The Political Economy -- 
The Road Ahead

Robert H. Bates
From

- Study of Growth
- To Study of the Political Economy of Growth
Policy Mistakes

Control Regimes by Period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Percent Observations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70-74</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-79</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-95</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Policy Mistakes and Military Government

Control Regimes and Military Government

Percent Observations

Military  | Civilian  | All
---       | ---       | ---
Percent Control Regimes

Period
The impact on largest industry

• As the size of rural sector increases
  – Private benefits of lobbying decrease
  – Costs of organizing increase
  – Size of lobby for cheap food increases
But then: Political Reform

Party Systems by Period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>No-party system</th>
<th>Single-party system</th>
<th>Multi-party system</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70-74</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>75-79</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.2</td>
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</table>
Policy Choices and Agriculture: Africa’s Largest Industry

nra_foodcrops by Rural Pop. Share
with & without electoral comp

WDI: Rural population (% of total population) - SP.RUR.TOTL.ZS

nra_foodcrops (all)  nra_foodcrops (elect comp)
 nra_foodcrops (no elect comp)

semi-parametric
Conclusion I

• Political reform -> Policy Reform
Conclusion II

• The importance of “Political Geography”
Conclusion II

• The importance of “Political Geography”

• The politics of agrarian economies
Conclusion II

• The importance of “Political Geography”

• The politics of agrarian economies

• But also: the politics of regional inequality
Regional Inequality and Authoritarian Politics

No party | Single-party | Multi-party
---|---|---
No Privileged Region
Privileged Region

Percent observations

0.4
Conclusion III

- The fragility of policy reform
- The fragility of political reform