

# Determinants of Economic Growth: Will Data Tell?

by

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September 2009

## Abstract

Many factors inhibiting and facilitating economic growth have been suggested. Can agnostics rely on international income data to tell them which matter? We find that agnostic priors lead to conclusions that are sensitive to differences across available income estimates. For example, the PWT 6.2 revision of the 1960-96 income estimates in the PWT 6.1 leads to substantial changes regarding the role of government, international trade, demography, and geography. We conclude that margins of error in international income estimates appear too large for agnostic growth empirics.

Keywords: growth regressions, robust growth determinants, agnostic Bayesian econometrics

JEL Codes: E01, O47

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## 1. Introduction

Why does income grow faster in some countries than others? Most empirical research addressing this question has in common that only a few explanatory variables are considered, but differs in the variables selected (e.g. Kormendi and Meguire, 1985; Grier and Tullock, 1989; Barro, 1991; for a review see Durlauf, Johnson, and Temple, 2005). Researchers select explanatory variables because there are almost as many candidate variables as countries, and classical regression analysis yields inconclusive or fragile results in this case.

The literature's focus on regression models with few explanatory variables has raised concerns that findings are non-robust to variable selection (e.g. Levine and Renelt, 1992). These concerns appear especially relevant in growth economics as researchers' choices point to a wide range of priors regarding relevant explanations, and the availability of multiple measures for each explanation leaves room for data mining. As a result, many economists appear to be discounting the cross-country evidence on growth determinants (e.g. Rodrik, 2006; Commission on Growth and Development, 2008).

Should cross-country growth evidence be discounted? Are there no growth determinants that are robust to variable selection? Fernandez, Ley, and Steel (2001b) and Sala-i-Martin, Doppelhofer, and Miller (2004) propose to answer these questions using Bayesian model averaging with agnostic priors. The goal is to see which growth determinants, if any, are robust when priors implicit in variable selection are relaxed as much as possible. Put differently, the objective is to see what the data tell a researcher who is completely agnostic a priori. Fernandez, Ley, and Steel and Sala-i-Martin, Doppelhofer, and Miller find that the data point strongly to a number of robust growth determinants. We show that agnostic Bayesian model averaging discriminates among variables based on small differences in the R-squared of relatively few specifications. This leads to results that are very sensitive to minor errors in measurement and turn out to differ substantially depending on the income estimates being used. We conclude that margins of error in international income estimates are too large for agnostic growth empirics.

Given the difficulties faced when estimating international income differences, see Heston (1994) for example, it is not surprising that estimates vary and are continuously revised. For example, the Penn World Table income data (the dataset used in most cross-country empirical work) have undergone periodic revisions to eliminate errors, incorporate improved national income data, or account for new price benchmarks.<sup>1</sup> These corrections turn out to have a substantial effect on the conclusions of Bayesian model averaging with agnostic priors. For example, using the Sala-i-Martin, Doppelhofer, and Miller procedure we find 10 variables with a posterior inclusion probability—the probability that a variable should be included in the empirical growth model—greater than 50% according to PWT 6.2 or PWT 6.1 data for the 1960-96 period. Hence, there are 10 variables more likely to be included than excluded in the empirical growth model according to one of the two versions of the PWT. But 8 of these variables are more likely to be included than excluded according to one version of the PWT and more likely to be excluded than included according to the other version. This disagreement is not driven by small changes around the 50% threshold, as each of the 8 variables sees a change in posterior inclusion probability greater than 40 percentage points. The criterion used by Sala-i-Martin, Doppelhofer, and Miller to classify variables as robust to model selection yields 23 growth determinants according to PWT 6.2 or 6.1. But 13 of these growth determinants are robust according to one of the datasets but not the other. The inclusion probabilities obtained with Fernandez, Ley, and Steel's approach are very similar and produce the same disagreements.

Disaccord concerning the 1960-1996 growth determinants across PWT income data revisions affects factors that have featured prominently in the literature. For instance, one of the influential findings of Sala-i-Martin, Doppelhofer, and Miller is a robust negative effect of malaria prevalence in the 1960s on economic growth over the 1960-1996 period (a finding used to estimate the economic costs of malaria by Sachs, 2005). But malaria prevalence is not a robust growth determinant according to the Sala-i-Martin, Doppelhofer, and Miller criterion when we use PWT 6.1 or PWT 6.2 data instead of PWT 6.0 data. Prominent potential growth determinants that are robust according to PWT 6.0 and PWT

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<sup>1</sup> See Heston, Summers, and Aten (2001, 2002, 2006). PWT revisions are sometimes accompanied by a change in the base year for prices, which alone can change relative income estimates (e.g. Dowrick and Quiggin, 1997; Deaton and Heston, 2008). Johnson et al. (2009) explain why newer is not necessarily better when it comes to PWT income estimates.

6.1 data but not according to PWT 6.2 data are life expectancy, the abundance of mining resources, the relative price of investment goods, and location in the tropics (for earlier results on these growth determinants see Barro, 1991; DeLong and Summers, 1991; Jones, 1994; Sachs and Warner, 1995). For example, the posterior inclusion probabilities of the relative price of investment goods and of location in the tropics go from respectively 77% and 57% with PWT 6.0 data to 2% and 5% with PWT 6.2 data. On the other hand, the posterior inclusion probability of fertility is only 3% with PWT 6.0 data but 91% with PWT 6.2 data (on the link between fertility and growth see Barro, 1991, 1998; Barro and Lee, 1994). Fernandez, Ley, and Steel's approach yields very similar posterior inclusion probabilities.

As is well known, there is no best method for obtaining internationally comparable real income data (e.g. Neary, 2004). As different datasets use different methods, their income estimates would differ even if the underlying data was identical. For example, the PWT and the World Bank use different methods, which is why their international income estimates differ although they build on the same national income and price benchmark data (e.g. Kravis, Heston, and Summers, 1982; Neary, 2004; Dowrick, 2005). Differences between estimates in the Word Bank's World Development Indicators and the PWT are limited however. For example, the correlation between 1975-1996 growth rates in the PWT 6.1 and the WDI is 93.5%, and the correlation between 1975-1996 growth rates in the PWT 6.2 and the WDI is 96.2%. Still, agnostic Bayesian model averaging yields disagreement on the determinants of 1975-1996 growth between the two datasets. For example, there are 5 variables with posterior inclusion probabilities greater than 50% according to PWT 6.1 or PWT 6.2. For each of these 5 variables, switching to the WDI data leads to a change in the posterior inclusion probability greater than 40 percentage points for one of the PWT-WDI comparison pairs. Moreover, of the 26 variables with posterior inclusion probabilities greater than 10% in one of the two PWT datasets, 14 see a change in the posterior inclusion probability greater than 20 percentage points for one of the PWT-WDI comparison pairs (the 10% threshold corresponds to Sala-i-Martin, Doppelhofer, and Miller's robustness criterion).

The remainder of the paper is structured as follows. Section 2 introduces Bayesian model averaging with agnostic priors, and Section 3 explains why the conclusions of agnostic Bayesian model averaging can be very sensitive to measurement. Section 4 uses

alternative income estimates for the same period and shows that they yield rather different results when using agnostic Bayesian model averaging. The section also presents a small-scale Monte Carlo study of the sensitivity of agnostic Bayesian model averaging to small changes in the data. Section 5 concludes.

## 2. Bayesian Model Averaging and Agnostic Priors

Bayesian model averaging with agnostic priors is a special case of Bayesian model averaging. We therefore first explain Bayesian model averaging in the context of growth regressions and then introduce agnostic priors.

**Bayesian model averaging in growth regressions.** Consider the problem of identifying the determinants of economic growth across countries. If the number of countries ( $N$ ) were large relative to the number of explanatory variables ( $K$ ), we could find the statistically significant explanatory variables by regressing the growth rate of countries on all candidate variables. With  $N$  close to  $K$ , this approach tends to yield estimates that are too imprecise to be of interest (the approach is infeasible when  $N < K$ ). Bayesian methods therefore frame the problem of identifying the determinants of economic growth in terms of uncertainty about the true set of explanatory variables (model uncertainty).<sup>2</sup> The Bayesian approach to model uncertainty is to first attach prior probabilities to alternative sets of explanatory variables and then update these probabilities using data.

To develop the Bayesian approach to growth determinants more formally it is useful to collect all  $K$  candidate explanatory variables in a vector  $x$ . The  $2^K$  subsets of  $x$  are denoted by  $x_j$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, 2^K$ , and called models. The cross-country growth regressions considered are of the form

$$(1) \quad y_n = \alpha + x_{jn} \beta_j + \varepsilon_{jn}$$

where  $y_n$  is the growth rate of per capita GDP in country  $n$ ;  $\alpha$  is the constant term;  $\beta_j$  is the effect of the explanatory variables in model  $j$  on growth; and  $\varepsilon_{jn}$  is a Gaussian error term. The ingredients of Bayesian Model Averaging (BMA) are: priors for models ( $p_j$ );

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<sup>2</sup> Brock and Durlauf (2001) argue that in growth economics there is model uncertainty because of uncertainty about which growth determinants to include in a model and uncertainty about which observations in a dataset constitute draws from the same statistical model.

priors for all parameters ( $\alpha$ ,  $\beta_j$  and the variance of the error term); and the likelihood function for each model  $j$ . A key intermediate statistic is the likelihood of model  $j$  integrated with respect to the parameters using their prior distributions (the marginal likelihood of model  $j$ ,  $l_y(M_j)$ ). Bayesian approaches use Bayes' theorem to translate the density of the data conditional on the model (the marginal likelihood) into a posterior probability of the model conditional on the observed data,

$$(2) \quad p(M_j | y) \propto l_y(M_j) p_j.$$

One can go from posterior probabilities of models to *posterior inclusion probabilities* for each of the  $K$  candidate explanatory variables.<sup>3</sup> The posterior inclusion probability of a variable is calculated by summing posterior probabilities of all models including the variable. The actual relationship of a variable with growth is summarized in the unconditional posterior mean of its coefficient (to distinguish it from the posterior mean conditional on the variable being included).<sup>4</sup>

Bayesian model averaging can also accommodate a focus on groups of variables rather than individual variables (e.g. Brock, Durlauf, and West, 2003; Durlauf, Kourtellos, and Tan, 2006 and 2008). A focus on groups reflects priors that some variables have to be considered jointly because they represent theories or that some variables capture the same underlying growth determinant.

**BMA with agnostic priors.** The idea of the agnostic Bayesian approaches to growth determinants of Fernandez, Ley, and Steel (2001b) and Sala-i-Martin, Doppelhofer, and Miller (2004) is to limit the subjectivity of Bayesian analysis. This is done by including a large number of candidate variables treated symmetrically a priori and by using coefficient priors that have a negligible effect on the posterior distribution of model coefficients (so-called loose priors). FLS assume equal prior probabilities for all models, irrespective of model size and composition.<sup>5</sup> SDM assume equal priors for models of the same size but

<sup>3</sup> BMA actually provides the full posterior distribution of all parameters. We focus on key summary statistics used in the growth regressions literature.

<sup>4</sup> Detailed discussions of BMA can be found in Leamer (1978) and Hoeting et al. (1999) for example.

<sup>5</sup> The FLS model prior implies that the expected model size is  $K/2$ , where  $K$  is the number of candidate variables. Ley and Steel (2009) find that results can be sensitive to the prior expected model size. Therefore, they advocate the use of hierarchical priors, which decrease the dependence on the prior expected model size specified by the researcher. They find that in the cross-country

favor models of a predetermined size (7 in their preferred specification). SDM specify non-informative priors for model coefficients that make posterior distributions equal to classical sampling distributions of ordinary least-squares coefficients. This is why they refer to their approach as Bayesian averaging of classical estimates. FLS use priors proposed in Fernandez, Ley and Steel (2001a) (so-called benchmark priors) that are designed to have a negligible effect on the posterior distribution of model coefficients.<sup>6</sup>

SDM chose priors for model coefficients that yield the following (approximate) marginal likelihood of the data

$$(3) \quad l_y(M_j) \propto N^{\frac{k_j}{2}} SSE_j^{-\frac{N}{2}},$$

where  $k_j$  is the number of candidate explanatory variables included in model  $j$  and  $SSE_j$  is the sum of squared ordinary least-squares residuals associated with the model. Hence, posterior probabilities of models are increasing in model fit and decreasing in the number of candidate variables included in the model. The marginal likelihood of the data in FLS (in their equation (8)) is

$$(4) \quad l_y(M_j) \propto \left( \frac{g}{g+1} \right)^{\frac{k_j}{2}} \left( \frac{1}{g+1} SSE_j + \frac{g}{g+1} (y - \bar{y})'(y - \bar{y}) \right)^{-\frac{N-1}{2}},$$

where  $g = 1/\max\{N, K^2\}$ ,  $y$  is a vector collecting growth rates for all countries, and  $\bar{y}$  is the average growth rate in the sample multiplied by a vector of ones.

### 3. Agnostic Priors and Imperfect Data

Agnostic Bayesian approaches to growth determinants put much weight on the sum of squared errors when assigning posterior inclusion probabilities to models. This can be seen immediately from the SDM marginal likelihood in (3) where the sum of squared errors ( $SSE$ ) is raised to the power  $-N/2$ , which in SDM's case equals  $-44$  as they have data on 88 countries. FLS's approach in (4) also implies posterior inclusion probabilities that are very sensitive to the sum of squared errors because their loose priors amount to a very small value for  $g$ .

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growth context their preferred priors lead to posteriors which are concentrated on rather small models (2 to 7 variables). In the Web Appendix we report all calculations of this paper repeated using Ley and Steel (2009) priors and show that this does not affect our conclusions.

<sup>6</sup> Eicher, Papageorgiou, and Raftery (2009) and Ley and Steel (2009) examine a variety of priors.

To get a sense of the magnitude of this effect, suppose that we want to determine the posterior inclusion probabilities of the 67 candidate explanatory variables considered by SDM. To simplify, we limit attention to models of a predetermined size. In this case, substituting (3) into (2) and summing across all models containing a given variable, yields that the posterior inclusion probability of a candidate explanatory variable  $v$  relative to  $w$  is

$$(6) \quad \frac{\text{Posterior probability variable } v}{\text{Posterior probability variable } w} = \frac{\sum_{j \in S_v} SSE_j^{-\frac{N}{2}}}{\sum_{j \in S_w} SSE_j^{-\frac{N}{2}}}.$$

where  $S_v$  and  $S_w$  denote the set of models containing variable  $v$  and  $w$  respectively. Now suppose that a data revision leads to a fall in the sum of squared errors generated by candidate variable  $v$  of 1.5% in all models. With data on 88 countries, this implies that the posterior inclusion probability of this variable almost doubles relative to other variables.

How strongly do actual data revisions affect posterior inclusion probabilities? To illustrate the effect we assume a predetermined model size of 1 and determine the posterior inclusion probability of the 67 variables in the SDM dataset with both PWT 6.1 and PWT 6.2 income data for the 1960-1996 period. In the top-left panel of Figure 1 we plot the R-squared ( $R^2$ ) of all 67 models including just the constant term and each of the variables (sorted by decreasing  $R^2$ ) using PWT 6.1 data. In the top-right panel we display the corresponding posterior probabilities (computed as in SDM) for the first 16 variables. The comparison of these two panels illustrates how small differences in  $R^2$  translate into large differences in inclusion probabilities. The best variable (which turns out to be the number of years countries have been open to international trade) has an  $R^2$  of 33% and gets a posterior inclusion probability of 84%. The sixth variable has an  $R^2$  of 25% and an inclusion probability of around 0.6% (beyond the sixth variable inclusion probabilities are negligible). The bottom-left and bottom-right panels display the  $R^2$  and inclusion probability for variables in the same order as in the top-left panel but using PWT 6.2 data. It can be seen that changing the dataset perturbs the inclusion probabilities drastically when compared to changes in  $R^2$ . For example, the number of years open goes from a posterior inclusion probability of 84% with PWT 6.1 data to a posterior inclusion probability of 3% with PWT 6.2 data. On the other hand, the posterior inclusion probability of the East Asia dummy goes from a posterior inclusion probability of 6% with PWT 6.1 data to a posterior inclusion probability of 97% with PWT 6.2 data.

When the predetermined model size is greater than 1, the posterior inclusion probability of a variable is the sum of posterior inclusion probabilities across models containing the variable. What if data revisions were to lead to changes in the sum of squared errors that are unsystematic across models containing this variable? Would such data imperfections average out and therefore have small effects on posterior inclusion probabilities? It turns out that they may not average out in theory and practice. To see this,

note that when  $N$  is large, then  $\sum_{j \in S_v} SSE_j^{-\frac{N}{2}}$  is dominated by the sum of squared errors of the best fitting model (the model with the lowest  $SSE$ ). In this case, we can therefore approximate the relative posterior inclusion probabilities in (6) by an expression that only involves the best fitting models for each variable

$$\frac{\text{Posterior probability variable } v}{\text{Posterior probability variable } w} \approx \frac{\max \left\{ SSE_j^{-\frac{N}{2}} : j \in S_v \right\}}{\max \left\{ SSE_j^{-\frac{N}{2}} : j \in S_w \right\}}.$$

Small unsystematic changes in the sum of squared errors across models can therefore have large effects on posterior inclusion probabilities of variables.

To illustrate the effect of the best fitting models on posterior inclusion probabilities for actual data revisions, we return to the example where we try to determine the posterior inclusion probabilities of the 67 candidate explanatory variables for economic growth considered by SDM with PWT 6.0, PWT 6.1 and PWT 6.2 data. But now we take the predetermined model size to be 3. In this case, each variable is part of  $66*65/2=2145$  models, which means that the posterior inclusion probability of a variable is the sum of posterior inclusion probabilities across 2145 models. A useful perspective on the sensitivity of posterior inclusion probabilities to the sum of squared errors of the best-fitting model can be obtained in two steps. First, we compute for each variable the sum of squared errors of all models that contain the variable, sort the sums of squared errors from smallest to largest, and store the minimum as well as the sum of squared errors at the 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 50<sup>th</sup> percentile. Then we regress the log of the posterior inclusion probabilities of all variables on the log sum of squared errors at these percentiles and the log sum of squared errors of the best-fitting model.

Table 1 shows the results of this regression for the posterior inclusion probabilities obtained using PWT 6.0 data, PWT 6.1 data, and PWT 6.2 data. According to the  $R^2$ , the smallest sum of squared errors and the sums of squared errors at the 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 50<sup>th</sup> percentile explain 99% of the variation in posterior inclusion probabilities in each of the three datasets. It is also interesting to note that only the sum of squared errors of the best fitting model and at the 1<sup>st</sup> percentile are statistically significant. Hence, the variation in posterior inclusion probabilities across variables is explained by relatively few specifications (1% of the 2145 specifications). Moreover, posterior inclusion probabilities turn out to be sensitive to the sum of squared errors of the best fitting model as a 1% fall in the minimum sum of squared error is associated with an increase in the posterior inclusion probability of at least 28%.

#### **4. Determinants of Economic Growth: Does Data Tell?**

So far we have argued that the conclusions of agnostic BMA might be sensitive to the margins of error in the available income data. We now examine whether this is the case when we do a full-fledged agnostic BMA analysis of the determinants of economic growth over the 1960-1996 period and over the 1960-1975 period.

##### **4.1 Determinants of Economic Growth 1960-1996: The Effect of PWT Revisions**

To assess the sensitivity of the results of agnostic BMA to PWT income data revisions, we compare PWT 6.2 results with those of earlier PWT income data covering the 1960-1996 period (PWT 6.0 and 6.1). Our starting point is the sample of Sala-i-Martin, Doppelhofer, and Miller (2004), who use PWT 6.0 income data and data on 67 potential growth determinants for 88 countries.<sup>7</sup> The PWT 6.1 income data are available for 84 of the countries in the SDM sample and the PWT 6.2 data for 79 countries. As we want to use the history of PWT revisions to examine how much posterior inclusion probabilities might change with future revisions, we always use the largest possible sample.

**Growth determinants.** Table 2 contains our results using SDM's approach. All variables with a posterior inclusion probability greater than 10% in one of the three PWT datasets are shown in boldface (PWT 6.0; PWT 6.1; and PWT 6.2). The 10% posterior inclusion

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<sup>7</sup> Variables and samples are described in Web Appendix A.

probability threshold comes from SDM who use it to define robust growth determinants (they use the threshold  $7/67 \approx 10\%$  because in their setup, variables with a posterior inclusion probability greater than this threshold have a posterior inclusion probability greater than the prior inclusion probability). The table shows that SDM's results are sensitive to PWT revisions. The SDM criterion yields 23 robust growth determinants according to PWT 6.2 or PWT 6.1. But the two versions of the PWT disagree on more than half of these variables (13).

The disagreement in Table 2 is not driven by small changes in posterior inclusion probabilities around the particular SDM robustness threshold. Among the 10 variables with a posterior inclusion probability greater than 50% according to PWT 6.2 or PWT 6.1, there are 8 variables where the PWT revision changes the posterior inclusion probability by more than 40 percentage points (the absolute difference in posterior inclusion probabilities across PWT revisions are shown in the last two columns of the table).

Many of the variables affected by PWT revisions have been prominent in the growth literature. For example, the investment price variable (which has played an important role in the growth literature, see for example DeLong and Summers, 1991, and Jones, 1994) is the variable with the third highest posterior inclusion probability (98%) according to PWT 6.1 income data, but practically irrelevant in the PWT 6.2 (the posterior inclusion probability is 2%). The posterior inclusion probability of the variable capturing location in the tropics (fraction of tropical area) drops from 70% to 5%. A similar drop is experienced by population density in 1960 and the population density of coastal areas in the 1960s. Air distance to big cities is another geographic country characteristic whose relevance for growth diminishes with the PWT 6.2 dataset. Life expectancy in 1960, the fraction of GDP produced in the mining sector, and political rights experience smaller, but still important decreases in their posterior inclusion probabilities (from around 25% to below 3%; for earlier results on the role of life expectancy and political rights for economic growth see Limongi and Przeworski, 1993; Barro, 1991, 1996). The share of government expenditures in GDP, on the other hand, obtains a posterior inclusion probability of 27% according to PWT 6.2 but is irrelevant according to PWT 6.1. Other variables with high posterior inclusion probabilities (above 83%) with PWT 6.2 data but low posterior inclusion probabilities (below 18%) according to PWT 6.1 are location in Africa, the fraction of the population that adheres to Confucianism, and fertility.

There is even greater disagreement regarding the determinants of 1960-1996 growth when we compare the results using PWT 6.2 data to those using PWT 6.0. Examples of variables that are irrelevant using PWT 6.0 but robust growth determinants according to the SDM criterion when using PWT 6.2 are fertility and primary export dependence (for earlier results see Sachs and Warner, 1995). Examples going in the opposite direction are the degree of ethnolinguistic fractionalization of the population, which was borderline with PWT 6.0 (for more on this variable, see Easterly and Levine, 1997; Alesina et al., 2003; Alesina and La Ferrara, 2005), and malaria prevalence. Disagreement is also substantial among the growth determinants with the highest posterior inclusion probabilities. For example, among the 8 variables with a posterior inclusion probability greater than 50% according to PWT 6.2 or PWT 6.0, there are 6 variables where the PWT revision changes the posterior inclusion probability by more than 40 percentage points. When we look across all three revisions of the PWT income data, we find that the SDM criterion yields 20 variables that are robust according to one version but non-robust according to another. And among the 10 variables with a posterior inclusion probability greater than 50% according to one of the datasets, there are 8 variables where the probability changes by more than 40 percentage points from one version of the PWT to another.

Applying BMA with benchmark priors of FLS instead of SDM's approach yields very similar posterior inclusion probabilities. The absolute difference in posterior inclusion probabilities between the two approaches averaged across all variables is only 1% for each of the three versions of the PWT.<sup>8</sup> As a result, BMA with benchmark priors of FLS is as sensitive to PWT revisions as SDM's approach.

**Theory and proxy groups.** There is no unique way to partition variables into relevant groups. We work with two conceptually distinct partitions. One of them contains groups of variables that can be argued to proxy for the same underlying growth determinant. We refer to these groups as proxy groups. Table 3 reports the proxy groups we employ; this table should be read as our priors on closely related variables. When we were doubtful on whether to include a variable in a group or not, we generally included the variable as we already know from our previous results that posterior inclusion probabilities are highly sensitive to PWT data revisions when groups are sufficiently small (singletons). Consider

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<sup>8</sup> See Web Appendix Table C.2.1-FLS for the full results.

for example the proxy group called openness to trade. It seemed quite reasonable to include variables that appeared to reflect exports, imports, or tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade. But although we ultimately also included the real exchange rate distortion index in this group, this seemed less obvious (e.g. Rodriguez and Rodrik, 2001).

