

Online appendix

Online Appendix Table 1: Models 7, 8, and 9 of Tables 1-3 with controls for colonial rulers

	DV: Length of railway tracks per km ²		DV: Adult literacy rates		DV: Infant mortality	
	(1) W precol stateness	(2) W % agri & precol stateness	(3) W precol stateness	(4) W % agri & precol stateness	(5) W precol stateness	(6) W % agri & precol stateness
Former Ottoman dependency	-2.8144 (4.255)	-3.6366 (4.602)	-0.0700 (0.315)	-0.1638 (0.297)	0.7498 (10.603)	3.5038 (9.929)
Former French dependency	-1.0455 (2.476)	-1.2846 (2.058)	-0.5161** (0.262)	-0.7510*** (0.223)	-2.7933 (8.843)	6.5661 (7.049)
Former British dependency	-0.0104 (2.677)	0.6343 (2.841)	-0.0437 (0.258)	0.0336 (0.233)	-6.5193 (8.953)	-3.3675 (7.800)
Former Portuguese dependency	0.8156 (1.762)	1.5226 (1.775)	-0.3697 (0.258)	-0.3620 (0.306)	10.3750 (14.556)	10.9868 (17.520)
GDP per capita, lagged, Penn World Tables	0.0629 (0.226)	-0.0565 (0.212)	0.0235 (0.015)	-0.0028 (0.010)	-1.0130** (0.498)	-0.4213 (0.356)
Year	-0.0158 (0.030)	-0.0432 (0.027)	0.0423*** (0.003)	0.0407*** (0.004)	-1.8129*** (0.145)	-1.4440*** (0.164)
Linguistic fractionalization, Soviet Atlas, Fearon and Laitin	-9.2045 (7.100)	-5.2776 (6.536)	-0.5739 (0.491)	-0.3314 (0.428)	24.7834 (15.199)	18.6618 (11.740)
In precolony, % pop. ruled by states, Müller	6.4399** (2.673)	5.8088** (2.472)	0.6880** (0.308)	0.6513** (0.266)	-4.8202 (11.017)	-10.7450 (10.017)
Agriculture's share of economy (% of GDP), 1960-2006, Word Bank		-0.1515*** (0.055)		-0.0234*** (0.005)		0.9516*** (0.179)
Difference between highest and lowest elevation, in meters, Fearon and Laitin	0.0001 (0.001)	0.0003 (0.001)				
Population, Gleditsch			0.0000 (0.000)	-0.0000 (0.000)		
Prevalence of deadly Malaria in 1994, Sachs					35.9941*** (12.478)	17.1428 (12.665)
Constant	39.3995 (60.914)	95.8742 (58.750)	-83.9531*** (6.001)	-80.1148*** (7.730)	3,660.9598*** (10.603)	2,910.6747*** (9.929)
Observations	3,613	2,582	3,678	2,582	3,014	2,488
R ²	0.178	0.209			0.540	0.619

Robust standard errors in parentheses; *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.10

Online Appendix Table 2: Robustness tests with de la Porta's dataset: OLS regressions on illiteracy, infant mortality, and school attainment

De la Porta's et al. data represent a cross-section and include a series of controls that are supposed to be associated with both the size and quality of government—the dual focus of their article. The controls include legal traditions of a country—with no unequivocal theoretical expectation of how this should affect provision with public good—as well as the religious composition of a country, the expectation being that Muslim and Catholic populations will be governed by more authoritarian governments less oriented toward the public good.

As can be seen from Models 1 through 6 in Online Appendix Table 2, ethno-linguistic fractionalization is associated with public goods provision except in the models on school attainment, reproducing de la Porta's findings. This is true for both the full sample and the reduced sample with Asian and African countries for which we have information on levels of pre-colonial stateness. This variable, in turn, is also significantly associated with the provision of public goods except in models on illiteracy (Models 7 to 9). When both stateness and ethno-linguistic diversity are considered in the same models (Models 10 to 12), they generally both lose significance, except the pre-colonial stateness variable in the model on school attainment (Model 12). This is because both variables are highly correlated with each other (.67), as we expect given the endogenous relationship between historically inherited levels of stateness and contemporary ethnic diversity.

