Empirical Evidence on the Long-Term Impacts of Africa's Slave Trades

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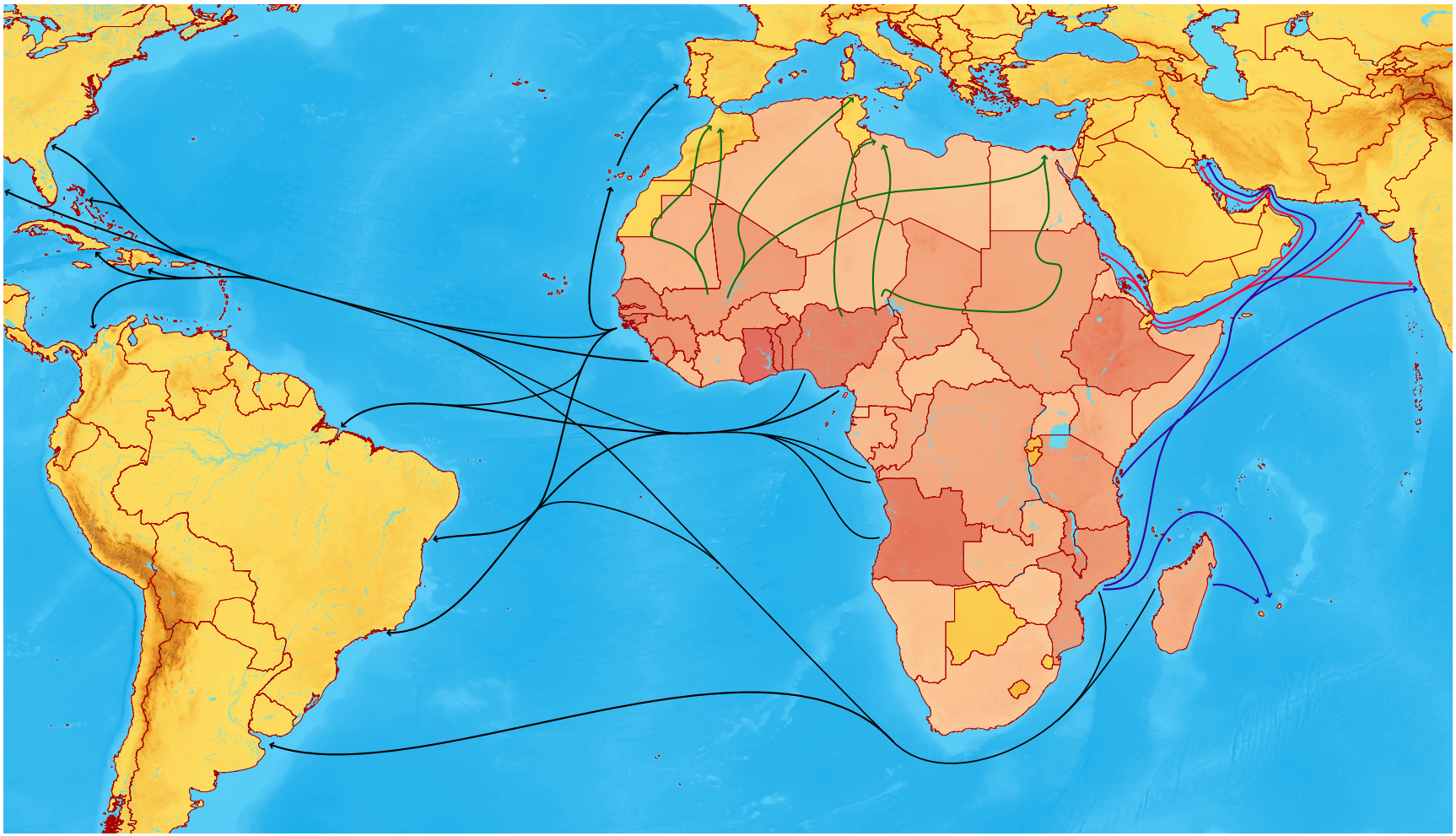
Overview

- Nunn (QJE, 2008):
  - Using cross-country data, examines the impact of Africa's four slave trades on long-term economic development.
- Nunn and Wantchekon (AER, forthcoming)
  - Using individual-level data, examines the impact of the Indian Ocean and trans-Atlantic slave trades on interpersonal trust.



Magnitude of the Slave Trades

Slave Trade	1400–1599	1600–1699	1700–1799	1800–1913	1400–1913
trans-Atlantic	188,108	597,444	8,253,885	3,709,081	12,748,518
trans-Saharan	700,000	435,000	865,000	1,066,143	3,066,143
Red Sea	400,000	200,000	200,000	505,400	1,305,400
Indian Ocean	200,000	100,000	428,000	395,300	1,123,300
Total	1,488,108	1,332,444	9,746,885	5,675,924	18,243,361
Total/year	7,441	13,324	97,469	50,230	35,562

Potential Impacts of the Slave Trades

- Qualitative historical evidence of detrimental impacts
  - E.g., Joseph Inikori (2000, 2003); Linda Heywood (JAH, 2009)
- Deterioration of property rights and the rule of law
  - Rise of warlords and militarization of the continent.
  - Increase in conflicts between ethnicities.
  - Increase in local kidnapping, raiding and banditry.
- Weakening and fragmentation of states
  - Political fragmentation and instability.
  - Break-down of traditional judicial systems as legal system is used for enslavement.

Complementary (Empirical) Evidence?

- Natural questions that arise:
  - Are the examples examined (e.g., Kongo Kingdom) representative or are they exceptional?
  - What is the *average* impact for the continent as a whole?
  - Do these impacts persist until today?
  - Can they explain part of Africa's underdevelopment relative to the rest of the world?
- A quantitative approach is able to help shed light on these questions.

Data Sources: Shipping Records

- Atlantic slave trade:
  - Updated *Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database* constructed by Eltis, Behrendt, Richardson, and Klein and from Elbl (1997).
- Indian Ocean, Red Sea and Trans-Saharan slave trades:
  - Martin and Ryan (1977), Austen (1979, 1988, 1992), and Lovejoy (2000).

Data Sources: Ethnicity Data

- Atlantic slave trade.
  - 54 samples, 80,656 slaves, 229 ethnicities
- Indian Ocean slave trade.
  - 6 samples, 21,048 slaves, 80 ethnicities
- Saharan slave trade.
  - 2 samples, 5,385 slaves, 23 ethnicities
- Red Sea slave trade.
  - 2 samples, 67 slaves, 32 ethnicities

Table 1: Slave Ethnicity Data: Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, 1450–1799

Region	Years	Num. Ethnic.	Num. Obs.	Record Type
Valencia, Spain	1482–1516	77	2,675	Crown Records
Puebla, Mexico	1540-1556	14	115	Notarial Records
Dominican Republic	1547–1591	26	22	Records of Sale
Peru	1548–1560	16	202	Records of Sale
Mexico	1549	12	80	Plantation Accounts
Peru	1560–1650	30	6,754	Notarial Records
Lima, Peru	1583–1589	15	288	Baptism Records
Colombia	1589–1607	9	19	Various Records
Mexico	1600–1699	28	102	Records of Sale
Dominican Republic	1610–1696	33	55	Government Records
Chile	1615	6	141	Sales Records
Lima, Peru	1630–1702	33	411	Parish Records
Peru (Rural)	1632	25	307	Parish Records
Lima, Peru	1640–1680	33	936	Marriage Records
Colombia	1635–1695	6	17	Slave Inventories
Guyane (French Guiana)	1690	12	69	Plantation Records
Colombia	1716–1725	33	59	Government Records
French Louisiana	1717–1769	23	223	Notarial Records
Dominican Republic	1717–1827	11	15	Government Records
South Carolina	1732–1775	35	681	Runaway Notices
Colombia	1738–1778	11	100	Various Records
Spanish Louisiana	1770–1803	79	6,615	Notarial Records
St. Dominique (Haiti)	1771–1791	25	5,413	Sugar Plantations
Bahia, Brazil	1775–1815	14	581	Slave Lists
St. Dominique (Haiti)	1778–1791	36	1,280	Coffee Plantations
Guadeloupe	1788	8	45	Newspaper Reports
St. Dominique (Haiti)	1788–1790	21	1,297	Fugitive Slave Lists
Cuba	1791–1840	59	3,093	Slave Registers
St. Dominique (Haiti)	1796–1797	56	5,632	Plantation Inventories

Table 2: Slave Ethnicity Data: Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, 1800–1900

Region	Years	Num. Ethnic.	Num. Obs.	Record Type
American Louisiana	1804–1820	62	223	Notarial Records
Salvador, Brazil	1808–1842	6	456	Records of Manumission
Trinidad	1813	100	12,460	Slave Registers
St. Lucia	1815	62	2,333	Slave Registers
Bahia, Brazil	1816–1850	27	2,666	Slave Lists
St. Kitts	1817	48	2,887	Slave Registers
Senegal	1818	17	80	Captured Slave Ship
Berbice (Guyana)	1819	66	1,127	Slave Registers
Salvador, Brazil	1819–1836	12	871	Manumission Certificates
Salvador, Brazil	1820–1835	11	1,106	Probate Records
Sierra Leone	1821–1824	68	605	Child Registers
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	1826–1837	31	772	Prison Records
Anguilla	1827	7	51	Slave Registers
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	1830–1852	190	2,921	Free Africans' Records
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	1833–1849	35	476	Death Certificates
Salvador, Brazil	1835	13	275	Court Records
Salvador, Brazil	1838–1848	7	202	Slave Registers
St. Louis/Goree, Senegal	1843–1848	21	189	Emancipated Slaves
Bakel, Senegal	1846	16	73	Sales Records
d'Agoué, Benin	1846–1885	11	70	Church Records
Sierra Leone	1848	132	12,425	Linguistic and British Census
Salvador, Brazil	1851–1884	8	363	Records of Manumission
Salvador, Brazil	1852–1888	7	269	Slave Registers
Cape Verde	1856	32	314	Slave Census
Kikoneh Island, Sierra Leone	1896–1897	11	185	Fugitive Slave Records
Total			**80,656**	

