

The Economics History of State and Religion

Syllabus

Provisional Syllabus: Spring 2021
Mondays 4.30 pm: Zoom
Professor: Mark Koyama
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Office Hrs: Online

This class will introduce PhD students to research in the economics and economic history of culture, institutions and religion. The approach is wide-ranging and encompasses topics in the economics of culture and overlaps with issues in economic history and institutional economics. As such this class will complement other classes and fields you take. There will be a particular focus on the political economy angle and the relationship between religion and the state.

The class will consist of a mixture of lectures, discussion and student presentations. Specifically, I will spend the first part of the class briefly providing an overview of some readings while the second part of the class being devoted to discussion. The purpose of this class is to prepare you for research. You will work on paper ideas and papers which will ideally form the basis of either your dissertation or lead to published papers. The requirements are that you attend every class (unless you have a good reason to be absent) and write a paper at the end of the semester. As an intermediate step I will invite you to propose three paper ideas to me and to discuss these ideas after class or in my office hours. There will be student presentations at the end of the semester.

I advise you do the readings before class. The class itself will focus on my lecture slides. Based on feedback from previous classes, I intended to focus on the methods and techniques used in the papers we read as well as on their content. Starred readings are highly recommended. Non-starred readings are highly recommended but not essential.

The main book I will require for this class is

Noel D. Johnson and Mark Koyama, *Persecution & Toleration: The Long Road to Religious Freedom* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019

I also highly recommend many of the essays in

Jean-Paul Carvalho, Sriya Iyer and Jared Rubin, editors, *Advances in the Economics of Religion* London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019

This book is available cheaply if you log in through the university.

1 Assessment

The main form of assessment will be a research paper due (by email) on Monday May 3 at 12 pm. To facilitate writing the research paper, I've scheduled two research paper workshops. For the first (March 29) you will have to provide two research proposals of 500 words. For the second workshop (April 28) you need to provide slides for a ten minute presentation of the paper. The overall grading breakdown is as follows:

- Research paper: 80 % of final grade.
- Two research proposals: 10% of final grade
- Presentation & overall participation: 10% of final grade.

For every day the final paper is late I will deduct a letter grade (i.e. from a A- to a B+).

2 Readings

This is a *rapidly* expanding field. My reading list is accordingly a long one! It aims to convey both classic papers and the latest research.

2.1 Introduction and Overview: Jan 25

- Laurence R. Iannaccone, Introduction to the Economics of Religion, *Journal of Economic Literature* 36, Nr. 3 September 1998*
- Syria Iyer, The New Economics of Religion, *Journal of Economic Literature* 54, Nr. 2 2016*
- Jean-Paul Carvalho, Sriya Iyer and Jared Rubin, *Introduction*, in: Jean-Paul Carvalho, Sriya Iyer and Jared Rubin, editors, *Advances in the Economics of Religion* London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019
- Adam Smith, *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1776
- David Hume, "Of Superstition and Enthusiasm" Essay X in *Essays Moral, Political, and Literary* (1742-1754)
- Jonathan Gruber and Daniel M. Hungerman, The Church versus the Mall: What Happens When Religion Faces Increased Secular Competition?, *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123, Nr. 2 05 2008
- Ronald Ehrenberg Corry Azzi, Household Allocation of Time and Church Attendance, *Journal of Political Economy* 83, Nr. 1 1975
- Gani Aldashev and Jean-Philippe Platteau, *Religion, Culture, and Development*, volume 2 North-Holland and Elsevier, 1 2014

- Christine Binzel and Jean-Paul Carvalho, Education, Social Mobility and Religious Movements: The Islamic Revival in Egypt, *The Economic Journal* 127, Nr. 607 2017
- Samuel Bazzi, Gabriel Koehler-Derrick and Benjamin Marx, The Institutional Foundations of Religious Politics: Evidence from Indonesia, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* Forthcoming 2020

For the first week of class I suggest you familiarize yourself with the literature by reading at least overview of the topic. Iannaccone provides a classic literature review but it is somewhat out of date whereas Iyer and Adlashev and Platteau, Carvalho, Iyer and Rubin survey more recent contributions. I also recommend consulting some of the classic papers of Gary Becker for further inspiration and insight into the issues involved in modeling non-market decision making. Azzi and Ehrenberg (1975) was the first modeling paper in the economics of religion. Gruber and Hungerman (2008) was a relatively early empirical paper. I will very briefly touch on Binzel and Carvalho (2017) and ?, and other papers as examples of the recent state of the art in the literature but will not go into detail.

