

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

In this memo, we present additional empirical analyses of the relationship between democratic institutions and information capacity.

In Tables 1–5, we report the results of regression analyses of the relationship between suffrage and information capacity for sub-samples in which one region at a time has been excluded. As the tables show, the short-term effect of changes in suffrage is consistently positive, whereas the long-term effects of changes in the suffrage vary more across sub-samples. This increases our confidence in the short-term findings while confirming the paper’s interpretation that the long-term effect is not robust.

Tables 6 and 7 show that the findings are not specific to any particular period: the short-term-effect estimates in Table 6 (before 1900) and Table 7 (1900–) are very similar, but the long-term-effect estimates again vary across samples.

Tables 8 and 9 show that the main results are robust to excluding statistical agencies and yearbooks from the measure of information capacity.

TABLE 1. Suffrage and Information Capacity, excluding Africa

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Δ Suffrage	1.97*** (0.55)	2.17*** (0.55)	2.71*** (0.65)	2.87*** (0.74)	2.65*** (0.67)
Suffrage $_{t-1}$		0.31* (0.17)	0.21 (0.21)	0.21 (0.25)	0.08 (0.22)
Information Capacity $_{t-1}$		-0.04*** (0.00)	-0.05*** (0.00)	-0.06*** (0.00)	-0.04*** (0.00)
Δ War			-0.41** (0.18)	-0.43** (0.20)	-0.23 (0.18)
War $_{t-1}$			-0.06 (0.16)	-0.05 (0.17)	-0.10 (0.16)
$\Delta \ln(\text{Population})$				17.24*** (4.59)	16.52*** (4.15)
$\ln(\text{Population})_{t-1}$				0.23* (0.14)	0.17 (0.13)
$\Delta \ln(\text{GDP per Capita})$				1.17 (0.84)	1.11 (0.76)
$\ln(\text{GDP per Capita})_{t-1}$				-0.00 (0.14)	-0.15 (0.13)
N	14046	14046	10060	8051	8014
Dependent variable: Δ Information Capacity.					

TABLE 2. Suffrage and Information Capacity, excluding the Americas

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Δ Suffrage	1.42 ^{**} (0.57)	1.72 ^{***} (0.57)	2.37 ^{***} (0.70)	2.11 ^{***} (0.80)	1.57 ^{**} (0.74)
Suffrage _{<i>t</i>-1}		0.57 ^{***} (0.19)	0.85 ^{***} (0.24)	0.57 ^{**} (0.27)	0.51 ^{**} (0.25)
Information Capacity _{<i>t</i>-1}		-0.04 ^{***} (0.00)	-0.04 ^{***} (0.00)	-0.05 ^{***} (0.00)	-0.03 ^{***} (0.00)
Δ War			-0.36 [*] (0.19)	-0.43 ^{**} (0.20)	-0.16 (0.18)
War _{<i>t</i>-1}			0.04 (0.17)	-0.04 (0.18)	-0.04 (0.16)
$\Delta \ln(\text{Population})$				14.68 ^{***} (5.17)	17.35 ^{***} (4.76)
$\ln(\text{Population})_{t-1}$				0.31 (0.22)	0.22 (0.20)
$\Delta \ln(\text{GDP per Capita})$				-0.27 (0.97)	0.33 (0.89)
$\ln(\text{GDP per Capita})_{t-1}$				-0.04 (0.16)	-0.14 (0.15)
N	10391	10391	6696	5506	5469
Dependent variable: Δ Information Capacity.					