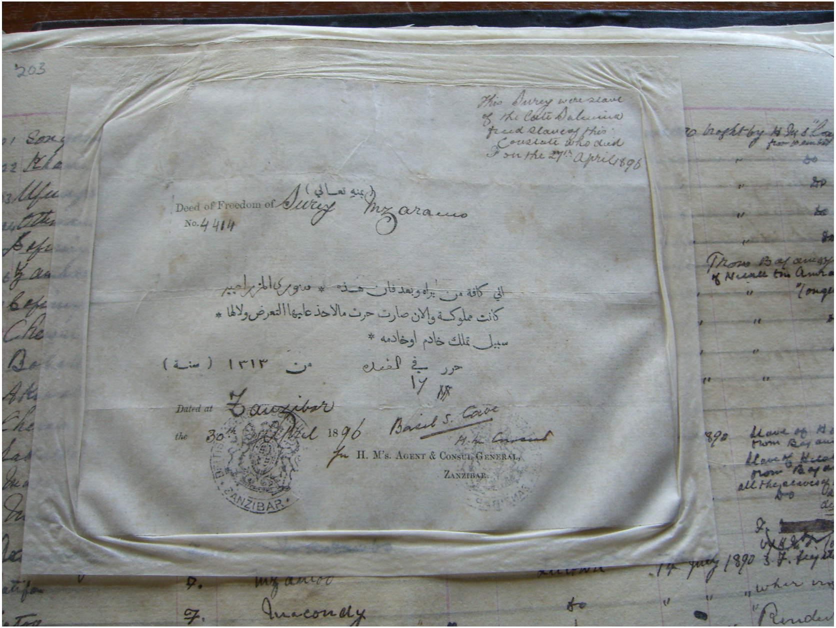
Table S3.3. *Birthplaces of Slaves: Trinidad, 1813*

AFRICANS	Number of Slaves
Senegambia	
Malinke (Mandingo 1,418, Mandinga 2, Malinga 1)	1,421
Bambara	42
Woloff (Waloff 6, Jaloff 1, Jollof 3)	10
Bram (Bola 2, Bramba 1)	3
Fulbe (Poulard 3)	3
Mayo	1
Wangara (Wanga 1)	1
Diola (Yola 1)	1
Goree*	2
Cape Verde** (Calver 134, Calbe 5, Cape de Verd 2)	141
Senegal**	15
Gambia**	2
Coromandel**	1
Total	1,643
Sierra Leone	
Fulbe (Foula, Foulah, Fulla, Fuller 171)	171
Susu (Soso, Sosoe, Suso 144, Souci 1)	145
Temne (Timini, Timmani, Timane, Timene, Timinin, Timiny 148, Temana 5, Theminin 3, Tibbeny 3, Timna 2, Teminin 1, Temmana 1, Timana 1, Timina 1, Timmena 1, Timmni 1, Tamine 1, Tamana 1)	169
Kissi (Kissi, Kissee, Kissy 51, Quissi, Quissy 3, Kiskee 2, Kissa, Kissiman 1, Kuisi 1, Quisi 1, Bekissey 1, Qusisy 1, Tisi 1)	63
Bulom (Bullam 4, Bullman 2, Bolom 1, Bolonn 1)	8
Limba (Limba, Limber 6)	6
Timbou	5
Koranko (Courango 2, Couwango 1, Curranco 1)	4
Mende (Mendé 2, Mendo 1)	3
Ngere (Doo 3)	3
Vai (Fye 1, Vea 1)	2
Mano (Mana 1)	1
Kru (Nana 1)	1
Toma (Tomba 1)	1
Kankan [town] (Cancan 1)	1
Guinea-Bissau** (Portugas, Portugee, Portugues 12, Portogai 1, Portuguese Guina 1)	14
Total	597
Windward Coast	
Kwakwa (Quaqua 473)	473
Akwa (Aquia 6, Aquia 2)	8
Cape Lahou* (Caplaou 121, Caplahoo, Caplahou 38, Caplahout 1)	160
Mesurado hinterland** (Canga 160, Conga 44, Cangar 2, Congar 1)	207
Windward Coast**	33
Ivory Coast**	3
Total	884

Table S3.3. *Birthplaces: Trinidad, 1813 (continued)*

	Number of Slaves
Gold Coast	
Bonda (Bonna 5)	5
Wankyi (Wangwee 3, Wangwing 1)	4
Kokofu (Cocoa 3)	3
Fanti (Fantee 2, Fonde 1)	3
Bargu (Bargo 2)	2
Akan (Quaco 2)	2
Abron (Bron 1)	1
Kamana (Camana 1)	1
Wassa (Woser 1)	1
Kormantyn* (Coromantee, Coromanti 354, Caramanti 32)	386
Elmina* (Mine, Minre 283, Mini 14)	297
Anomabu* (Anamabou 2)	2
Cape Coast castle* (Cape Coast 2)	2
Gold Coast**	385
Total	1,094
Bight of Benin	
Allada (Arada, Irada 200, Rada 78, Ardda 1, Ladda 1, Raddah 1)	281
Chamba (Chamba 233, Kiamba 8, Quiamba 8, Quimba 7, Camba 5, Jamba 3, Quamba 3, Tiamba 3, Jampa 2, Chiamba 1, Cuamba 1, Giamba 1)	275
Popo (Papa 104, Pappa 5, Papaw 2, Pawpau 1)	112
Hausa (Ahousa, Aousa, Housa 95, Hausa 5, Ousa 5, Arousa 1, Ausar 1, Canaou 1, Haoussa 1)	109
Adda (Adda 83, Addo 15, Adow 5, Addé 1)	104
Adangme (Ado 37, Ada 10)	47
Ge (Mina, Minna 33)	33
Adja (Aja, Ajah 13, Adja 6, Aga 5, Agar 1, Ajas 1, Ajo 1)	27
Ana (Ana 24, Anne 1)	25
Yoruba (Nago 8, Yolaba 1, Yruba 1)	10
Bariba (Barba 3)	3
Konkomba (Combah 2, Comba 1)	3
Wara (Guala 3)	3
Attam (Autan 2)	2
Dian (Dya 2)	2
Whydah (Whadah 1, Wydan 1)	2
Agwa (Agra 1)	1
Kumba (Cumba 1)	1
Edo (Eddo 1)	1
Manga	1
Munga	1
Apa* (Appa 9, Apa 5, Apay 1)	15
Slave Coast**	20
Dahomey** (Dahomet 1, Dahomin 1)	2
Total	1,080

No	Name of Slaves	No	Name of Master	Sect	Residence	Age	sex	Tribe	DATE of Remark
1	Rajiki		Ismael bin Rua	B.	Chak Chak	20	f	Nyassa	24/4/74
2	Rajiki		Jafferji Karimji	B.	do	16	"	Mzindo	" "
3	Zafran		Phirbhoy Jivanji	B	Zanzibar	30	"	Miao	29/4/74
4	Bahali		do	"	do	15	"	"	" "
5	Singora		do	"	do	18	m	Makonda	" "
6	Zafran				See Criminal Cycle Case No 26 of 1874	19	f	Miao	12/6/74
7	Fabir				do	16	"	Nyassa	" "
8	Amina		P. A. case No 2 of 1874 H.M.S. Daphne		do	25	"	Intusa	" "
9	Mahopashera		do		do	20	m	" "	" "
10	Enli		do		do	25	"	" "	" "
11	Bilal		do		do	25	"	" "	" "
12	Kivali		do		do	25	f	" "	" "
13	Amaholela		do		do	25	"	" "	" "
14	Msimo		Dira bin Jaffer *		do	12	f	Mzalia	18/6/74
15	Rahema		* These slaves had belonged		do	30	"	Msanga	" "
16	Ngumu Yangu		to the above Khoja, and		do	30	"	Mchania	" "
17	Mayuma		on his decease last year		do	20	"	Nyassa	" "
18	Pesa		were inherited by his Grand		do	15	"	Mzalia	" "
19	Mapema		Ramathan bin Saif.		do	16	"	" "	" "
20	Mpakazi		a suriana		do		"	Nyassa	" "



203

This Surey were slave of the late Dalemina freed slave of this Consulate who died on the 27th April 1896

Deed of Freedom of Surey (سوري تعالي) Mzaramo
No. 4414

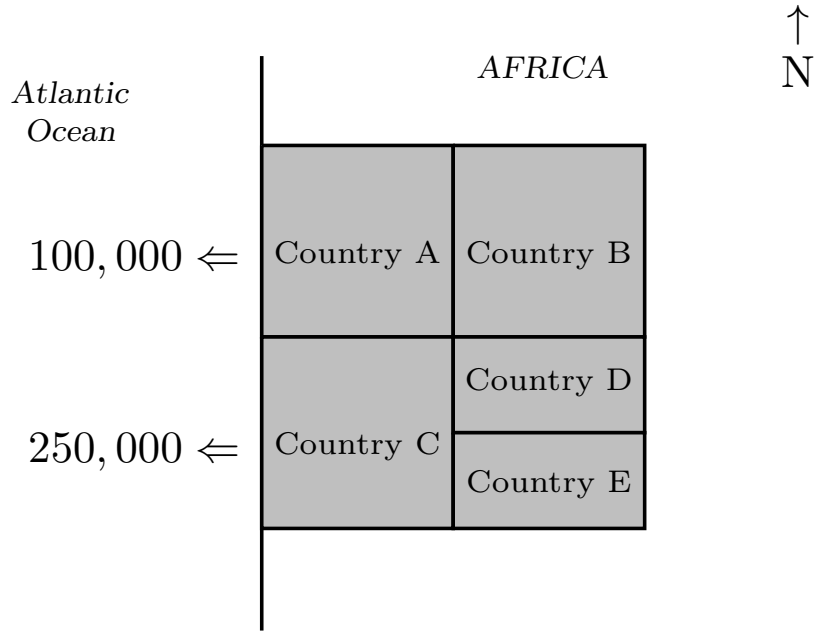
الي كافة من يراه وبعد فان هـذه * سوري المزراميو
كانت مملوكـة والان صارت حرت مالاحد عليها التعرض ولالها *
سبيل تملك خادم اوخادمه *

حرر في الفعل ١٦ ١٨ من ١٣١٣ (سنـة)

Dated at Zanzibar
the 30th April 1896

Basil S. Cave
H. M. Consul
for H. M's. Agent & Consul General,
Zanzibar.