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
	Full models			W/o countries that miss data on stateness			With precol. stateness, w/o ethnic frac.			With ethnic frac. and precol. stateness		
	DV: Illiteracy	DV: Inf. mort.	DV: School	DV: Illiteracy	DV: Inf. mort.	DV: School	DV: Illiteracy	DV: Inf. mort.	DV: School	DV: Illiteracy	DV: Inf. mort.	DV: School
Ethno-linguistic fractionalization	12.6838*** (4.711)	0.4052*** (0.117)	-0.1813 (0.115)	16.7753** (7.889)	0.3510* (0.188)	-0.0806 (0.205)				14.0599 (9.029)	0.2399 (0.216)	0.1388 (0.219)
Share of Muslim population in 1980	0.1491*** (0.052)	0.0038*** (0.001)	-0.0038*** (0.001)	0.2313*** (0.078)	0.0018 (0.002)	-0.0006 (0.002)	0.2332*** (0.075)	0.0016 (0.002)	-0.0003 (0.002)	0.2246*** (0.079)	0.0015 (0.002)	-0.0002 (0.002)
Share of Catholic population in 1980	-0.0920 (0.057)	-0.0010 (0.001)	0.0009 (0.001)	-0.0743 (0.133)	0.0013 (0.003)	0.0071** (0.003)	-0.0847 (0.132)	0.0015 (0.003)	0.0069** (0.003)	-0.0734 (0.134)	0.0013 (0.003)	0.0071** (0.003)
French legal tradition	7.1295** (3.299)	0.2180*** (0.081)	-0.1980*** (0.075)	6.1851 (4.596)	0.1414 (0.111)	-0.2545** (0.110)	4.6874 (4.373)	0.0944 (0.104)	-0.2516** (0.104)	6.2140 (4.622)	0.1437 (0.111)	-0.2532** (0.105)
Socialist legal tradition	-8.8806 (7.649)	0.0133 (0.145)	0.3984* (0.214)	-4.8974 (9.309)	0.0228 (0.212)		-6.1022 (9.085)	0.0019 (0.204)		-4.2755 (9.413)	0.0428 (0.212)	
German legal tradition	-4.1745 (14.017)	0.0789 (0.181)	-0.2342* (0.138)	7.0371 (16.622)	-0.9617*** (0.321)	0.0837 (0.254)	0.1450 (16.442)	-1.0306*** (0.306)	0.0232 (0.241)	6.9453 (16.716)	-0.9558*** (0.321)	0.0277 (0.243)
Scandinavian legal tradition		-0.1895 (0.203)	-0.1307 (0.174)									
Latitude	6.3882 (12.402)	-0.4276* (0.258)	0.0302 (0.239)	-12.7089 (22.390)	0.2925 (0.514)	0.2038 (0.533)	-23.1411 (22.035)	0.2853 (0.494)	-0.0847 (0.469)	-9.4505 (23.103)	0.4027 (0.524)	0.0418 (0.513)
GDP per capita (logged)	-12.2843*** (1.307)	-0.4724*** (0.032)	0.2936*** (0.032)	-13.4497*** (2.321)	-0.2828*** (0.054)	0.2938*** (0.062)	-11.3298*** (1.811)	-0.2798*** (0.042)	0.3013*** (0.057)	-13.4854*** (2.335)	-0.2854*** (0.054)	0.3104*** (0.059)
In precolony, % pop. ruled by states, Müller							-8.7395 (5.322)	-0.2634** (0.125)	0.2399** (0.110)	-3.8696 (6.144)	-0.1529 (0.147)	0.2758** (0.125)
Constant	103.4466*** (10.014)	7.0409*** (0.238)	-0.5388** (0.239)	109.3795*** (15.722)	5.9239*** (0.366)	-0.8626* (0.450)	112.3100*** (11.066)	6.2327*** (0.257)	-1.0093*** (0.353)	112.2847*** (16.470)	6.0495*** (0.385)	-1.1863** (0.453)
Observations	116	151	102	63	66	46	67	71	46	63	66	46
R-squared	0.687	0.858	0.797	0.592	0.636	0.646	0.569	0.651	0.683	0.595	0.643	0.687

Robust standard errors in parentheses; *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.10

Online Appendix Table 3: Models 1 and 7 of Tables 1-3 with four different coding of the diversity variable