2.2 Economics of Culture 1: Feb 1

- L. Guiso, P. Sapienza and L. Zingales, Does Culture Affect Economic Outcomes?, *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 20, Nr. 2 2006
- Luigi Guiso, Paola Sapienza and Luigi Zingales, *Civic Capital as the Missing Link*, in: Jess Benhabib, Alberto Bisin and Matthew O. Jackson, editors, *Handbook of Social Economics* Amsterdam: Elsevier, 2011
- Luigi Guiso, Paola Sapienza and Luigi Zingales, Long-term Persistence, *Journal of the European Economic Association* 14, Nr. 6 2016
- Nico Voigtländer and Hans-Joachim Voth, Persecution Perpetuated: The Medieval Origins of Anti-Semitic violence in Nazi Germany, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 127, Nr. 3 2012*
- Alberto Alesina, Paola Giuliano and Nathan Nunn, On the Origins of Gender Roles: Women and the Plough, *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 128, Nr. 2 2013*
- Nathan Nunn and Leonard Wantchekon, The Slave Trade and the Origins of Mistrust in Africa, *American Economic Review* 101, Nr. 7 December 2011*
- Alberto Alesina and Paola Giuliano, Culture and Institutions, *Journal of Economic Literature* 53, Nr. 4 2015
- George A. Akerlof and Rachel E. Kranton, Economics And Identity, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 115, Nr. 3 August 2000
- Nathan Nunn, Culture and the Historical Process, *Economic History of Developing Regions* 27, Nr. S1 2012

- Avner Greif, Cultural Beliefs and the Organization of Society: A Historical and Theoretical Reflection on Collectivist and Individualist Societies, *Journal of Political Economy* 102, Nr. 5 October 1994

How should economists think about culture? Can cultural values be modeled? Can they be measured? How do cultural values effect economic outcomes? How does economic change affect cultural values? This has been one of the hottest and most exciting topics within economics in recent years. We will study some of the most innovative and interesting papers in the field.

2.3 Economics of Culture 2: Feb 8

- Nathan Nunn and Diego Puga, Ruggedness: The Blessing of Bad Geography in Africa, *The Review of Economics and Statistics* 94, Nr. 1 February 2012*
- Sara Lowes et al., The Evolution of Culture and Institutions: Evidence from the Kuba Kingdom, *Econometrica* 85, Nr. 4 2017*
- Paola Giuliano and Nathan Nunn, Understanding Cultural Persistence and Change, Working Paper 23617 National Bureau of Economic Research, July 2017, (URL: <http://www.nber.org/papers/w23617>)
- Sara Lowes and Eduardo Montero, The Legacy of Colonial Medicine in Central Africa, *American Economic Review* Forthcoming 2020
- Irena Grosfeld, Alexander Rodnyansky and Ekaterina Zhuravskaya, Persistent Anti-Market Culture: A Legacy of the Pale of Settlement after the Holocaust, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 5, Nr. 3 August 2013*
- Alberto Bisin and Thierry Verdier, The Economics of Cultural Transmission and the Dynamics of Preferences, *Journal of Economic Theory* 97, Nr. 2 April 2001
- Alberto Bisin and Thierry Verdier, *The Economics of Cultural Transmission and Socialization*, in: Jess Benhabib, Alberto Bisin and Matthew O. Jackson, editors, *Handbook of Social Economics*, volume 1A The Netherlands, North-Holland: Elsevier, 2011
- Nathan Nunn, History as Evolution, NBER Working Papers 27706 National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc, August 2020
- Samuel Bazzi, Martin Fiszbein and Mesay Gebresilasse, Frontier Culture: The Roots and Persistence of Rugged Individualism in the United States, Boston University - Department of Economics - Working Papers Series WP2018-004 Boston University - Department of Economics, November 2017

This week continues the theme of culture in economics and economic history. The survey piece by Nathan Nunn is a key background reading. My lecture will touch on some of the seminal papers in the recent literature.