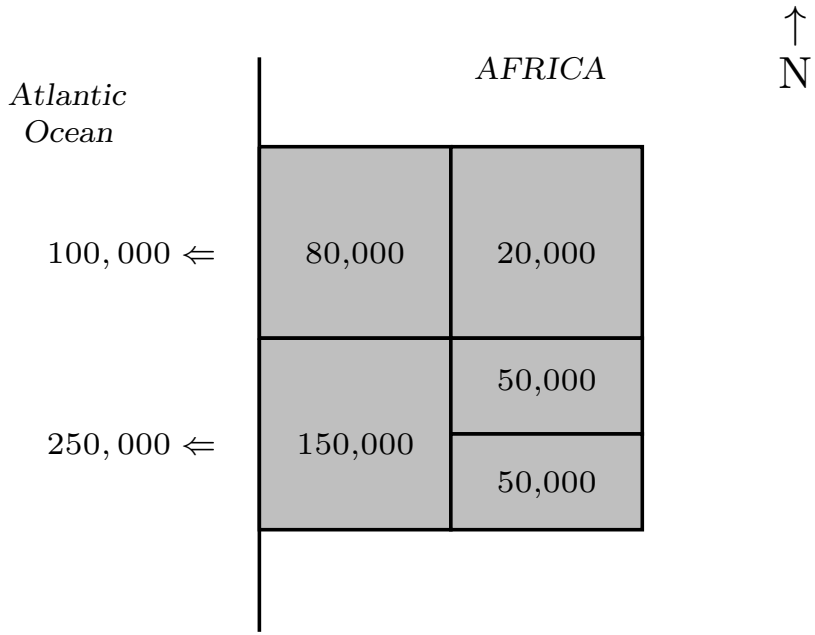
Constructing Estimates



From the ethnicity data, I calculate:

$$\text{A} : \text{B} = 4 : 1$$
$$\text{C} : \text{D} : \text{E} = 3 : 1 : 1$$

Calculations



$$\text{A}= 100,000 \times 4/5 = 80,000$$
$$\text{B}= 100,000 \times 1/5 = 20,000$$
$$\text{C}= 250,000 \times 3/5 = 150,000$$
$$\text{D}= 250,000 \times 1/5 = 50,000$$
$$\text{E}= 250,000 \times 1/5 = 50,000$$

Table 3: Estimated slave exports from 1400 to 1900. Top 20 countries.

Country name	Trans-Atlantic	Indian Ocean	Trans-Saharan	Red Sea	Total in all slave trades
Angola	3,607,402	0	0	0	3,607,402
Nigeria	1,410,970	0	555,796	59,337	2,026,102
Ghana	1,603,392	0	0	0	1,603,392
Ethiopia	0	200	813,899	633,357	1,447,455
Mali	524,031	0	509,950	0	1,033,981
Sudan	615	174	408,261	454,913	863,962
Dem. Rep. of Congo	759,270	7,047	0	0	766,317
Mozambique	382,378	243,484	0	0	625,862
Tanzania	10,834	523,992	0	0	534,826
Chad	823	0	409,368	118,673	528,862
Benin	454,099	0	0	0	454,099
Senegal	221,723	0	98,731	0	320,454
Togo	287,675	0	0	0	287,675
Guinea	242,529	0	0	0	242,529
Burkina Faso	183,101	0	0	0	183,101
Mauritania	419	0	164,017	0	164,436
Guinea-Bissau	156,084	0	0	0	156,084
Malawi	88,061	37,370	0	0	125,431
Madagascar	36,349	88,927	0	0	125,275
Republic of Congo	94,486	0	0	0	94,486

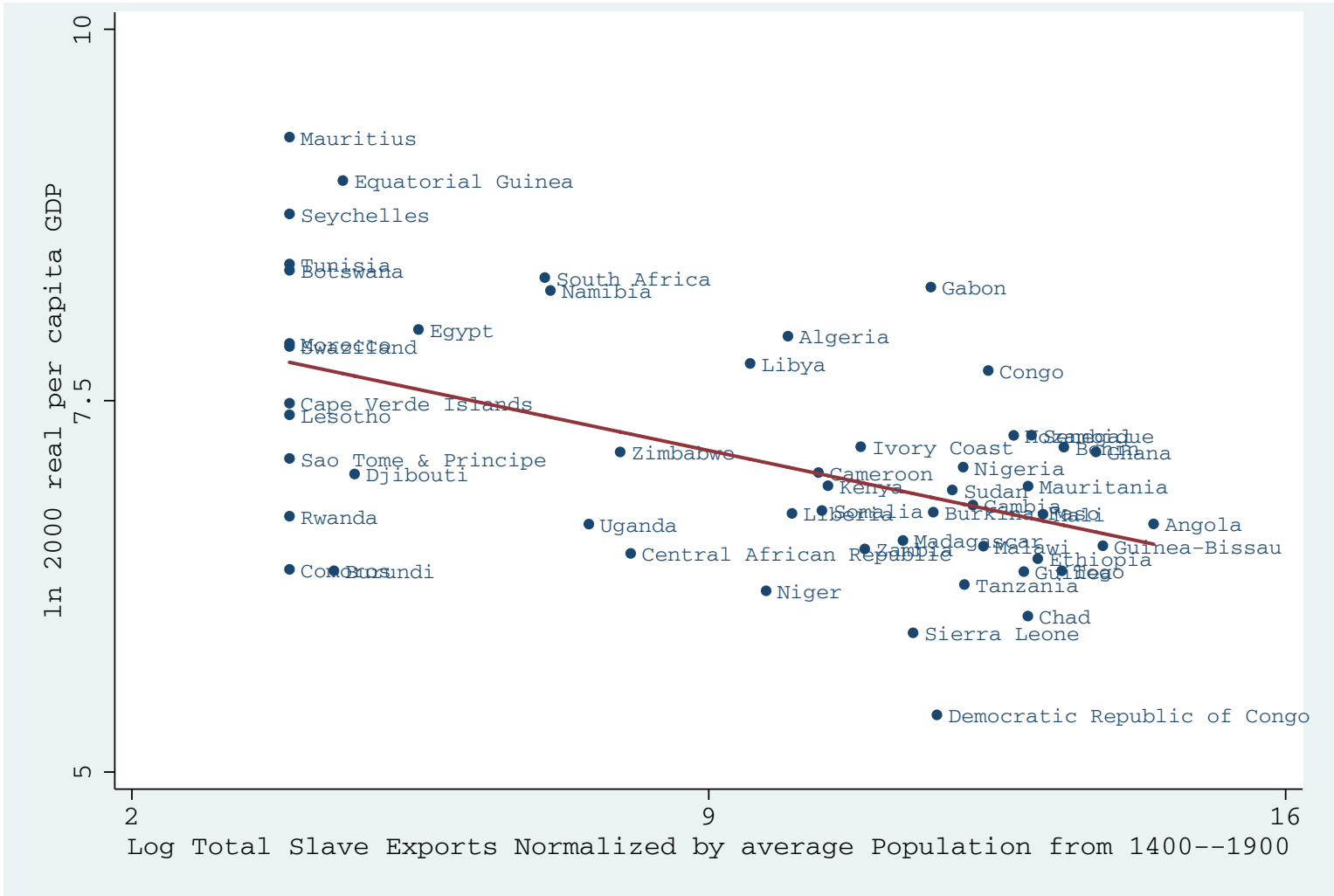
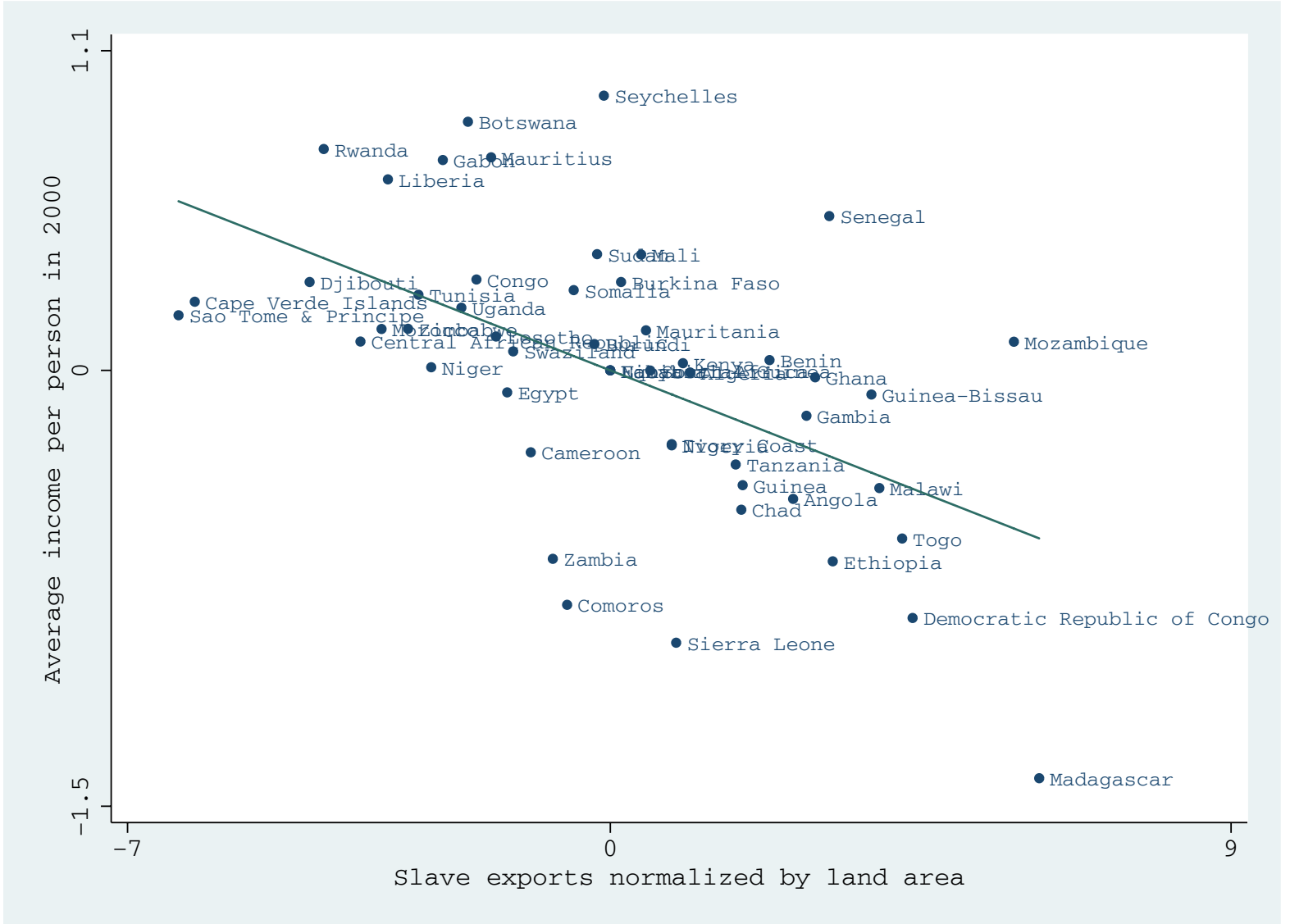