Table 3 also reports the second partition of variables we work with, theory groups. Here we follow Durlauf, Kourtellos, and Tan's (2008) definitions of broad economic theories as closely as possible. For example, just like Durlauf, Kourtellos, and Tan, we define the neoclassical theory group to contain initial GDP, population growth, and variables reflecting capital accumulation. But there are also differences. The Durlauf, Kourtellos, and Tan macroeconomic policy group only contains 3 variables, trade openness, government consumption, and inflation. The list of 67 potential growth determinants we start out with contains several variables reflecting similar concepts, for example various measures of public consumption as well as a measure of public investment. Our macroeconomic policy group is therefore larger than Durlauf, Kourtellos, and Tan's. Our list of potential growth determinants also contains several variables that capture economic effects of geography. We therefore deviate from Durlauf, Kourtellos, and Tan and define an absolute geography group, which contains variables related to countries' climate zone, and a geography and trade group, which captures aspects of geography that appear relevant for internal and international trade.

Once groups have been defined we can determine the posterior inclusion probabilities of groups, defined as the probability that at least one of the variables in a group is included in the model. For example, if PWT revisions only led to a reassignment of posterior inclusion probabilities across variables in the same group, the posterior inclusion probabilities of groups would be unaffected.

Table 4 reports posterior inclusion probabilities of proxy groups and theory groups based on the posterior probabilities of individual variables in Table 2. The table shows substantial disagreement about the posterior inclusion probability of proxy groups. For example, the posterior probability of inclusion of the population growth group varies from 92% with PWT 6.2 to 15% with PWT 6.1. Among the 4 groups of variables with a posterior inclusion probability greater than 50% according to PWT 6.2 or PWT 6.1, there are 3 groups where the PWT revision changes posterior inclusion probabilities by more than 40 percentage points. Comparing results across the three versions of the PWT, we

find that among the 9 groups with a posterior inclusion probability greater than 10% according to one dataset, there are 7 groups where posterior inclusion probabilities change by at least 20 percentage points from one revision to another.

There continues to be substantial disagreement across PWT revisions when we examine the posterior inclusion probabilities of theory groups. Among the 7 groups of variables with a posterior inclusion probability greater than 50% according to PWT 6.2 or PWT 6.1, there are 5 groups where the PWT revision changes the posterior inclusion probability by more than 40 percentage points. It is interesting to examine the 2 groups with relatively consistent results, neoclassical theory and regional heterogeneity, in more detail. The neoclassical theory group turns out to produce consistent results across PWT revisions because the variables included in this group produce relatively consistent results individually, see Table 2. For the regional heterogeneity group, on the other hand, the consistency of the group is the result of offsetting effects of two component variables. As can be seen in Table 2, individually, the dummy variable for Africa has a substantially larger posterior inclusion probability using PWT 6.2 than PWT 6.1, while it is the other way round for the dummy variable for East Asia. When we consider the three versions of the PWT, we find that among the 10 groups with a posterior inclusion probability greater than 10% according to one dataset, there are 7 groups where posterior inclusion probabilities change by at least 20 percentage points from one revision to another.

Posterior inclusion probabilities of proxy groups and theory groups change by very little when we calculate them using BMA with benchmark priors of FLS instead of SDM's approach.<sup>9</sup> This is not surprising given our previous finding that the two approaches yielded nearly identical posterior inclusion probabilities for individual variables.

The presence of groups in BMA may have implications for model (group) priors. For example, the posterior probabilities of groups in Table 4 were obtained, just like the posterior probabilities of individual variables in Table 2, under the assumption that each variable has the same prior inclusion probability independent of the inclusion of other variables. This independence assumption implies that larger prior probabilities are assigned to larger groups. An alternative approach would be to assume that each group has the same prior inclusion probability. In this case it would also be necessary to specify the prior probabilities for all subsets of each group conditional on the group being represented. One

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<sup>9</sup> See Web Appendix Table C.2.2-FLS for full results.

possibility would be to assign the same prior probability to all subsets (Brock, Durlauf, and West, 2003). Another possibility is to assign lower prior probabilities to subsets containing strongly correlated variables than subsets containing weakly correlated variables. This is the so-called dilution prior as implemented by Durlauf, Kourtellos, and Tan (2006, 2008).<sup>10</sup>

Table 5 presents posterior inclusion probabilities of groups of variables obtained by combining dilution priors with SDM's coefficient priors. The table shows that dilution priors also continue to yield substantial disagreement on posterior inclusion probabilities across the three versions of the PWT. There are 5 groups of variables with a posterior inclusion probability greater than 50% according to PWT 6.2 or PWT 6.1, and the two versions of the PWT disagree by more than 40 percentage points on 2 of them. There is a similar degree of disaccord for theory groups, and the coefficient priors of FLS also yield substantial disaccord for proxy groups and theory groups.<sup>11</sup>

#### **4.2 Determinants of Economic Growth 1975-1996: PWT or WDI?**

We also want to examine the sensitivity of agnostic Bayesian model averaging to the different methodological choices underlying the PWT and the World Bank international income data published in the World Development Indicators. This analysis is for the 1975-1996 period, as the World Bank's purchasing power parity income estimates are available for few countries before 1975. As potential determinants we continue to use the 67 variables compiled by SDM, with values updated as necessary.<sup>12</sup>

**Growth determinants.** Table 6 reports our results for individual growth determinants. We now use the BMA approach with the benchmark priors of FLS. Results using SDM's benchmark priors are almost identical however; for example, the absolute difference in posterior inclusion probabilities between the two approaches averaged across all variables never exceeds 1%.<sup>13</sup>

Table 6 shows substantial disagreement regarding posterior inclusion probabilities when using WDI instead of PWT income data. For example, there are 5 variables with a

<sup>10</sup> The prior is proportional to the determinants of the correlation matrix (see Durlauf, Kourtellos, and Tan, 2008, for details).

<sup>11</sup> See Web Appendix Table C.3.2-FLS and C.4.2-FLS for full results.

<sup>12</sup> Details on the updated variables are given in Web Appendix A, Table A1c.

<sup>13</sup> See Web Appendix Table D.1.1-SDM for full results.

posterior inclusion probability greater than 50% according to one of the two PWT datasets. For each of these 5 variables, switching to the WDI data produces a change in the posterior inclusion probability greater than 40 percentage points for one of the PWT-WDI comparison pairs. These differences in posterior inclusion probabilities are quite surprising as the correlation between WDI and PWT growth rates is very high. The correlation between 1975-1996 growth rates in the PWT 6.1 and the WDI is 93.5%, and the correlation between 1975-1996 growth rates in the PWT 6.2 and the WDI is 96.2%. Table 6 also shows that most of this disagreement comes from the comparison between the PWT 6.1 data and WDI data.<sup>14</sup>

**Theory and proxy groups.** Table 7 reports inclusion probabilities of proxy groups and theory groups based on the posterior probabilities of individual variables in Table 6. Now there is less disagreement. But there are still key groups with substantial disaccord. For example, the trade openness group goes from 27% using the PWT 6.2 to 66% using the WDI. For theory groups there is considerable agreement between WDI and PWT 6.2 income data but less agreement between WDI and PWT 6.1 data. Of the 7 groups with posterior inclusion probabilities above 50% according to the WDI or the PWT 6.1, 2 groups see a change in posterior inclusion probabilities of more than 40 percentage points. The priors of SDM yield similar results.<sup>15</sup>

Table 8 shows that combining dilution priors with FLS coefficient priors yields substantial disagreement for proxy groups. Both groups with posterior inclusion probabilities above 50% according to the WDI or the PWT 6.1 see a change in posterior inclusion probabilities of more than 40 percentage points when switching to WDI data. There is also disaccord for theory groups. Of the 4 groups with a posterior inclusion probability greater than 50% using either the PWT 6.2 or the WDI, 2 groups see a change of more than 40 percentage points when switching to WDI data (and a third group sees a change in the posterior inclusion probability of 39 percentage points). The coefficient priors of SDM yield less disagreement, especially for theory groups.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> We cannot tell whether PWT 6.2 income estimates are closer to WDI estimates than PWT 6.1 estimates by coincidence or because there is some convergence in how the PWT and the WDI resolve contentious measurement issues. If it is the latter, PWT-WDI differences may become progressively smaller in the future.

<sup>15</sup> See Web Appendix Table D.1.2-SDM for full results.

<sup>16</sup> See Web Appendix Table D.3.2-SDM (proxy groups) and Table D.4.2-SDM (theory groups).

### 4.3 A Monte Carlo Study

As another check on the sensitivity of agnostic Bayesian approaches, we perform a Monte Carlo study. We first generate 30 artificial datasets by randomly perturbing the 1960-1996 annualized growth rates in the PWT 6.1. To make sure this perturbation is minor compared to the margins of error in the available income data, we calibrate it to the smallest difference between available datasets (which happens to be the difference between the PWT 6.1 and the PWT 6.0).<sup>17</sup> We then draw from the calibrated distribution until we have generated 30 growth perturbations whose correlation with PWT 6.1 growth is between 97.5% and 98%. For comparison, the correlation between 1960-1996 growth rates in the PWT 6.1 and the PWT 6.2 is 93.3%, the correlation between 1975-1996 growth rates in the PWT 6.1 and the WDI is 93.5%, and the correlation between 1975-1996 growth rates in the PWT 6.2 and the WDI is 96.2%. The construction of the perturbed growth rates is explained in more detail in the Appendix.

Applying SDM's approach to each of the 30 growth perturbations yields substantial variation in posterior inclusion probabilities. For example, of the 7 growth determinants with posterior inclusion probabilities above 50% according to PWT 6.1, more than 2 see a change in their posterior inclusion probability greater than 40 percentage points in an average perturbation.<sup>18</sup> Moreover, of the 67 candidate explanatory variables we consider, close to half emerge as growth determinants according to the SDM criterion for some perturbation but not for another. Repeating the exercise applying the BMA approach with benchmark priors of FLS instead of SDM's approach yields very similar results.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> This calibration is second best and could be much improved upon if we had a better understanding of the main sources of uncertainty and measurement error in the data underlying the PWT or if we could isolate the effects of changes in the base year on PWT revisions.

<sup>18</sup> Formally, consider perturbation  $j$  and denote with  $z(j)$  the number of variables that see a change in their posterior inclusion probability greater than 40 percentage points when comparing PWT 6.1 with perturbation  $j$ . The average of  $z(j)$  across perturbations is 2.1.

<sup>19</sup> Ley and Steel (2009) perform a Monte Carlo experiment where they generate artificial samples by randomly dropping 15% of observations, and find posterior inclusion probabilities of some variables fluctuating between zero and almost certainty.

## 5. Conclusions

The empirical growth literature has focused on regression models with few explanatory variables, which has raised the question whether findings are robust to variable selection. One way to answer this question is by using statistical approaches that incorporate prior uncertainty about model specification, as in Fernandez, Ley, and Steel (2001b) and Sala-i-Martin, Doppelhofer, and Miller (2004). This allows treating all explanatory variables symmetrically *a priori*—to be agnostic on what matters for growth *a priori*—and see whether some explanatory variables end up receiving strong support from the data.

We show that such approaches yield conclusions that are sensitive to minor errors in measurement and turn out to differ substantially depending on the income estimates being used. For example, the PWT 6.2 revision of the PWT 6.1 1960-96 data lead to substantial changes regarding the role of government, international trade, demography, and geography. Overall, our findings suggest that margins of error in the available income data are too large for empirical analysis that is agnostic about model specification. It seems doubtful that the available international income data will tell an agnostic about the determinants of economic growth.

This finding puts growth empirics in a difficult situation. Levine and Renelt (1992) showed that when empirical work starts from a limited number of explanatory variables, results are likely to be non-robust to model specification. We show that when the net is cast widely, results are likely to be non-robust to minor errors in measurement. A practical way out of this dilemma is to use cross-country data only to shed additional light on hypotheses with previous empirical support from regional, industry, or micro data.

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## Appendix: Design of the Monte Carlo Study

We generate 30 perturbated 1960-96 growth series starting from PWT 6.1 GDP per capita growth. The perturbations are drawn from distributions that are calibrated to the difference between the PWT 6.0 and PWT 6.1 income data. The variance of these perturbations is taken to be decreasing in income per capita of a country. This reflects the observed heteroskedasticity of the measurement error; the income of richer countries is more exactly measured than that of poorer countries. In particular, we take the variance of the perturbations to be the fitted value from a regression of the squared differences between PWT 6.1 and 6.0 growth rates on a constant and PWT 6.1 log income per capita in 1960 (see Table 1 below for the results). Fitted values of the 17 richest (in 1960) countries are negative, so we replace them by 0, i.e. we do not perturb their growth rates. We draw from this distribution until we have generated 30 growth perturbations whose correlation with PWT 6.1 growth is between 0.975 and 0.979 (the interval is centered on 0.977, the correlation between PWT 6.1 and 6.0 growth rates). Summary statistics about perturbed data are reported in Table 2 below.

**Appendix Table 1.** Ordinary least-squares regression of squares of revisions of income data (growth and levels) on the level of income in 1960

Constant	0.000160 (0.000048)
$\log y_{1960}^{PWT6.1}$	-0.000019 (0.000006)
$R^2$	0.10
Number of observations	84

Notes: Standard errors are in parenthesis.

**Appendix Table 2.** Perturbed growth rate series compared to PWT 6.1 1960-1996 growth rates

	Correlation with PWT 6.1 1960-1996 growth rates	$R^2$ of regression on constant and PWT 6.1 1960-1996 growth rates
Min	0.975	0.950
Average	0.977	0.954
Max	0.979	0.959

## Tables and Figures

**Table 1.** Determinants of Posterior Inclusion Probabilities

	PWT 6.0 coefficient (std.)	PWT 6.1 coefficient (std.)	PWT 6.2 coefficient (std.)
Intercept	-197.9 (4.0)	-163.7 (2.6)	-188.5 (3.0)
Log SSE at the 50th percentile	0.1 (1.1)	-1.1 (1.5)	1.8 (1.2)
Log SSE at the 25th percentile	1.4 (1.7)	2.0 (2.3)	0.2 (1.3)
Log SSE at the 5th percentile	-2.0 (1.7)	-0.7 (2.2)	-2.4 (1.8)
Log SSE at the 1st percentile	-7.3 (1.2)	-9.2 (1.7)	-6.9 (1.2)
Log of the smallest SSE	-37.0 (1.3)	-28.2 (1.2)	-30.6 (1.0)
R <sup>2</sup>	0.99	0.99	0.99
Number of observations	67	67	67

Notes: Regression results. Dependent variable is the log of inclusion probabilities of variables in the SDM dataset.

**Table 2.** Determinants of 1960-1996 income growth with the SDM approach: Posterior inclusion probabilities using income data from Penn World Table versions 6.2, 6.1, and 6.0

	PWT 6.2 posterior inclusion probabilities	PWT 6.1 posterior inclusion probabilities	PWT 6.0 posterior inclusion probabilities	PWT 6.2/6.1 abs.diff.	PWT 6.2/6.0 abs.diff.
GDP in 1960 (log)	<b>1.00</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>0.69</b>	0.00	0.31
Primary Schooling in 1960	<b>1.00</b>	<b>0.99</b>	<b>0.79</b>	0.01	0.21
Fertility in 1960s	<b>0.91</b>	<b>0.12</b>	0.03	0.78	0.88
African Dummy	<b>0.86</b>	<b>0.18</b>	<b>0.15</b>	0.68	0.71
Fraction Confucius	<b>0.83</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>0.20</b>	0.71	0.64
Fraction Muslim	<b>0.40</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>0.11</b>	0.21	0.29
Latin American Dummy	<b>0.35</b>	0.07	<b>0.14</b>	0.29	0.21
East Asian Dummy	<b>0.33</b>	<b>0.78</b>	<b>0.83</b>	0.45	0.50
Fraction Buddhist	<b>0.28</b>	<b>0.11</b>	<b>0.11</b>	0.18	0.17
Primary Exports 1970	<b>0.27</b>	<b>0.21</b>	0.05	0.05	0.22
Nominal Government GDP Share 1960s	<b>0.27</b>	0.02	0.04	0.25	0.23
Openness Measure 1965-74	<b>0.15</b>	0.05	0.07	0.09	0.07
Timing of Independence	<b>0.12</b>	0.08	0.02	0.04	0.10
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.10	<b>0.79</b>	<b>0.43</b>	0.69	0.33
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.10	<b>0.12</b>	0.03	0.02	0.07
Years Open 1950-94	0.09	0.06	<b>0.11</b>	0.03	0.02
Fraction Protestants	0.07	0.02	0.05	0.05	0.02
Spanish Colony	0.06	0.02	<b>0.13</b>	0.04	0.06
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.06	0.04	0.08	0.02	0.01
Fraction Catholic	0.06	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.03
European Dummy	0.06	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Average Inflation 1960-90	0.05	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.03
Fraction of Tropical Area	0.05	<b>0.70</b>	<b>0.57</b>	0.65	0.52
Government Share of GDP in 1960s	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.01	0.01
Fraction Population Over 65	0.05	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.02
Air Distance to Big Cities	0.04	<b>0.45</b>	0.04	0.41	0.01

Square of Inflation 1960-90	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	0.04	0.02	0.10	0.01	0.07
Fraction Population in Tropics	0.03	<b>0.16</b>	0.06	0.12	0.03
Tropical Climate Zone	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.02
Defense Spending Share	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01
Fraction Population Less than 15	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.01	0.01
Size of Economy	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01
Life Expectancy in 1960	0.03	<b>0.25</b>	<b>0.22</b>	0.22	0.19
Revolutions and Coups	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00
Landlocked Country Dummy	0.03	0.08	0.02	0.05	0.01
Higher Education 1960	0.03	0.02	0.06	0.01	0.03
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.01
Fraction Hindus	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.01	0.02
Absolute Latitude	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00
Fraction Orthodox	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01
Gov. Consumption Share 1960s	0.03	0.05	0.10	0.02	0.08
Interior Density	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01
War Participation 1960-90	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01
Socialist Dummy	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.01
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	0.02	0.02	<b>0.26</b>	0.00	0.23
Investment Price	0.02	<b>0.98</b>	<b>0.77</b>	0.96	0.75
Political Rights	0.02	<b>0.25</b>	0.07	0.23	0.05
Colony Dummy	0.02	0.09	0.03	0.07	0.01
Public Investment Share	0.02	0.04	0.05	0.02	0.03
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Land Area	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Capitalism	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	0.02	0.04	0.09	0.02	0.07
Population Density 1960	0.02	<b>0.74</b>	0.09	0.72	0.07
British Colony Dummy	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.01
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1960s	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.00
Population in 1960	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.01
Fraction of Land Area					
Near Navigable Water	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.03	0.00
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.02	<b>0.24</b>	<b>0.12</b>	0.22	0.10
Religion Measure	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.00
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01
Civil Liberties	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.01
English Speaking Population	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Ranking	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Outward Orientation	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02

Notes: Variables come from the Sala-i-Martin, Doppelhofer, and Miller (2004) dataset. Posterior inclusion probabilities higher than the prior inclusion probabilities (here: 7/67) are in boldface.

**Table 3.** Definitions of groups of variables

Group name	Variable names
<b>A. Proxy groups</b>	
Market Access	Population Density Coastal in 1960s Interior Density Landlocked Country Dummy Fraction of Land Area Near Navigable Water
Population Growth	Fertility in 1960s Population Growth Rate 1960-90
Climate Zones	Tropical Climate Zone Fraction of Tropical Area Fraction Population in Tropics Absolute Latitude
Health	Malaria Prevalence in 1960s Life Expectancy in 1960
Natural Resources	Fraction GDP in Mining Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993 Oil Producing Country Dummy Primary Exports 1970
Size of Government	Nominal Government GDP Share 1960s Government Share of GDP in 1960s Gov. Consumption Share 1960s Public Investment Share
Inflation	Average Inflation 1960-90 Square of Inflation 1960-90
War and Conflict	Revolutions and Coups Fraction Spent in War 1960-90 War Participation 1960-90
Openness to Trade	Openness Measure 1965-74 Years Open 1950-94 Outward Orientation Real Exchange Rate Distortions
Size of the Economy	Size of Economy Population in 1960
Rights	Political Rights Civil Liberties
Age Structure	Fraction Population Less than 15 Fraction Population Over 65
Education	Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1960s Higher Education 1960 Primary Schooling in 1960
<b>B. Theory Groups</b>	
Neoclassical	GDP in 1960 (log) Population Growth Rate 1960-90 Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1960s Higher Education 1960 Primary Schooling in 1960
Demography	Life Expectancy in 1960 Fertility in 1960s Fraction Population Less than 15 Fraction Population Over 65
Macroeconomic Policy	Nominal Government GDP Share 1960s

	Government Share of GDP in 1960s Gov. Consumption Share 1960s Public Investment Share Average Inflation 1960-90 Square of Inflation 1960-90 Openness Measure 1965-74 Years Open 1950-94 Outward Orientation Real Exchange Rate Distortions Investment Price
Absolute Geography	Tropical Climate Zone Fraction of Tropical Area Fraction Population in Tropics Malaria Prevalence in 1960s Absolute Latitude
Regional Heterogeneity	African Dummy European Dummy Latin American Dummy East Asian Dummy
Religion	Fraction Confucius Fraction Muslim Fraction Buddhist Fraction Protestants Fraction Catholic Fraction Orthodox Religion Measure Fraction Hindus
Geography and Trade (Within Countries and International)	Air Distance to Big Cities Population Density 1960 Size of Economy Population in 1960 Land Area Population Density Coastal in 1960s Landlocked Country Dummy Interior Density Fraction of Land Area Near Navigable Water
Institutions	Political Rights Civil Liberties Socialist Dummy Capitalism
War and Conflict	Revolutions and Coups Fraction Spent in War 1960-90 War Participation 1960-90
Colonial History	British Colony Dummy Spanish Colony Colony Dummy Timing of Independence
Natural Resources	Fraction GDP in Mining Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993 Oil Producing Country Dummy Primary Exports 1970
Terms of Trade	Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s Terms of Trade Ranking

**Table 4.** Posterior inclusion probabilities of groups of variables in the SDM approach,  
using income data from Penn World Table versions 6.2, 6.1, 6.0

	PWT 6.2	PWT 6.1	PWT 6.0
A. Proxy groups			
Education	1.00	0.99	0.80
Population Growth	0.92	0.15	0.05
Natural Resources	0.35	0.44	0.20
Size of Government	0.34	0.14	0.23
Openness to Trade	0.25	0.17	0.26
Market Access	0.17	0.81	0.46
Climate Zones	0.14	0.84	0.64
Inflation	0.09	0.03	0.04
Age Structure	0.08	0.07	0.06
War and Conflict	0.07	0.05	0.06
Health	0.05	0.26	0.40
Size of the Economy	0.05	0.04	0.04
Rights	0.04	0.27	0.09
B. Theory groups			
Neoclassical	1.00	1.00	0.92
Demography	0.94	0.39	0.29
Regional Heterogeneity	0.93	0.89	0.94
Religion	0.90	0.38	0.39
Macroeconomic Policy	0.54	0.99	0.90
Natural Resources	0.35	0.44	0.20
Geography and Trade (Within Countries and International)	0.27	0.89	0.54
Colonial History	0.20	0.19	0.19
Absolute Geography	0.16	0.84	0.84
Institutions	0.08	0.30	0.12
War and Conflict	0.07	0.05	0.06
Terms of Trade	0.03	0.04	0.04

**Table 5.** Posterior inclusion probabilities of groups of variables obtained with ‘dilution’ model priors and SDM coefficient priors, using growth data from Penn World Table versions 6.2, 6.1, 6.0

	PWT 6.2	PWT 6.1	PWT 6.0
<b>A. Proxy groups</b>			
Education	1.00	1.00	0.93
Population Growth	0.94	0.50	0.24
Natural Resources	0.42	0.91	0.48
Size of Government	0.50	0.38	0.75
Openness to Trade	0.24	0.22	0.21
Market Access	0.09	0.29	0.13
Climate Zones	0.16	0.29	0.18
Inflation	0.27	0.13	0.11
Age Structure	0.24	0.36	0.19
War and Conflict	0.13	0.17	0.16
Health	0.17	0.53	0.53
Size of the Economy	0.13	0.12	0.12
Rights	0.17	0.15	0.14
<b>B. Theory groups</b>			
Neoclassical	1.00	1.00	0.96
Demography	0.89	0.58	0.43
Regional Heterogeneity	0.94	0.91	0.94
Religion	0.75	0.58	0.43
Macroeconomic Policy	0.11	0.96	0.86
Natural Resources	0.48	0.98	0.56
Geography and Trade (Within Countries and International)	0.02	0.14	0.06
Colonial History	0.26	0.26	0.14
Absolute Geography	0.10	0.27	0.38
Institutions	0.08	0.08	0.10
War and Conflict	0.10	0.17	0.13
Terms of Trade	0.09	0.16	0.09

