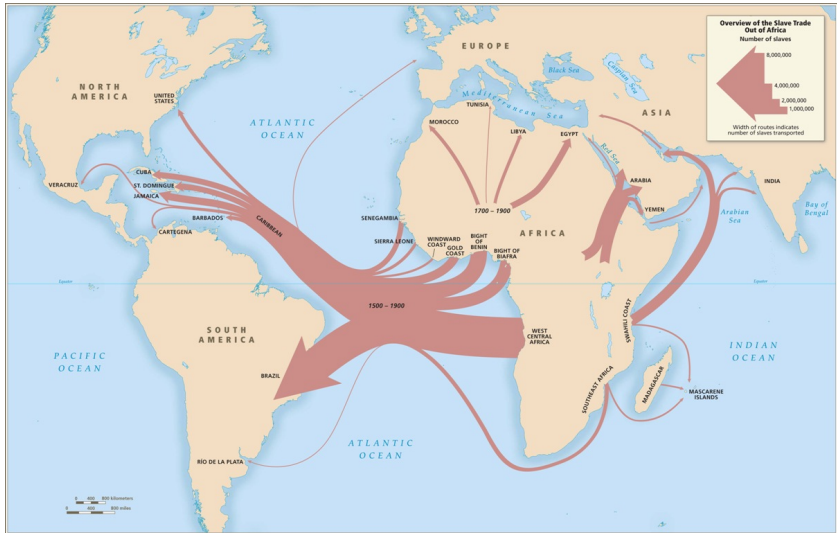


FIGURE 1B. ATLANTIC TRADERS, WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES NOT ATLANTIC TRADERS, AND EASTERN EUROPE: URBANIZATION RATES, WEIGHTED BY POPULATION, 1300–1850

Africa's Slave Trade



Africa's Slave Trade

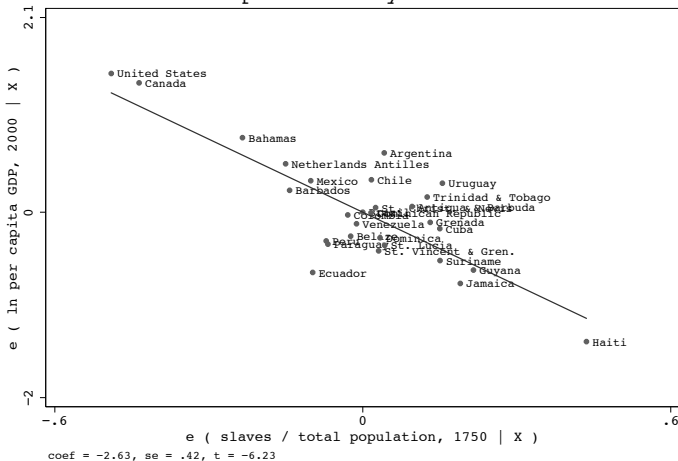


Africa's Slave Trade

No	Name of Slave	No	Name of Master	Sex	Residence	Age	Sex	Tribe	DATE Received
			Ismael bin Pele	B.	Chak Chak	20	f	Nyassa	20/4/78
1	Pogidi		Jufoji Karingi	B.	do	16	-	Ngindo	"
2	Pogidi		Thiriboy Inwanyi	B.	Lony An	30	-	Meno	"
3	Zafwan		do	"	do	15	-	"	20/9/78
4	Bakali		do	"	do	18	m	Muthwa	"
5	Sungwa		do	"	do	19	f	Miao	21/6/78
6	Zafwan		do	"	do	16	-	Nyassa	"
7	Zafwan		do	"	do	25	-	Muthwa	"
8	Amima		7. 2. case No. 2 of 1874 K.M.S. 2nd Div. 1874	do	do	20	m	"	"
9	Makufushera		do	do	do	25	-	"	"
10	Pala		do	do	do	25	-	"	"
11	Selal		do	do	do	25	f	"	"
12	Amwali		do	do	do	25	-	"	"
13	Amakelala		do	do	do	25	-	"	"
14	Amimo		Dira bin Jaffer *	do	do	12	f	Ngalia	18/6/78
15	Kahema		* These slaves had belonged to the above Khepa, and on his decease last year were inherited by his sons	do	do	30	-	Mungwa	"
16	Nyama Yangu		do	do	do	30	-	Muchoria	"
17	Majuma		do	do	do	20	-	Nyassa	"
18	Uca		do	do	do	15	-	Ngalia	"
19	Majuma		Ramathan bin Saif.	do	do	16	-	"	"
20	Mjakhigi		a suriana	do	do	-	-	Nyassa	"

