

Africa in the World Economy

Spring 2015

By William Easterly, Professor of Economics (Joint with Africa House, Co-director of Development Research Institute at NYU)

This class asks: Why is Africa poor? What must we do to end poverty in Africa? Who is we?

There is no textbook for the class, only the articles and chapter extracts below. The list of readings is longer than what you are required to know. You are required only to know what is presented in class lectures. I will distribute copies of slides and lecture notes for each lecture.

Introduction: African stereotypes and reality

Slides only

The history of the development idea in Africa

CHAPTER FOUR: RACE, WAR, AND THE FATE OF AFRICA, in
Easterly, William (2014-03-04). *The Tyranny of Experts: Economists, Dictators, and the Forgotten Rights of the Poor* (p. 81ff). Basic Books. Kindle Edition.

Pre-colonial history and African development

Comin, Diego, William Easterly, and Erick Gong, “Was the Wealth of Nations Determined in 1000 B.C.?”, *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics* 2 (July 2010): 65–97

http://williameasterly.files.wordpress.com/2010/08/60_easterly_comin_gong_wealthofnations_prp.pdf

Putterman, Louis and David Weil “Post-1500 Population Flows and the Long Run Determinants of Economic Growth and Inequality”, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 125:4, November 2010, <http://www.nber.org/papers/w14448>

Wacziarg, Romain and Enrico Spolaore, “*The Diffusion of Development*”, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, May 2009, vol. 124, no. 2

The slave trade and colonialism

CHAPTER SEVEN INSTITUTIONS: WE OPPRESS THEM IF WE CAN, in Easterly, William (2014-03-04). *The Tyranny of Experts: Economists, Dictators, and the Forgotten Rights of the Poor* (p. 155ff). Basic Books. Kindle Edition.

Nunn, Nathan, "The Long-Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trades," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 123 (2008), 139–176.

http://www.economics.harvard.edu/faculty/nunn/files/empirical_slavery.pdf

Sacerdote, Bruce. "Slavery and the Intergenerational Transmission of Human Capital." *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, Vol. 87, Issue 2 - May, 2005. <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~bsacerdo/wpapers/Slavery3.pdf>

Nathan Nunn, "Historical Legacies: A Model Linking Africa's Past to its Current Underdevelopment," *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol. 83, No. 1, May 2007, pp. 157-175, http://www.economics.harvard.edu/faculty/nunn/files/legacy_jde.pdf

Alesina, Alberto, William Easterly and Janina Matuszeski, *Artificial States*, Journal of the European Economic Association, 9, no. 2, (April 2011): 246-277.

Culture and development in Africa

Stelios Michalopoulos and Elias Papaioannou, [National Institutions and Subnational Development in Africa](#), *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2014, 129 (1): 151-213

Nunn, Nathan, and Leonard Wantchekon, "The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and the Evolution of Mistrust in Africa: An Empirical Analysis," *American Economic Review*, 2011, Vol 11, No 7, 5221-3252. http://www.economics.harvard.edu/faculty/nunn/files/Trust_AER_Rev2.pdf

Democracy and development

Tabellini, Guido, "The Scope of Cooperation: Values and Incentives," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 123, 2008, pp. 905–950.

Persson, Torsten and Guido Tabellini, "Democratic Capital: The Nexus of Political and Economic Change", *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, 2010.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN LEADERS: HOW WE ARE SEDUCED BY BENEVOLENT AUTOCRATS in Easterly, William (2014-03-04). *The Tyranny of Experts: Economists, Dictators, and the Forgotten Rights of the Poor* (p. 307). Basic Books. Kindle Edition.

African Development and US Foreign Policy

Berger, Daniel, William Easterly, Nathan Nunn, Shanker Satyanath. [Commercial Imperialism? Political Influence During the Cold War](#). *American Economic Review* (2012).

Qian, Nancy and David Yanagizawa, "The Strategic Determinants of U.S. Human Rights Reporting: Evidence from the Cold War" Journal of European Economic Association, Vol. 2 No. 2-3, 2009 May-June.

Qian, Nancy and David Yanagizawa, "Government Distortion in Independently Owned Media: Evidence from U.S. Cold War News Coverage of Human Rights ," Working Paper (2013) [PDF](#)

Aid to end African Poverty

Werker, Eric, Faisal Z. Ahmed, and Charles Cohen. 2009. "How Is Foreign Aid Spent? Evidence from a Natural Experiment." *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, 1(2): 225–44.

Nunn N, Qian N., **U.S. Food Aid and Civil Conflict**, American Economic Review. 2014;104(6):1630-1666.

Easterly, William and Claudia Williamson, Rhetoric versus Reality: The Best and Worst of Aid Agency Practices, *World Development*, 2011

Why can't we just pave the roads?! Aid and Development interventions in Africa

Lant Pritchett, Michael Woolcock, Matt Andrews, Capability Traps? The Mechanisms of Persistent Implementation Failure, mimeo Harvard Kennedy School, 2010. <http://www.hks.harvard.edu/fs/lpritch/NEW%20docs,%20ppts,%20etc/capability%20traps%20wpversion.pdf>

Duflo, Esther, Rachel Glennerster, and Michael Kremer. 2008. "Using Randomization in Development Economics Research: A Toolkit" in *Handbook of Development Economics*, Volume 4, North-Holland

Kremer, Michael and Alaka Holla (2008) "Pricing and Access: Lessons from Randomized Evaluations in Education and Health", in W. Easterly and J. Cohen, editors, *What Works in Development? Thinking Big vs. Thinking Small*, Brookings Institution Press.

Deaton, Angus, **Instruments, randomization, and learning about development**, *Journal of Economic Literature*, 48 (June 2010), pp. 424-455 <http://www.princeton.edu/~deaton/downloads/deaton%20instruments%20randomization%20learning%20about%20development%20jel%202010.pdf>

Health

Levine, Ruth. *Case Studies in Global Health: Millions Saved*, Jones and Bartlett: Sudbury MA, 2007.

Zwane, Alix Peterson and Michael Kremer, 2007, What Works in Fighting Diarrheal Diseases in Developing Countries? A Critical Review, *World Bank Research Observer*.

Minakawa, Noboru, Gabriel O Dida, George O Sonye, Kyoko Futami, Satoshi Kaneko
Unforeseen misuses of bed nets in fishing villages along Lake Victoria, *Malaria Journal*
2008, 7:165

Kremer, Michael, Jessica Leino, Edward Miguel and Alix Pererson Zwane. 2008. "Spring Cleaning: Rural Water Impacts, Valuation, and Institutions", Working Paper, February