2.4 Religion, Beliefs, and Pro-Social Values: Feb 15

- Joseph Henrich, *The Weirdest People in the World: How the west became psychologically peculiar and particularly prosperous* New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2020
- Joseph Henrich, *The Secret of Our Success: How Culture Is Driving Human Evolution, Domesticating Our Species, and Making Us Smarter* Excerpt From: Joseph Henrich. “The Secret of Our Success: How Culture Is Driving Human Evolution, Domesticating Our Species, and Making Us Smarter” Princeton, NJ.: Princeton University Press, 2016*
- Guido Tabellini, The Scope of Cooperation: Values and Incentives, *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123, Nr. 3 August 2008*
- Ara Norenzayan, *Big Gods: How Religion Transformed Cooperation and Conflict* Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2013*
- David Clingingsmith, Asim Ijaz Khwaja and Michael Kremer, Estimating the Impact of The Hajj: Religion and Tolerance in Islam’s Global Gathering, *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 124, Nr. 3 2009
- Filipe Campante and David Yanagizawa-Drott, Does Religion Affect Economic Growth and Happiness? Evidence from Ramadan, *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 130, Nr. 2 2015*
- Boris Gershman, The economic origins of the evil eye belief, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* 110, Nr. C 2015
- Boris Gershman, Witchcraft Beliefs and the Erosion of Social Capital: Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa and Beyond, *Journal of Development Economics* 120 May 2016
- Noel D. Johnson and Mark Koyama, *Persecution & Toleration: The Long Road to Religious Freedom* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019 Chapter 2

Does religion inculcate pro-social values? Norenzayan summarizes recent research that suggests that a belief in so-called ‘big gods’ is associated with more cooperative and trusting behavior. This suggests that the belief in a moralizing god is a cultural adaption that may have evolved via group selection.

2.5 Culture & Institutions: Feb 22

- Douglass C. North, *Institutions, Institutional Change, and Economic Performance* Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge UP, 1990
- Avner Greif, *Institutions and the Path to the Modern Economy* Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press, 2006 also see Avner Greif and Christopher Kingston, *Institutions: Rules or Equilibria?*, in: Norman Schofield and Gonzalo Caballero, editors, *Political Economy of Institutions, Democracy and Voting* Amsterdam: Springer, 05 2011 and Avner Greif and Joel Mokyr, *Cognitive*

rules, institutions, and economic growth: Douglass North and beyond, *Journal of Institutional Economics* 13, Nr. 1 2017

- Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, *Why Nations Fail* New York: Crown Business, 2012 Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, *The Narrow Corridor to Liberty: The Red Queen and the Struggle of State Against Society* 2019

How does culture affect institutions? To answer this question we need a workable definition of both culture and institutions. We consider the various definitions focusing on North's definition of institutions as constraints or rules of the game and culture as an informal institution and on Greif's view of institutions as equilibria. We discuss some applications from economic history and from the work of Acemoglu and Robinson.