Plantation Slavery in the Americas (Nunn, 2008)

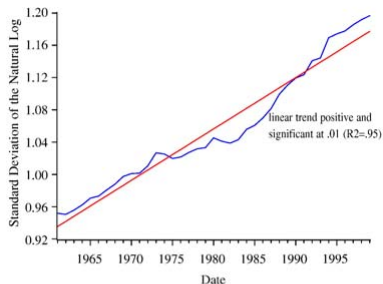
Partial correlation plot: slavery in 1750 and income in 2000



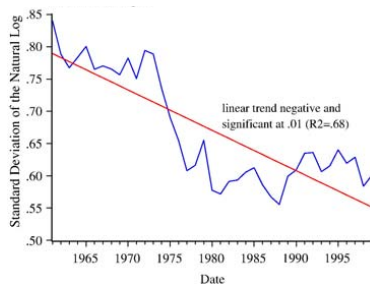
Traditional Views on Economic Development

- ① **Short-run factors like: capital, health, education, and policies.**
- ② More fundamental slow-moving factors like: domestic institutions, social norms, or cultural traits.
- ③ Geography.

Dispersion of Income and Investment (Grier and Grier, 2007)

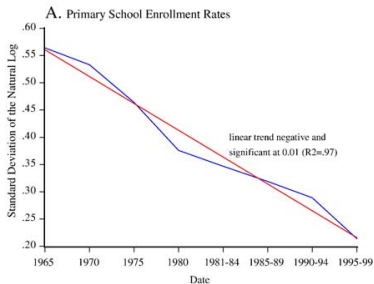


(a) Real per capita GDP

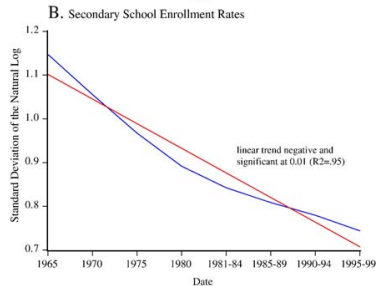


(b) Capital Investment

Dispersion of Schooling

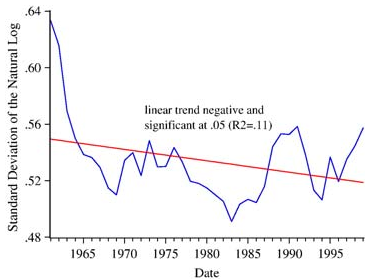


(c) Primary schooling

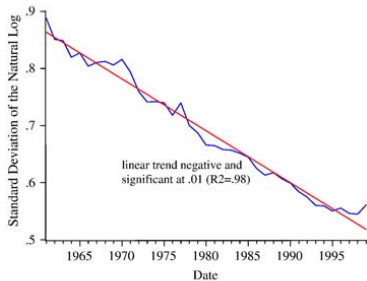


(d) Secondary schooling

Dispersion of Policies



(e) Government spending



(f) Openness to trade: $(X+M)/Y$

Traditional Views on Economic Development

- 1 Short-run factors like: capital, health, education, and policies.
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- 3 Geography.