	DV: Railroads		DV: Literacy		DV: Infant mort.		DV: Railroads		DV: Literacy		DV: Infant mort.	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
In precolony, % pop. ruled by states, Müller		7.4566** (2.955)		0.6504** (0.317)		-5.3874 (10.821)		6.3286** -3.012		0.7320** (0.340)		-5.6602 (11.415)
Linguistic fractionalization, Alesina et al.	-15.3354* (8.287)	-6.0919 (5.122)	-1.3515*** (0.342)	-0.5232 (0.445)	23.9845*** (8.840)	25.5295* (13.820)						
Ethnolinguistic fractionalization, Roeder							23.6573*** (8.812)	-9.6596 (6.212)	-1.2543*** (0.392)	-0.4557 (0.491)	18.8586* (9.653)	12.9604 (16.094)
Observations	6,296	3,462	6,376	3,527	4,976	2,873	6,354	3,505	6,369	3,505	5,108	2,916
R-squared	0.231	0.174			0.660	0.541	0.241	0.191			0.654	0.531

	DV: Railroads		DV: Literacy		DV: Infant mort.		DV: Railroads		DV: Literacy		DV: Infant mort.	
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
In precolony, % pop. ruled by states, Müller		10.2166*** (3.211)		0.9603*** (0.310)		-11.0302 (10.892)		11.8411*** (3.211)		1.1640*** (0.301)		-11.8299 (10.967)
Religious fractionalization, Fearon and Laitin	6.2913 (10.990)	3.6788 (4.260)	0.1746 (0.441)	0.7484 (0.539)	-13.1320 (9.483)	-23.4006 (15.882)						
Religious fractionalization, Alesina et al.							7.0010 (8.699)	10.6244** (4.531)	0.5534 (0.362)	1.2467*** (0.438)	-11.5479 (9.343)	-19.4449 (13.431)
Observations	6,471	3,505	6,551	3,570	5,108	2,916	6,457	3,505	6,537	3,570	5,108	2,916
R-squared	0.211	0.151			0.649	0.536	0.213	0.204			0.649	0.537

Notes: Robust standard errors in parentheses; *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1; all models include the additional variables of Tables 1-3.

Online Appendix Table 4: Table 4 in the main text with additional controls for imperial background

VARIABLES	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
(omitted category: never ever a dependency)				
Former Spanish dependency		1.0263 (0.723)		-0.9828*** (0.379)
Former Ottoman dependency		-1.4498*** (0.457)		-0.6874* (0.386)
Former French dependency		0.3102 (0.322)		0.5344* (0.315)
Former British dependency		0.1793 (0.276)		0.3844 (0.266)
Former Portuguese dependency		0.2677 (0.376)		-0.0975 (0.648)
Former Hapsburg dependency		No obs		-0.5574 (0.421)
Former Russian dependency		No obs		0.3136 (0.318)
Former dependency of other empires		-0.2739 (0.275)		0.1866 (0.243)
GDP per capita, based on Penn World Table (extended back and forwards)	-0.0275 (0.024)	-0.0266 (0.021)	-0.0534*** (0.013)	-0.0490*** (0.014)
Dispersion in elevation across regions of country	0.0564 (0.135)	0.0509 (0.144)	0.0347 (0.094)	0.1217 (0.096)
Dispersion in agricultural suitability across regions of country	0.8962 (0.616)	1.1306** (0.524)	1.2842*** (0.489)	1.3315** (0.535)
Average monthly precipitation 1961-1990	0.0049* (0.003)	0.0012 (0.002)	0.0003 (0.002)	0.0013 (0.002)
Distance from coast	0.8256* (0.479)	0.4951 (0.474)	0.3072 (0.298)	0.0065 (0.329)
Cumulative No of ethno-nationalist wars fought between 1816 and 1900	0.5152 (0.347)	0.5222 (0.389)	-0.1542 (0.124)	0.0926 (0.118)
% pop. ruled by states before colonization	-1.5326*** (0.315)	-1.4362*** (0.286)		
Cumulative index of state centralization			-1.2162*** (0.423)	-1.2613*** (0.459)
Constant	-0.6339 (0.671)	-0.3448 (0.537)	-0.5184 (0.439)	-0.7582 (0.548)
Observations	75	75	133	133

Robust standard errors in parentheses

*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1