2.6 The Catholic Church & Medieval Political Economy: March 1

- Noel D. Johnson and Mark Koyama, *Persecution & Toleration: The Long Road to Religious Freedom* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019 Chapter 3*
- Gary Richardson and Michael McBride, Religion, Longevity, and Cooperation: The Case of the Craft Guild., *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* 71, Nr. 2 2009
- Thomas Barnebeck Andersen et al., Pre-Reformation Roots of the Protestant Ethic, *The Economic Journal* 127, Nr. 604 2016
- Robert B. Ekelund, Robert Hebert and Robert Tollison, *The Marketplace of Christianity* Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 2006. Alternatively focus on Robert B. Ekelund, Robert F. Hebert and Robert D. Tollison, An Economic Analysis of the Protestant Reformation, *Journal of Political Economy* 110, Nr. 3 June 2002 and Brighita Bercea, Robert B. Ekelund and Robert D. Tollison, Cathedral Building as an Entry-Detering Device, *Kyklos* 58, Nr. 4 November 2005.*
- Robert Ekelund et al., *Sacred Trust: The Medieval Church as an Economic Firm* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996. Alternatively focus on Ekelund et al. (1989).*
- Jonathan F. Schulz et al., The Church, intensive kinship, and global psychological variation, *Science* 366, Nr. 6466 2019*
- Jonathan Schulz, The Catholic Church, Kin Networks and Institutional Development November 2018
- Larry Siedentop, *Inventing the Individual: The Origins of Western Liberalism* New York: Allen Lane, 2014
- Harold J. Berman, *Law and Revolution, the formation of the Western legal tradition* Cambridge, Massachuestts: Harvard University Press, 1983

- Colin Morris, *The Papal Monarchy : the Western Church from 1050 to 1250* Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1989

The Catholic Church is the longest lasting institution in the world. It has had a massive impact on European history. Many aspects of the Catholic Church have recently come under the purview of economists and economic historians.

We ask how did the Catholic Church last so long? Can the Catholic Church be modeled as a religious firm? What was the relationship between the Church and the state in the medieval period? What led to the breakdown of the Catholic religious monopoly and to the Reformation?

2.7 The Jewish Communities in Medieval and Early Modern Europe: March 8

- Maristella Botticini and Zvi Eckstein, *The Chosen Few* Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2012*
- Noel D. Johnson and Mark Koyama, *Persecution & Toleration: The Long Road to Religious Freedom* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019 Chapters 4-5*
- Mark Koyama, The political economy of expulsion: The regulation of Jewish moneylending in medieval England, *Constitutional Political Economy* 21, Nr. 4 December 2010
- Noel D. Johnson and Mark Koyama, Jewish Communities and City Growth in Preindustrial Europe March 2016
- Remi Jebwab, Noel D. Johnson and Mark Koyama, Bones, Bacteria and Breaks: The Heterogenous Spatial Effects of the Black Death on Urban Economic Development January 2016
- Luigi Pascali, Banks and Development: Jewish Communities in the Italian Renaissance and Current Economic Performance, *Review of Economics and Statistics* 98, Nr. 1 2016

A large historical literature links the presence of religious minorities to economic prosperity. The important work of Botticini and Eckstein demonstrates that Jews had higher levels of human capital than did Christians and Muslims throughout medieval Europe. We ask: What was the economic role of the Jews? Did the presence of Jewish communities lead to faster economic growth in the premodern period?

2.8 The Protestant Reformation: March 15

- Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* London, U.K.: Allen and Unwin, 1930
- R.H. Tawney, *Religion and the Rise of Capitalism* London: Verso, 1926

- Noel D. Johnson and Mark Koyama, *Persecution & Toleration: The Long Road to Religious Freedom* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019 Chapter 7
- Davide Cantoni, Adopting a New Religion: The Case of Protestantism in 16th Century Germany , *Economic Journal*, 122, Nr. 560 2012
- Robert B. Ekelund, Robert F. Hebert and Robert D. Tollison, An Economic Analysis of the Protestant Reformation, *Journal of Political Economy* 110, Nr. 3 June 2002
- Davide Cantoni, The Economic Effects Of The Protestant Reformation: Testing The Weber Hypothesis In The German Lands, *Journal of the European Economic Association* 13, Nr. 4 08 2015
- Sascha O. Becker, Steven Pfaff and Jared Rubin, Causes and consequences of the Protestant Reformation, *Explorations in Economic History* 62 2016*
- Jared Rubin, Printing and Protestants: Reforming the Economics of the Reformation, *Review of Economics and Statistics* 96, Nr. 2 2014*
- Jared Rubin, *Rulers, Religion, and Riches: Why the West got rich and the Middle East did not* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017
- Gilat Levy and Ronney Razin, Religious Beliefs, Participation and Cooperation, *American Economic Journal: Microeconomics* 4, Nr. 3 2012
- Murat Iyigun, Luther and Suleyman, *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123, Nr. 4 November 2008