Measuring Culture (Henrich et al., 2005)

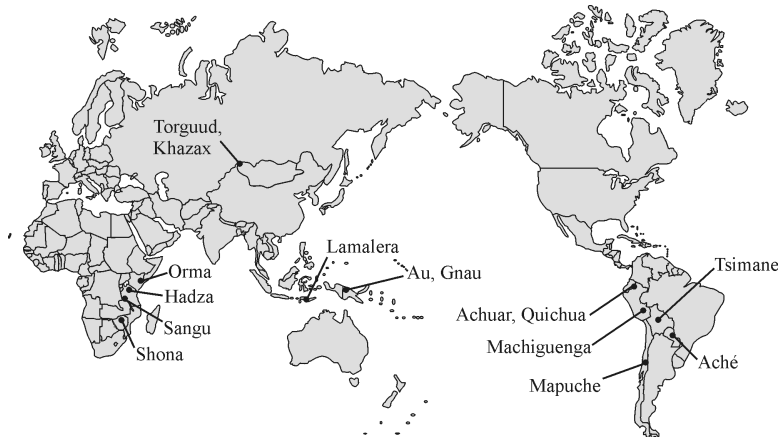
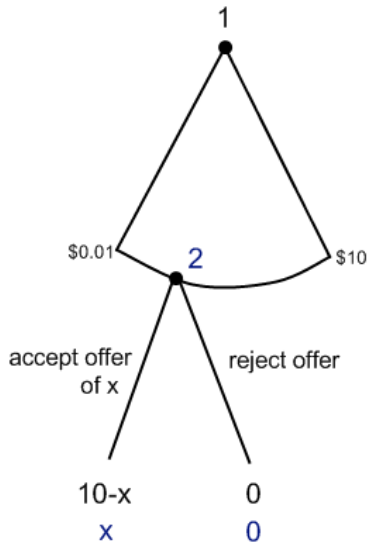
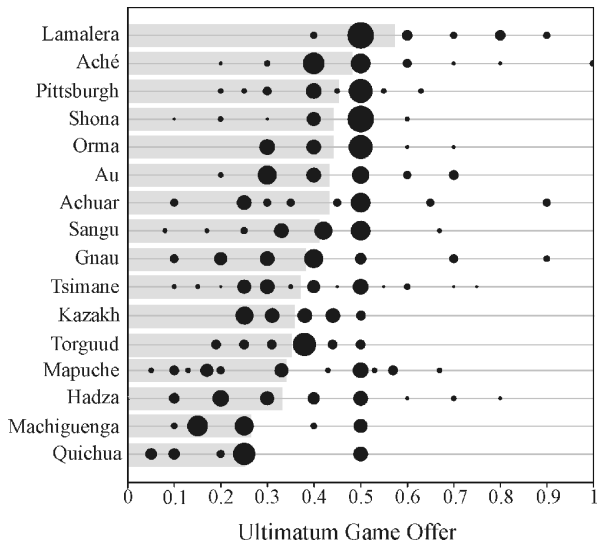


Figure 1. Locations of the 15 small-scale societies.

The Ultimatum Game



Culture and Market Integration (Henrich et al., 2005)