TABLE 3. Suffrage and Information Capacity, excluding Asia

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Δ Suffrage	1.80*** (0.62)	1.91*** (0.62)	2.11*** (0.73)	2.07** (0.86)	1.90** (0.77)
Suffrage $_{t-1}$		-0.00 (0.19)	-0.36 (0.23)	-1.07*** (0.29)	-1.11*** (0.26)
Information Capacity $_{t-1}$		-0.05*** (0.00)	-0.06*** (0.00)	-0.08*** (0.00)	-0.05*** (0.00)
Δ War			-0.48** (0.20)	-0.50** (0.22)	-0.26 (0.20)
War $_{t-1}$			-0.08 (0.18)	-0.02 (0.20)	-0.08 (0.18)
$\Delta \ln(\text{Population})$				14.62*** (5.08)	15.91*** (4.57)
$\ln(\text{Population})_{t-1}$				0.42*** (0.15)	0.36*** (0.14)
$\Delta \ln(\text{GDP per Capita})$				1.05 (0.92)	0.72 (0.82)
$\ln(\text{GDP per Capita})_{t-1}$				0.15 (0.18)	-0.03 (0.16)
N	11944	11944	8729	6732	6713
Dependent variable: Δ Information Capacity.					

TABLE 4. Suffrage and Information Capacity, excluding Europe

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
$\Delta\text{Suffrage}$	1.20 [*] (0.67)	1.61 ^{**} (0.67)	2.55 ^{***} (0.81)	3.61 ^{***} (1.00)	3.87 ^{***} (0.92)
Suffrage_{t-1}		0.91 ^{***} (0.22)	1.37 ^{***} (0.28)	1.45 ^{***} (0.36)	1.13 ^{***} (0.33)
$\text{Information Capacity}_{t-1}$		-0.04 ^{***} (0.00)	-0.06 ^{***} (0.00)	-0.07 ^{***} (0.01)	-0.05 ^{***} (0.00)
ΔWar			-0.12 (0.26)	-0.09 (0.30)	-0.14 (0.28)
War_{t-1}			-0.13 (0.23)	-0.04 (0.27)	-0.01 (0.24)
$\Delta\ln(\text{Population})$				14.47 ^{***} (5.18)	12.68 ^{***} (4.78)
$\ln(\text{Population})_{t-1}$				-0.25 (0.23)	-0.27 (0.21)
$\Delta\ln(\text{GDP per Capita})$				2.62 ^{**} (1.15)	2.37 ^{**} (1.06)
$\ln(\text{GDP per Capita})_{t-1}$				0.13 (0.18)	-0.02 (0.16)
N	9048	9048	6684	4966	4929
Dependent variable: $\Delta\text{Information Capacity}$.					

TABLE 5. Suffrage and Information Capacity, excluding MENA

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Δ Suffrage	2.24 ^{***} (0.56)	2.48 ^{***} (0.56)	3.09 ^{***} (0.67)	3.60 ^{***} (0.80)	3.26 ^{***} (0.72)
Suffrage _{t-1}		0.59 ^{***} (0.18)	0.48 ^{**} (0.21)	0.34 (0.26)	0.24 (0.23)
Information Capacity _{t-1}		-0.05 ^{***} (0.00)	-0.05 ^{***} (0.00)	-0.06 ^{***} (0.00)	-0.04 ^{***} (0.00)
Δ War			-0.48 ^{**} (0.19)	-0.52 ^{**} (0.21)	-0.28 (0.19)
War _{t-1}			-0.11 (0.17)	-0.10 (0.19)	-0.18 (0.17)
$\Delta \ln(\text{Population})$				14.80 ^{***} (4.59)	13.68 ^{***} (4.18)
$\ln(\text{Population})_{t-1}$				0.23 [*] (0.14)	0.20 (0.13)
$\Delta \ln(\text{GDP per Capita})$				0.82 (0.87)	0.92 (0.80)
$\ln(\text{GDP per Capita})_{t-1}$				0.09 (0.15)	-0.01 (0.13)
N	13191	13191	9555	7377	7359
Dependent variable: Δ Information Capacity.					

