

## STATE CAPACITY, WELFARE STATES AND COLONIAL RELATIONSHIPS IN THE LONG RUN

*(As comunicações para este ST deverão ser encaminhadas e apresentadas em inglês)*

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This session aims to assess and measure how states' capacity (agricultural output, fiscal, military, institutional, naval, slave trade) was developed by European mother countries (Portugal, Spain, Britain, France, Netherlands, Sweden) and in their respective colonies (North and Latin America, Caribbean, India and Africa). Overall, independence processes from the metropolises occurred after centuries of supremacy, and all mother countries developed ample military power in their zenith, mostly in the 17th century. That dominance was converted from some source of material capital which, at some point, transited towards to a naval hegemony that enabled even European peripheral nations to build their own empires, locally or globally, with different degrees of political stability, administrative cohesion and economic strength. Following this thread, four main objectives are to be reached: first, consider comparatively how heavy of a burden empires created and in which way this phenomenon contributed to their own collapses. Second, what varieties of values and experiences' diffusion practices were ensued within the colonial relationship framework, i.e., what was their legacy in terms of institutions, economic and fiscal practices. Third, we are particularly interested in the observation of long-run state capacities comparative building processes. Last, but not least, we want to seek evidences of a transition from warfare towards to welfare states in a long-run process and compare some evidence of the existing successful cases. The already existing abundant interdisciplinary research, as seen in the works of Mark Dincecco (2011 and 2017), Philip Hoffman (2015), James Robinson (2012), Daron Acemoglu (2019), David Eltis (1997, 1999 and 2010) and David Stasavage (2011 and 2016) has arisen some perceptions about the necessity of knowing more and compare the different levels of effect of superior state capacity (as illustrated by higher revenue and tax yields, more volumous profits on slave trade, fiercer and more proficient administrations, and operational military organizations, i.e., armies, navies, etc.) – some even claim that the early historical state capacity led to economic development as well. Furthermore, we want to comprehend if this may be more of a European phenomenon, since too much of the literature has, due to understandable data obstacles, focused on the European cases. On the other hand, it is not evident in the current literature how this state capacity may or may not lead to more modern types of states and how this transmission occurs, let alone providing insights about the road toward modern welfare states. Also, how those paths can diverge into successful, democratic societies with high standards of living or in uneven and complicated case studies, with long exhibited institutional instability and high economic inequality. How much can we explain by the legacies of colonial rule by their respective mother countries? Can we find new clues in the analysis of state capacity over long periods of time? Our analysis will shed new light on these questions.

Proponents want to submit this as a "pre-session" of the WEHC (World Economic History Conference) panel, with the same title, which will be held in Paris, in July 2021