ln 2000 real per capita GDP
10
7.5
5
2
9
16
Log Total Slave Exports Normalized by average Population from 1400--1900
Mauritius
Equatorial Guinea
Seychelles
Tunisia
Botswana
South Africa
Namibia
Gabon
Egypt
Algeria
Swaziland
Libya
Congo
Cape Verde Islands
Lesotho
Sao Tome & Principe
Zimbabwe
Ivory Coast
Ghana
Djibouti
Cameroon
Nigeria
Kenya
Sudan
Mauritania
Rwanda
Uganda
Angola
Madagascar
Central African Republic
Guinea-Bissau
Ethiopia
Comoros
Burundi
Niger
Tanzania
Chad
Sierra Leone
Democratic Republic of Congo

TABLE III

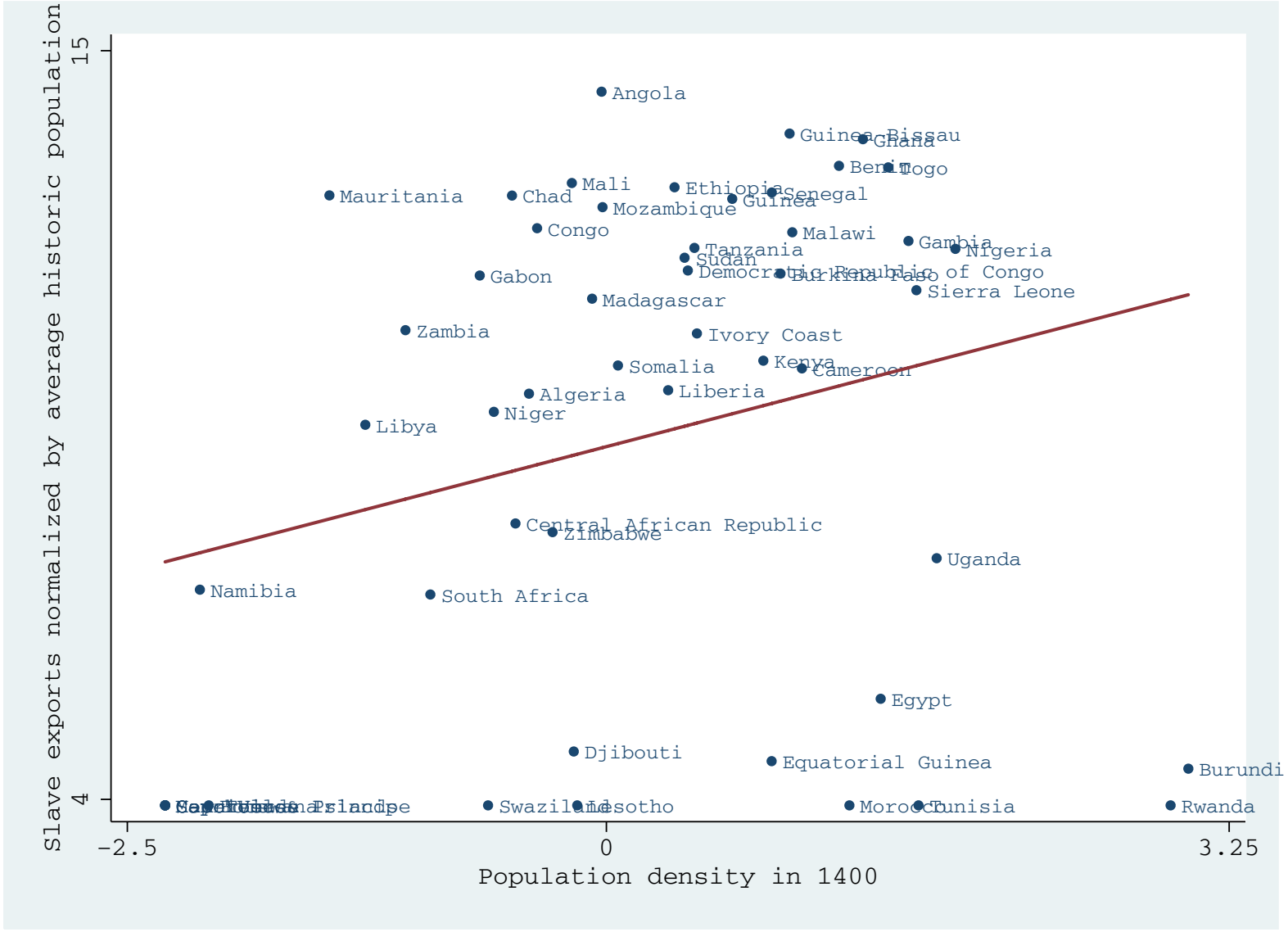
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SLAVE EXPORTS AND INCOME