TABLE 6. Suffrage and Information Capacity, Before 1900

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Δ Suffrage	2.51*** (0.81)	2.96*** (0.82)	3.41*** (1.08)	3.85*** (1.45)	2.88* (1.69)
Suffrage $_{t-1}$		1.13*** (0.32)	0.67 (0.47)	0.56 (0.67)	0.13 (0.78)
Information Capacity $_{t-1}$		-0.04*** (0.00)	-0.06*** (0.01)	-0.07*** (0.01)	-0.06*** (0.01)
Δ War			-0.45* (0.25)	-0.51* (0.29)	-0.28 (0.34)
War $_{t-1}$			-0.21 (0.23)	-0.22 (0.28)	-0.28 (0.32)
$\Delta \ln(\text{Population})$				40.10*** (13.04)	46.86*** (15.09)
$\ln(\text{Population})_{t-1}$				0.84* (0.47)	1.23** (0.54)
$\Delta \ln(\text{GDP per Capita})$				-2.16 (1.81)	-2.79 (2.10)
$\ln(\text{GDP per Capita})_{t-1}$				0.12 (0.62)	0.12 (0.72)
N	7414	7414	3866	2389	2389
Dependent variable: Δ Information Capacity.					

TABLE 7. Suffrage and Information Capacity, 1900–

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Δ Suffrage	1.36 [*] (0.71)	2.06 ^{***} (0.71)	2.63 ^{***} (0.79)	2.90 ^{***} (0.88)	2.78 ^{***} (0.73)
Suffrage _{<i>t</i>-1}		1.01 ^{***} (0.25)	1.14 ^{***} (0.28)	0.92 ^{***} (0.33)	0.75 ^{***} (0.28)
Information Capacity _{<i>t</i>-1}		-0.07 ^{***} (0.00)	-0.08 ^{***} (0.01)	-0.09 ^{***} (0.01)	-0.05 ^{***} (0.00)
Δ War			-0.40 [*] (0.24)	-0.39 (0.25)	-0.21 (0.21)
War _{<i>t</i>-1}			-0.06 (0.21)	-0.05 (0.23)	-0.07 (0.19)
$\Delta \ln(\text{Population})$				10.29 [*] (5.29)	9.77 ^{**} (4.41)
$\ln(\text{Population})_{t-1}$				-0.33 (0.23)	-0.31 (0.19)
$\Delta \ln(\text{GDP per Capita})$				1.37 (0.96)	1.59 ^{**} (0.80)
$\ln(\text{GDP per Capita})_{t-1}$				0.06 (0.19)	-0.05 (0.16)
N	7241	7241	6565	5733	5696
Dependent variable: Δ Information Capacity.					

TABLE 8. Suffrage and Information Capacity, Excluding Statistical Agencies

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
DELTA _{suffrage}	2.28*** (0.54)	2.49*** (0.54)	2.98*** (0.64)	3.56*** (0.74)
SuffrageLAG		0.42** (0.16)	0.35* (0.21)	0.12 (0.25)
Information CapacityLAG		-0.03*** (0.00)	-0.04*** (0.00)	-0.05*** (0.00)
DELTA _{War}			-0.29 (0.18)	-0.27 (0.20)
WarLAG			-0.16 (0.16)	-0.20 (0.17)
DELTA _{ln(Population)}				18.08*** (4.35)
ln(Population)LAG				0.22 (0.14)
DELTA _{ln(GDP per Capita)}				1.15 (0.84)
ln(GDP per Capita)LAG				0.06 (0.14)
N	13767	13767	10431	8158
Dependent variable: Δ Information Capacity.				

TABLE 9. Suffrage and Information Capacity, Excluding Statistical Agencies and Yearbooks

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
$\Delta \text{Suffrage}$	1.51*** (0.50)	1.60*** (0.51)	1.93*** (0.59)	1.99*** (0.69)
Suffrage_{t-1}		0.17 (0.15)	0.16 (0.19)	-0.09 (0.23)
$\text{Information Capacity}_{t-1}$		-0.03*** (0.00)	-0.03*** (0.00)	-0.03*** (0.00)
ΔWar			-0.27 (0.17)	-0.16 (0.18)
War_{t-1}			-0.11 (0.15)	-0.09 (0.16)
$\Delta \ln(\text{Population})$				9.61** (3.99)
$\ln(\text{Population})_{t-1}$				0.02 (0.13)
$\Delta \ln(\text{GDP per Capita})$				-0.12 (0.77)
$\ln(\text{GDP per Capita})_{t-1}$				0.08 (0.13)
N	13767	13767	10431	8158
Dependent variable: $\Delta \text{Information Capacity}$.				