The Lamalera



The Lamalera

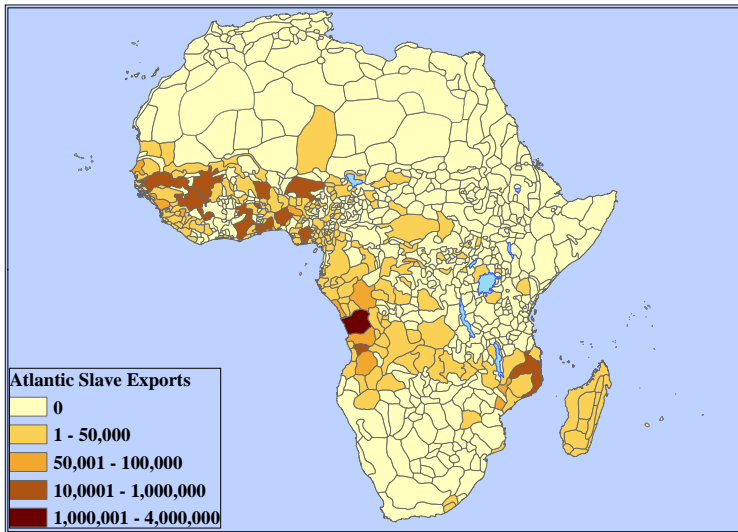


Table 1. The Method of Enslavement of Koelle's Informants

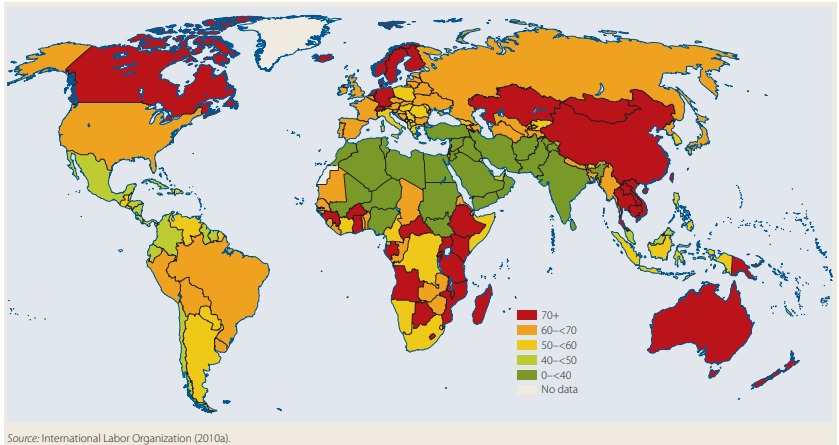
Manner of Enslavement	Percentage
Taken in a war	24.3%
Kidnapped or seized	40.3%
Sold/tricked by a relative, friend, etc.	19.4%
Through a judicial process	16.0%

Notes: The data are from Sigismund Koelle's Linguistic Inventory. The sample consists of 144 informants interviewed by Koelle for which their means of enslavement is known.

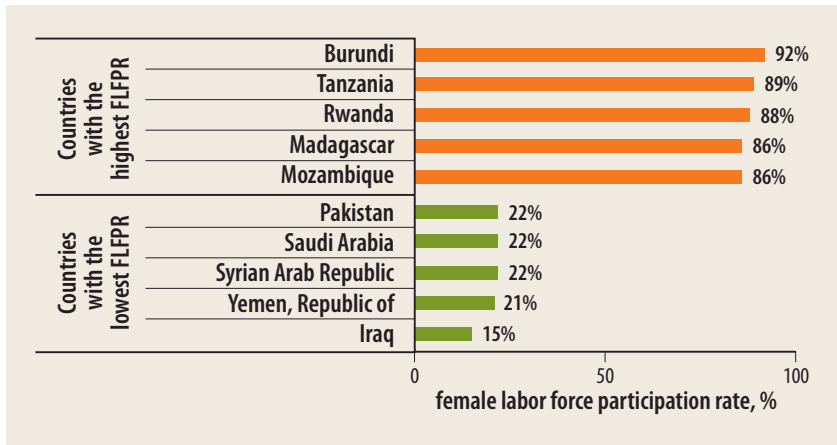
Origins of Distrust in Africa (Nunn and Wantchekon, 2011)



Female Labor Force Participation



Gender Norms around the World



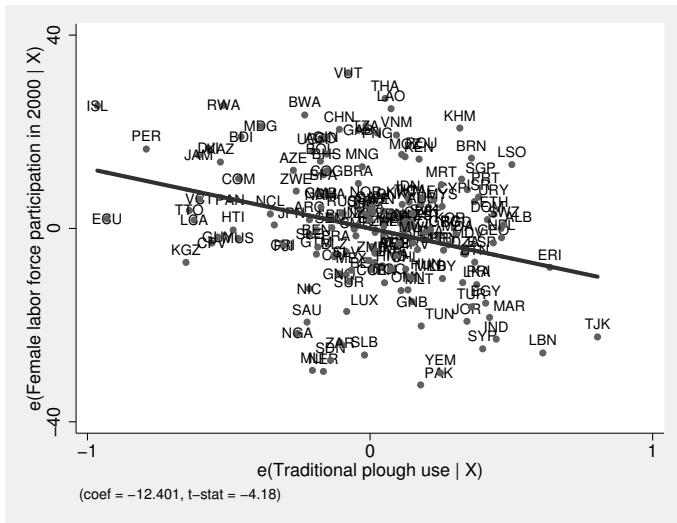
Origins of Gender Norms (Alesina, Giuliano and Nunn, 2013)