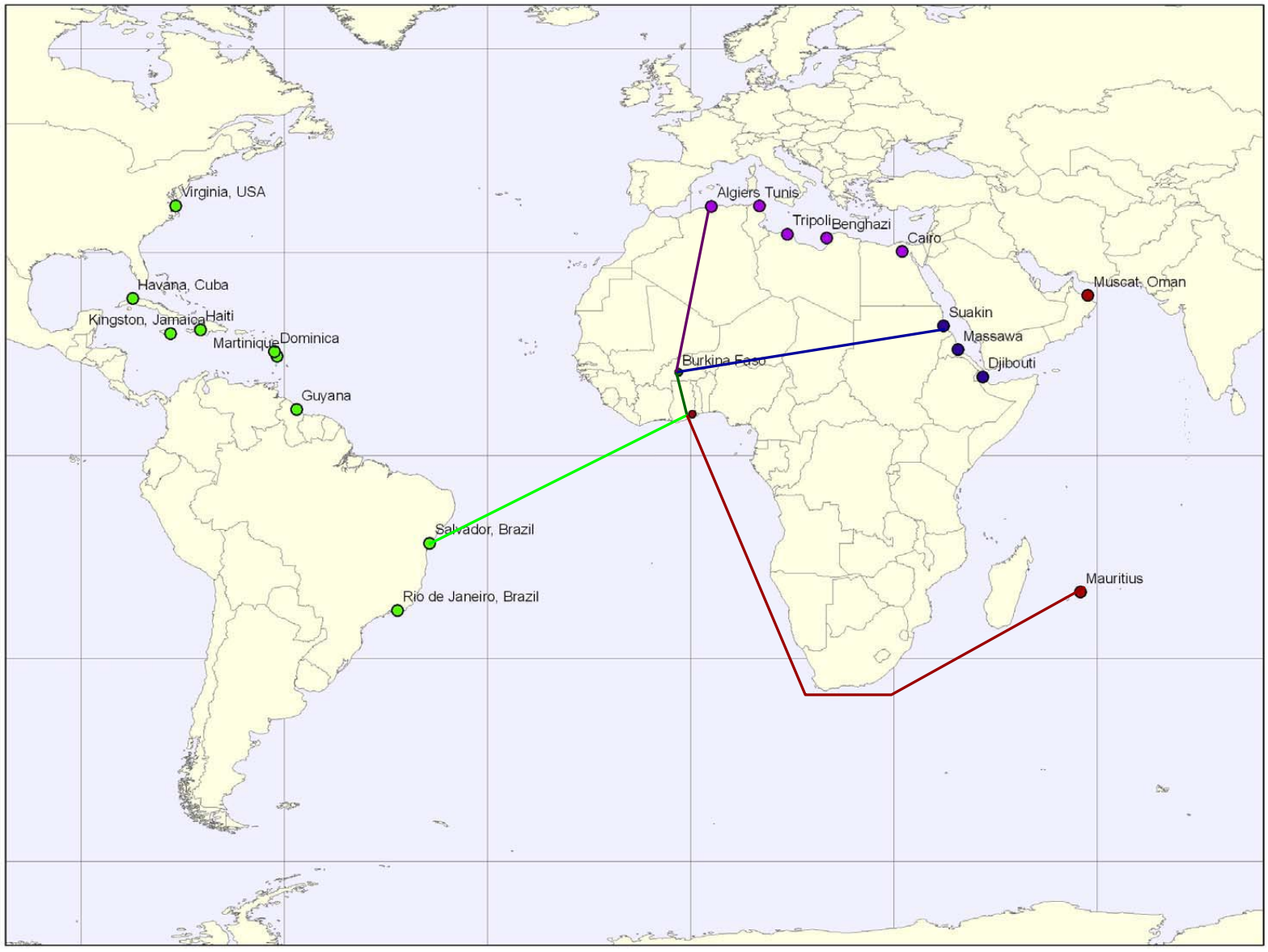
	Dependent variable is log real per capita GDP in 2000, $\ln y$					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
ln(exports/area)	$-.112^{***}$	$-.076^{***}$	$-.108^{***}$	$-.085^{**}$	$-.103^{***}$	$-.128^{***}$
	(.024)	(.029)	(.037)	(.035)	(.034)	(.034)
Distance from equator		.016	−.005	.019	.023	.006
		(.017)	(.020)	(.018)	(.017)	(.017)
Longitude		.001	−.007	−.004	−.004	−.009
		(.005)	(.006)	(.006)	(.005)	(.006)
Lowest monthly rainfall		−.001	.008	.0001	−.001	−.002
		(.007)	(.008)	(.007)	(.006)	(.008)
Avg max humidity		.009	.008	.009	.015	.013
		(.012)	(.012)	(.012)	(.011)	(.010)
Avg min temperature		−.019	−.039	−.005	−.015	−.037
		(.028)	(.028)	(.027)	(.026)	(.025)
ln(coastline/area)		$.085^{**}$	$.092^{**}$	$.095^{**}$	$.082^{**}$	$.083^{**}$
		(.039)	(.042)	(.042)	(.040)	(.037)
Island indicator				−.398	−.150	
				(.529)	(.516)	
Percent Islamic				$-.008^{***}$	$-.006^{*}$	−.003
				(.003)	(.003)	(.003)
French legal origin				.755	.643	−.141
				(.503)	(.470)	(.734)
North Africa indicator				.382	−.304	
				(.484)	(.517)	
ln(gold prod/pop)					.011	.014
					(.017)	(.015)
ln(oil prod/pop)					$.078^{***}$	$.088^{***}$
					(.027)	(.025)
ln(diamond prod/pop)					−.039	−.048
					(.043)	(.041)
Colonizer fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Number obs.	52	52	42	52	52	42
R^2	.51	.60	.63	.71	.77	.80

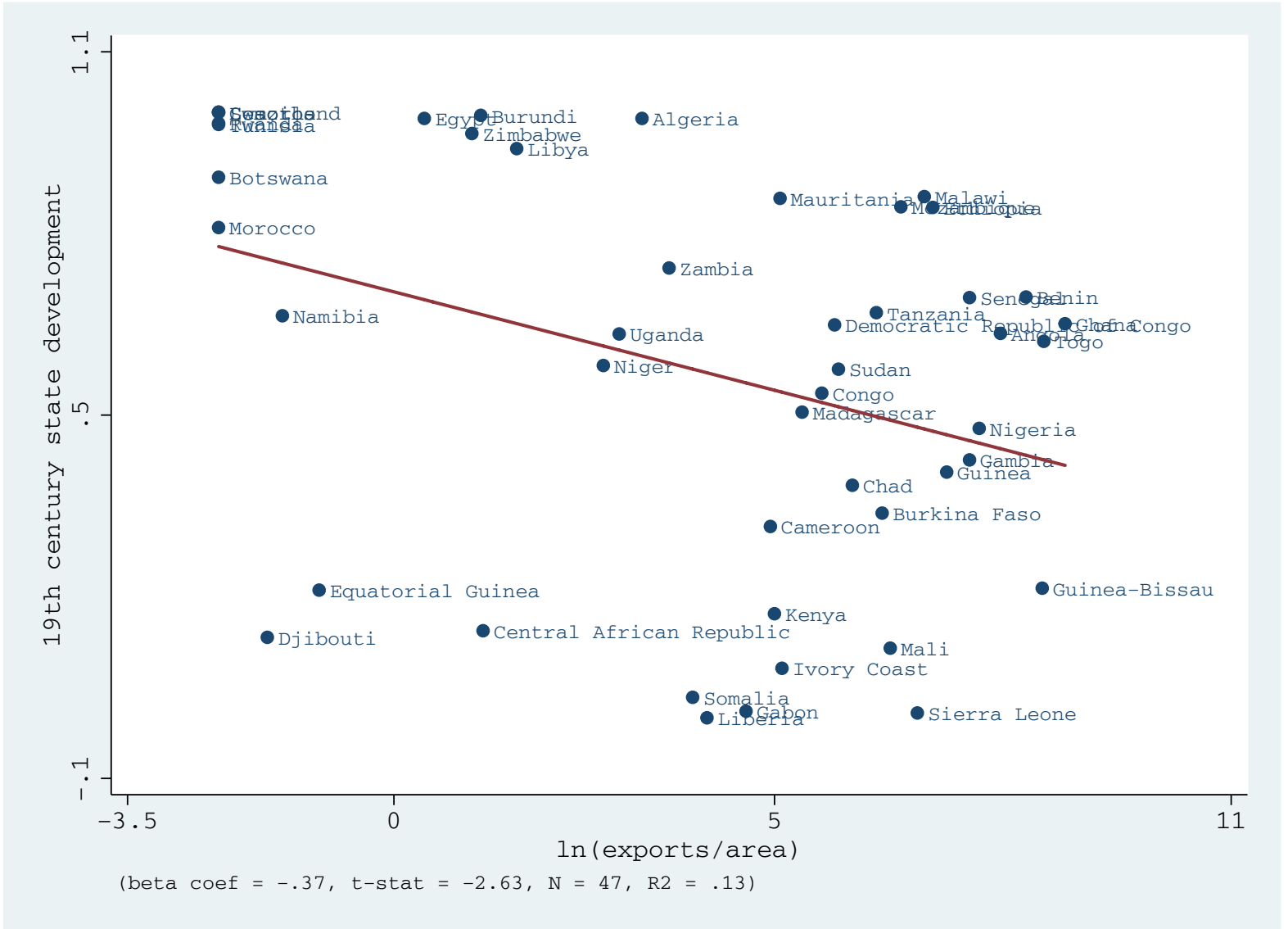

Average income per person in 2000
1.1
0
-1.5
-7
0
9
Slave exports normalized by land area
Seychelles
Botswana
Rwanda
Gabon
Mauritius
Liberia
Senegal
Sudan
Mali
Djibouti
Congo
Burkina Faso
Somalia
Tunisia
Cape Verde Islands
Uganda
Sao Tome & Principe
Mauritania
Mozambique
Central African Republic
Swaziland
Burundi
Kenya
Benin
Niger
Ghana
Egypt
Guinea-Bissau
Gambia
Cameroon
Tanzania
Guinea
Malawi
Angola
Chad
Togo
Zambia
Ethiopia
Comoros
Democratic Republic of Congo
Sierra Leone
Madagascar