**Table 6.** Determinants of 1975-1996 income growth with the FLS approach. Posterior inclusion probabilities using income data from PWT versions 6.1 and 6.2, and WDI

	PWT 6.2 (common sample N=87)	WDI	PWT 6.1 (common sample N=86)	WDI	PWT 6.2/WDI abs.diff.	PWT 6.1/WDI abs.diff
East Asian Dummy	0.98	0.99	0.50	0.99	0.01	0.49
Investment Price	0.97	0.24	0.34	0.06	0.73	0.28
GDP in 1975 (log)	0.91	1.00	0.60	1.00	0.09	0.40
Life Expectancy in 1975	0.88	0.95	0.47	0.99	0.07	0.51
Fraction of Tropical Area	0.72	0.68	0.20	0.72	0.05	0.52
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.32	0.18	0.59	0.25	0.14	0.34
Absolute Latitude	0.21	0.32	0.22	0.27	0.10	0.05
Fraction Confucius	0.14	0.07	0.45	0.06	0.07	0.39
Openness Measure 1965-74	0.11	0.19	0.12	0.28	0.08	0.16
Political Rights	0.11	0.26	0.03	0.21	0.16	0.18
Primary Schooling in 1975	0.10	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.07	0.01
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	0.09	0.34	0.35	0.38	0.25	0.03
British Colony Dummy	0.09	0.12	0.10	0.08	0.03	0.02
Public Investment Share	0.09	0.03	0.06	0.03	0.06	0.03
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.08	0.09	0.06	0.07	0.01	0.01
Years Open 1950-94	0.08	0.32	0.09	0.26	0.25	0.18
Population Density 1975	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.01	0.00
African Dummy	0.07	0.03	0.57	0.04	0.04	0.53
Fraction Population in Tropics	0.06	0.04	0.19	0.04	0.03	0.15
Fraction Buddhist	0.05	0.02	0.30	0.02	0.03	0.28
Terms of Trade Ranking	0.05	0.06	0.11	0.06	0.01	0.06
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.05	0.13	0.03	0.10	0.08	0.08
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	0.05	0.09	0.02	0.10	0.04	0.08
Revolutions and Coups	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.01
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	0.04	0.06	0.10	0.05	0.01	0.05
Higher Education 1975	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.00	0.00
Fraction Muslim	0.04	0.05	0.12	0.04	0.01	0.08
Population in 1975	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.00	0.01
Latin American Dummy	0.04	0.03	0.14	0.03	0.01	0.12
Government Share of GDP in 1970s	0.04	0.02	0.33	0.20	0.01	0.14
Fraction Orthodox	0.04	0.02	0.05	0.03	0.01	0.02
Fraction Hindus	0.04	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.00	0.02
Capitalism	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Civil Liberties	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.01
Timing of Independence	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.00	0.00
Land Area	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.01
Gov. Consumption Share 1970s	0.03	0.18	0.12	0.21	0.15	0.09
Fraction Population Less than 15	0.03	0.02	0.13	0.02	0.01	0.11
Nominal Government GDP Share 1970s	0.03	0.02	0.30	0.06	0.01	0.24
Religion Measure	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Average Inflation 1960-90	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.02
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Fraction Protestants	0.02	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.01	0.02
Size of Economy	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.01

Defense Spending Share	0.02	0.05	0.28	0.06	0.03	0.21
Fraction Population Over 65	0.02	0.02	0.06	0.02	0.00	0.04
Square of Inflation 1960-90	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.01
Interior Density	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
European Dummy	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.02
Primary Exports 1970	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.01
Spanish Colony	0.02	0.02	0.10	0.02	0.00	0.07
Fraction of Land Area						
Near Navigable Water	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Fertility in 1960s	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.03
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.01
Fraction Catholic	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.02
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.02
Colony Dummy	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Outward Orientation	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.01
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1970s	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Air Distance to Big Cities	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.01
Tropical Climate Zone	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.03
Landlocked Country Dummy	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
English Speaking Population	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.01
War Participation 1960-90	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Socialist Dummy	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.02

Notes: The variables are based on Sala-i-Martin, Doppelhofer, and Miller (2004), but wherever applicable, variables were updated from the 1960s to the 1970s, see Web Appendix A.

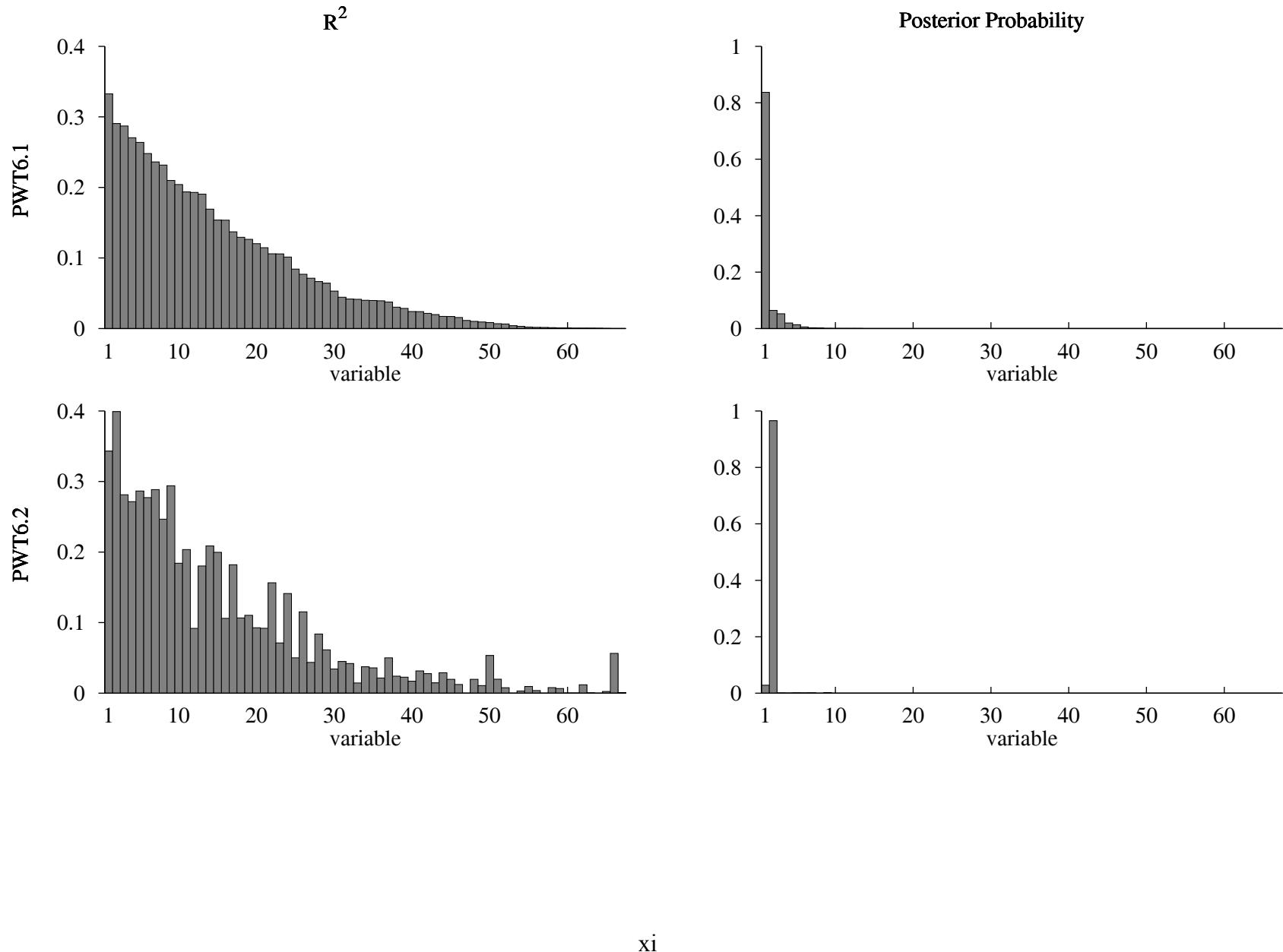
**Table 7.** Posterior inclusion probabilities of groups of variables in the FLS approach, using income data from PWT versions 6.1 and 6.2, and WDI

	PWT 6.2 (common sample N=87)	WDI	PWT 6.1 (common sample N=86)	WDI
<b>A. Proxy groups</b>				
Climate Zones	0.95	0.98	0.59	0.98
Health	0.89	0.96	0.49	0.99
Natural Resources	0.36	0.22	0.62	0.29
Openness to Trade	0.27	0.66	0.49	0.69
Size of Government	0.17	0.24	0.75	0.46
Education	0.15	0.09	0.08	0.09
Rights	0.13	0.29	0.05	0.24
Market Access	0.13	0.14	0.12	0.12
War and Conflict	0.08	0.06	0.08	0.06
Size of the Economy	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.08
Inflation	0.04	0.03	0.06	0.03
Age Structure	0.05	0.04	0.19	0.04
Population Growth	0.04	0.04	0.08	0.04
<b>B. Theory groups</b>				
Regional Heterogeneity	0.99	0.99	0.90	0.99
Macroeconomic Policy	0.99	0.81	0.91	0.83
Absolute Geography	0.96	0.99	0.60	0.99
Neoclassical	0.92	1.00	0.64	1.00
Demography	0.89	0.96	0.57	0.99
Natural Resources	0.36	0.22	0.62	0.29
Religion	0.30	0.24	0.64	0.22
Geography and Trade (Within Countries and International)	0.28	0.30	0.28	0.29
Institutions	0.17	0.33	0.10	0.27
Colonial History	0.14	0.18	0.24	0.15
War and Conflict	0.08	0.06	0.08	0.06
Terms of Trade	0.07	0.08	0.13	0.07

**Table 8.** Posterior inclusion probabilities of groups of variables obtained with ‘dilution’ model priors and FLS benchmark coefficient priors, using income data from PWT versions 6.1 and 6.2, and WDI

	PWT 6.2 (common sample N=87)	WDI	PWT 6.1 (common sample N=86)	WDI
<b>A. Proxy groups</b>				
Climate Zones	0.71	0.87	0.14	0.86
Health	0.70	0.98	0.07	0.99
Rights	0.06	0.17	0.02	0.13
Inflation	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.02
Openness to Trade	0.02	0.12	0.04	0.11
Natural Resources	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.02
Age Structure	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Population Growth	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Size of the Economy	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
War and Conflict	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01
Education	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01
Size of Government	0.01	0.02	0.11	0.06
Market Access	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
<b>B. Theory groups</b>				
Regional Heterogeneity	1.00	1.00	0.97	1.00
Absolute Geography	0.58	0.97	0.22	0.97
Demography	0.10	0.96	0.04	0.97
Neoclassical	0.07	0.97	0.01	0.97
Colonial History	0.04	0.02	0.09	0.02
Macroeconomic Policy	0.04	0.00	0.01	0.01
War and Conflict	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01
Terms of Trade	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.03
Natural Resources	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Religion	0.01	0.00	0.05	0.00
Institutions	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.03
Geography and Trade (Within Countries and International)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

**Figure 1.**  $R^2$ 's and posterior probabilities in one-variable models, with PWT 6.1 and PWT 6.2 data



## **Web Appendix**

to the paper

### **Determinants of Economic Growth: Will Data Tell?**

by Antonio Ciccone and Marek Jarocinski

30 September 2009

downloadable from: [www.antoniociccone.eu](http://www.antoniociccone.eu)

**PART A:** Data and Samples  
and

**PART B:** Recent Revisions of the PWT Dataset

## Appendix A: Data and Samples

**Table A1a.** Sala-i-Martin, Doppelhofer, and Miller (2004) dataset

Variable	Description and Source	Mean	Standard Deviation
Primary Schooling in 1960	Enrollment rate in primary education in 1960. Barro and Jong-Wha Lee (1993).	0.726	0.292
Fertility in 1960s	Fertility in 1960's. Barro and Sala-i-Martin (1995).	1.562	0.417
African Dummy	Dummy for Sub-Saharan African countries.	0.307	0.461
Fraction Confucius	Fraction of population Confucian. Barro (1999).	0.016	0.079
Fraction Muslim	Fraction of population Muslim in 1960. Barro (1999).	0.149	0.294
Latin American Dummy	Dummy for Latin American countries.	0.227	0.419
East Asian Dummy	Dummy for East Asian countries.	0.114	0.317
Fraction Buddhist	Fraction of population Buddhist in 1960. Barro (1999).	0.047	0.167
Primary Exports 1970	Fraction of primary exports in total exports in 1970. From Sachs and Warner (1997).	0.720	0.281
Nominal Government GDP Share 1960s	Average share of nominal government spending to nominal GDP between 1960 and 1964. Calculated from Heston et al. (2001).	0.149	0.058
Openness Measure 1965-74	Ratio of exports plus imports to GDP, averaged over 1965 to 1974. This variable was provided by Robert Barro.	0.523	0.334
Timing of Independence	Timing of national independence measure: 0 if before 1914; 1 if between 1914 and 1945; 2 if between 1946 and 1989; and 3 if after 1989. From Gallup et al. (2001).	1.011	0.971
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	Coastal (within 100 km of coastline) population per coastal area in 1965. From Gallup et al. (2001).	146.870	506.920
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	Log of hydrocarbon deposits in 1993. From Gallup et al. (2001).	0.421	4.326
Years Open 1950-94	Number of years economy has been open between 1950 and 1994. From Jeffrey D. Sachs and Andrew M. Warner (1995).	0.355	0.342
Fraction Protestants	Fraction of population Protestant in 1960. Barro (1999).	0.135	0.283
Spanish Colony	Dummy variable for former Spanish colonies. Barro (1999).	0.170	0.376
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	Fraction of population speaking foreign language. Hall and Jones (1999).	0.321	0.411
Fraction Catholic	Fraction of population Catholic in 1960. Barro (1999).	0.328	0.412
European Dummy	Dummy for European economies.	0.216	0.411
Average Inflation 1960-90	Average inflation rate between 1960 and 1990. Levine and Renelt (1992).	13.130	14.905
Fraction of Tropical Area	Proportion of country's land area within geographical tropics. From John L. Gallup et al. (2001).	0.570	0.469
Government Share of GDP in 1960s	Average share government spending to GDP between 1960-1964. From Heston et al. (2001).	0.166	0.071
Air Distance to Big Cities	Logarithm of minimal distance (in km) from New York, Rotterdam, or Tokyo. From Gallup et al. (2001).	4324.200	2598.900
Fraction Population Over 65	Fraction of population older than 65 years in 1960. Barro and Lee (1993)	0.049	0.029
Square of Inflation 1960-	Square of average inflation rate between 1960 and	394.540	1113.300

90		1990.		
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization		Average of five different indices of ethnolinguistic fractionalization which is the probability of two random people in a country not speaking the same language. From William Easterly and Ross Levine (1997).	0.348	0.300
Defence Spending Share		Average share public expenditures on defence as fraction of GDP between 1960 and 1965. Barro and Lee (1993).	0.026	0.024
Fraction Population in Tropics		Proportion of country's population living in geographical tropics. From Gallup et al. (2001).	0.300	0.371
Tropical Climate Zone		Fraction tropical climate zone. From Gallup et al. (2001).	0.190	0.267
Size of Economy		Logarithm of aggregate GDP in 1960.	16.150	1.810
Fraction Population Less than 15		Fraction of population younger than 15 years in 1960. Barro and Lee (1993).	0.393	0.074
Landlocked Country Dummy		Dummy for landlocked countries.	0.170	0.376
Revolutions and Coups		Number of revolutions and military coups. Barro and Lee (1993).	0.185	0.231
Life Expectancy in 1960		Life expectancy in 1960. Barro and Lee (1993).	53.716	11.993
Higher Education 1960		Enrollment rates in higher education. Barro and Lee (1993).	0.038	0.050
Absolute Latitude		Absolute latitude. Barro (1999).	23.211	16.747
Population Growth Rate 1960-90		Average growth rate of population between 1960 and 1990. Barro and Lee (1993).	0.022	0.009
Fraction Hindus		Fraction of the population Hindu in 1960. Barro (1999).	0.028	0.124
Gov. Consumption Share 1960s		Share of expenditures on government consumption to GDP in 1961. Barro and Lee (1993).	0.116	0.074
Interior Density		Interior (more than 100 km from coastline) population per interior area in 1965. From Gallup et al. (2001).	43.371	87.561
War Participation 1960-90		Indicator for countries that participated in external war between 1960 and 1990. Barro and Lee (1993).	0.398	0.489
Socialist Dummy		Dummy for countries under Socialist rule for considerable time during 1950 to 1995. From Gallup et al. (2001).	0.068	0.252
Fraction Orthodox		Fraction of population Orthodox in 1960. Barro (1999).	0.019	0.098
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s		Index of malaria prevalence in 1966. From Gallup et al. (2001).	0.339	0.428
Political Rights		Political rights index. From Barro (1999).	3.823	1.985
Investment Price		Average investment price level between 1960 and 1964 on purchasing power parity basis. From Heston et al. (2001).	92.466	53.372
Oil Producing Country Dummy		Dummy for oil-producing country. Barro (1999).	0.057	0.231
Colony Dummy		Dummy for former colony. Barro (1999).	0.750	0.433
Capitalism		Capitalism index. From Hall and Jones (1999).	3.466	1.373
Real Exchange Rate Distortions		Real exchange rate distortions. Levine and Renelt (1992).	125.030	41.469
Public Investment Share		Average share of expenditures on public investment as fraction of GDP between 1960 and 1965. Barro and Lee (1993).	0.052	0.039
British Colony Dummy		Dummy for former British colony after 1776. Barro (1999).	0.318	0.466
Land Area		Area in km2. Barro and Lee (1993).	867190	1804300

Population Density 1960	Population per area in 1960. Barro and Lee (1993).	108.070	200.300
Population in 1960	Population in 1960. Barro (1999).	20308	52239
Fraction GDP in Mining	Fraction of GDP in mining. From Robert E. Hall and Charles I. Jones (1999).	0.051	0.076
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1960s	Average share public expenditures on education as fraction of GDP between 1960 and 1965. Barro and Lee (1993).	0.024	0.010
Fraction of Land Area Near Navigable Water	Proportion of country's land area within 100 km of ocean or ocean-navigable river. From Gallup et al. (2001).	0.472	0.378
Religion Measure	Religion measure. Barro (1999).	0.780	0.192
Civil Liberties	Index of civil liberties index in 1972. Barro (1999).	0.509	0.324
English Speaking Population	Fraction of population speaking English. From Hall and Jones (1999).	0.084	0.251
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	Fraction of time spent in war between 1960 and 1990. Barro and Lee (1993).	0.070	0.152
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	Growth of terms of trade in the 1960's. Barro and Lee (1993).	-0.002	0.034
Terms of Trade Ranking	Barro (1999).	0.281	0.189
Outward Orientation	Measure of outward orientation. Levine and Renelt (1992).	0.398	0.489

Notes: The information is the same as in Table 1 of Sala-i-Martin, Doppelhofer, and Miller (2004) (we include it for easier reference). Means and standard deviations are computed on the 88 country sample.

**Table A1b.** Income growth and level from alternative sources

Variable	Description	Source	Mean	Standard Deviation
Average growth rate of GDP per capita in 1960-1996	Growth of GDP per capita at purchasing power parities (chained) between 1960 and 1996	PWT 6.0 PWT 6.1 PWT 6.2	0.01821 0.01917 0.01989	0.01891 0.01832 0.01618
GDP in 1960 (log)	Logarithm of GDP per capita (chained) in 1960	PWT 6.0 PWT 6.1 PWT 6.2	7.35490 7.74370 7.84460	0.89595 0.90433 0.95021
Average growth rate of GDP per capita in 1975-1996	Growth of GDP per capita at purchasing power parities (chained) between 1975 and 1996	PWT 6.1 PWT 6.2 Growth of GDP per capita (constant LCU), 1975-1996	0.01267 0.01287 0.01225	0.02005 0.01920 0.01993
GDP in 1975 (log)	Logarithm of GDP per capita (chained) in 1975	PWT 6.1 PWT 6.2 GDP per capita in 1975, PPP (current international \$)	8.17560 8.21390 7.29840	0.98918 1.02990 1.01960

Notes: Means and standard deviations of PWT 6.2 and WDI data are computed on the maximum samples, see Table A2.

**Table A1c.** Variables from the Sala-i-Martin, Doppelhofer, and Miller (2004) dataset that were updated for the analysis of the 1975-1996 growth

Variable	Description and source	PWT 6.2, 87 countries		PWT 6.1, 86 countries	
		Mean	Standard deviation	Mean	Standard deviation
Primary schooling in 1975	Enrollment rate in primary education in 1975; from Barro and Jong-Wha Lee (2000)	0.8337	0.2397	0.8379	0.2378
Investment price	Average investment price level between 1970 and 1974 on purchasing power parity basis; from PWT 6.1/6.2	95.48	128.47	78.69	39.04
Life expectancy in 1975	Life expectancy in 1975; from Barro and Lee (1993)	58.844	11.140	59.015	11.090
Gov. consumption share 1970s	Share of expenditures on government consumption to GDP in 1970-74; from Barro and Lee (1993)	0.1598	0.0752	0.1579	0.0737
Population density 1975	Population per area in 1975; population from PWT 6.1; area from Barro and Lee (1993)	163.79	608.54	164.91	608.99
Government share of GDP in 1970s	Average share government spending to GDP between 1970-1974; from PWT 6.1/6.2	19.0080	9.0936	19.4250	11.7950
Higher education 1975	Enrollment rates in higher education in 1970-74; from Barro and Lee (2000)	0.1071	0.1094	0.1081	0.1096
Fraction population less than 15	Fraction of population younger than 15 years in 1975; from Barro and Lee (1993)	0.3836	0.0879	0.3829	0.0881
Nominal government GDP share 1970s	Average share of nominal government spending to nominal GDP between 1970 and 1974; calculated from PWT 6.1/6.2	17.5960	8.6734	17.9380	10.1700
Fraction population over 65	Fraction of population older than 65 years in 1975; from Barro and Lee (1993)	0.0550	0.0373	0.0553	0.0374
Defence spending share	Average share public expenditures on defence as fraction of GDP between 1970 and 1974; from Barro and Lee (1993)	0.0322	0.0462	0.0321	0.0465
Population in 1975	Population in 1975; from PWT 6.1/6.2	27443	72302	27286	71811
Public education spending share in GDP in 1970s	Average share public expenditures on education as fraction of GDP between 1970 and 1975; from Barro and Lee (1993)	0.0339	0.0139	0.0338	0.0139
Size of economy	Logarithm of aggregate GDP in 1975; from PWT 6.1/6.2	17.3110	1.8421	17.2590	1.8358

Notes: Variables taken from the PWT dataset were updated using either version 6.1 or version 6.2. Other variables were taken always from the same source (Barro and Lee, 1993 or 2000).