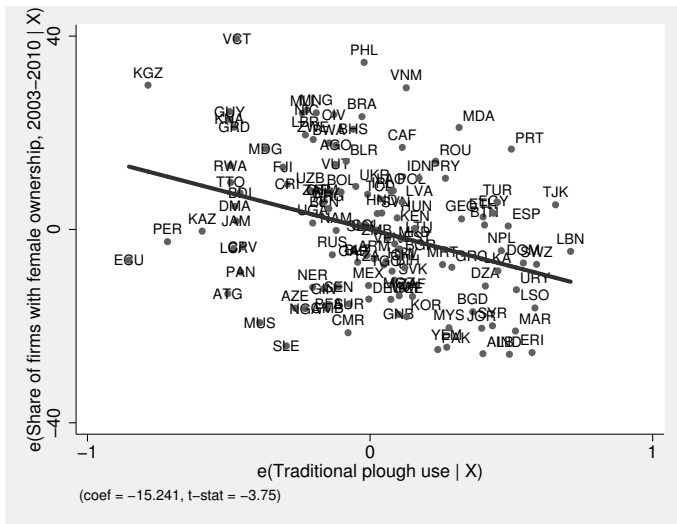
Origins of Gender Norms (Alesina, Giuliano and Nunn, 2013)



Traditional Plough Use and FLFP



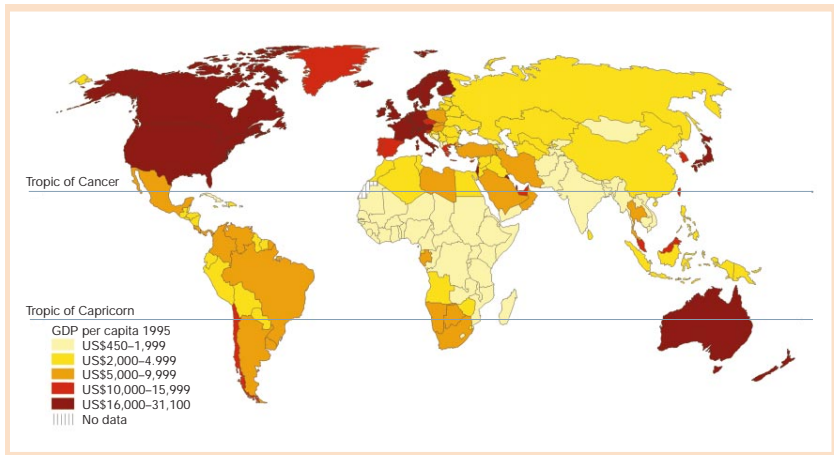
Traditional Plough Use and Female Firm Ownership



Traditional Views on Economic Development

- 1 Short-run factors like: capital, health, education, and policies.
- 2 More fundamental slow-moving factors like: domestic institutions, social norms, or cultural traits.
- 3 **Geography.**