Causality and Selection

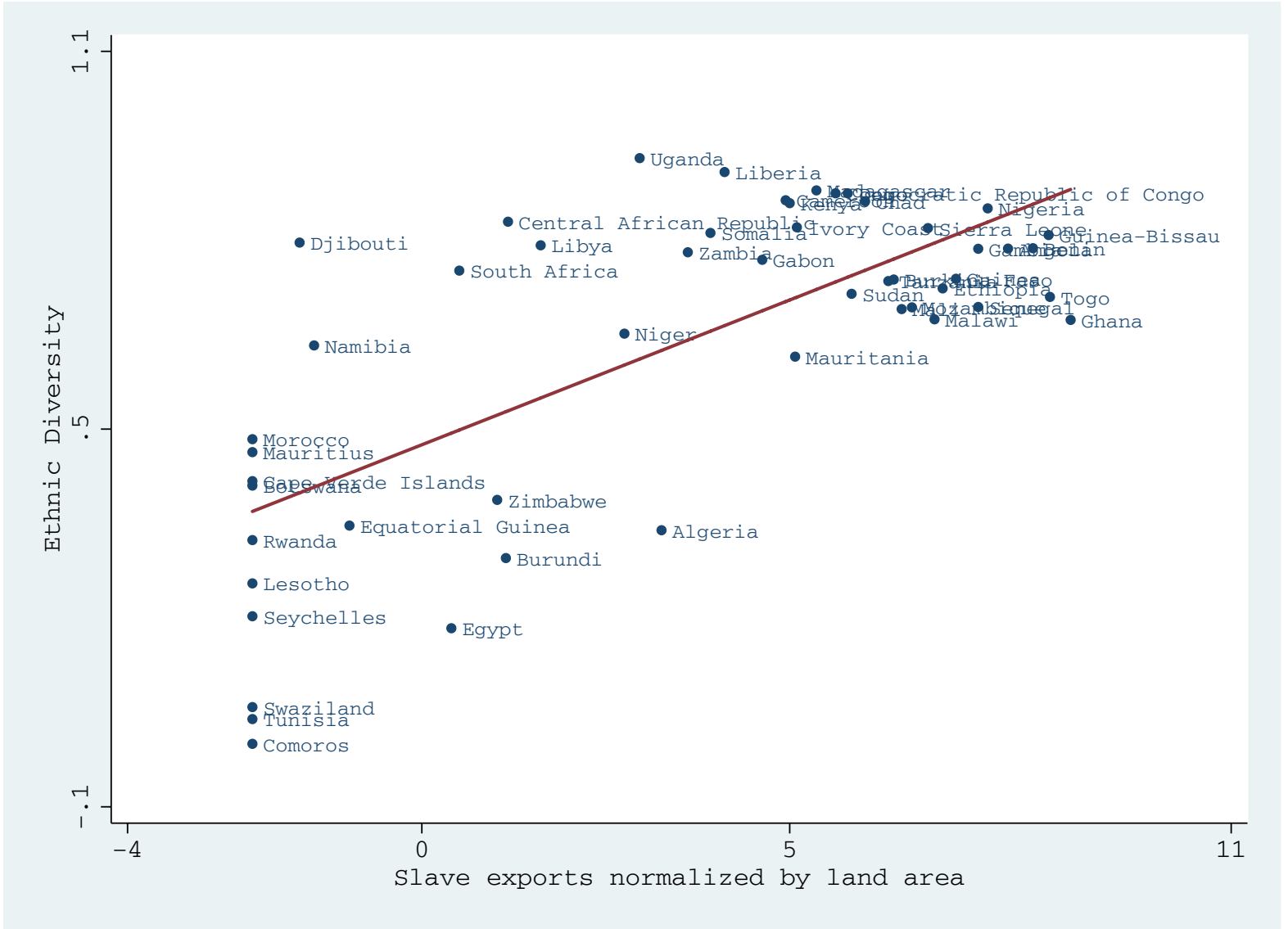
- The concern is that these correlations are completely spurious.
- There is some characteristic (e.g., initial underdevelopment) that:
  1. Caused areas to export more slaves.
  2. Adversely affects development today.
- If this is the case, then we would observe a statistical relationship between the slave trade and development today even if the slave trade *did not* have a causal effect.


Slave exports normalized by average historic population
15
4
Angola
Guinea-Bissau
Ghana
Benin
Togo
Mali
Ethiopia
Senegal
Mauritania
Chad
Mozambique
Guinea
Congo
Malawi
Gambia
Tanzania
Nigeria
Sudan
Democratic Republic of Congo
Gabon
Burkina Faso
Sierra Leone
Madagascar
Zambia
Ivory Coast
Somalia
Kenya
Cameroon
Algeria
Liberia
Niger
Libya
Central African Republic
Zimbabwe
Uganda
Namibia
South Africa
Egypt
Djibouti
Equatorial Guinea
Burundi
Swaziland
Lesotho
Morocco
Tunisia
Rwanda
−2.5
0
3.25
Population density in 1400


Virginia, USA
Havana, Cuba
Kingston, Jamaica
Haiti
Martinique
Dominica
Guyana
Salvador, Brazil
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Algiers Tunis
Tripoli
Benghazi
Cairo
Muscat, Oman
Suakin
Massawa
Djibouti
Burkina Faso
Mauritius



(beta coef = -.37, t-stat = -2.63, N = 47, R2 = .13)


Ethnic Diversity
1.1
.5
-.1
-4
0
5
11
Slave exports normalized by land area
Uganda
Liberia
Democratic Republic of Congo
Nigeria
Central African Republic
Somalia
Ivory Coast
Sierra Leone
Guinea-Bissau
Djibouti
Libya
Zambia
Gabon
South Africa
Sudan
Ethiopia
Togo
Malawi
Ghana
Niger
Namibia
Mauritania
Morocco
Mauritius
Cape Verde Islands
Botswana
Zimbabwe
Equatorial Guinea
Algeria
Rwanda
Burundi
Lesotho
Seychelles
Egypt
Swaziland
Tunisia
Comoros

Nunn and Wantchekon (AER, forthcoming)

- Examine finer variation at the individual/ethnicity level.
- We find evidence that:
  - Individuals with ancestors exposed to the slave trades are less trusting of those around them today.
  - This is both because the formal institutions around them are worse (and so people are less trustworthy), but also because they have developed norms of mistrust.

Fon Saying

- "*Me elo na sa we du*".
- "This person will sell you and eat the money".
- Or less literally, "this person will sell you and enjoy it".
- The saying is also used to describe someone who is deceitful and capable of something awful.

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.

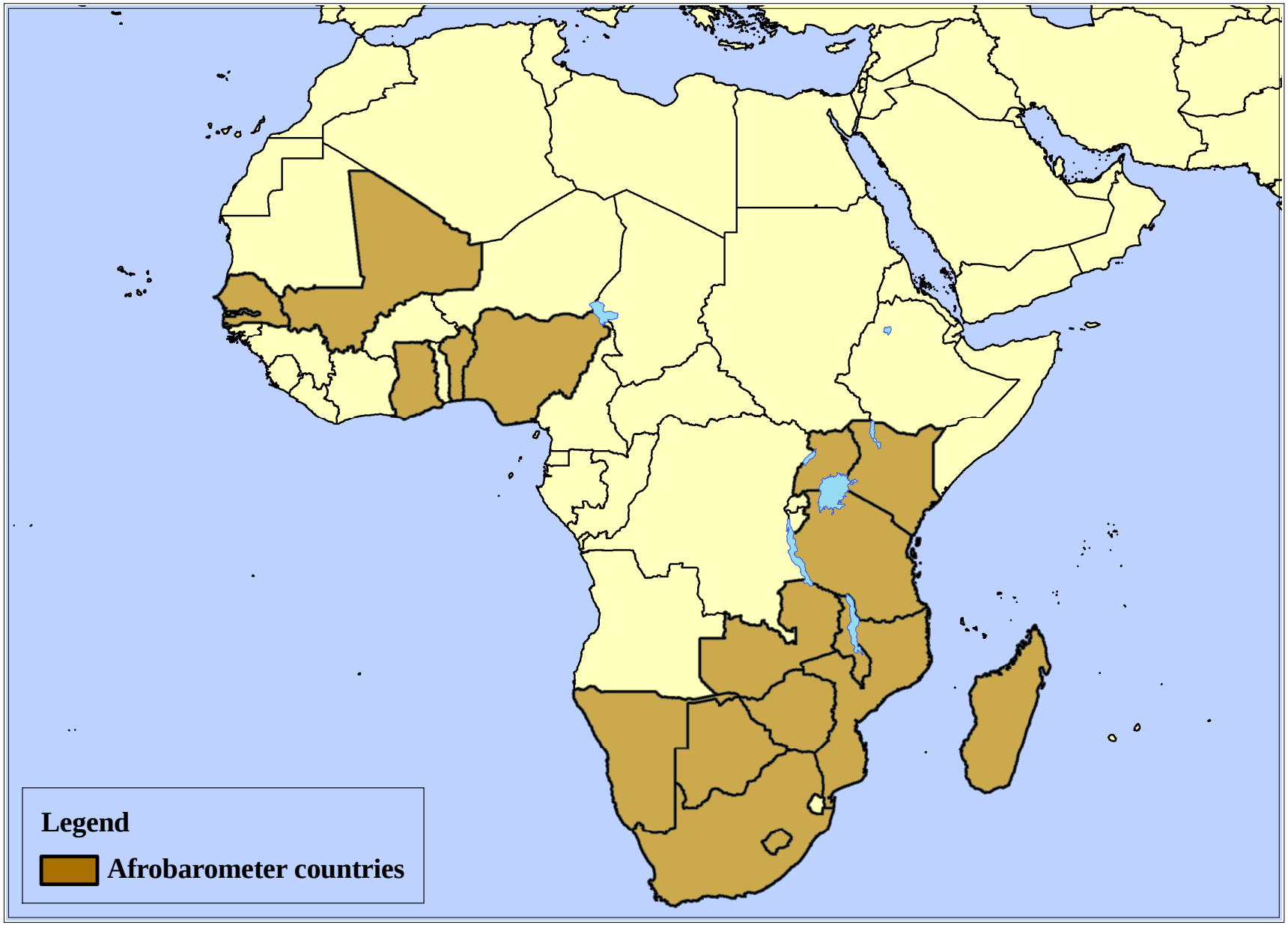
Manner of Enslavement: Examples

- Sold/tricked by a relative, friend, etc:
  - "sold by his relatives"
  - "sold by his family"
  - "sold by his brother because they could not agree"
  - "sold by a supposed friend"
  - "a treacherous friend enticed him on board a Portuguese vessel"
- Through the judicial system:
  - "sold by the king on account of slaying a man"
  - "sold on account of his family being accused of occasioning the king's death by means of witchcraft"
  - "sold on account of his sister being accused of witchcraft"
  - "sold on account of adultery"