What lead to the successful ‘entry’ of new religious firms in the religious economy of medieval Europe after 1500? Why did earlier heretical movements fail? What factors are responsible for the success and diffusion of the Protestant Reformation. What were the economic consequences of the Protestant Reformation?

2.9 Religion and Economic Development: March 22

- Noel D. Johnson and Mark Koyama, *Persecution & Toleration: The Long Road to Religious Freedom* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019 Chapter 12
- Erik Hornung, Immigration and the Diffusion of Technology: The Huguenot Diaspora in Prussia, *American Economic Review* 104, Nr. 1 January 2014
- Metin M. Coşgel, Thomas J. Miceli and Jared Rubin, The Political Economy of Mass Printing: Legitimacy and technological change in the Ottoman Empire, *Journal of Comparative Economics* 40, Nr. 3 2012
- Jean-Paul Carvalho and Mark Koyama, Jewish Emancipation and Schism: Economic Development and Religious Change, *Journal of Comparative Economics* 44, Nr. 3 2016
- Sascha O. Becker and Ludger Woessmann, Was Weber Wrong? A Human Capital Theory of Protestant Economic History, *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 124, Nr. 2 May 2009

- Jeremiah E Dittmar and Ralf R Meisenzahl, Public Goods Institutions, Human Capital, and Growth: Evidence from German History, *Review of Economic Studies* Forthcoming 2019
- Davide Cantoni, Jeremiah Dittmar and Noam Yuchtman, Religious Competition and Reallocation: the Political Economy of Secularization in the Protestant Reformation, *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 133, Nr. 4 2018
- Benito Arrunada, Protestants and Catholics: Similar Work Ethic, Different Social Ethic, *Economic Journal* 120, Nr. 547 09 2010

2.10 Research Paper Ideas Workshop: March 29

2.11 Religion, Violence and Ethnic Conflict: April 5

- Saumitra Jha, Trade, complementaries and religious tolerance: evidence from India, *American Journal of Political Science* 107, Nr. 4 2013*. Also see Alberto Diaz-Cayeros and Saumitra Jha, Can Contract Failures Foster Ethnic Assimilation? Evidence from Cochineal in Mexico January 2017.
- Nico Voigtländer and Hans-Joachim Voth, Persecution Perpetuated: The Medieval Origins of Anti-Semitic violence in Nazi Germany, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 127, Nr. 3 2012*
- Remi Jedwab, Noel Johnson and Mark Koyama, Economic Shocks, Inter-Ethnic Complementarities and the Persecution of Minorities: Evidence from the Black Death December 2016
- Theresa Finley and Mark Koyama, Plague, Politics, and Pogroms: The Black Death, the Rule of Law, and the Persecution of Jews in the Holy Roman Empire, *Journal of Law and Economics* 61, Nr. 2 2018
- Irena Grosfeld, Seyhun Orcan Sakalli and Ekaterina Zhuravskaya, Middleman Minorities and Ethnic Violence: Anti-Jewish Pogroms in the Russian Empire 2017
- Sascha O. Becker and Luigi Pascali, Religion, Division of Labor and Conflict: Anti-Semitism in German Regions over 600 Years, *American Economic Review* Forthcoming 2018
- Asaf Zussman, The effect of political violence on religiosity, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* 104, Nr. C 2014
- Joan Esteban, Laura Mayoral and Debraj Ray, Ethnicity and Conflict: An Empirical Study, *American Economic Review* 102, Nr. 4 June 2012
- Anirban Mitra and Debraj Ray, Implications of an Economic Theory of Conflict: Hindu-Muslim Violence in India, *Journal of Political Economy* 122, Nr. 4 2014

What is the relationship between religion and violence? Does religion cause violence? Or does it make existing tensions and conflicts more extreme? We examine several episodes of religiously inspired violence from history, particularly the persecution of

Muslims by Hindus in India and the persecutions of Jews in medieval Europe. In particular we explore how religious motivations interact with economic motivations in determining the probability of religiously inspired violence.