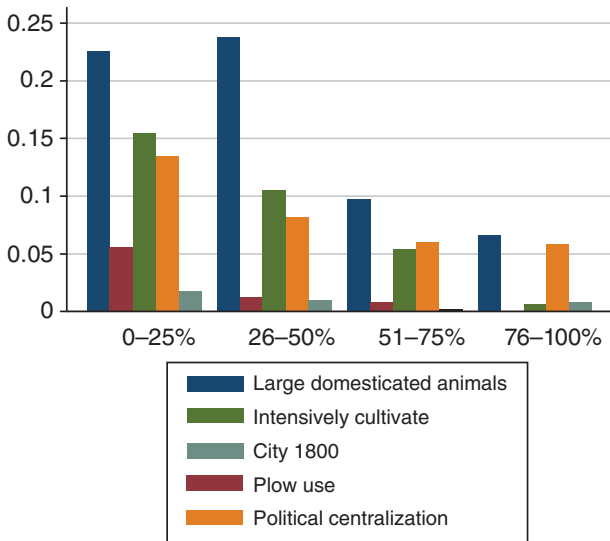
Geography and Income



Historical Impacts of the Tsetse Fly in Africa (Alsan, 2014)



Historical Impacts of the TseTse Fly in Africa



Historical Impacts of Ruggedness (Nunn and Puga, 2011)



Historical Impacts of Ruggedness



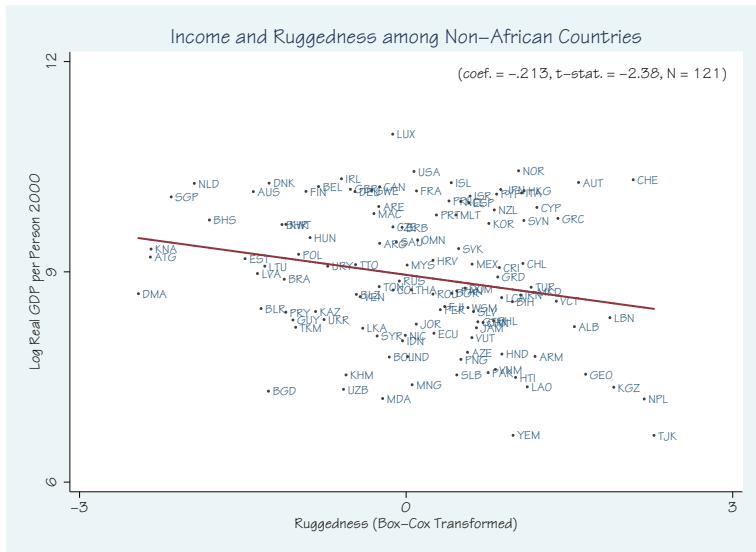
Historical Impacts of Ruggedness



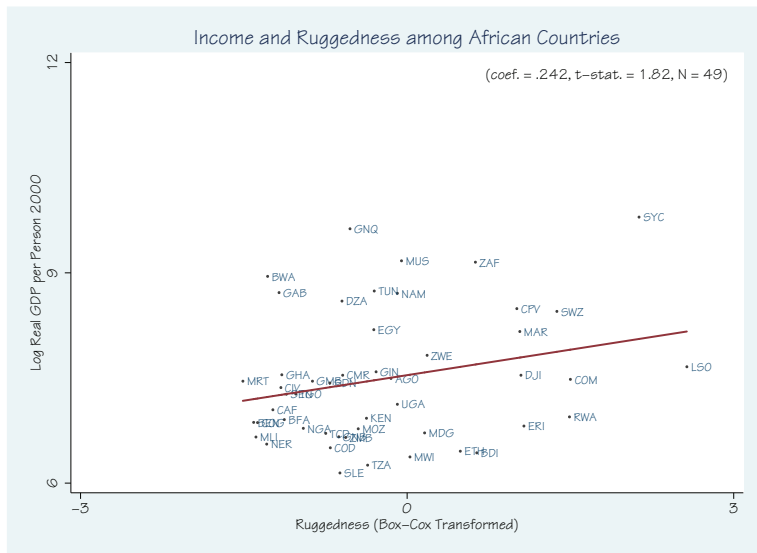
Historical Impacts of Ruggedness



Historical Impacts of Ruggedness



Historical Impacts of Ruggedness



- We really cannot understand economic development today without thinking about history and how we got here.
- Next question: What implications does this have for economic policy moving forward?