**Table A2.** Samples on which all 67 variables from the Sala-i-Martin, Doppelhofer, and Miller (2004) dataset and alternative income data were available

NUM	CODE	COUNTRY	1960-	1960-	1960-	1975-	1975-
			1996 PWT 6.0	1996 PWT 6.1	1996 PWT 6.2	1996 PWT 6.2 /WDI	1996 PWT 6.1 /WDI
1	DZA	Algeria	1	1	1	1	1
2	AGO	Angola	0	0	0	0	0
3	BEN	Benin	1	1	1	1	1
4	BWA	Botswana	1	1	0	1	1
5	BFA	Burkina Faso	0	0	0	1	1
6	BDI	Burundi	1	1	1	1	1
7	CMR	Cameroon	1	1	1	1	1
8	CPV	Cape verde	0	0	0	0	0
9	CAF	Cent'l Afr. Rep.	1	1	0	1	1
10	TCD	Chad	0	0	0	0	0
11	COM	Comoros	0	0	0	0	0
12	COG	Congo	1	1	1	1	1
13	EGY	Egypt	1	1	1	1	1
14	ETH	Ethiopia	1	1	1	0	0
15	GAB	Gabon	1	1	1	1	1
16	GMB	Gambia	1	1	1	1	1
17	GHA	Ghana	1	1	1	1	1
18	GIN	Guinea	0	0	0	0	0
19	GNB	Guinea-Bissau	0	0	0	0	0
20	CIV	Cote d'Ivoire	0	0	0	0	0
21	KEN	Kenya	1	1	1	1	1
22	LSO	Lesotho	1	1	1	1	1
23	LBR	Liberia	1	0	0	0	0
24	MDG	Madagascar	1	1	1	1	1
25	MWI	Malawi	1	1	1	1	1
26	MLI	Mali	0	0	0	1	1
27	MRT	Mauritania	1	1	0	1	1
28	MUS	Mauritius	0	0	0	0	0
29	MAR	Morocco	1	1	1	1	1
30	MOZ	Mozambique	0	0	0	0	0
31	NER	Niger	1	1	1	1	1
32	NGA	Nigeria	1	1	1	1	1
33	RWA	Rwanda	1	1	1	1	1
34	SEN	Senegal	1	1	1	1	1
35	SYC	Seychelles	0	0	0	0	0
36	SLE	Sierra Leone	0	0	0	1	1
37	SOM	Somalia	0	0	0	0	0
38	ZAF	South Africa	1	1	1	1	1
39	SDN	Sudan	0	0	0	1	0
40	SWZ	Swaziland	0	0	0	0	0
41	TZA	Tanzania	1	1	1	0	0
42	TGO	Togo	1	1	1	1	1
43	TUN	Tunisia	1	0	0	1	1
44	UGA	Uganda	1	1	1	0	0
45	ZAR	Zaire	1	1	0	1	1
46	ZMB	Zambia	1	1	1	1	1
47	ZWE	Zimbabwe	1	1	1	1	1
48	BHS	Bahamas, The	0	0	0	0	0

49	BRB	Barbados	0	0	0	0	0
50	CAN	Canada	1	1	1	1	1
51	CRI	Costa Rica	1	1	1	1	1
52	DMA	Dominica	0	0	0	0	0
53	DOM	Dominican Rep.	1	1	1	1	1
54	SLV	El Salvador	1	1	1	1	1
55	GRD	Grenada	0	0	0	0	0
56	GTM	Guatemala	1	1	1	1	1
57	HTI	Haiti	1	0	0	1	1
58	HND	Honduras	1	1	1	1	1
59	JAM	Jamaica	1	1	1	1	1
60	MEX	Mexico	1	1	1	1	1
61	NIC	Nicaragua	0	0	0	0	0
62	PAN	Panama	1	1	1	1	1
63	LCA	St.Lucia	0	0	0	0	0
64	VCT	St.Vincent & Grens.	0	0	0	0	0
65	TTO	Trinidad & Tobago	1	1	1	1	1
66	USA	United States	1	1	1	1	1
67	ARG	Argentina	1	1	1	1	1
68	BOL	Bolivia	1	1	1	1	1
69	BRA	Brazil	1	1	1	1	1
70	CHL	Chile	1	1	1	1	1
71	COL	Colombia	1	1	1	1	1
72	ECU	Ecuador	1	1	1	1	1
73	GUY	Guyana	0	0	0	0	0
74	PRY	Paraguay	1	1	1	1	1
75	PER	Peru	1	1	1	1	1
76	SUR	Suriname	0	0	0	0	0
77	URY	Uruguay	1	1	1	1	1
78	VEN	Venezuela	1	1	1	1	1
79	AFG	Afghanistan	0	0	0	0	0
80	BHR	Bahrain	0	0	0	0	0
81	BGD	Bangladesh	0	0	0	0	0
82	BUR	Myanmar (Burma)	0	0	0	0	0
83	CHN	China	0	0	0	0	0
84	HKG	Hong Kong	1	1	1	1	1
85	IND	India	1	1	1	1	1
86	IDN	Indonesia	1	1	1	1	1
87	IRN	Iran, I.R. of	0	0	0	0	0
88	IRQ	Iraq	0	0	0	0	0
89	ISR	Israel	1	1	1	1	1
90	JPN	Japan	1	1	1	1	1
91	JOR	Jordan	1	1	1	1	1
92	KOR	Korea	1	1	1	1	1
93	KWT	Kuwait	0	0	0	0	0
94	MYS	Malaysia	1	1	1	1	1
95	NPL	Nepal	1	1	1	1	1
96	OMN	Oman	0	0	0	0	0
97	PAK	Pakistan	1	1	1	1	1
98	PHL	Philippines	1	1	1	1	1
99	SAU	Saudi Arabia	0	0	0	0	0
100	SGP	Singapore	1	1	1	1	1
101	LKA	Sri Lanka	1	1	1	1	1
102	SYR	Syria	1	1	1	1	1

103	TWN	Taiwan	1	1	1	0	0
104	THA	Thailand	1	1	1	1	1
105	ARE	Unit'd Arab Emir.	0	0	0	0	0
106	YEM	Yemen, N.Arab	0	0	0	0	0
107	AUT	Austria	1	1	1	1	1
108	BEL	Belgium	1	1	1	1	1
109	CYP	Cyprus	0	0	0	0	0
110	DNK	Denmark	1	1	1	1	1
111	FIN	Finland	1	1	1	1	1
112	FRA	France	1	1	1	1	1
113	DEU	Germany, West	1	0	0	1	1
114	GRC	Greece	1	1	1	1	1
115	HUN	Hungary	0	0	0	0	0
116	ISL	Iceland	0	0	0	0	0
117	IRL	Ireland	1	1	1	1	1
118	ITA	Italy	1	1	1	1	1
119	LUX	Luxembourg	0	0	0	0	0
120	MLT	Malta	0	0	0	0	0
121	NLD	Netherlands	1	1	1	1	1
122	NOR	Norway	1	1	1	1	1
123	POL	Poland	0	0	0	0	0
124	PRT	Portugal	1	1	1	1	1
125	ESP	Spain	1	1	1	1	1
126	SWE	Sweden	1	1	1	1	1
127	CHE	Switzerland	0	0	0	0	0
128	TUR	Turkey	1	1	1	1	1
129	GBR	United Kingdom	1	1	1	1	1
130	YUG	Yugoslavia	0	0	0	0	0
131	AUS	Australia	1	1	1	1	1
132	FJI	Fiji	0	0	0	0	0
133	NZL	New Zealand	1	1	1	1	1
134	PNG	Papua New Guinea	1	1	0	1	1
135	SLB	Solomon Islands	0	0	0	0	0
136	TON	Tonga	0	0	0	0	0
137	VUT	Vanuatu	0	0	0	0	0
138	WSM	Samoa	0	0	0	0	0
139	NAM	Namibia	0	0	0	0	0
Sample size			88	84	79	87	86

Notes: The last two columns indicate countries for which income data is available from both the PWT and WDI.

## Appendix B. Recent Revisions of the PWT Dataset

The Penn World Table 6.2, issued in September 2006, followed the Penn World Table 6.1, issued in October 2002, which in turn replaced the preliminary PWT 6.0 dataset from 2001. Below we describe the differences between these three datasets regarding per capita GDP in constant international prices computed with the chain method (PWT mnemonics: RGDPCH). We focus on its 1960 level and growth rate in 1960-1996. We confine the analysis to the countries for which we have all the control variables from the Sala-i-Martin, Doppelhofer, and Miller (2004) dataset of country characteristics.

The original sample in Sala-i-Martin, Doppelhofer, and Miller (2004) contains 88 countries. When upgrading from PWT 6.0 to PWT 6.1, four countries for which data is unavailable in the later dataset are lost (Liberia, Tunisia, Haiti, and West Germany) and the sample reduces to 84 countries. When upgrading further to PWT 6.2, five more countries are lost (Botswana, Central African Republic, Mauritania, Zaire, Papua New Guinea) and the remaining sample has only 79 countries.

The upgrades of the dataset involved changes of the base year for international prices. The base year is 1985 in PWT 6.0, 1996 in PWT 6.1, and 2000 in PWT 6.2. When comparing 1960 income levels we demean it (in the analyzed samples) and compare deviations from the mean.

Summary statistics about revisions are reported in Table B1. The revisions are quite substantial. Yearly growth rates change on average by around 0.3%, but the largest differences exceed 3%. 1960 income levels change on average by around 20%. The largest log differences exceed 1. Still, overall correlations between the level and growth estimates of different datasets are high, always above 0.9.

Figure B1 reports the histograms of differences in 1960-1996 average annual growth rates and demeaned log 1960 income levels between PWT 6.1 and PWT 6.0. Figure B2 reports the histograms of differences between PWT 6.2 and PWT 6.1. Figure B3 reports the histograms of the difference between PWT 6.2 and PWT 6.0.

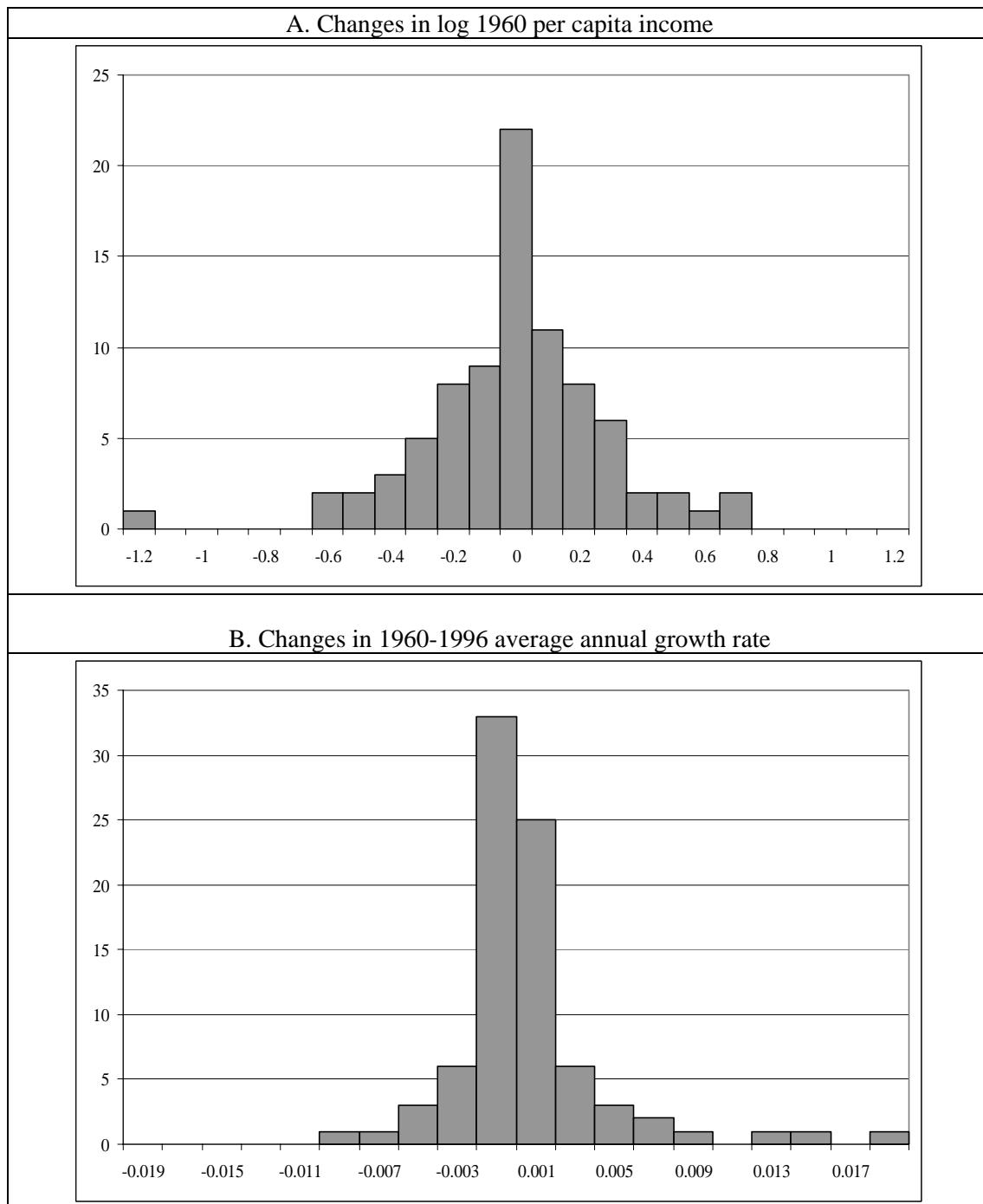
Table B2 reports on the 15 countries with most revised growth and level data, for each pair of datasets. As the table makes clear, African countries' data undergoes the strongest revisions. Some examples are striking. For example, Ghana had, in 1960-1996, a negative yearly growth rate of 0.4% according to the PWT 6.0 dataset, positive yearly growth of 1% according to the PWT 6.1 dataset, and a yearly growth rate of 3% according to the PWT 6.2 dataset. In terms of the initial income level, it was downgraded from being the 25<sup>th</sup> country from the top to the second poorest country.

**Table B1.** Summary statistics about differences between PWT versions 6.2, 6.1, and 6.0

	PWT 6.2-6.1	PWT 6.1-6.0	PWT 6.2-6.0
1960-1996 growth per year:			
- average absolute difference	0.36%	0.23%	0.39%
- maximum absolute difference	1.94%	1.98%	3.44%
Correlation	0.937	0.977	0.926
Log 1960 (demeaned):			
- average absolute difference	0.17	0.21	0.24
- maximum absolute difference	0.84	1.21	1.26
Correlation	0.97	0.95	0.93

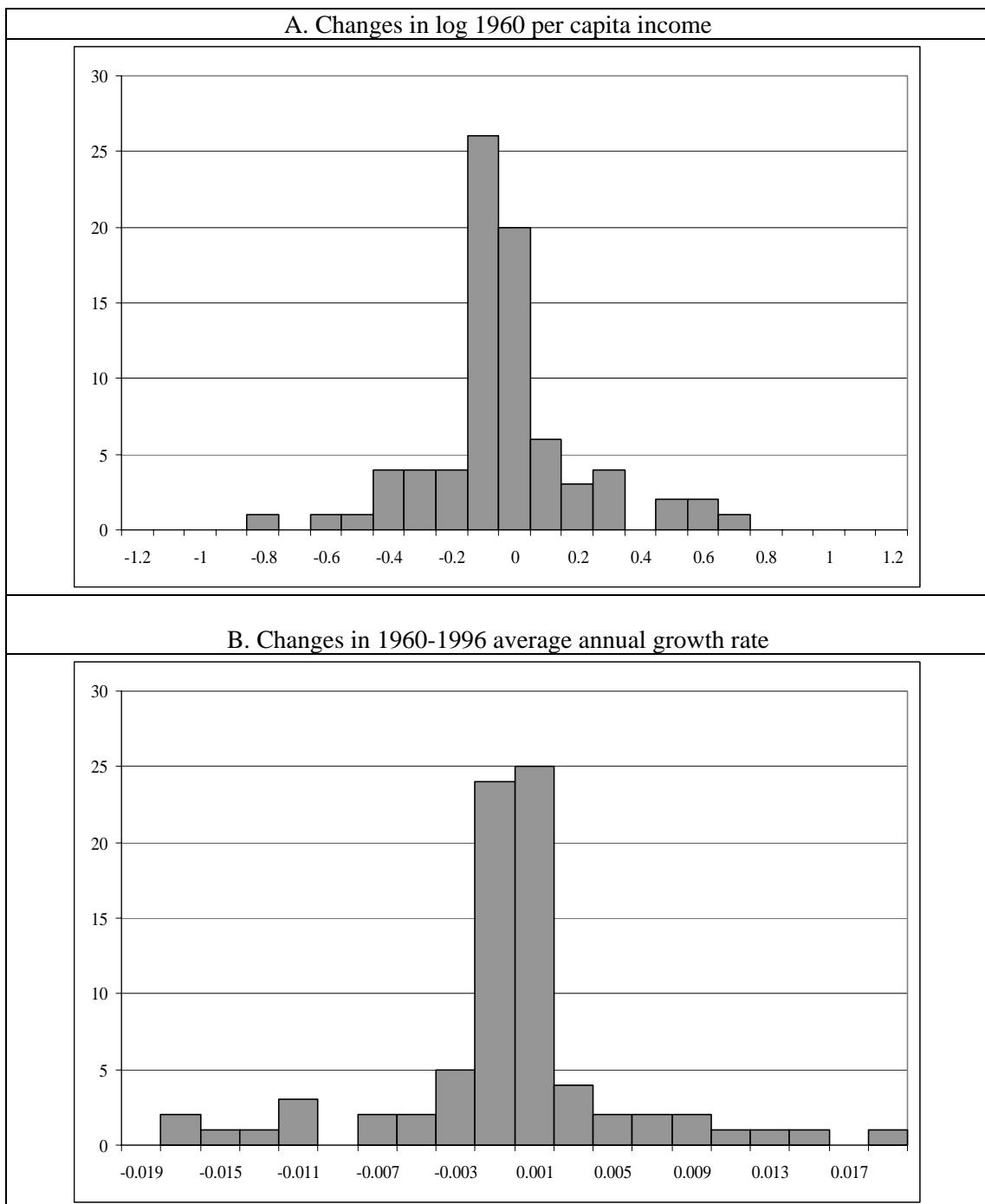
Notes: Average yearly growth differences are in percentage points.

**Figure B1.** Histograms of changes in income level and growth data between PWT 6.1 and PWT 6.0



Notes: Panel A: Log per capita GDP differences across datasets (constant international prices, chained) in 1960 and 1996. Changes are demeaned to eliminate the effect of changes of the base year. Panel B: Changes of average annual growth rates in 1960-1996, of per capita GDP (constant international prices, chained). Labels show the middle of a bin. Sources: PWT 6.0 and PWT 6.1 data, authors' calculations.

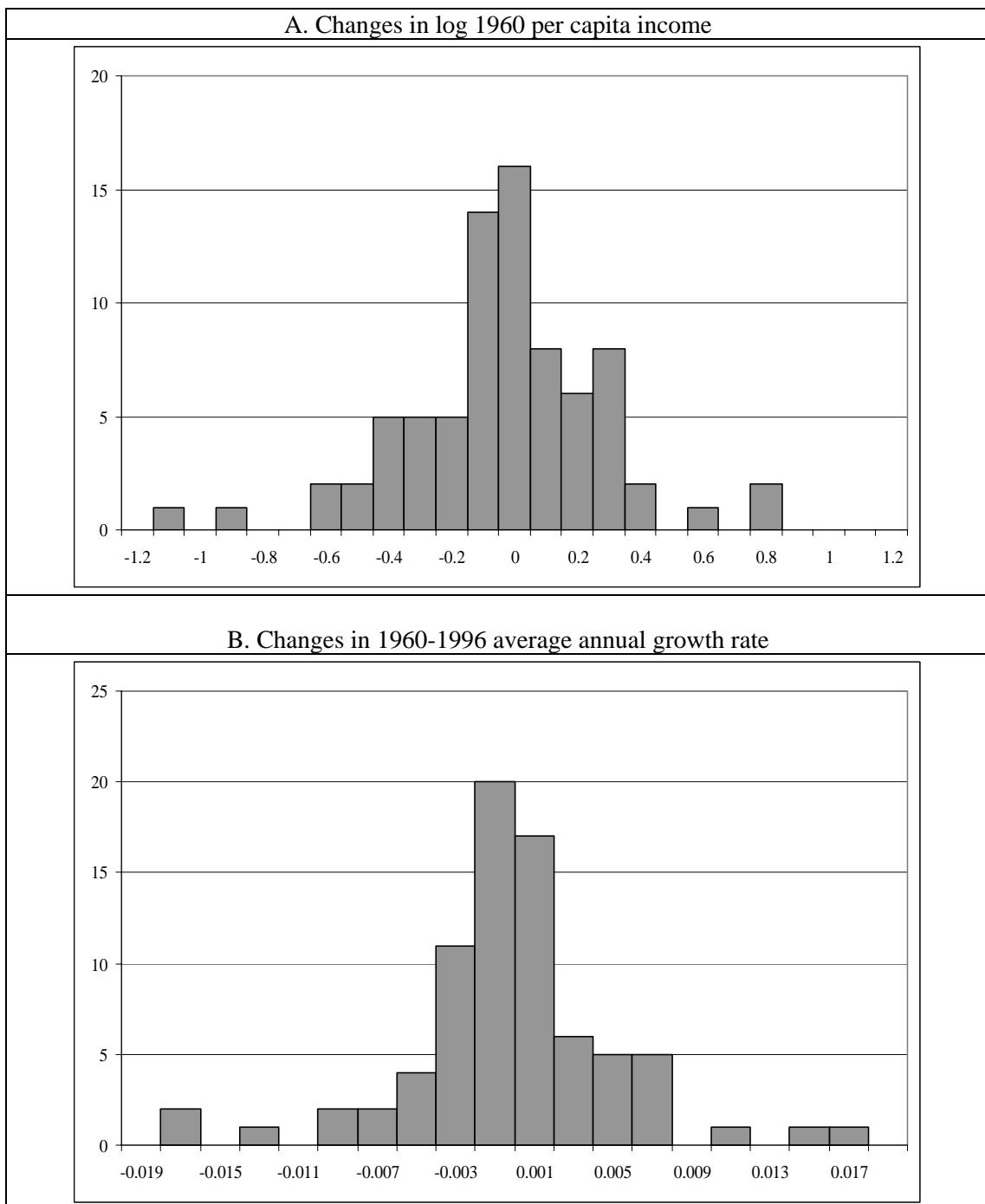
**Figure B2.** Histograms of changes in income level and growth data between PWT 6.2 and PWT 6.1



Notes: Panel A: Log per capita GDP differences across datasets (constant international prices, chained) in 1960 and 1996. Changes are demeaned to eliminate the effect of changes of the base year. Panel B: Changes of average annual growth rates in 1960-1996, of per capita GDP (constant international prices, chained). Labels show the middle of a bin. Ghana (whose growth rate increased by 0.034) is omitted, to keep the scale the same as in the previous graphs. Sources: PWT 6.2 and PWT 6.1 data, authors' calculations.



**Figure B3.** Histograms of changes in income level and growth data between PWT 6.2 and PWT 6.0



Notes: Panel A: Log per capita GDP differences across datasets (constant international prices, chained) in 1960 and 1996. Changes are demeaned to eliminate the effect of changes of the base year. Panel B: Changes of average annual growth rates in 1960-1996, of per capita GDP (constant international prices, chained). Labels show the middle of a bin. Sources: PWT 6.0 and PWT 6.2 data, authors' calculations.

**Table B2.** Largest revisions of the 1960-1996 growth and 1960 income level

Countries ranked by largest 1960-1996 growth differences			Countries ranked by largest 1960 income differences		
	1960-1996 yearly growth	1960 income (log)		1960-1996 yearly growth	1960 income (log)
<b>PWT 6.2-6.1</b>					
Ghana	0.019	-0.84	Ghana	0.019	-0.84
Singapore	-0.017	0.57	Gabon	-0.011	0.70
Jordan	-0.016	0.50	Syria	-0.005	-0.62
Zimbabwe	-0.015	0.52	Congo	-0.013	0.62
Sri Lanka	0.014	-0.53	Singapore	-0.017	0.57
Congo	-0.013	0.62	Sri Lanka	0.014	-0.53
Ethiopia	0.012	-0.38	Zimbabwe	-0.015	0.52
Gabon	-0.011	0.70	Jordan	-0.016	0.50
Uganda	-0.011	0.34	Niger	0.009	-0.43
Lesotho	0.010	-0.29	Zambia	0.008	-0.38
Kenya	-0.010	0.29	Ethiopia	0.012	-0.38
Niger	0.009	-0.43	Venezuela	0.009	-0.35
Venezuela	0.009	-0.35	Uganda	-0.011	0.34
Zambia	0.008	-0.38	Gambia	-0.002	-0.32
Malaysia	0.007	-0.26	Lesotho	0.010	-0.29
<b>PWT 6.1-6.0</b>					
Congo	0.020	-1.21	Congo	0.020	-1.21
Ghana	0.015	-0.42	Cent'l Afr. Rep.	0.001	0.74
Zimbabwe	0.014	-0.17	Niger	-0.002	0.73
			Trinidad &		
Lesotho	-0.009	0.41	Tobago	0.000	-0.64
Zambia	0.009	-0.17	Cameroon	0.001	0.57
Pakistan	0.007	-0.40	Burundi	0.000	-0.57
Gambia	0.007	0.02	Syria	0.000	-0.50
Venezuela	-0.006	-0.18	Togo	0.001	0.50
Malawi	0.005	-0.29	Uganda	-0.002	-0.45
Papua New Guinea	0.005	0.18	El Salvador	-0.001	0.45
Algeria	0.005	0.05	South Africa	-0.001	0.43
Indonesia	-0.005	-0.01	Ghana	0.015	-0.42
Rwanda	-0.005	0.17	Benin	0.000	-0.42
Paraguay	-0.004	0.33	Lesotho	-0.009	0.41
Madagascar	0.004	-0.35	Pakistan	0.007	-0.40
<b>PWT 6.2-6.0</b>					
Ghana	0.034	-1.26	Ghana	0.034	-1.26
Singapore	-0.018	0.44	Syria	-0.005	-1.12
Jordan	-0.017	0.78	Sri Lanka	0.016	-0.86
Zambia	0.016	-0.55	Gabon	-0.009	0.84
Sri Lanka	0.016	-0.86	Jordan	-0.017	0.78
Uganda	-0.013	-0.11	Benin	0.004	-0.63

Ethiopia	0.010	-0.05	Cameroon	0.000	0.62
Gabon	-0.009	0.84	Congo	0.006	-0.60
Indonesia	-0.009	0.03	Zambia	0.016	-0.55
Kenya	-0.008	0.09	Venezuela	0.003	-0.53
Niger	0.008	0.30	Singapore	-0.018	0.44
Malaysia	0.007	-0.25	Burundi	-0.001	-0.43
Trinidad & Tobago	-0.007	-0.38	Madagascar	0.005	-0.43
			Trinidad &		
Congo	0.006	-0.60	Tobago	-0.007	-0.38
Pakistan	0.006	-0.26	Thailand	0.001	-0.37

## **Web Appendix**

to the paper

### **Determinants of Economic Growth: Will Data Tell?**

by Antonio Ciccone and Marek Jarocinski

30 September 2009

downloadable from: [www.antoniociccone.eu](http://www.antoniociccone.eu)

**PART C:** Additional results on 1960-1996 growth determinants using income data from Penn World Table versions 6.2, 6.1, and 6.0

Results in sections 1-4 are generated with Ox programs available at [www.antoniociccone.eu](http://www.antoniociccone.eu) and results in section 5 are generated with the fortran programs accompanying the Ley and Steel (2009) paper available from the Journal of Applied Econometrics webpage.