Cross Country Trust Comparison from the World Values Surveys

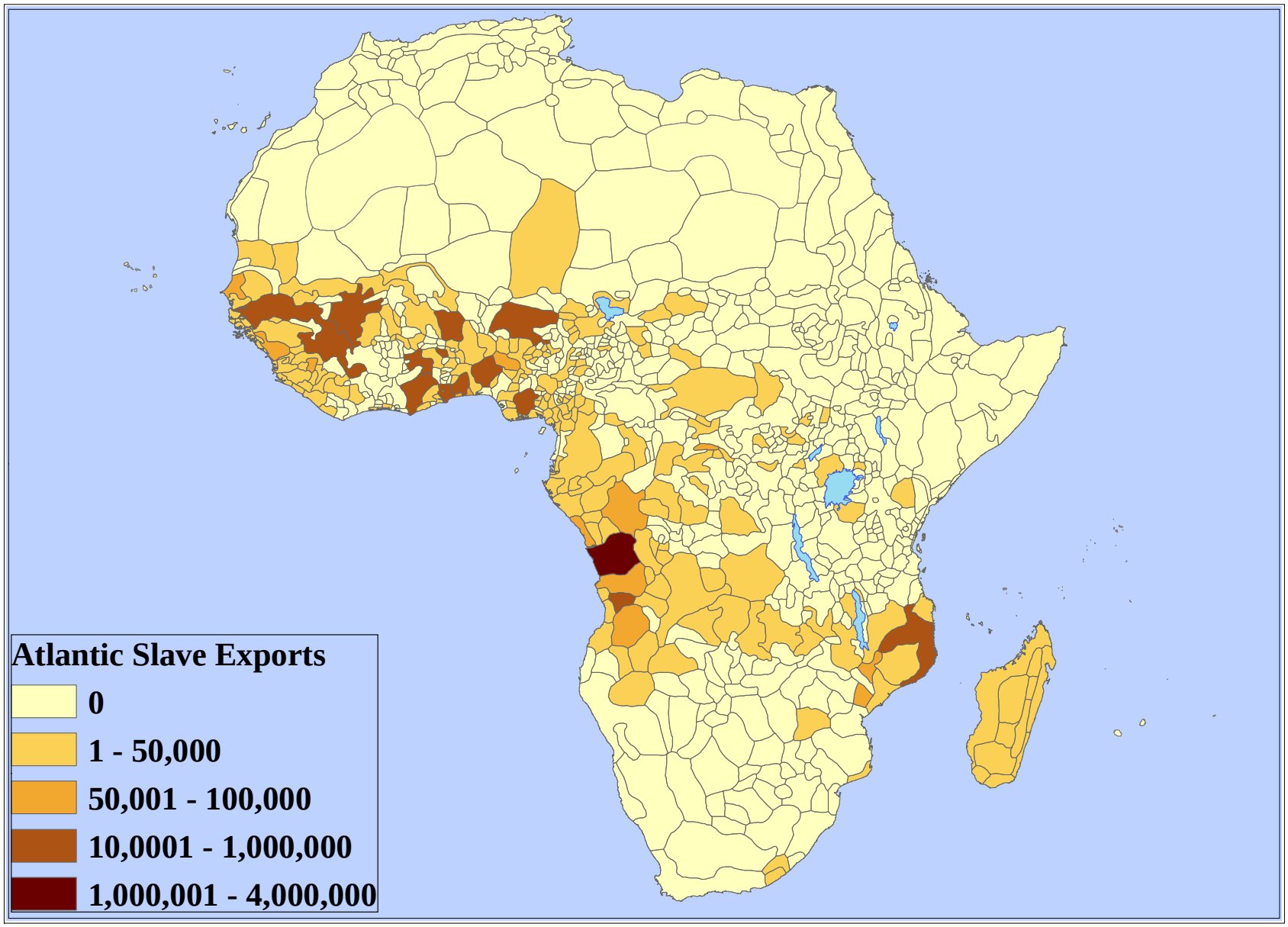
	In general, how much do you trust people from your country?							
Response	Nigeria		South Africa		United States		Mexico	
Not trust at all	238	24%	597	23%	15	1%	29	2%
Not trust very much	255	26%	490	19%	81	4%	91	6%
Neither trust nor distrust	101	10%	840	32%	376	21%	337	22%
Trust a little	330	33%	433	16%	955	53%	683	45%
Trust completely	62	6%	278	11%	382	21%	377	25%
Total	986	100%	2,638	100%	1,809	100%	1,517	100%

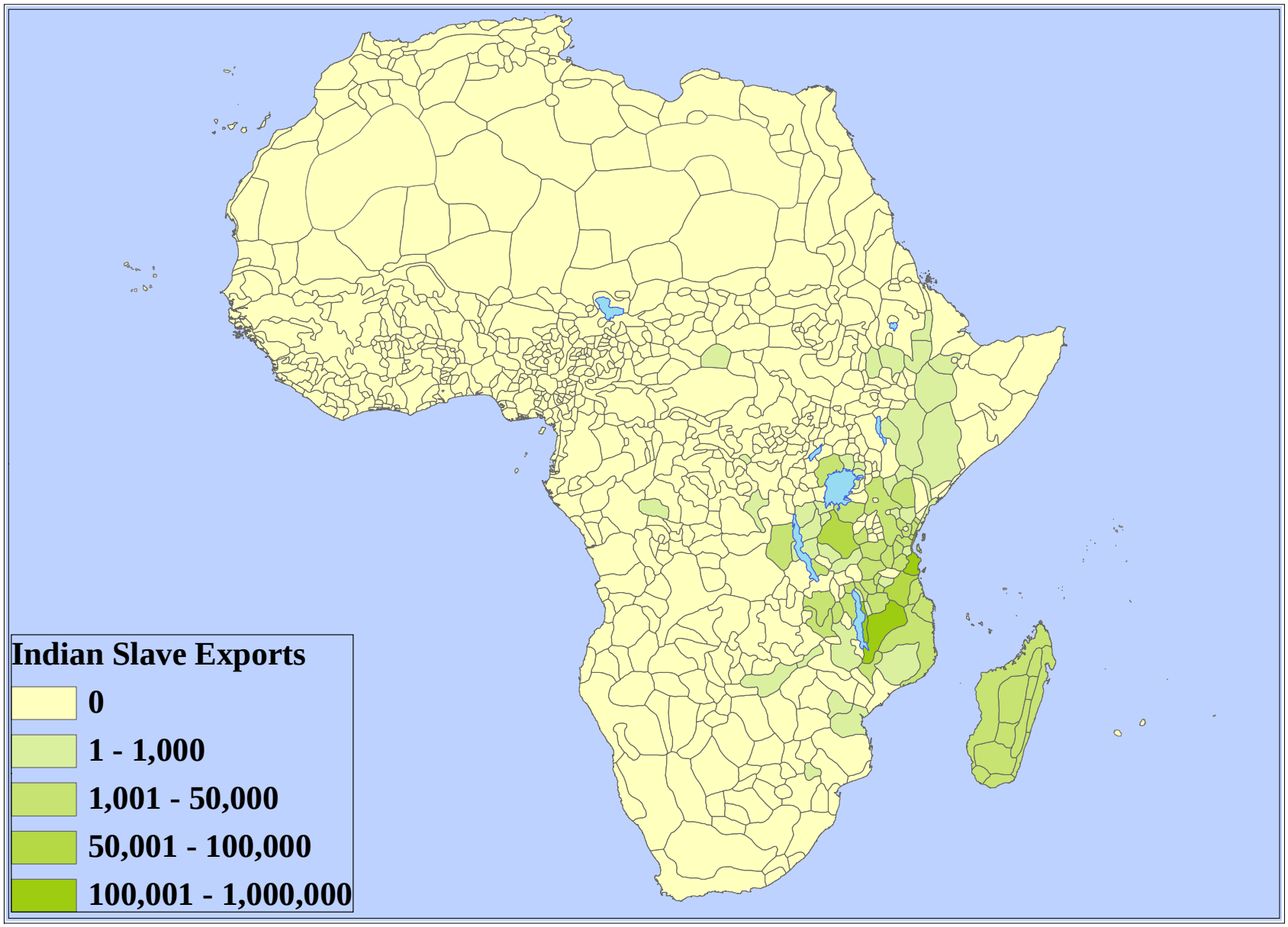
Notes : Data are from the World Values Survery 1990. The exact question asked in each survey is: "Using the responses on this card, could you tell me how much you trust <Nationality> people in general?"


Legend
Afrobarometer countries

	How much do you trust each of the following:									
Response	Your relatives?		Your neighbors?		Your elected local government council?		People from your own ethnic group or tribe?		People from other ethnic groups?	
Not at all	1,412	7%	2,719	13%	3,981	20%	2,797	14%	4,471	22%
Just a little	3,705	18%	5,770	28%	4,869	24%	6,304	31%	7,278	36%
Somewhat	5,154	25%	6,317	31%	5,314	26%	6,119	30%	5,266	26%
A lot	10,357	50%	5,774	28%	6,046	30%	5,282	26%	3,286	16%
Total	20,628	100%	20,580	100%	20,210	100%	20,502	100%	20,301	100%

Notes: The table reports summary statistics for five measures of trust from the 2005 Afrobarometer survey. The four interpersonal trust questions are from questions 84a to 84d in the survey. The trust in the locally elected government council is from question 55d. Respondents also have the option of answering "Don't know". The number of respondents answering this to each of the five question (in order from the left to right column) are: 43, 80, 159, 357, and 1,491.


Atlantic Slave Exports
0
1 - 50,000
50,001 - 100,000
10,0001 - 1,000,000
1,000,001 - 4,000,000


Indian Slave Exports
0
1 - 1,000
1,001 - 50,000
50,001 - 100,000
100,001 - 1,000,000

	Trust of relatives	Trust of neighbors	Trust of local council	Intra-group trust	Inter-group trust
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
ln (1+exports/area)	-0.178***	-0.202***	-0.129***	-0.188***	-0.115***
	(0.032)	(0.031)	(0.022)	(0.033)	(0.030)
Colonial population density	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ethnicity-level colonial controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Individual controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
District controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Number of observations	16,709	16,679	15,905	16,636	16,473
Number of ethnicity clusters	147	147	146	147	147
Number of district clusters	1,187	1,187	1,194	1,186	1,184
R-squared	0.13	0.16	0.21	0.16	0.12

Notes: The table reports OLS estimates. The unit of observation is an individual. Standard errors are adjusted for two-way clustering at the ethnicity and district levels. The individual controls are for age, age squared, a gender indicator variable, 5 living conditions fixed effects, 10 education fixed effects, 18 religion fixed effects, 25 occupation fixed effects, and an indicator for whether the respondent lives in an urban location. The district controls include ethnic fractionalization in the district and the share of the district's population that is the same ethnicity as the respondent. Ethnicity-level colonial controls include the prevalence of malaria, a 1400 urbanization indicator variable, 8 fixed effects for the sophistication of pre-colonial settlement, the number of jurisdicational political hierarchies beyond the local community in the pre-colonial period, an indicator for integration with the colonial rail network, an indicator for contact with pre-colonial European explorers, and the number of missions per square kilometer during colonial rule. Colonial population density is the natural log of an ethnicity's population density during the colonial period. ***, ** and * indicate significance at the 1, 5 and 10% level.

