

Did colonization matter for growth?: An empirical exploration into the historical causes of Africa's underdevelopment.

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Did colonization matter for growth?: An empirical exploration into the historical causes of Africa's underdevelopment

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Abstract

We investigate the impact of 20th-century European colonization on growth. We find that colonial heritage, as measured by the identity of the metropolitan ruler and by the degree of economic penetration, matters for the heterogeneity of growth performances in Africa. Colonial indicators are correlated with economic and sociopolitical variables that are commonly employed to explain growth and there are growth gains from decolonization. Colonial indicators also add significant explanatory power to worldwide growth regressions and are correlated with the Sub-Saharan Africa and the Latin America dummies.



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JEL classification

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