The Ox programs use the importance sampling algorithm described in the Appendix of the SDM paper available from the American Economic Review website. All reported results are based on 100 million draws, although the SDM convergence criterion is satisfied in all cases after 26 to 95 million draws. We also verified that repeated simulations with different seeds produced very similar results.

The fortran programs of Ley and Steel use default simulation length and seed. The correlation between model visit frequencies and exact posterior odds was in all cases above 0.99, indicating convergence. All results in section 2 were generated using both the Ley and Steel programs and Ox programs and the results were very similar (Ley and Steel programs are much faster).

## 1. Results with the SDM approach

**Table C.1.1-SDM:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of individual variables – see Table 2 in the paper.

**Table C.1.2-SDM:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of groups of variables – see Table 4 in the paper.

**Table C.1.3-SDM:** Standardized unconditional posterior mean effects on growth

	PWT6.2	PWT6.1	PWT6.0	PWT6.2/6.1	PWT6.2/6.0
	unconditional mean effects		abs. diff.	abs. diff.	
GDP in 1960 (log)	-1.28	-1.38	-0.53	0.10	0.75
Primary Schooling in 1960	0.91	1.01	0.62	0.10	0.29
Fertility in 1960s	-0.68	-0.07	-0.01	0.60	0.67
African Dummy	-0.56	-0.10	-0.10	0.46	0.46
Fraction Confucius	0.36	0.04	0.09	0.31	0.27
Fraction Muslim	0.16	0.08	0.04	0.08	0.12
Latin American Dummy	-0.14	-0.02	-0.07	0.11	0.06
East Asian Dummy	0.13	0.38	0.58	0.25	0.45
Fraction Buddhist	0.08	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.04
Primary Exports 1970	-0.10	-0.10	-0.02	0.00	0.08
Nominal Government GDP Share 1960s	-0.08	0.00	-0.01	0.07	0.07
Openness measure 1965-74	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
Timing of Independence	-0.04	-0.03	0.00	0.01	0.04
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.02	0.39	0.19	0.37	0.17
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01
Years Open 1950-94	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.01	0.02
Fraction Protestants	-0.02	0.00	-0.01	0.02	0.01
Spanish Colony	-0.01	0.00	-0.05	0.01	0.04
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.01
Fraction Catholic	-0.02	0.00	-0.01	0.02	0.01
European Dummy	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01
Average Inflation 1960-90	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01

Fraction of Tropical Area	-0.01	-0.50	-0.39	0.49	0.38
Government Share of GDP in 1960s	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.01
Fraction Population Over 65	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.01
Air Distance to Big Cities	-0.01	-0.18	-0.01	0.17	0.00
Square of Inflation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	0.01	0.00	-0.04	0.01	0.04
Fraction Population In Tropics	-0.01	-0.08	-0.02	0.07	0.02
Tropical Climate Zone	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Defense Spending Share	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Fraction Population Less than 15	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
Size of Economy	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Life Expectancy in 1960	0.01	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.20
Revolutions and Coups	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Landlocked Country Dummy	0.00	-0.02	0.00	0.01	0.00
Higher Education 1960	0.00	0.00	-0.02	0.01	0.02
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Hindus	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
Absolute Latitude	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Fraction Orthodox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gov. Consumption Share 1960s	0.00	-0.01	-0.03	0.01	0.03
Interior Density	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
War Participation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Socialist Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	0.00	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.17
Investment Price	0.00	-0.45	-0.35	0.45	0.34
Political Rights	0.00	-0.11	-0.02	0.11	0.03
Colony Dummy	0.00	-0.03	-0.01	0.03	0.00
Public Investment Share	0.00	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.01
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Land Area	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capitalism	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	0.00	-0.01	-0.03	0.01	0.03
Population Density 1960	0.00	0.31	0.02	0.31	0.02
British Colony Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population in 1960	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction of Land Area					
Near Navigable Water	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.00	0.09	0.04	0.09	0.04
Religion Measure	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Civil Liberties	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.01
English Speaking Population	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Ranking	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Outward Orientation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

## 2. Results with the FLS approach

**Table C.2.1-FLS:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of individual variables

	PWT6.2 posterior inclusion probabilities	PWT6.1 inclusion probabilities	PWT6.0 probabilities	PWT6.2/6.1 abs.diff.	PWT6.2/6.0 abs.diff.
GDP in 1960 (log)	1.00	1.00	0.73	0.00	0.27
Primary Schooling in 1960	1.00	0.99	0.81	0.01	0.19
Fertility in 1960s	0.90	0.15	0.04	0.75	0.86
African Dummy	0.85	0.23	0.18	0.62	0.67
Fraction Confucius	0.84	0.20	0.24	0.65	0.61
Fraction Muslim	0.43	0.21	0.13	0.21	0.30
Latin American Dummy	0.34	0.10	0.17	0.25	0.17
East Asian Dummy	0.33	0.73	0.80	0.40	0.47
Fraction Buddhist	0.30	0.12	0.13	0.18	0.17
Primary Exports 1970	0.28	0.23	0.06	0.05	0.23
Nominal Government GDP Share 1960s	0.29	0.03	0.05	0.27	0.25
Openness measure 1965-74	0.16	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08
Timing of Independence	0.14	0.11	0.02	0.03	0.11
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.11	0.75	0.44	0.64	0.33
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.11	0.14	0.03	0.02	0.08
Years Open 1950-94	0.09	0.06	0.12	0.03	0.03
Fraction Protestants	0.07	0.02	0.05	0.05	0.02
Spanish Colony	0.07	0.02	0.12	0.05	0.06
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.07	0.05	0.09	0.02	0.02
Fraction Catholic	0.06	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.03
European Dummy	0.07	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03
Average Inflation 1960-90	0.06	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.03
Fraction of Tropical Area	0.05	0.65	0.56	0.59	0.51
Government Share of GDP in 1960s	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.01	0.02
Fraction Population Over 65	0.05	0.05	0.03	0.00	0.03
Air Distance to Big Cities	0.05	0.42	0.05	0.37	0.00
Square of Inflation 1960-90	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.02
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	0.04	0.03	0.11	0.01	0.08
Fraction Population In Tropics	0.04	0.16	0.06	0.13	0.03
Tropical Climate Zone	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.02
Defense Spending Share	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Fraction Population Less than 15	0.04	0.03	0.05	0.01	0.01
Size of Economy	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01
Life Expectancy in 1960	0.04	0.26	0.24	0.22	0.20
Revolutions and Coups	0.03	0.06	0.04	0.02	0.01
Landlocked Country Dummy	0.03	0.09	0.02	0.05	0.01
Higher Education 1960	0.03	0.02	0.07	0.01	0.04
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.01
Fraction Hindus	0.03	0.02	0.05	0.01	0.02
Absolute Latitude	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00
Fraction Orthodox	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01
Gov. Consumption Share 1960s	0.03	0.05	0.12	0.02	0.09
Interior Density	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01
War Participation 1960-90	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01

Socialist Dummy	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.00
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	0.03	0.02	0.23	0.00	0.21
Investment Price	0.02	0.98	0.81	0.96	0.78
Political Rights	0.02	0.24	0.08	0.22	0.05
Colony Dummy	0.02	0.09	0.04	0.07	0.01
Public Investment Share	0.02	0.07	0.07	0.05	0.04
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Land Area	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Capitalism	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	0.02	0.05	0.10	0.03	0.08
Population Density 1960	0.02	0.69	0.11	0.67	0.09
British Colony Dummy	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.01
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1960s	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Population in 1960	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.01
Fraction of Land Area					
Near Navigable Water	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.03	0.00
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.02	0.30	0.15	0.28	0.14
Religion Measure	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.00
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01
Civil Liberties	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.02
English Speaking Population	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Ranking	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Outward Orientation	0.02	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.02

**Table C.2.2-FLS:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of groups of variables

	PWT6.2	PWT6.1	PWT6.0
<b>A. Proxy groups</b>			
Education	1.00	0.99	0.83
Population Growth	0.91	0.17	0.06
Natural Resources	0.37	0.51	0.25
Size of Government	0.37	0.18	0.28
Openness to Trade	0.27	0.21	0.29
Market Access	0.18	0.77	0.48
Climate Zones	0.15	0.79	0.64
Inflation	0.10	0.06	0.04
Age Structure	0.08	0.08	0.07
War and Conflict	0.08	0.09	0.07
Health	0.06	0.28	0.40
Size of the Economy	0.06	0.04	0.05
Rights	0.04	0.25	0.10

B. Theory groups			
Neoclassical		1.00	1.00
Demography		0.94	0.42
Regional Heterogeneity		0.93	0.88
Religion		0.90	0.45
Macroeconomic Policy		0.57	0.99
Natural Resources		0.37	0.51
Geography and Trade (Within Countries and International)		0.29	0.86
Colonial History		0.23	0.24
Absolute Geography		0.17	0.80
Institutions		0.08	0.28
War and Conflict		0.08	0.09
Terms of Trade		0.03	0.04

**Table C.2.3-FLS:** Standardized unconditional posterior mean effects on growth

	PWT6.2	PWT6.1	PWT6.0	PWT6.2/6.1	PWT6.2/6.0
	unconditional mean effects			abs. diff.	abs. diff.
GDP in 1960 (log)	-1.28	-1.39	-0.57	0.11	0.71
Primary Schooling in 1960	0.92	1.00	0.64	0.08	0.28
Fertility in 1960s	-0.67	-0.10	-0.01	0.58	0.66
African Dummy	-0.55	-0.14	-0.12	0.41	0.42
Fraction Confucius	0.36	0.07	0.10	0.29	0.26
Fraction Muslim	0.18	0.09	0.05	0.08	0.13
Latin American Dummy	-0.13	-0.05	-0.09	0.08	0.04
East Asian Dummy	0.13	0.35	0.54	0.22	0.41
Fraction Buddhist	0.09	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.04
Primary Exports 1970	-0.10	-0.11	-0.02	0.00	0.09
Nominal Government GDP Share 1960s	-0.08	0.00	-0.01	0.08	0.07
Openness measure 1965-74	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01
Timing of Independence	-0.04	-0.04	0.00	0.00	0.04
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.02	0.37	0.19	0.34	0.17
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.02	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.02
Years Open 1950-94	0.03	0.02	0.05	0.01	0.02
Fraction Protestants	-0.02	0.00	-0.02	0.02	0.01
Spanish Colony	-0.02	0.00	-0.05	0.01	0.03
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.01
Fraction Catholic	-0.02	0.00	-0.01	0.02	0.01
European Dummy	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Average Inflation 1960-90	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Fraction of Tropical Area	-0.01	-0.46	-0.39	0.44	0.37
Government Share of GDP in 1960s	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	0.00	0.01
Fraction Population Over 65	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02
Air Distance to Big Cities	-0.01	-0.16	-0.01	0.16	0.00
Square of Inflation 1960-90	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	0.01	0.00	-0.04	0.01	0.04
Fraction Population In Tropics	-0.01	-0.09	-0.03	0.08	0.02
Tropical Climate Zone	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Defense Spending Share	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Fraction Population Less than 15	0.00	-0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Size of Economy	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01

Life Expectancy in 1960	0.01	0.19	0.23	0.18	0.21
Revolutions and Coups	0.00	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.00
Landlocked Country Dummy	0.00	-0.02	0.00	0.02	0.00
Higher Education 1960	0.00	0.00	-0.02	0.01	0.02
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Hindus	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
Absolute Latitude	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Fraction Orthodox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gov. Consumption Share 1960s	0.00	-0.01	-0.04	0.01	0.04
Interior Density	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
War Participation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Socialist Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	0.00	0.00	-0.15	0.00	0.15
Investment Price	0.00	-0.45	-0.36	0.45	0.36
Political Rights	0.00	-0.10	-0.03	0.11	0.03
Colony Dummy	0.00	-0.03	-0.01	0.03	0.01
Public Investment Share	0.00	-0.02	-0.02	0.02	0.02
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Land Area	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capitalism	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	0.00	-0.01	-0.03	0.01	0.03
Population Density 1960	0.00	0.29	0.03	0.29	0.03
British Colony Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population in 1960	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction of Land Area					
Near Navigable Water	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.00	0.12	0.05	0.12	0.05
Religion Measure	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Civil Liberties	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.01
English Speaking Population	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Ranking	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Outward Orientation	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.01	0.01

### 3. Results with the dilution prior (proxy groups)

**Table C.3.1-SDM:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of individual variables (SDM coefficients priors)

	PWT6.2 posterior	PWT6.1 inclusion	PWT6.0 probabilities	PWT6.2/6.1 abs.diff.	PWT6.2/6.0 abs.diff.
GDP in 1960 (log)	1.00	1.00	0.97	0.00	0.03
Primary Schooling in 1960	1.00	1.00	0.92	0.00	0.08
Fertility in 1960s	0.88	0.43	0.18	0.44	0.70
African Dummy	0.83	0.54	0.66	0.29	0.17
Fraction Confucius	0.99	0.87	0.81	0.13	0.19

Fraction Muslim	0.76	0.90	0.41	0.13	0.35
Latin American Dummy	0.32	0.31	0.57	0.01	0.25
East Asian Dummy	0.36	0.61	0.49	0.25	0.13
Fraction Buddhist	0.44	0.47	0.48	0.03	0.04
Primary Exports 1970	0.33	0.66	0.12	0.33	0.20
Nominal Government GDP Share 1960s	0.43	0.06	0.26	0.37	0.16
Openness measure 1965-74	0.19	0.16	0.08	0.03	0.11
Timing of Independence	0.80	0.71	0.13	0.10	0.68
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.04	0.25	0.09	0.21	0.05
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.33	0.31	0.10	0.02	0.23
Years Open 1950-94	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.01	0.02
Fraction Protestants	0.43	0.14	0.23	0.29	0.20
Spanish Colony	0.28	0.16	0.22	0.13	0.06
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.36	0.23	0.62	0.13	0.25
Fraction Catholic	0.44	0.15	0.31	0.29	0.13
European Dummy	0.31	0.28	0.25	0.03	0.06
Average Inflation 1960-90	0.15	0.06	0.06	0.09	0.10
Fraction of Tropical Area	0.03	0.12	0.10	0.09	0.07
Government Share of GDP in 1960s	0.10	0.14	0.29	0.04	0.18
Fraction Population Over 65	0.18	0.26	0.12	0.08	0.06
Air Distance to Big Cities	0.33	0.21	0.15	0.12	0.18
Square of Inflation 1960-90	0.12	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.06
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	0.30	0.14	0.24	0.16	0.06
Fraction Population In Tropics	0.05	0.13	0.06	0.08	0.01
Tropical Climate Zone	0.07	0.09	0.03	0.01	0.05
Defense Spending Share	0.40	0.15	0.13	0.24	0.26
Fraction Population Less than 15	0.09	0.11	0.07	0.02	0.02
Size of Economy	0.08	0.07	0.06	0.01	0.02
Life Expectancy in 1960	0.11	0.48	0.47	0.37	0.36
Revolutions and Coups	0.07	0.12	0.12	0.05	0.05
Landlocked Country Dummy	0.03	0.07	0.03	0.04	0.00
Higher Education 1960	0.16	0.08	0.11	0.08	0.05
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	0.08	0.08	0.06	0.00	0.02
Fraction Hindus	0.25	0.19	0.31	0.07	0.06
Absolute Latitude	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Fraction Orthodox	0.30	0.17	0.12	0.12	0.18
Gov. Consumption Share 1960s	0.08	0.12	0.28	0.04	0.20
Interior Density	0.03	0.08	0.02	0.05	0.01
War Participation 1960-90	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.02
Socialist Dummy	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.02	0.00
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	0.07	0.08	0.12	0.01	0.05
Investment Price	0.16	1.00	0.99	0.84	0.83
Political Rights	0.12	0.10	0.08	0.02	0.04
Colony Dummy	0.14	0.18	0.19	0.04	0.05
Public Investment Share	0.10	0.26	0.50	0.16	0.40
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.06	0.11	0.06	0.05	0.00
Land Area	0.16	0.17	0.12	0.01	0.04
Capitalism	0.16	0.15	0.14	0.01	0.02
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	0.04	0.05	0.13	0.02	0.09
Population Density 1960	0.13	0.38	0.51	0.25	0.39

British Colony Dummy	0.16	0.20	0.19	0.04	0.03
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1960s	0.11	0.16	0.19	0.04	0.08
Population in 1960	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.00	0.01
Fraction of Land Area					
Near Navigable Water	0.02	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.01
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.05	0.85	0.43	0.79	0.38
Religion Measure	0.14	0.13	0.13	0.01	0.01
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	0.13	0.23	0.14	0.10	0.01
Civil Liberties	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.00	0.01
English Speaking Population	0.16	0.12	0.12	0.04	0.04
Terms of Trade Ranking	0.12	0.13	0.11	0.01	0.01
Outward Orientation	0.05	0.08	0.06	0.03	0.01

**Table C.3.2-SDM:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of groups of variables - see Table 5 (panel A) in the paper.

**Table C.3.3-SDM:** Standardized unconditional posterior mean effects on growth (SDM coefficients priors)

	PWT6.2	PWT6.1	PWT6.0	PWT6.2/6.1	PWT6.2/6.0
	unconditional mean effects			abs. diff.	abs. diff.
GDP in 1960 (log)	-1.35	-1.52	-0.83	0.17	0.52
Primary Schooling in 1960	1.06	0.92	0.72	0.14	0.34
Fertility in 1960s	-0.64	-0.28	-0.09	0.37	0.56
African Dummy	-0.48	-0.27	-0.45	0.21	0.02
Fraction Confucius	0.42	0.34	0.31	0.08	0.11
Fraction Muslim	0.32	0.45	0.14	0.13	0.18
Latin American Dummy	-0.08	-0.09	-0.31	0.00	0.22
East Asian Dummy	0.09	0.24	0.22	0.15	0.13
Fraction Buddhist	0.10	0.12	0.14	0.02	0.04
Primary Exports 1970	-0.11	-0.26	-0.03	0.15	0.08
Nominal Government GDP Share 1960s	-0.12	0.00	-0.07	0.11	0.05
Openness measure 1965-74	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.03
Timing of Independence	-0.31	-0.30	-0.01	0.00	0.30
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.00	0.09	0.03	0.08	0.03
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.07	0.06	0.02	0.01	0.06
Years Open 1950-94	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.01
Fraction Protestants	-0.17	-0.02	-0.07	0.16	0.10
Spanish Colony	-0.06	-0.02	-0.06	0.04	0.00
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.07	0.04	0.21	0.03	0.13
Fraction Catholic	-0.23	-0.02	-0.14	0.21	0.09
European Dummy	0.09	0.09	0.05	0.00	0.04
Average Inflation 1960-90	-0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02
Fraction of Tropical Area	0.00	-0.06	-0.04	0.06	0.04
Government Share of GDP in 1960s	-0.01	-0.03	-0.08	0.02	0.07
Fraction Population Over 65	0.06	0.11	0.04	0.05	0.02
Air Distance to Big Cities	-0.07	-0.04	-0.02	0.03	0.05
Square of Inflation 1960-90	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02

Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	0.05	-0.01	-0.06	0.06	0.11
Fraction Population In Tropics	-0.01	-0.05	-0.02	0.04	0.01
Tropical Climate Zone	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.01
Defense Spending Share	-0.08	-0.02	0.00	0.07	0.08
Fraction Population Less than 15	0.01	-0.03	0.00	0.04	0.01
Size of Economy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Life Expectancy in 1960	0.03	0.35	0.39	0.31	0.35
Revolutions and Coups	-0.01	-0.02	-0.03	0.02	0.02
Landlocked Country Dummy	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Higher Education 1960	-0.03	0.00	-0.02	0.03	0.01
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	-0.03	-0.02	-0.01	0.01	0.02
Fraction Hindus	-0.01	0.01	0.07	0.02	0.08
Absolute Latitude	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Fraction Orthodox	-0.04	-0.02	0.00	0.02	0.04
Gov. Consumption Share 1960s	-0.01	-0.02	-0.09	0.02	0.08
Interior Density	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
War Participation 1960-90	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Socialist Dummy	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	0.01	0.01	-0.04	0.00	0.05
Investment Price	-0.01	-0.44	-0.48	0.43	0.47
Political Rights	0.03	-0.02	-0.02	0.05	0.04
Colony Dummy	0.00	0.00	-0.04	0.01	0.04
Public Investment Share	0.01	-0.07	-0.16	0.07	0.17
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Land Area	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Capitalism	0.01	0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.02
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	0.00	-0.01	-0.04	0.01	0.04
Population Density 1960	0.01	0.11	0.15	0.10	0.14
British Colony Dummy	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1960s	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.04
Population in 1960	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
Fraction of Land Area					
Near Navigable Water	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.00	0.40	0.18	0.40	0.18
Religion Measure	0.01	0.00	-0.01	0.01	0.01
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	0.00	-0.03	0.00	0.03	0.01
Civil Liberties	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.01
English Speaking Population	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.02
Terms of Trade Ranking	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Outward Orientation	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.00

**Table C.3.1-FLS:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of individual variables (FLS coefficients priors)

	PWT6.2	PWT6.1	PWT6.0	PWT6.2/6.1	PWT6.2/6.0
	posterior inclusion probabilities			abs.diff.	abs.diff.
GDP in 1960 (log)	<b>1.00</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>0.52</b>	0.00	0.48
Primary Schooling in 1960	<b>1.00</b>	<b>0.91</b>	<b>0.52</b>	0.09	0.47
Fertility in 1960s	<b>0.92</b>	0.25	0.02	0.66	0.90
African Dummy	<b>0.96</b>	0.36	0.22	0.60	0.74
Fraction Confucius	<b>0.93</b>	0.42	0.35	0.51	0.58
Fraction Muslim	0.27	0.40	0.17	0.13	0.10
Latin American Dummy	0.50	0.23	0.27	0.27	0.23
East Asian Dummy	0.32	<b>0.62</b>	<b>0.75</b>	0.30	0.43
Fraction Buddhist	0.30	0.12	0.15	0.18	0.15
Primary Exports 1970	0.03	0.19	0.01	0.16	0.02
Nominal Government GDP Share 1960s	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.02
Openness measure 1965-74	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Timing of Independence	0.09	0.11	0.02	0.02	0.07
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.01	0.32	0.03	0.31	0.02
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.01
Years Open 1950-94	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.01
Fraction Protestants	0.09	0.02	0.06	0.07	0.03
Spanish Colony	0.09	0.04	0.27	0.05	0.19
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.06	0.07	0.12	0.01	0.06
Fraction Catholic	0.08	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.04
European Dummy	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.00	0.01
Average Inflation 1960-90	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02
Fraction of Tropical Area	0.01	0.30	0.09	0.29	0.08
Government Share of GDP in 1960s	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.01
Fraction Population Over 65	0.02	0.04	0.01	0.02	0.00
Air Distance to Big Cities	0.05	0.23	0.02	0.18	0.02
Square of Inflation 1960-90	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	0.04	0.04	0.12	0.01	0.08
Fraction Population In Tropics	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.07	0.01
Tropical Climate Zone	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Defense Spending Share	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02
Fraction Population Less than 15	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.01
Size of Economy	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Life Expectancy in 1960	0.02	0.33	0.32	0.31	0.30
Revolutions and Coups	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Landlocked Country Dummy	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.03	0.00
Higher Education 1960	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.00
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Fraction Hindus	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.00	0.02
Absolute Latitude	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Fraction Orthodox	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Gov. Consumption Share 1960s	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.02
Interior Density	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
War Participation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Socialist Dummy	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.01
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	0.01	0.02	<b>0.51</b>	0.01	0.50