2.12 Religion, Toleration, and the State: April 12

- Joel Mokyr, *Culture of Growth* Princeton, NJ.: Princeton University Press, 2016
- Mara P. Squicciarini and Nico Voigtländer, Human Capital and Industrialization: Evidence from the Age of Enlightenment, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 130, Nr. 4 2015
- Noel D. Johnson and Mark Koyama, *Persecution & Toleration: The Long Road to Religious Freedom* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019 Chapters 9–14
- Metin M. Coşgel and Thomas J. Miceli, State and religion, *Journal of Comparative Economics* 37, Nr. 3 2009*
- Robert J. Barro and Rachel M. McCleary, Which Countries Have State Religions?, *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 120, Nr. 4 2005
- Latika Chaudhary and Jared Rubin, Religious identity and the provision of public goods: Evidence from the Indian Princely States, *Journal of Comparative Economics* 44, Nr. 3 2016
- Jordi Vidal-Robert, Long-run effects of the Spanish Inquisition, CAGE Online Working Paper Series, Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy (CAGE) 192 2014, (URL: <http://ideas.repec.org/p/cge/wacage/192.html>)
- Eric Chaney, Religion and the Rise and Fall of Islamic Science March 2016

What is the relationship between religion and innovation? Why do some religions oppose scientific innovation? What explains episodes of religiously inspired conservatism in history? How do the relationship between religion and the state change after 1600 so as to favor innovation and growth? What is the relationship between religion and the state? How has this religion changed over time?

2.13 The Political Economy of Islam: April 19

- Jared Rubin, *Rulers, Religion, and Riches: Why the West got rich and the Middle East did not* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017*
- S. Michalopoulos, A. Naghavi and G. Prarolo, Islam, Inequality and Pre-Industrial Comparative Development, Working Papers wp974 Dipartimento Scienze Economiche, Universita' di Bologna, October 2014*
- Erik Meyersson, Islamic Rule and the Empowerment of the Poor and Pious, *Econometrica* 82, Nr. 1 01 2014*

- Christine Binzel and Jean-Paul Carvalho, Education, Social Mobility and Religious Movements: The Islamic Revival in Egypt, *The Economic Journal* 127, Nr. 607 2017*
- Samuel Bazzi, Gabriel Koehler-Derrick and Benjamin Marx, The Institutional Foundations of Religious Politics: Evidence from Indonesia, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* Forthcoming 2020
- Timur Kuran, *The Long Divergence* Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2010*. Alternatively, read Kuran (2003); Kuran (2006); Kuran (2004); Kuran (2005).
- Lisa Blaydes and Eric Chaney, The Feudal Revolution and Europe's Rise: Political Divergence of the Christian and Muslim Worlds before 1500 CE, *American Political Science Review* 107, Nr. 1 2013*
- Eric Chaney, Revolt on the Nile: Economic Shocks, Religion and Political Power, *Econometrica* Forthcoming 2013
- Timur Kuran and Jared Rubin, The Financial Power of the Powerless: Socio-Economic Status and Interest Rates under Partial Rule of Law, Working Papers 14-22 Chapman University, Economic Science Institute, 2014

What is the relationship between Islam and the state? How did Islam arise? Why did it spread where it did? Did Islamic traditions impede the transition to modern economic growth? Why has there been an Islamic revival since the 1970s? Why are so few Islamic states stable democracies? Are there reasons to believe that Islam is less inimical to liberal democracy than other world regions?

2.14 Research Paper Workshop April 28

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- Acemoglu, Daron and Robinson, James A.: *The Narrow Corridor to Liberty: The Red Queen and the Struggle of State Against Society* 2019, Book manuscript
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