Evidence without Historical Data I

	Trust of local government council			
	Afrobarometer sample		Asiabarometer sample	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Distance from the coast	0.00039***	0.00031***	-0.00001	0.00001
	(0.00009)	(0.00008)	(0.00010)	(0.00009)
Country fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Individual controls	No	Yes	No	Yes
Number of observations	19,913	19,913	5,409	5,409
Number of clusters	185	185	62	62
R-squared	0.16	0.18	0.19	0.22

Notes: The table reports OLS estimates. The unit of observation is an individual. The dependent variable in the Asiabarometer sample is the respondent's answer to the question: "How much do you trust your local government?". The categories for the answers are the same in the Asiabarometer as in the Afrobarometer. Standard errors are clustered at the ethnicity level in the Afrobarometer regressions and at the location (city) level in the Asiabarometer and the WVS samples. The individual controls are for age, age squared, a gender indicator, education fixed effects, and religion fixed effects. ***, **, and * indicate significance at the 1, 5, and 10% levels.

Evidence without Historical Data II

	Inter-group trust				
	Afrobarometer sample		WVS non-Africa sample		WVS Nigeria
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Distance from the coast	0.00039***	0.00037***	-0.00020	-0.00019	0.00054***
	(0.00013)	(0.00012)	(0.00014)	(0.00012)	(0.00010)
Country fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a
Individual controls	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Number of observations	19,970	19,970	10,308	10,308	974
Number of clusters	185	185	107	107	16
R-squared	0.09	0.10	0.09	0.11	0.06

Notes: The table reports OLS estimates. The unit of observation is an individual. The dependent variable in the WVS sample is the respondent's answer to the question: "How much do you trust <nationality> people in general?". The categories for the respondent's answers are: "not at all", "not very much", "neither trust nor distrust", "a little", and "completely". The responses take on the values 0, 1, 1.5, 2, and 3. Standard errors are clustered at the ethnicity level in the Afrobarometer regressions and at the location (city) level in the Asiabarometer and the WVS samples. The individual controls are for age, age squared, a gender indicator, an indicator for living in an urban location, and occupation fixed effects. ***, **, and * indicate significance at the 1, 5, and 10% levels.

Internal vs. External Determinants of Mistrust

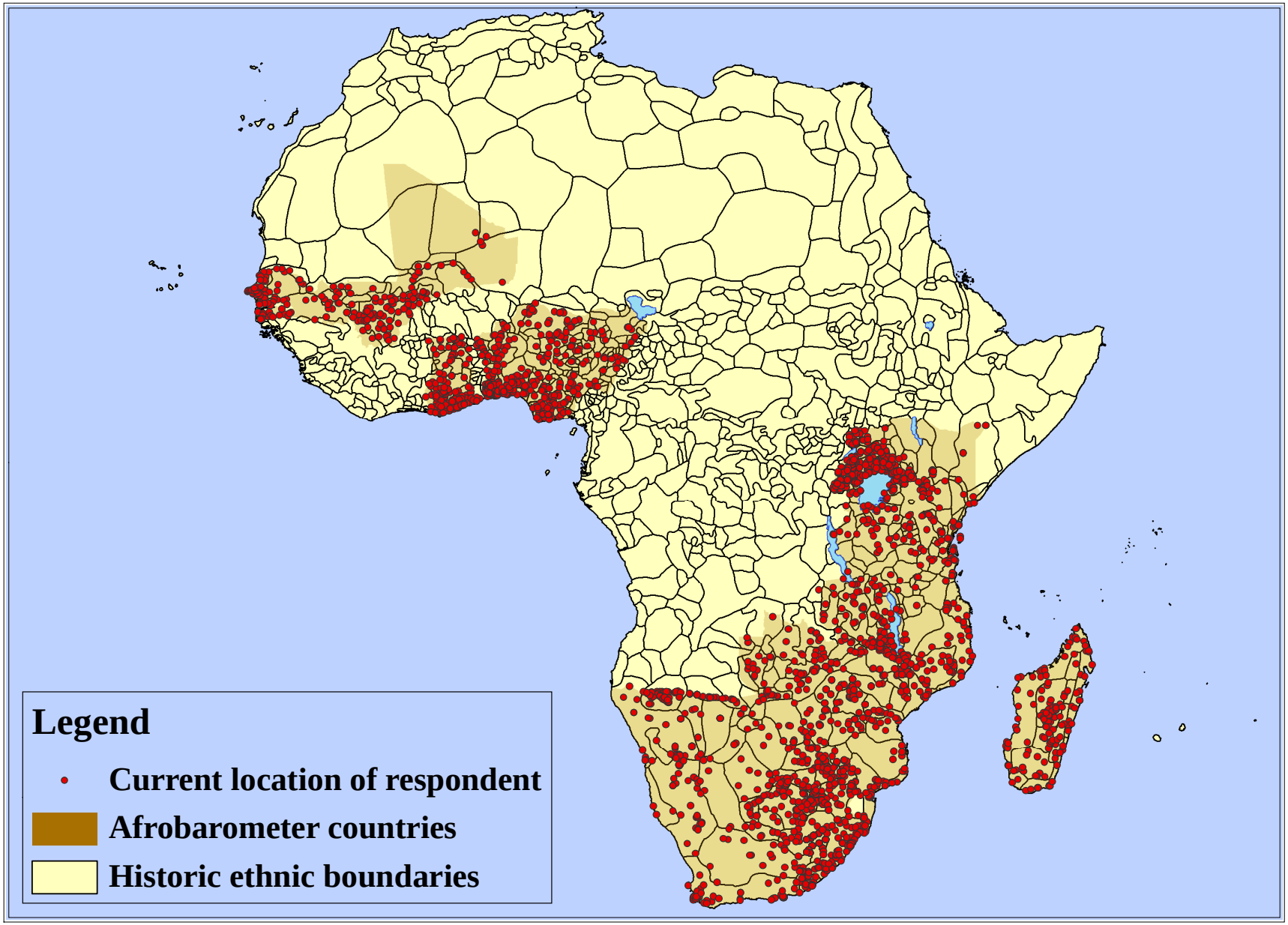
			Inter-group trust		
	Trust of local council		Within town	Within district	Within province
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Ethnicity-based slave export measure (baseline measure)	-0.072***	-0.070***	-0.102***	-0.120***	-0.098***
	(0.019)	(0.019)	(0.028)	(0.027)	(0.029)
Average slave export measure among other ethnicities in the same location			-0.037	-0.063**	-0.091***
			(0.029)	(0.030)	(0.035)
Council trustworthiness fixed effects	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Five public goods fixed effects	No	Yes	No	No	No
Colonial population density	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ethnicity-level colonial controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Baseline controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Number of observations	12,827	12,203	9,673	12,513	15,999
Number of clusters	146 / 1,172	145 / 1,130	147 / 725	147 / 737	147 / 1,127
R-squared	0.37	0.37	0.12	0.12	0.12

Notes: The table reports OLS estimates. The unit of observation is an individual. Standard errors are adjusted for two-way clustering at the ethnicity-based ethnicity level and at the location-based ethnicity level. `Average slave export measure among other ethnicities in the same location' is the average slave export measure of respondents in the Afrobarometer survey living in the same village, district or region as the respondent. The 'Five public goods fixed effects' are for the existence of the following public goods in the respondent's town/village: school, health clinic, sewage, piped water, and electricity. See table 3 for a description of the baseline controls, the ethnnicity-level colonial controls, and the colonial population density variables. ***, ** and * indicate significance at the 1, 5 and 10% levels.

Internal vs. External Determinants of Mistrust

	Trust of relatives	Trust of neighbors	Trust of local council	Intra-group trust	Inter-group trust
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Ethnicity-based slave export measure (baseline measure)	-0.155***	-0.182***	-0.100***	-0.169***	-0.090***
	(0.029)	(0.029)	(0.023)	(0.033)	(0.030)
Location-based slave export measure	-0.058***	-0.041**	-0.068***	-0.039*	-0.047**
	(0.016)	(0.019)	(0.017)	(0.022)	(0.024)
Colonial population density	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ethnicity-level colonial controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Baseline controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Number of observations	15,999	15,972	15,221	15,931	15,773
Number of clusters	146 / 269	146 / 269	145 / 272	146 / 269	146 / 269
R-squared	0.13	0.16	0.20	0.16	0.12

Notes: The table reports OLS estimates. The unit of observation is an individual. Standard errors are adjusted for two-way clustering at the ethnicity-based ethnicity level and at the location-based ethnicity level. 'Ethnicity-based slave export measure' is our baseline measure of slave exports used throughout the paper; it is the log of the number of slaves taken from an individual's ethnic group (normalized by land area). 'Location-based slave export measure' is our alternative measure of slave exports, which is the log of the number of slaves taken from the location where an individual is currently living (normalized by land area). See table 3 for a description of the baseline controls, the ethnnicity-level colonial controls, and the colonial population density variables. ***, ** and * indicate significance at the 1, 5 and 10% levels.


Legend
Current location of respondent
Afrobarometer countries
Historic ethnic boundaries