Investment Price	0.02	<b>0.98</b>	<b>0.71</b>	0.96	0.69
Political Rights	0.01	0.09	0.01	0.08	0.00
Colony Dummy	0.02	0.06	0.04	0.04	0.02
Public Investment Share	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Land Area	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Capitalism	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Population Density 1960	0.02	<b>0.53</b>	0.05	0.51	0.04
British Colony Dummy	0.02	0.04	0.05	0.01	0.02
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1960s	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Population in 1960	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Fraction of Land Area					
Near Navigable Water	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.00
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.00	0.22	0.01	0.22	0.01
Religion Measure	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.00
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.01
Civil Liberties	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
English Speaking Population	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.01
Terms of Trade Ranking	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Outward Orientation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

**Table C.3.2-FLS:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of groups of variables (FLS coefficients priors)

Proxy groups	PWT6.2	PWT6.1	PWT6.0
Education	1.00	0.91	0.53
Population Growth	0.93	0.27	0.03
Natural Resources	0.04	0.29	0.02
Size of Government	0.04	0.03	0.05
Openness to Trade	0.02	0.03	0.04
Market Access	0.02	0.33	0.04
Climate Zones	0.02	0.37	0.11
Inflation	0.06	0.02	0.02
Age Structure	0.04	0.05	0.03
War and Conflict	0.01	0.02	0.01
Health	0.03	0.34	0.66
Size of the Economy	0.01	0.02	0.02
Rights	0.02	0.10	0.02

**Table C.3.3-FLS:** Standardized unconditional posterior mean effects on growth (FLS coefficients priors)

	PWT6.2	PWT6.1	PWT6.0	PWT6.2/6.1	PWT6.2/6.0
	unconditional mean effects		abs. diff.	abs. diff.	
GDP in 1960 (log)	-1.22	-1.29	-0.40	0.06	0.83
Primary Schooling in 1960	0.86	0.92	0.41	0.06	0.44
Fertility in 1960s	-0.70	-0.21	-0.01	0.49	0.69
African Dummy	-0.67	-0.25	-0.16	0.43	0.51
Fraction Confucius	0.40	0.18	0.16	0.22	0.24
Fraction Muslim	0.09	0.19	0.07	0.11	0.02
Latin American Dummy	-0.19	-0.12	-0.15	0.07	0.05
East Asian Dummy	0.11	0.32	0.57	0.21	0.46
Fraction Buddhist	0.08	0.04	0.06	0.05	0.03
Primary Exports 1970	-0.01	-0.10	0.00	0.09	0.01
Nominal Government GDP Share 1960s	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Openness measure 1965-74	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Timing of Independence	-0.03	-0.04	0.00	0.01	0.03
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.00	0.16	0.01	0.16	0.01
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Years Open 1950-94	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
Fraction Protestants	-0.03	0.00	-0.02	0.03	0.01
Spanish Colony	-0.02	-0.01	-0.12	0.01	0.09
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.01	0.03
Fraction Catholic	-0.03	0.00	-0.01	0.03	0.02
European Dummy	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.00
Average Inflation 1960-90	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction of Tropical Area	0.00	-0.21	-0.05	0.21	0.05
Government Share of GDP in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Population Over 65	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Air Distance to Big Cities	-0.01	-0.09	0.00	0.08	0.01
Square of Inflation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	0.01	-0.01	-0.05	0.01	0.06
Fraction Population In Tropics	0.00	-0.04	-0.01	0.04	0.01
Tropical Climate Zone	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Defense Spending Share	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Fraction Population Less than 15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Size of Economy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Life Expectancy in 1960	0.01	0.34	0.36	0.33	0.35
Revolutions and Coups	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Landlocked Country Dummy	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Higher Education 1960	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Hindus	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
Absolute Latitude	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Fraction Orthodox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gov. Consumption Share 1960s	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.01
Interior Density	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
War Participation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Socialist Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	0.00	-0.01	-0.40	0.00	0.40

Investment Price	0.00	-0.48	-0.32	0.47	0.32
Political Rights	0.00	-0.04	0.00	0.04	0.00
Colony Dummy	0.00	-0.02	-0.01	0.02	0.01
Public Investment Share	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Land Area	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capitalism	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population Density 1960	0.00	0.20	0.01	0.20	0.01
British Colony Dummy	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population in 1960	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction of Land Area					
Near Navigable Water	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.09	0.00
Religion Measure	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Civil Liberties	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
English Speaking Population	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Ranking	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Outward Orientation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

## 4. Results with the dilution prior (theory groups)

**Table C.4.1-SDM:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of individual variables (SDM coefficients priors)

	PWT6.2 posterior	PWT6.1 inclusion	PWT6.0 probabilities	PWT6.2/6.1 abs.diff.	PWT6.2/6.0 abs.diff.
GDP in 1960 (log)	1.00	1.00	0.87	0.00	0.13
Primary Schooling in 1960	1.00	0.99	0.87	0.01	0.13
Fertility in 1960s	0.83	0.33	0.11	0.50	0.72
African Dummy	0.91	0.78	0.55	0.13	0.36
Fraction Confucius	0.74	0.55	0.40	0.19	0.34
Fraction Muslim	0.45	0.52	0.23	0.07	0.22
Latin American Dummy	0.49	0.48	0.60	0.01	0.12
East Asian Dummy	0.50	0.43	0.64	0.07	0.14
Fraction Buddhist	0.43	0.43	0.30	0.01	0.14
Primary Exports 1970	0.43	0.83	0.23	0.40	0.20
Nominal Government GDP Share 1960s	0.09	0.14	0.33	0.04	0.24
Openness measure 1965-74	0.05	0.61	0.35	0.56	0.30
Timing of Independence	0.21	0.21	0.04	0.01	0.17
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.01	0.10	0.04	0.09	0.03
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.29	0.30	0.10	0.02	0.19
Years Open 1950-94	0.03	0.12	0.18	0.09	0.14
Fraction Protestants	0.22	0.07	0.08	0.15	0.14
Spanish Colony	0.08	0.04	0.06	0.04	0.03
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.42	0.35	0.53	0.07	0.11

	1	2	3	4	5
Fraction Catholic	0.20	0.07	0.12	0.13	0.08
European Dummy	0.22	0.29	0.20	0.07	0.02
Average Inflation 1960-90	0.02	0.12	0.09	0.09	0.06
Fraction of Tropical Area	0.03	0.16	0.22	0.14	0.19
Government Share of GDP in 1960s	0.02	0.31	0.24	0.29	0.22
Fraction Population Over 65	0.08	0.11	0.06	0.03	0.02
Air Distance to Big Cities	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.04	0.01
Square of Inflation 1960-90	0.02	0.15	0.09	0.13	0.06
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	0.22	0.15	0.34	0.07	0.12
Fraction Population In Tropics	0.03	0.08	0.05	0.05	0.02
Tropical Climate Zone	0.03	0.07	0.04	0.04	0.01
Defense Spending Share	0.37	0.14	0.15	0.23	0.23
Fraction Population Less than 15	0.05	0.07	0.05	0.02	0.01
Size of Economy	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.00
Life Expectancy in 1960	0.08	0.24	0.29	0.16	0.22
Revolutions and Coups	0.05	0.12	0.09	0.07	0.04
Landlocked Country Dummy	0.00	0.05	0.01	0.04	0.01
Higher Education 1960	0.13	0.06	0.09	0.06	0.04
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	0.12	0.09	0.07	0.03	0.05
Fraction Hindus	0.15	0.09	0.13	0.06	0.03
Absolute Latitude	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.01
Fraction Orthodox	0.12	0.08	0.05	0.04	0.07
Gov. Consumption Share 1960s	0.01	0.30	0.24	0.28	0.23
Interior Density	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.00
War Participation 1960-90	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.01	0.01
Socialist Dummy	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.00	0.01
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	0.02	0.04	0.16	0.02	0.15
Investment Price	0.02	0.95	0.83	0.93	0.82
Political Rights	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.00	0.02
Colony Dummy	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.01	0.00
Public Investment Share	0.02	0.63	0.44	0.61	0.42
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.06	0.11	0.09	0.05	0.03
Land Area	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Capitalism	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.00
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	0.02	0.15	0.26	0.13	0.24
Population Density 1960	0.00	0.12	0.04	0.11	0.03
British Colony Dummy	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.01	0.01
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1960s	0.11	0.13	0.15	0.03	0.04
Population in 1960	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01
Fraction of Land Area					
Near Navigable Water	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.00
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.06	0.92	0.52	0.86	0.46
Religion Measure	0.09	0.07	0.05	0.02	0.04
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.01	0.00
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	0.05	0.13	0.05	0.08	0.01
Civil Liberties	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.00	0.02
English Speaking Population	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.01	0.01
Terms of Trade Ranking	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.00
Outward Orientation	0.01	0.18	0.17	0.17	0.16

**Table C.4.2-SDM:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of groups of variables - see Table 5 (panel B) in the paper.

**Table C.4.3-SDM:** Standardized unconditional posterior mean effects on growth (SDM coefficients priors)

	PWT6.2 unconditional mean effects	PWT6.1 unconditional mean effects	PWT6.0 unconditional mean effects	PWT6.2/6.1 abs. diff.	PWT6.2/6.0 abs. diff.
GDP in 1960 (log)	-1.25	-1.33	-0.69	0.08	0.56
Primary Schooling in 1960	0.90	0.82	0.65	0.08	0.26
Fertility in 1960s	-0.60	-0.21	-0.06	0.39	0.54
African Dummy	-0.58	-0.51	-0.36	0.07	0.22
Fraction Confucius	0.32	0.22	0.18	0.09	0.14
Fraction Muslim	0.16	0.24	0.09	0.08	0.07
Latin American Dummy	-0.17	-0.22	-0.36	0.05	0.19
East Asian Dummy	0.18	0.15	0.37	0.02	0.19
Fraction Buddhist	0.11	0.14	0.10	0.03	0.02
Primary Exports 1970	-0.16	-0.37	-0.07	0.21	0.09
Nominal Government GDP Share 1960s	-0.03	-0.01	-0.09	0.02	0.06
Openness measure 1965-74	0.01	0.17	0.09	0.16	0.09
Timing of Independence	-0.08	-0.08	0.00	0.01	0.08
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.01
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.06	0.06	0.01	0.00	0.05
Years Open 1950-94	0.01	0.01	0.05	0.01	0.04
Fraction Protestants	-0.07	-0.01	-0.02	0.07	0.05
Spanish Colony	-0.02	-0.01	-0.02	0.01	0.00
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.09	0.08	0.17	0.01	0.08
Fraction Catholic	-0.09	-0.01	-0.04	0.08	0.04
European Dummy	0.06	0.10	0.01	0.04	0.05
Average Inflation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Fraction of Tropical Area	0.00	-0.09	-0.13	0.08	0.12
Government Share of GDP in 1960s	0.00	-0.07	-0.06	0.07	0.06
Fraction Population Over 65	0.02	0.04	0.01	0.02	0.01
Air Distance to Big Cities	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Square of Inflation 1960-90	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.01
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	0.03	-0.01	-0.11	0.05	0.14
Fraction Population In Tropics	-0.01	-0.03	-0.01	0.02	0.01
Tropical Climate Zone	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Defense Spending Share	-0.07	0.00	0.01	0.07	0.08
Fraction Population Less than 15	0.00	-0.01	0.01	0.02	0.00
Size of Economy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Life Expectancy in 1960	0.03	0.16	0.25	0.13	0.22
Revolutions and Coups	0.00	-0.02	-0.02	0.02	0.01
Landlocked Country Dummy	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Higher Education 1960	-0.02	0.00	-0.02	0.02	0.00
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	-0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02
Fraction Hindus	-0.01	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.04
Absolute Latitude	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01
Fraction Orthodox	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01

Gov. Consumption Share 1960s	0.00	-0.07	-0.07	0.07	0.07
Interior Density	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
War Participation 1960-90	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Socialist Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	0.00	0.00	-0.09	0.00	0.09
Investment Price	0.00	-0.42	-0.39	0.42	0.39
Political Rights	0.00	0.00	-0.02	0.01	0.02
Colony Dummy	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.01
Public Investment Share	0.00	-0.17	-0.13	0.17	0.13
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Land Area	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capitalism	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	0.00	-0.02	-0.07	0.02	0.07
Population Density 1960	0.00	0.05	0.01	0.05	0.01
British Colony Dummy	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1960s	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02
Population in 1960	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction of Land Area Near Navigable Water	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.00	0.44	0.21	0.44	0.21
Religion Measure	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	0.00	-0.02	0.00	0.02	0.00
Civil Liberties	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.01
English Speaking Population	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Ranking	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Outward Orientation	0.00	-0.02	-0.02	0.02	0.02

**Table C.4.1-FLS:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of individual variables (FLS coefficients priors)

	PWT6.2	PWT6.1	PWT6.0	PWT6.2/6.1	PWT6.2/6.0
	posterior inclusion probabilities			abs.diff.	abs.diff.
GDP in 1960 (log)	<b>1.00</b>	<b>0.89</b>	0.03	0.11	0.97
Primary Schooling in 1960	<b>0.99</b>	<b>0.67</b>	<b>0.14</b>	0.32	0.85
Fertility in 1960s	<b>0.82</b>	0.03	0.01	0.78	0.81
African Dummy	<b>0.98</b>	<b>0.49</b>	0.05	0.50	0.93
Fraction Confucius	0.10	0.01	0.00	0.09	0.09
Fraction Muslim	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.03
Latin American Dummy	<b>0.32</b>	<b>0.17</b>	<b>0.11</b>	0.15	0.21
East Asian Dummy	<b>0.92</b>	<b>0.88</b>	<b>1.00</b>	0.04	0.08
Fraction Buddhist	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.04
Primary Exports 1970	<b>0.31</b>	<b>0.42</b>	0.02	0.11	0.28
Nominal Government GDP Share 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Openness measure 1965-74	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.04	0.00
Timing of Independence	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.00
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.02

	OLS	IV	OLS	IV	OLS
Years Open 1950-94	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Fraction Protestants	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Spanish Colony	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.00	0.03
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.08	0.08	0.04	0.01	0.04
Fraction Catholic	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
European Dummy	0.03	0.06	0.05	0.03	0.01
Average Inflation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction of Tropical Area	0.02	<b>0.18</b>	<b>0.19</b>	0.16	0.17
Government Share of GDP in 1960s	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Fraction Population Over 65	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Air Distance to Big Cities	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.00
Square of Inflation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	0.02	0.06	<b>0.15</b>	0.04	0.14
Fraction Population In Tropics	0.01	0.09	0.04	0.09	0.03
Tropical Climate Zone	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02
Defense Spending Share	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.01
Fraction Population Less than 15	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Size of Economy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Life Expectancy in 1960	0.03	<b>0.34</b>	0.09	0.31	0.06
Revolutions and Coups	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Landlocked Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Higher Education 1960	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.00
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.03
Fraction Hindus	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Absolute Latitude	0.00	<b>0.14</b>	0.04	0.13	0.04
Fraction Orthodox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gov. Consumption Share 1960s	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Interior Density	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
War Participation 1960-90	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Socialist Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	0.01	0.08	<b>0.81</b>	0.07	0.80
Investment Price	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.09	0.00
Political Rights	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.00
Colony Dummy	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Public Investment Share	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Land Area	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capitalism	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population Density 1960	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.04	0.00
British Colony Dummy	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1960s	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Population in 1960	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction of Land Area					
Near Navigable Water	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.01	<b>0.39</b>	0.01	0.38	0.00
Religion Measure	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00

Civil Liberties	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
English Speaking Population	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.01
Terms of Trade Ranking	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Outward Orientation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

**Table C.4.2-FLS:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of groups of variables (FLS coefficients priors)

Theory groups	PWT6.2	PWT6.1	PWT6.0
Neoclassical	1.00	0.91	0.16
Demography	0.86	0.38	0.11
Regional Heterogeneity	1.00	0.99	1.00
Religion	0.10	0.01	0.00
Macroeconomic Policy	0.00	0.09	0.01
Natural Resources	0.31	0.47	0.03
Geography and Trade (Within Countries and International)	0.00	0.05	0.00
Colonial History	0.02	0.03	0.06
Absolute Geography	0.03	0.43	0.92
Institutions	0.01	0.03	0.01
War and Conflict	0.01	0.01	0.02
Terms of Trade	0.01	0.01	0.01

**Table C.4.3-FLS:** Standardized unconditional posterior mean effects on growth (FLS coefficients priors)

	PWT6.2	PWT6.1	PWT6.0	PWT6.2/6.1	PWT6.2/6.0
	unconditional mean effects			abs. diff.	abs. diff.
GDP in 1960 (log)	-1.22	-0.98	-0.02	0.24	1.20
Primary Schooling in 1960	0.77	0.61	0.09	0.16	0.68
Fertility in 1960s	-0.65	-0.02	0.00	0.62	0.64
African Dummy	-0.62	-0.36	-0.03	0.26	0.59
Fraction Confucius	0.04	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.04
Fraction Muslim	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Latin American Dummy	-0.11	-0.08	-0.03	0.03	0.07
East Asian Dummy	0.47	0.61	0.97	0.14	0.50
Fraction Buddhist	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Primary Exports 1970	-0.15	-0.27	-0.01	0.12	0.14
Nominal Government GDP Share 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Openness measure 1965-74	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.00
Timing of Independence	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.00
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Years Open 1950-94	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Fraction Protestants	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Spanish Colony	0.00	0.00	-0.02	0.00	0.01
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01
Fraction Catholic	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

European Dummy	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01
Average Inflation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction of Tropical Area	-0.01	-0.12	-0.11	0.11	0.10
Government Share of GDP in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Population Over 65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Air Distance to Big Cities	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Square of Inflation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	0.00	-0.02	-0.07	0.02	0.07
Fraction Population In Tropics	0.00	-0.05	-0.01	0.05	0.01
Tropical Climate Zone	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Defense Spending Share	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Fraction Population Less than 15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Size of Economy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Life Expectancy in 1960	0.02	0.42	0.07	0.39	0.04
Revolutions and Coups	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Landlocked Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Higher Education 1960	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Fraction Hindus	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Absolute Latitude	0.00	0.10	0.02	0.10	0.02
Fraction Orthodox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gov. Consumption Share 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interior Density	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
War Participation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Socialist Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	0.00	-0.04	-0.72	0.04	0.72
Investment Price	0.00	-0.04	0.00	0.04	0.00
Political Rights	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Colony Dummy	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Public Investment Share	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Land Area	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capitalism	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population Density 1960	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.00
British Colony Dummy	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population in 1960	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction of Land Area					
Near Navigable Water	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.17	0.00
Religion Measure	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Civil Liberties	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
English Speaking Population	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Ranking	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Outward Orientation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

## 5. Results with the Ley and Steel (2009) hierarchical prior

The settings are  $g=1/K^2$  and a random  $\theta$  with a beta prior with expected model size  $N/2=33.5$ , which is the preferred specification in Ley and Steel (2009).

**Table C.5.1-FLS:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of individual variables (FLS coefficients priors)

	PWT6.2 posterior inclusion probabilities	PWT6.1 posterior inclusion probabilities	PWT6.0 posterior inclusion probabilities	PWT6.2/6.1 abs.diff.	PWT6.2/6.0 abs.diff.
GDP in 1960 (log)	0.98	0.88	0.01	0.10	0.96
Primary Schooling in 1960	0.91	0.63	0.14	0.28	0.77
African Dummy	0.86	0.09	0.01	0.77	0.85
Fertility in 1960s	0.78	0.05	0.00	0.73	0.78
Fraction Confucius	0.55	0.08	0.01	0.47	0.53
East Asian Dummy	0.50	0.83	0.99	0.33	0.49
Latin American Dummy	0.27	0.05	0.01	0.21	0.26
Primary Exports 1970	0.17	0.10	0.02	0.07	0.15
Life Expectancy in 1960	0.09	0.37	0.05	0.28	0.04
Fraction Muslim	0.08	0.07	0.01	0.00	0.07
Fraction Buddhist	0.07	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.06
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.04	0.33	0.01	0.29	0.03
Fraction of Tropical Area	0.04	0.45	0.12	0.42	0.08
Spanish Colony	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.02	0.01
Fraction Population In Tropics	0.03	0.14	0.01	0.12	0.01
Openness measure 1965-74	0.03	0.06	0.01	0.03	0.02
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	0.02	0.03	0.85	0.01	0.83
Nominal Government GDP Share 1960s	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02
Years Open 1950-94	0.02	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.02
Fraction Catholic	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Air Distance to Big Cities	0.01	0.08	0.00	0.07	0.01
Average Inflation 1960-90	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Fraction Protestants	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Fraction Population Less than 15	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Timing of Independence	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
European Dummy	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Absolute Latitude	0.01	0.06	0.01	0.06	0.00
Square of Inflation 1960-90	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Defense Spending Share	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Colony Dummy	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Government Share of GDP in 1960s	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Landlocked Country Dummy	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Population Over 65	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Socialist Dummy	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gov. Consumption Share 1960s	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.03
Revolutions and Coups	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Tropical Climate Zone	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Higher Education 1960	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Investment Price	0.00	0.70	0.04	0.70	0.03
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.09	0.00
Political Rights	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.07	0.00
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Fraction Hindus	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
British Colony Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Civil Liberties	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Size of Economy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Orthodox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interior Density	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
War Participation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population in 1960	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population Density 1960	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.17	0.00
Fraction of Land Area					
Near Navigable Water	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Religion Measure	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Public Investment Share	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capitalism	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Outward Orientation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Land Area	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
English Speaking Population	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Ranking	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

**(Table C.5.2-FLS:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of groups of variables – not computed, because we are using LS programs)

**Table C.5.3-FLS:** Standardized unconditional posterior mean effects on growth (FLS coefficients priors)

	PWT6.2 unconditional mean effects	PWT6.1 unconditional mean effects	PWT6.0 unconditional mean effects	PWT6.2/6.1 abs. diff.	PWT6.2/6.0 abs. diff.
GDP in 1960 (log)	-0.80	-0.98	-0.01	0.18	0.79
Primary Schooling in 1960	0.76	0.63	0.08	0.13	0.67
African Dummy	-0.58	-0.06	0.00	0.52	0.58
Fertility in 1960s	-0.63	-0.04	0.00	0.58	0.62
Fraction Confucius	0.25	0.04	0.01	0.21	0.25
East Asian Dummy	0.28	0.56	0.95	0.28	0.67
Latin American Dummy	-0.11	-0.03	0.00	0.08	0.11
Primary Exports 1970	-0.08	-0.06	-0.01	0.03	0.08
Life Expectancy in 1960	0.10	0.45	0.04	0.36	0.06
Fraction Muslim	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.02
Fraction Buddhist	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.02
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.01	0.17	0.00	0.16	0.01
Fraction of Tropical Area	-0.01	-0.33	-0.07	0.31	0.06
Spanish Colony	-0.01	0.00	-0.02	0.01	0.01
Fraction Population In Tropics	-0.01	-0.08	-0.01	0.07	0.00
Openness measure 1965-74	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.00
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	-0.01	-0.02	-0.82	0.01	0.81
Nominal Government GDP Share 1960s	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Years Open 1950-94	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01
Fraction Catholic	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Air Distance to Big Cities	0.00	-0.03	0.00	0.03	0.00
Average Inflation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Protestants	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Population Less than 15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Timing of Independence	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
European Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Absolute Latitude	0.00	0.05	0.01	0.04	0.00
Square of Inflation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.01
Defense Spending Share	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Colony Dummy	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Government Share of GDP in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Landlocked Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Population Over 65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Socialist Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gov. Consumption Share 1960s	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.01
Revolutions and Coups	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tropical Climate Zone	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Higher Education 1960	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Investment Price	0.00	-0.35	-0.01	0.35	0.01
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.00
Political Rights	0.00	-0.04	0.00	0.04	0.00

Real Exchange Rate Distortions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Hindus	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
British Colony Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Civil Liberties	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Size of Economy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Orthodox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interior Density	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
War Participation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population in 1960	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population Density 1960	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.07	0.00
Fraction of Land Area					
Near Navigable Water	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Religion Measure	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Public Investment Share	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capitalism	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Outward Orientation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Land Area	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
English Speaking Population	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Ranking	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

## **Web Appendix**

to the paper

### **Determinants of Economic Growth: Will Data Tell?**

by Antonio Ciccone and Marek Jarocinski

30 September 2009

downloadable from: [www.antoniociccone.eu](http://www.antoniociccone.eu)

**PART D:** Additional results on 1975-1996 growth determinants using income data from Penn World Table versions 6.2 and 6.1, and WDI

