

Documentation on the database « precolonial_geographicaldata.dta »

This data was collected by Elise Huillery within the research project "Long Term History and Resources Distribution in Africa" directed by Denis Cogneau (IRD, DIAL, Paris). Financial support from the French Ministry of Research is gratefully acknowledged.

Source:

- Geographical Data:

The source for altitude, latitude and longitude is: <http://www.fallingrain.com>.

The source for rainfalls is a database collected by ORSTOM.

Data on coastal borders, navigable rivers, distance of the main city from the coast and distance from the main city from the nearest seaport come from the 1925 colonial maps found at the Documentation Française, Paris. For the distances, I calculated it manually on the maps.

- Pre-Colonial Data:

Pre-colonial political context can be synthesized in three types of districts: those under a centralized political power (kingdom), those in which a number of villages or communities lived under the control of a paramount chief (chiefdom) and those which lacks political leaders or hierarchies (acephalous societies). Data on pre-colonial political status comes from several historian sources: Jean Suret-Canale (1964), Marcel Chailley (1968), Adu A. Boahen (1989), Bouche (1991), Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch & Henri Moniot (1993), Curtin & al. (1995). I constructed a dummy for the presence of a kingdom at the end the nineteenth century, and a dummy for the absence of any hierarchy or political structure.

Data on former trade counters comes from Curtin (1995).

Data on colonial conquest (years of resistance, beginning of the conquest, ending of the conquest, first treaty of peace with local chiefs and first military post) come from Deloncle (1934), Duboc (1939), Suret-Canale (1964), Mickael Crowder & Obaro Ikime (1971), Ki-Zerbo (1978).

Structure of the Data:

An observation is a district.