# 1. Results with the SDM approach

**Table D.1.1-SDM:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of individual variables

	PWT6.2 (common sample N=87)	WDI	PWT6.1 (common sample N=86)	WDI	PWT6.2/WDI	PWT6.1/WDI
					abs.diff.	abs.diff
East Asian Dummy	0.98	0.99	0.51	0.99	0.01	0.48
Investment Price	0.97	0.21	0.29	0.05	0.76	0.24
GDP in 1975 (log)	0.88	1.00	0.51	1.00	0.11	0.49
Life Expectancy in 1975	0.86	0.96	0.41	0.99	0.10	0.58
Fraction of Tropical Area	0.73	0.68	0.20	0.72	0.05	0.52
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.27	0.15	0.49	0.21	0.12	0.28
Absolute Latitude	0.21	0.31	0.21	0.27	0.10	0.06
Fraction Confucius	0.12	0.06	0.43	0.05	0.06	0.38
Political Rights	0.09	0.24	0.03	0.19	0.15	0.17
Openness Measure 1965-74	0.09	0.17	0.10	0.25	0.07	0.15
Primary Schooling in 1975	0.08	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.01
British Colony Dummy	0.08	0.11	0.10	0.07	0.03	0.03
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	0.08	0.32	0.32	0.35	0.25	0.03
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.07	0.01	0.01
Public Investment Share	0.07	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.04	0.02
Years Open 1950-94	0.07	0.30	0.08	0.25	0.23	0.17
Population Density 1975	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.01	0.01
Fraction Population in Tropics	0.06	0.03	0.19	0.04	0.03	0.16
African Dummy	0.06	0.02	0.55	0.03	0.03	0.52
Fraction Buddhist	0.05	0.02	0.29	0.02	0.03	0.27
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	0.05	0.09	0.02	0.10	0.04	0.08
Terms of Trade Ranking	0.05	0.06	0.10	0.05	0.01	0.05
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.04	0.11	0.02	0.09	0.07	0.07
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	0.04	0.05	0.10	0.04	0.01	0.05
Revolutions and Coups	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.01
Higher Education 1975	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00
Population in 1975	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.00	0.00
Fraction Muslim	0.03	0.05	0.10	0.04	0.01	0.06
Latin American Dummy	0.03	0.02	0.15	0.02	0.01	0.12
Fraction Hindus	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.00	0.02
Government Share of GDP in 1970s	0.03	0.02	0.29	0.18	0.01	0.11
Fraction Orthodox	0.03	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.03
Capitalism	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.01
Civil Liberties	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.01
Gov. Consumption Share 1970s	0.02	0.15	0.09	0.19	0.13	0.10
Nominal Government GDP Share 1970s	0.02	0.02	0.30	0.05	0.00	0.25
Religion Measure	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Land Area	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.01
Average Inflation 1960-90	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.02
Fraction Population Less than 15	0.02	0.02	0.09	0.02	0.00	0.07
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Timing of Independence	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00
Fraction Protestants	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.01	0.02
Size of Economy	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.01

Square of Inflation 1960-90	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.01
Defense Spending Share	0.02	0.04	0.23	0.05	0.02	0.18
Fraction Population Over 65	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.02
Interior Density	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00
European Dummy	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.03
Spanish Colony	0.02	0.02	0.10	0.02	0.00	0.08
Primary Exports 1970	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.01
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.01
Fraction of Land Area						
Near Navigable Water	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Fertility in 1960s	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.02
Fraction Catholic	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.02
Colony Dummy	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.01
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Outward Orientation	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1970s	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Tropical Climate Zone	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.02
Air Distance to Big Cities	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.01
Landlocked Country Dummy	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
English Speaking Population	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.01
War Participation 1960-90	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00
Socialist Dummy	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.01

**Table D.1.2-SDM:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of groups of variables

	PWT6.2 (common sample N=87)	WDI (common sample N=86)	PWT6.1 (common sample N=87)	WDI (common sample N=86)
<b>A. Proxy groups</b>				
Climate Zones	0.95	0.98	0.58	0.98
Health	0.87	0.97	0.43	0.99
Natural Resources	0.30	0.19	0.52	0.24
Openness to Trade	0.23	0.62	0.44	0.65
Size of Government	0.13	0.20	0.68	0.42
Education	0.13	0.08	0.07	0.08
Rights	0.12	0.26	0.04	0.22
Market Access	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.11
War and Conflict	0.07	0.05	0.07	0.05
Size of the Economy	0.05	0.05	0.07	0.06
Inflation	0.04	0.03	0.05	0.03
Age Structure	0.04	0.04	0.13	0.04
Population Growth	0.03	0.03	0.06	0.03

B. Theory groups	PWT6.2	WDI	PWT6.1	WDI	PWT6.2/WDI	PWT6.1/WDI
	(common sample N=87)	(common sample N=86)			abs. diff.	abs. diff.
Regional Heterogeneity	0.99	0.99	0.90	0.99		
Macroeconomic Policy	0.98	0.77	0.86	0.80		
Absolute Geography	0.97	0.99	0.58	0.99		
Neoclassical	0.90	1.00	0.55	1.00		
Demography	0.87	0.97	0.48	0.99		
Natural Resources	0.30	0.19	0.52	0.24		
Religion	0.26	0.21	0.61	0.19		
Geography and Trade (Within Countries and International)	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25		
Institutions	0.15	0.29	0.09	0.25		
Colonial History	0.13	0.16	0.23	0.13		
War and Conflict	0.07	0.05	0.07	0.05		
Terms of Trade	0.06	0.07	0.12	0.06		

**Table D.1.3-SDM:** Standardized unconditional posterior mean effects on growth

	PWT6.2 (common sample N=87)	WDI (common sample N=86)	PWT6.1 (common sample N=86)	WDI	PWT6.2/WDI	PWT6.1/WDI
					abs. diff.	abs. diff.
East Asian Dummy	0.86	0.80	0.38	0.81	0.06	0.43
Investment Price	-0.51	-0.07	-0.13	-0.01	0.44	0.12
GDP in 1975 (log)	-1.11	-1.57	-0.68	-1.63	0.46	0.96
Life Expectancy in 1975	1.15	1.33	0.55	1.41	0.18	0.86
Fraction of Tropical Area	-0.51	-0.56	-0.13	-0.61	0.05	0.48
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.10	0.05	0.26	0.07	0.05	0.19
Absolute Latitude	0.14	0.25	0.14	0.21	0.11	0.07
Fraction Confucius	0.04	0.02	0.22	0.01	0.02	0.21
Political Rights	-0.04	-0.14	0.01	-0.10	0.10	0.11
Openness Measure 1965-74	0.03	0.06	0.04	0.10	0.03	0.06
Primary Schooling in 1975	-0.03	-0.01	0.00	-0.01	0.03	0.01
British Colony Dummy	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.02
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	-0.02	-0.14	-0.17	-0.16	0.12	0.01
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Public Investment Share	-0.02	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01
Years Open 1950-94	0.02	0.16	0.04	0.12	0.13	0.09
Population Density 1975	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Fraction Population in Tropics	-0.03	-0.01	-0.14	-0.01	0.01	0.13
African Dummy	-0.03	0.00	-0.53	-0.01	0.02	0.52
Fraction Buddhist	0.02	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.01	0.15
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	-0.02	-0.04	0.00	-0.05	0.02	0.05
Terms of Trade Ranking	-0.01	-0.02	-0.05	-0.01	0.01	0.03
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.02
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	-0.01	-0.02	-0.05	-0.01	0.00	0.04
Revolutions and Coups	-0.01	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Higher Education 1975	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.00
Population in 1975	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Fraction Muslim	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.00	0.03
Latin American Dummy	-0.01	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.01	0.08
Fraction Hindus	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Government Share of GDP in 1970s	-0.01	0.00	-0.13	-0.06	0.00	0.07

Fraction Orthodox	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Capitalism	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Civil Liberties	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
Gov. Consumption Share 1970s	0.00	-0.05	-0.04	-0.07	0.05	0.03
Nominal Government GDP Share 1970s	0.00	0.00	-0.14	-0.01	0.00	0.13
Religion Measure	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Land Area	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Average Inflation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Fraction Population Less than 15	0.00	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.00	0.08
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Timing of Independence	0.00	-0.01	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00
Fraction Protestants	0.00	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	0.00	0.01
Size of Economy	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Square of Inflation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Defense Spending Share	0.00	0.01	0.11	0.01	0.01	0.09
Fraction Population Over 65	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02
Interior Density	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
European Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Spanish Colony	0.00	0.00	-0.05	0.00	0.00	0.05
Primary Exports 1970	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction of Land Area						
Near Navigable Water	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fertility in 1960s	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Fraction Catholic	0.00	0.00	-0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02
Colony Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Outward Orientation	0.00	-0.01	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1970s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tropical Climate Zone	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
Air Distance to Big Cities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Landlocked Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
English Speaking Population	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
War Participation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Socialist Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01

## 2. Results with the FLS approach

**Table D.2.1-FLS:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of individual variables – see Table 6 in the paper

**Table D.2.2-FLS:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of groups of variables – see Table 7 in the paper

**Table D.2.3-FLS:** Standardized unconditional posterior mean effects on growth

	PWT6.2 (common sample N=87)	WDI (common sample N=86)	PWT6.1 (common sample N=86)	WDI	PWT6.2/WDI	PWT6.1/WDI
					abs. diff.	abs. diff.
East Asian Dummy	0.84	0.79	0.36	0.80	0.05	0.43
Investment Price	-0.51	-0.08	-0.16	-0.01	0.43	0.14
GDP in 1975 (log)	-1.15	-1.57	-0.82	-1.63	0.42	0.82
Life Expectancy in 1975	1.17	1.29	0.63	1.39	0.12	0.76
Fraction of Tropical Area	-0.50	-0.56	-0.14	-0.62	0.06	0.48
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.12	0.06	0.32	0.09	0.07	0.24
Absolute Latitude	0.14	0.26	0.15	0.22	0.12	0.06
Fraction Confucius	0.05	0.02	0.23	0.02	0.03	0.21
Openness Measure 1965-74	0.03	0.07	0.05	0.11	0.04	0.06
Political Rights	-0.05	-0.15	0.01	-0.11	0.11	0.12
Primary Schooling in 1975	-0.04	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.03	0.01
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	-0.03	-0.15	-0.19	-0.17	0.12	0.02
British Colony Dummy	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.02
Public Investment Share	-0.03	-0.01	-0.02	0.00	0.02	0.01
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Years Open 1950-94	0.03	0.17	0.04	0.13	0.14	0.09
Population Density 1975	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
African Dummy	-0.03	-0.01	-0.53	-0.01	0.03	0.52
Fraction Population in Tropics	-0.03	-0.01	-0.13	-0.01	0.01	0.11
Fraction Buddhist	0.02	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.01	0.15
Terms of Trade Ranking	-0.01	-0.02	-0.05	-0.02	0.01	0.04
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.01	0.04	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.03
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	-0.02	-0.04	0.00	-0.05	0.02	0.05
Revolutions and Coups	-0.01	0.00	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.00
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	-0.01	-0.02	-0.05	-0.02	0.01	0.03
Higher Education 1975	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.00
Fraction Muslim	0.01	0.01	0.06	0.01	0.00	0.05
Population in 1975	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Latin American Dummy	-0.01	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.01	0.08
Government Share of GDP in 1970s	-0.01	0.00	-0.15	-0.07	0.00	0.09
Fraction Orthodox	-0.01	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Fraction Hindus	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Capitalism	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Civil Liberties	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
Timing of Independence	0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.00
Land Area	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gov. Consumption Share 1970s	0.00	-0.06	-0.06	-0.08	0.06	0.02
Fraction Population Less than 15	-0.01	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.00	0.11
Nominal Government GDP Share 1970s	0.00	0.00	-0.14	-0.01	0.00	0.13
Religion Measure	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Average Inflation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Protestants	0.00	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	0.00	0.01
Size of Economy	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Defense Spending Share	0.00	0.01	0.13	0.02	0.01	0.11
Fraction Population Over 65	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.04
Square of Inflation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Interior Density	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
European Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Primary Exports 1970	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Spanish Colony	0.00	0.00	-0.04	0.00	0.00	0.04
Fraction of Land Area						
Near Navigable Water	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fertility in 1960s	0.00	0.00	-0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Catholic	0.00	0.00	-0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Colony Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Outward Orientation	0.00	-0.01	0.00	-0.01	0.01	0.00
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1970s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Air Distance to Big Cities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tropical Climate Zone	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
Landlocked Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
English Speaking Population	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
War Participation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Socialist Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01

### 3. Results with the dilution prior (proxy groups)

**Table D.3.1-SDM:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of individual variables (SDM coefficients priors)

	PWT6.2 (common sample N=87)	WDI (common sample N=86)	PWT6.1 (common sample N=87)	WDI (common sample N=86)	PWT6.2/WDI abs.diff.	PWT6.1/WDI abs.diff
East Asian Dummy	0.78	0.96	0.37	0.96	0.19	0.59
Investment Price	1.00	0.78	0.99	0.71	0.22	0.28
GDP in 1975 (log)	0.99	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.01	0.00
Life Expectancy in 1975	0.95	0.90	0.82	0.98	0.05	0.16
Fraction of Tropical Area	0.20	0.54	0.05	0.61	0.34	0.55
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.83	0.50	1.00	0.89	0.33	0.11
Absolute Latitude	0.10	0.32	0.07	0.29	0.22	0.22
Fraction Confucius	0.87	0.50	0.94	0.57	0.38	0.36
Political Rights	0.11	0.40	0.23	0.12	0.29	0.11
Openness Measure 1965-74	0.09	0.30	0.25	0.44	0.21	0.19
Primary Schooling in 1975	0.09	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.01
British Colony Dummy	0.33	0.33	0.26	0.21	0.00	0.04
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	0.22	0.45	0.29	0.28	0.23	0.00
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.07	0.01	0.04
Public Investment Share	0.26	0.16	0.42	0.30	0.11	0.12
Years Open 1950-94	0.06	0.39	0.06	0.19	0.33	0.14
Population Density 1975	0.15	0.19	0.18	0.26	0.04	0.08
Fraction Population in Tropics	0.08	0.08	0.13	0.16	0.00	0.03
African Dummy	0.48	0.15	0.73	0.24	0.33	0.49

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Fraction Buddhist	0.34	0.17	0.51	0.16	0.17	0.35
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	0.08	0.11	0.08	0.24	0.02	0.16
Terms of Trade Ranking	0.24	0.37	0.65	0.60	0.13	0.05
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.22	0.43	0.13	0.47	0.21	0.34
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	0.13	0.24	0.16	0.21	0.11	0.05
Revolutions and Coups	0.08	0.05	0.10	0.11	0.03	0.00
Higher Education 1975	0.08	0.07	0.09	0.10	0.01	0.01
Population in 1975	0.13	0.14	0.25	0.15	0.02	0.10
Fraction Muslim	0.59	0.42	0.75	0.52	0.17	0.23
Latin American Dummy	0.39	0.21	0.18	0.24	0.18	0.06
Fraction Hindus	0.19	0.20	0.16	0.35	0.02	0.19
Government Share of GDP in 1970s	0.13	0.07	0.56	0.13	0.06	0.43
Fraction Orthodox	0.42	0.28	0.74	0.53	0.14	0.21
Capitalism	0.26	0.19	0.12	0.14	0.07	0.02
Civil Liberties	0.07	0.09	0.10	0.12	0.02	0.02
Gov. Consumption Share 1970s	0.14	0.50	0.36	0.78	0.35	0.42
Nominal Government GDP Share 1970s	0.07	0.05	0.24	0.07	0.02	0.17
Religion Measure	0.13	0.16	0.13	0.39	0.03	0.26
Land Area	0.14	0.17	0.16	0.18	0.03	0.02
Average Inflation 1960-90	0.07	0.06	0.11	0.08	0.02	0.03
Fraction Population Less than 15	0.30	0.12	0.54	0.21	0.17	0.33
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.00	0.00
Timing of Independence	0.56	0.35	0.59	0.62	0.22	0.04
Fraction Protestants	0.20	0.24	0.35	0.25	0.04	0.10
Size of Economy	0.07	0.10	0.20	0.12	0.03	0.07
Square of Inflation 1960-90	0.06	0.05	0.07	0.07	0.01	0.00
Defense Spending Share	0.14	0.41	0.61	0.75	0.27	0.13
Fraction Population Over 65	0.11	0.09	0.30	0.14	0.02	0.16
Interior Density	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.00	0.02
European Dummy	0.21	0.22	0.17	0.30	0.01	0.13
Spanish Colony	0.14	0.13	0.26	0.17	0.01	0.09
Primary Exports 1970	0.09	0.06	0.13	0.12	0.03	0.02
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.10	0.07	0.40	0.14	0.03	0.25
Fraction of Land Area						
Near Navigable Water	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.00
Fertility in 1960s	0.11	0.12	0.19	0.27	0.01	0.08
Fraction Catholic	0.16	0.16	0.22	0.20	0.00	0.02
Colony Dummy	0.13	0.14	0.18	0.16	0.01	0.02
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	0.17	0.07	0.13	0.12	0.10	0.01
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.09	0.07	0.10	0.12	0.02	0.02
Outward Orientation	0.06	0.16	0.11	0.14	0.10	0.02
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1970s	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.08	0.02	0.02
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	0.26	0.27	0.22	0.61	0.02	0.39
Tropical Climate Zone	0.04	0.34	0.09	0.72	0.30	0.63
Air Distance to Big Cities	0.16	0.15	0.12	0.14	0.00	0.02
Landlocked Country Dummy	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.00
English Speaking Population	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.13	0.01	0.01
War Participation 1960-90	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.01
Socialist Dummy	0.11	0.13	0.22	0.17	0.02	0.05

**Table D.3.2-SDM:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of groups of variables

Proxy group	PWT6.2 (common sample N=87)	WDI	PWT6.1 (common sample N=86)	WDI
Climate Zones	0.35	0.85	0.26	0.92
Health	0.96	0.91	0.83	0.98
Rights	0.18	0.47	0.32	0.24
Inflation	0.13	0.11	0.18	0.15
Openness to Trade	0.30	0.68	0.42	0.60
Natural Resources	0.84	0.52	1.00	0.90
Age Structure	0.41	0.22	0.82	0.34
Population Growth	0.27	0.19	0.32	0.38
Size of the Economy	0.17	0.20	0.32	0.23
War and Conflict	0.12	0.09	0.16	0.15
Education	0.17	0.13	0.14	0.16
Size of Government	0.40	0.54	0.99	0.86
Market Access	0.05	0.07	0.08	0.12

**Table D.3.3-SDM:** Standardized unconditional posterior mean effects on growth  
(SDM coefficients priors)

	PWT6.2 (common sample N=87)	WDI	PWT6.1 (common sample N=86)	WDI	PWT6.2/WDI	PWT6.1/WDI
East Asian Dummy	0.45	0.65	0.13	0.61	0.21	0.48
Investment Price	-0.52	-0.26	-0.55	-0.22	0.26	0.33
GDP in 1975 (log)	-1.51	-1.55	-1.77	-1.84	0.04	0.07
Life Expectancy in 1975	1.30	1.06	1.24	1.25	0.24	0.01
Fraction of Tropical Area	-0.12	-0.44	-0.02	-0.49	0.32	0.47
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.47	0.23	0.78	0.54	0.24	0.24
Absolute Latitude	0.05	0.26	0.03	0.23	0.21	0.20
Fraction Confucius	0.40	0.16	0.44	0.18	0.24	0.26
Political Rights	-0.03	-0.23	0.10	-0.04	0.19	0.14
Openness Measure 1965-74	0.03	0.11	0.11	0.21	0.08	0.10
Primary Schooling in 1975	-0.03	-0.01	0.00	-0.01	0.02	0.00
British Colony Dummy	0.08	0.09	0.06	0.04	0.01	0.02
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	-0.08	-0.19	-0.10	-0.11	0.11	0.00
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-0.11	0.00	0.10
Public Investment Share	-0.08	-0.03	-0.11	-0.06	0.05	0.05
Years Open 1950-94	0.01	0.18	0.01	0.07	0.16	0.06
Population Density 1975	0.01	0.03	-0.01	0.05	0.01	0.06
Fraction Population in Tropics	-0.03	-0.01	-0.06	-0.05	0.01	0.01
African Dummy	-0.32	-0.02	-0.55	-0.08	0.30	0.48
Fraction Buddhist	0.10	0.03	0.19	0.02	0.07	0.17
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	-0.02	-0.03	0.01	-0.10	0.02	0.11
Terms of Trade Ranking	-0.06	-0.13	-0.31	-0.25	0.07	0.06
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.04	0.14	0.01	0.15	0.09	0.14
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	-0.01	-0.06	-0.03	-0.05	0.05	0.03
Revolutions and Coups	-0.02	-0.01	-0.03	-0.02	0.01	0.00
Higher Education 1975	-0.03	-0.03	-0.03	-0.04	0.00	0.01

Population in 1975	0.03	0.03	0.09	0.04	0.00	0.05
Fraction Muslim	0.29	0.17	0.46	0.24	0.12	0.22
Latin American Dummy	-0.18	-0.04	-0.04	-0.04	0.15	0.00
Fraction Hindus	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.08	0.01	0.07
Government Share of GDP in 1970s	-0.03	-0.01	-0.27	-0.03	0.03	0.23
Fraction Orthodox	-0.09	-0.05	-0.24	-0.12	0.04	0.11
Capitalism	0.05	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.01
Civil Liberties	0.01	0.02	-0.02	0.03	0.01	0.05
Gov. Consumption Share 1970s	-0.04	-0.24	-0.18	-0.52	0.20	0.34
Nominal Government GDP Share 1970s	-0.01	0.00	-0.10	0.00	0.01	0.10
Religion Measure	-0.01	0.01	0.01	0.10	0.02	0.09
Land Area	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Average Inflation 1960-90	-0.01	0.00	-0.02	-0.01	0.01	0.01
Fraction Population Less than 15	-0.25	-0.05	-0.64	-0.13	0.20	0.52
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Timing of Independence	-0.29	-0.15	-0.33	-0.35	0.14	0.02
Fraction Protestants	-0.05	-0.07	-0.11	-0.09	0.02	0.03
Size of Economy	-0.01	-0.03	-0.11	-0.04	0.01	0.07
Square of Inflation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.00
Defense Spending Share	0.02	0.13	0.24	0.32	0.11	0.08
Fraction Population Over 65	0.06	0.03	0.30	0.08	0.03	0.22
Interior Density	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
European Dummy	0.05	0.08	0.05	0.14	0.03	0.09
Spanish Colony	-0.01	0.01	-0.08	-0.02	0.02	0.06
Primary Exports 1970	0.00	0.00	0.02	-0.01	0.00	0.03
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.01	0.00	0.12	0.01	0.00	0.10
Fraction of Land Area						
Near Navigable Water	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fertility in 1960s	0.00	-0.05	-0.15	-0.21	0.05	0.05
Fraction Catholic	-0.03	-0.03	0.02	-0.05	0.00	0.07
Colony Dummy	0.00	-0.01	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.02
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	-0.07	-0.01	-0.07	-0.05	0.07	0.02
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Outward Orientation	-0.01	-0.03	-0.02	-0.02	0.02	0.00
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1970s	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.01
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	-0.05	-0.06	-0.04	-0.20	0.01	0.16
Tropical Climate Zone	0.00	0.13	0.02	0.36	0.12	0.34
Air Distance to Big Cities	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Landlocked Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
English Speaking Population	-0.02	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.01
War Participation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Socialist Dummy	0.00	-0.01	0.04	-0.02	0.01	0.05

**Table D.3.1-FLS:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of individual variables (FLS coefficients priors)

	PWT6.2 (common sample N=87)	WDI (common sample N=86)	PWT6.1 (common sample N=86)	WDI	PWT6.2/WDI	PWT6.1/WDI
					abs.diff.	abs.diff
Investment Price	0.96	0.21	0.17	0.07	0.76	0.10
East Asian Dummy	0.92	0.99	0.30	0.99	0.07	0.70
GDP in 1975 (log)	0.69	0.99	0.07	1.00	0.30	0.92
Life Expectancy in 1975	0.66	0.97	0.06	0.99	0.31	0.93
Fraction of Tropical Area	0.51	0.59	0.03	0.60	0.09	0.57
Fraction Confucius	0.18	0.06	0.63	0.05	0.12	0.58
Absolute Latitude	0.17	0.28	0.03	0.26	0.11	0.22
African Dummy	0.15	0.03	0.85	0.03	0.12	0.82
British Colony Dummy	0.14	0.11	0.19	0.09	0.02	0.10
Latin American Dummy	0.12	0.06	0.29	0.07	0.06	0.22
Fraction Buddhist	0.09	0.02	0.42	0.02	0.07	0.39
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	0.09	0.05	0.11	0.04	0.04	0.07
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	0.07	0.16	0.01	0.19	0.08	0.18
Population Density 1975	0.05	0.09	0.05	0.08	0.04	0.02
Fraction Muslim	0.05	0.06	0.02	0.04	0.00	0.02
Terms of Trade Ranking	0.05	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.02	0.01
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.05	0.11	0.02	0.09	0.06	0.08
Fraction Population in Tropics	0.05	0.02	0.08	0.03	0.02	0.05
Political Rights	0.04	0.15	0.01	0.11	0.11	0.10
Fraction Hindus	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.01	0.00
Spanish Colony	0.04	0.04	0.27	0.04	0.00	0.23
Capitalism	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.01
Fraction Orthodox	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Religion Measure	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.02
Colony Dummy	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.01
Fraction Catholic	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.03
European Dummy	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00
Fraction Protestants	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.01
Defense Spending Share	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.03
Air Distance to Big Cities	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.03
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.02
Timing of Independence	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Land Area	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
English Speaking Population	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.01
Socialist Dummy	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.01
Average Inflation 1960-90	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.02
Fraction Population Over 65	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Civil Liberties	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.01
Square of Inflation 1960-90	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.01
Fraction Population Less than 15	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Population in 1975	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Revolutions and Coups	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	0.01	0.07	0.03	0.07	0.06	0.04
Fertility in 1960s	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00

Tropical Climate Zone	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.02
Years Open 1950-94	0.01	0.06	0.01	0.05	0.06	0.04
Primary Schooling in 1975	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Size of Economy	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Openness Measure 1965-74	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.03
Higher Education 1975	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Public Investment Share	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1970s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
War Participation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Government Share of GDP in 1970s	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.01
Primary Exports 1970	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gov. Consumption Share 1970s	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.01
Nominal Government GDP Share 1970s	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.01	0.00	0.06
Interior Density	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Outward Orientation	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Fraction of Land Area						
Near Navigable Water	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Landlocked Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

**Table D.3.2-FLS:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of groups of variables (FLS coefficients priors) – see Table 8 (panel A) in the paper

**Table D.3.3-FLS:** Standardized unconditional posterior mean effects on growth (FLS coefficients priors)

	PWT6.2 (common sample N=87)	WDI (common sample N=86)	PWT6.1 (common sample N=86)	WDI	PWT6.2/WDI	PWT6.1/WDI
Investment Price	-0.52	-0.07	-0.07	-0.02	0.45	0.05
East Asian Dummy	0.81	0.86	0.21	0.86	0.05	0.66
GDP in 1975 (log)	-0.81	-1.54	-0.06	-1.58	0.74	1.53
Life Expectancy in 1975	0.87	1.49	0.07	1.57	0.62	1.50
Fraction of Tropical Area	-0.35	-0.48	-0.02	-0.49	0.14	0.47
Fraction Confucius	0.08	0.02	0.35	0.01	0.06	0.34
Absolute Latitude	0.12	0.24	0.02	0.22	0.12	0.20
African Dummy	-0.10	-0.01	-0.93	-0.01	0.10	0.92
British Colony Dummy	0.04	0.03	0.08	0.03	0.01	0.05
Latin American Dummy	-0.05	-0.02	-0.16	-0.02	0.03	0.14
Fraction Buddhist	0.04	0.00	0.21	0.00	0.03	0.21
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	-0.04	-0.02	-0.07	-0.01	0.02	0.05
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	-0.04	-0.10	0.00	-0.13	0.06	0.13
Population Density 1975	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Fraction Muslim	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
Terms of Trade Ranking	-0.01	-0.02	-0.03	-0.02	0.01	0.01
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.03
Fraction Population in Tropics	-0.02	-0.01	-0.06	-0.01	0.02	0.05
Political Rights	-0.02	-0.09	0.00	-0.06	0.07	0.06

Fraction Hindus	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Spanish Colony	-0.01	-0.01	-0.13	-0.01	0.00	0.12
Capitalism	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Orthodox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Religion Measure	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Colony Dummy	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Catholic	0.00	0.00	-0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02
European Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
Fraction Protestants	0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.01
Defense Spending Share	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.01
Air Distance to Big Cities	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Timing of Independence	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Land Area	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
English Speaking Population	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Socialist Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Average Inflation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Fraction Population Over 65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Civil Liberties	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Square of Inflation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Population Less than 15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population in 1975	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Revolutions and Coups	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	0.00	-0.03	-0.02	-0.03	0.03	0.01
Fertility in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tropical Climate Zone	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Years Open 1950-94	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.02
Primary Schooling in 1975	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Size of Economy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Openness Measure 1965-74	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
Higher Education 1975	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Public Investment Share	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1970s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
War Participation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Government Share of GDP in 1970s	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.01
Primary Exports 1970	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gov. Consumption Share 1970s	0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.00
Nominal Government GDP Share 1970s	0.00	0.00	-0.03	0.00	0.00	0.03
Interior Density	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Outward Orientation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction of Land Area						
Near Navigable Water	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<u>Landlocked Country Dummy</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>

## 4. Results with the dilution prior (theory groups)

**Table D.4.1-SDM:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of individual variables (SDM coefficients priors)

	PWT6.2 (common sample N=87)	WDI	PWT6.1 (common sample N=86)	WDI	PWT6.2/WDI	PWT6.1/WDI
					abs.diff.	abs.diff
East Asian Dummy	0.93	0.99	0.58	0.99	0.06	0.41
Investment Price	0.84	0.43	0.65	0.22	0.42	0.43
GDP in 1975 (log)	0.87	1.00	0.73	1.00	0.13	0.27
Life Expectancy in 1975	0.82	0.84	0.54	0.96	0.02	0.43
Fraction of Tropical Area	0.61	0.64	0.15	0.65	0.03	0.50
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.55	0.22	0.75	0.46	0.33	0.29
Absolute Latitude	0.18	0.35	0.16	0.35	0.17	0.19
Fraction Confucius	0.13	0.01	0.42	0.02	0.11	0.39
Political Rights	0.05	0.33	0.09	0.15	0.28	0.06
Openness Measure 1965-74	0.38	0.38	0.41	0.45	0.00	0.04
Primary Schooling in 1975	0.27	0.12	0.07	0.15	0.15	0.08
British Colony Dummy	0.11	0.12	0.10	0.08	0.01	0.02
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	0.33	0.29	0.48	0.41	0.04	0.08
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Public Investment Share	0.37	0.11	0.30	0.15	0.26	0.15
Years Open 1950-94	0.22	0.34	0.15	0.29	0.11	0.14
Population Density 1975	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Fraction Population in Tropics	0.10	0.09	0.12	0.09	0.01	0.03
African Dummy	0.38	0.14	0.73	0.18	0.24	0.55
Fraction Buddhist	0.07	0.01	0.28	0.01	0.07	0.28
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	0.11	0.23	0.04	0.27	0.12	0.23
Terms of Trade Ranking	0.12	0.22	0.39	0.23	0.11	0.16
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.25	0.45	0.13	0.39	0.20	0.26
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	0.21	0.21	0.36	0.22	0.01	0.14
Revolutions and Coups	0.07	0.05	0.07	0.06	0.02	0.01
Higher Education 1975	0.08	0.07	0.05	0.06	0.01	0.02
Population in 1975	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Fraction Muslim	0.06	0.01	0.28	0.02	0.05	0.26
Latin American Dummy	0.23	0.15	0.30	0.15	0.08	0.15
Fraction Hindus	0.02	0.01	0.06	0.02	0.02	0.05
Government Share of GDP in 1970s	0.19	0.06	0.38	0.21	0.13	0.16
Fraction Orthodox	0.04	0.01	0.24	0.01	0.03	0.24
Capitalism	0.03	0.06	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.01
Civil Liberties	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.02
Gov. Consumption Share 1970s	0.16	0.43	0.29	0.38	0.27	0.10
Nominal Government GDP Share 1970s	0.14	0.06	0.31	0.07	0.08	0.24
Religion Measure	0.01	0.00	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.04
Land Area	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Average Inflation 1960-90	0.10	0.06	0.15	0.07	0.03	0.08
Fraction Population Less than 15	0.09	0.06	0.30	0.08	0.04	0.22
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.05	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.02	0.02
Timing of Independence	0.05	0.04	0.10	0.07	0.01	0.03

Fraction Protestants	0.03	0.01	0.10	0.01	0.02	0.09
Size of Economy	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Square of Inflation 1960-90	0.09	0.05	0.09	0.07	0.03	0.02
Defense Spending Share	0.16	0.39	0.61	0.41	0.23	0.20
Fraction Population Over 65	0.06	0.05	0.12	0.05	0.01	0.06
Interior Density	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
European Dummy	0.12	0.14	0.11	0.15	0.01	0.04
Spanish Colony	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.04	0.00	0.01
Primary Exports 1970	0.08	0.04	0.10	0.08	0.04	0.02
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.07	0.03	0.20	0.06	0.03	0.14
Fraction of Land Area						
Near Navigable Water	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fertility in 1960s	0.04	0.05	0.12	0.07	0.01	0.05
Fraction Catholic	0.03	0.01	0.08	0.00	0.02	0.08
Colony Dummy	0.03	0.03	0.06	0.02	0.00	0.03
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	0.06	0.07	0.09	0.08	0.00	0.01
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.06	0.04	0.08	0.06	0.03	0.02
Outward Orientation	0.08	0.08	0.12	0.09	0.00	0.03
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1970s	0.10	0.12	0.10	0.14	0.02	0.04
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	0.07	0.09	0.07	0.16	0.03	0.08
Tropical Climate Zone	0.07	0.24	0.07	0.35	0.17	0.28
Air Distance to Big Cities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Landlocked Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
English Speaking Population	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.01	0.00
War Participation 1960-90	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00
Socialist Dummy	0.02	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.01

**Table D.4.2-SDM:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of groups of variables

Theory groups	PWT6.2	WDI	PWT6.1	WDI
	(common sample N=87)	(common sample N=86)		
Regional Heterogeneity	0.98	0.99	0.85	1.00
Absolute Geography	0.81	0.99	0.38	0.99
Demography	0.84	0.86	0.69	0.97
Neoclassical	0.88	1.00	0.74	1.00
Colonial History	0.17	0.16	0.19	0.15
Macroeconomic Policy	0.85	0.57	0.84	0.64
War and Conflict	0.13	0.10	0.12	0.10
Terms of Trade	0.17	0.27	0.42	0.31
Natural Resources	0.57	0.24	0.76	0.48
Religion	0.14	0.03	0.44	0.04
Institutions	0.10	0.39	0.14	0.21
Geography and Trade (Within Countries and International)	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02

**Table D.4.3-SDM:** Standardized unconditional posterior mean effects on growth  
(SDM coefficients priors)

	PWT6.2 (common sample N=87)	WDI (common sample N=86)	PWT6.1 (common sample N=86)	WDI	PWT6.2/WDI	PWT6.1/WDI
East Asian Dummy	0.74	0.81	0.32	0.78	0.06	0.45
Investment Price	-0.41	-0.14	-0.31	-0.05	0.27	0.26
GDP in 1975 (log)	-1.16	-1.56	-1.16	-1.65	0.40	0.48
Life Expectancy in 1975	1.10	1.09	0.70	1.27	0.01	0.58
Fraction of Tropical Area	-0.44	-0.55	-0.09	-0.56	0.11	0.47
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.27	0.08	0.50	0.21	0.19	0.30
Absolute Latitude	0.11	0.29	0.10	0.29	0.18	0.19
Fraction Confucius	0.06	0.00	0.20	0.01	0.05	0.19
Political Rights	-0.02	-0.21	0.04	-0.08	0.19	0.12
Openness Measure 1965-74	0.12	0.14	0.14	0.17	0.02	0.02
Primary Schooling in 1975	-0.10	-0.02	-0.01	-0.04	0.08	0.02
British Colony Dummy	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.02
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	-0.10	-0.11	-0.21	-0.16	0.01	0.05
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Public Investment Share	-0.11	-0.02	-0.08	-0.03	0.09	0.05
Years Open 1950-94	0.07	0.16	0.04	0.12	0.08	0.08
Population Density 1975	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Population in Tropics	-0.03	-0.02	-0.05	-0.02	0.01	0.04
African Dummy	-0.20	-0.02	-0.62	-0.05	0.18	0.57
Fraction Buddhist	0.03	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.02	0.12
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	-0.04	-0.10	0.01	-0.12	0.07	0.13
Terms of Trade Ranking	-0.03	-0.08	-0.16	-0.08	0.05	0.08
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.05	0.14	0.02	0.11	0.08	0.10
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	-0.06	-0.05	-0.14	-0.06	0.00	0.08
Revolutions and Coups	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	0.01	0.01
Higher Education 1975	-0.03	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.00
Population in 1975	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Muslim	0.03	0.00	0.14	0.01	0.02	0.13
Latin American Dummy	-0.08	-0.02	-0.13	-0.02	0.06	0.11
Fraction Hindus	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Government Share of GDP in 1970s	-0.04	-0.01	-0.18	-0.07	0.03	0.11
Fraction Orthodox	-0.01	0.00	-0.07	0.00	0.01	0.07
Capitalism	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Civil Liberties	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
Gov. Consumption Share 1970s	-0.03	-0.20	-0.14	-0.19	0.16	0.05
Nominal Government GDP Share 1970s	-0.02	0.00	-0.14	-0.01	0.02	0.13
Religion Measure	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Land Area	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Average Inflation 1960-90	-0.01	0.00	-0.03	0.00	0.01	0.02
Fraction Population Less than 15	-0.04	-0.01	-0.31	-0.03	0.03	0.28
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Timing of Independence	-0.02	-0.01	-0.03	-0.03	0.01	0.01
Fraction Protestants	-0.01	0.00	-0.03	0.00	0.01	0.02
Size of Economy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Square of Inflation 1960-90	-0.01	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Defense Spending Share	0.02	0.12	0.27	0.13	0.09	0.14

Fraction Population Over 65	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.08
Interior Density	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
European Dummy	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Spanish Colony	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Primary Exports 1970	-0.01	0.00	-0.01	-0.02	0.01	0.01
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.05
Fraction of Land Area						
Near Navigable Water	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fertility in 1960s	-0.01	-0.02	-0.11	-0.03	0.01	0.08
Fraction Catholic	-0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01
Colony Dummy	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	-0.01	0.01	-0.04	0.00	0.01	0.04
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Outward Orientation	0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.00
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1970s	0.01	-0.01	0.00	-0.01	0.02	0.00
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.04	0.01	0.03
Tropical Climate Zone	0.01	0.07	0.01	0.13	0.07	0.12
Air Distance to Big Cities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Landlocked Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
English Speaking Population	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
War Participation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Socialist Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01

**Table D.4.1-FLS:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of individual variables (FLS coefficients priors)

	PWT6.2 (common sample N=87)	WDI (common sample N=86)	PWT6.1 (common sample N=87)	WDI	PWT6.2/WDI	PWT6.1/WDI
					abs.diff.	abs.diff
East Asian Dummy	0.99	1.00	0.86	1.00	0.01	0.14
Investment Price	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00
GDP in 1975 (log)	0.07	0.97	0.01	0.97	0.90	0.96
Life Expectancy in 1975	0.09	0.96	0.03	0.97	0.88	0.94
Fraction of Tropical Area	0.29	0.61	0.06	0.65	0.32	0.59
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Absolute Latitude	0.12	0.32	0.04	0.28	0.21	0.24
Fraction Confucius	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.04
Openness Measure 1965-74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Political Rights	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.02
Primary Schooling in 1975	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.02
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
British Colony Dummy	0.03	0.02	0.06	0.01	0.02	0.05
Public Investment Share	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Years Open 1950-94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population Density 1975	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
African Dummy	0.24	0.03	0.75	0.03	0.21	0.72
Fraction Population in Tropics	0.05	0.03	0.13	0.03	0.02	0.09
Fraction Buddhist	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.03
Terms of Trade Ranking	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.01

Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.03	0.09	0.02	0.07	0.06	0.05
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	0.18	0.16	0.01	0.16	0.02	0.15
Revolutions and Coups	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	0.41	0.05	0.22	0.05	0.36	0.18
Higher Education 1975	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
Fraction Muslim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population in 1975	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Latin American Dummy	0.13	0.04	0.28	0.04	0.10	0.24
Government Share of GDP in 1970s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Orthodox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Hindus	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capitalism	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Civil Liberties	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Timing of Independence	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Land Area	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gov. Consumption Share 1970s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Population Less than 15	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Nominal Government GDP Share 1970s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Religion Measure	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Average Inflation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Protestants	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Size of Economy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Defense Spending Share	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.03
Fraction Population Over 65	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Square of Inflation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interior Density	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
European Dummy	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.01
Primary Exports 1970	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Spanish Colony	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.03
Fraction of Land Area						
Near Navigable Water	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fertility in 1960s	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Catholic	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
Colony Dummy	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Outward Orientation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1970s	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.02
Air Distance to Big Cities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tropical Climate Zone	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.02
Landlocked Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
English Speaking Population	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
War Participation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Socialist Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

**Table D.4.2-FLS:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of groups of variables (FLS coefficients priors) – see Table 8 (panel B) in the paper

**Table D.4.3-FLS:** Standardized unconditional posterior mean effects on growth (FLS coefficients priors)

	PWT6.2 (common sample N=87)	WDI (common sample N=86)	PWT6.1 (common sample N=87)	WDI (common sample N=86)	PWT6.2/WDI abs. diff.	PWT6.1/WDI abs. diff.
East Asian Dummy	0.98	0.91	0.65	0.92	0.06	0.26
Investment Price	-0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00
GDP in 1975 (log)	-0.08	-1.54	0.00	-1.55	1.46	1.54
Life Expectancy in 1975	0.11	1.59	0.02	1.60	1.48	1.58
Fraction of Tropical Area	-0.20	-0.49	-0.03	-0.52	0.28	0.49
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Absolute Latitude	0.08	0.27	0.03	0.23	0.19	0.20
Fraction Confucius	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02
Openness Measure 1965-74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Political Rights	0.00	-0.01	0.00	-0.01	0.01	0.01
Primary Schooling in 1975	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
British Colony Dummy	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.03
Public Investment Share	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Years Open 1950-94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population Density 1975	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
African Dummy	-0.17	-0.01	-0.75	-0.01	0.16	0.74
Fraction Population in Tropics	-0.03	-0.01	-0.11	-0.01	0.02	0.10
Fraction Buddhist	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02
Terms of Trade Ranking	0.00	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	0.01	0.01
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.02
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	-0.13	-0.09	0.00	-0.09	0.04	0.09
Revolutions and Coups	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	-0.26	-0.02	-0.14	-0.02	0.24	0.12
Higher Education 1975	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Muslim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population in 1975	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Latin American Dummy	-0.06	-0.01	-0.16	-0.01	0.05	0.14
Government Share of GDP in 1970s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Orthodox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Hindus	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capitalism	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Civil Liberties	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Timing of Independence	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Land Area	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gov. Consumption Share 1970s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Population Less than 15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nominal Government GDP Share 1970s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Religion Measure	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Average Inflation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Protestants	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Size of Economy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Defense Spending Share	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Fraction Population Over 65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Square of Inflation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interior Density	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
European Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Primary Exports 1970	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Spanish Colony	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Fraction of Land Area						
Near Navigable Water	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fertility in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Catholic	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Colony Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Outward Orientation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1970s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Air Distance to Big Cities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tropical Climate Zone	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
Landlocked Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
English Speaking Population	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
War Participation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Socialist Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

## 5. Results with the Ley and Steel (2009) hierarchical prior

**Table D.5.1-FLS:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of individual variables (FLS coefficients priors)

	PWT6.2 (common sample N=87)	WDI (common sample N=86)	PWT6.1 (common sample N=86)	WDI	PWT6.2/WDI abs.diff.	PWT6.1/WDI abs.diff
East Asian Dummy	0.97	0.99	0.52	0.99	0.02	0.48
Investment Price	0.72	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.69	0.02
GDP in 1975 (log)	0.07	0.94	0.01	0.95	0.87	0.94
Life Expectancy in 1975	0.08	0.93	0.02	0.95	0.85	0.92
Fraction of Tropical Area	0.58	0.67	0.05	0.70	0.08	0.65
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Absolute Latitude	0.16	0.27	0.05	0.24	0.11	0.19
Fraction Confucius	0.03	0.01	0.20	0.01	0.02	0.19
Political Rights	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.02
Openness Measure 1965-74	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.02
Primary Schooling in 1975	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
British Colony Dummy	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.01
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	0.02	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.04	0.01
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01
Public Investment Share	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Years Open 1950-94	0.01	0.06	0.02	0.05	0.04	0.03
Population Density 1975	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Fraction Population in Tropics	0.09	0.01	0.48	0.02	0.08	0.46
African Dummy	0.02	0.00	0.37	0.00	0.02	0.37
Fraction Buddhist	0.03	0.01	0.24	0.00	0.03	0.23
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	0.12	0.06	0.01	0.06	0.06	0.05
Terms of Trade Ranking	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.03
Revolutions and Coups	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Higher Education 1975	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population in 1975	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Muslim	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Latin American Dummy	0.01	0.01	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.05
Fraction Hindus	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Government Share of GDP in 1970s	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.01
Fraction Orthodox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capitalism	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Civil Liberties	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gov. Consumption Share 1970s	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.02
Nominal Government GDP Share 1970s	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.01
Religion Measure	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Land Area	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Average Inflation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Population Less than 15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Timing of Independence	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Protestants	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Size of Economy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Square of Inflation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Defense Spending Share	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Fraction Population Over 65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interior Density	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
European Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Spanish Colony	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.03
Primary Exports 1970	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction of Land Area						
Near Navigable Water	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fertility in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Catholic	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Colony Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Outward Orientation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1970s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tropical Climate Zone	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Air Distance to Big Cities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Landlocked Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
English Speaking Population	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
War Participation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Socialist Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

(**Table D.5.2-FLS:** Posterior inclusion probabilities of groups of variables – not computed because we are using LS programs)

**Table D.5.3-FLS:** Standardized unconditional posterior mean effects on growth (FLS coefficients priors)

	PWT6.2 (common sample N=87)	WDI (common sample N=86)	PWT6.1 (common sample N=87)	WDI (common sample N=86)	PWT6.2/WDI abs. diff.	PWT6.1/WDI abs. diff.
East Asian Dummy	0.98	0.90	0.42	0.90	0.08	0.49
Investment Price	-0.43	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.42	0.01
GDP in 1975 (log)	-0.09	-1.49	-0.01	-1.51	1.41	1.51
Life Expectancy in 1975	0.10	1.54	0.02	1.58	1.44	1.55
Fraction of Tropical Area	-0.44	-0.54	-0.03	-0.57	0.10	0.54
Fraction GDP in Mining	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Absolute Latitude	0.12	0.23	0.04	0.20	0.11	0.16
Fraction Confucius	0.01	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.01	0.12
Political Rights	0.00	-0.01	0.00	-0.01	0.01	0.01
Openness Measure 1965-74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Primary Schooling in 1975	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
British Colony Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real Exchange Rate Distortions	-0.01	-0.03	-0.04	-0.03	0.02	0.01
Population Density Coastal in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Public Investment Share	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Years Open 1950-94	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.02
Population Density 1975	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Population in Tropics	-0.07	-0.01	-0.46	-0.01	0.06	0.45
African Dummy	-0.01	0.00	-0.39	0.00	0.01	0.39
Fraction Buddhist	0.02	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.02	0.16
Malaria Prevalence in 1960s	-0.09	-0.04	-0.01	-0.04	0.05	0.04
Terms of Trade Ranking	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Speaking Foreign Language	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization	-0.02	0.00	-0.03	0.00	0.02	0.02
Revolutions and Coups	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Higher Education 1975	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population in 1975	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Muslim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Latin American Dummy	0.00	0.00	-0.03	0.00	0.00	0.03
Fraction Hindus	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Government Share of GDP in 1970s	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00
Fraction Orthodox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capitalism	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Civil Liberties	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gov. Consumption Share 1970s	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.01
Nominal Government GDP Share 1970s	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Religion Measure	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Land Area	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Average Inflation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Population Less than 15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Spent in War 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Timing of Independence	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Protestants	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Size of Economy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Square of Inflation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Defense Spending Share	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Population Over 65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interior Density	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
European Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Spanish Colony	0.00	0.00	-0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02
Primary Exports 1970	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hydrocarbon Deposits in 1993	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction of Land Area						
Near Navigable Water	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fertility in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fraction Catholic	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Colony Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Population Growth Rate 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Oil Producing Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Outward Orientation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Public Education Spending Share in GDP in 1970s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terms of Trade Growth in 1960s	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tropical Climate Zone	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Air Distance to Big Cities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Landlocked Country Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
English Speaking Population	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
War Participation 1960-90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Socialist Dummy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00