

# **Divided into progress!**

## **How Europe's political and religious fragmentation spurred creativity: 1100— 1900**

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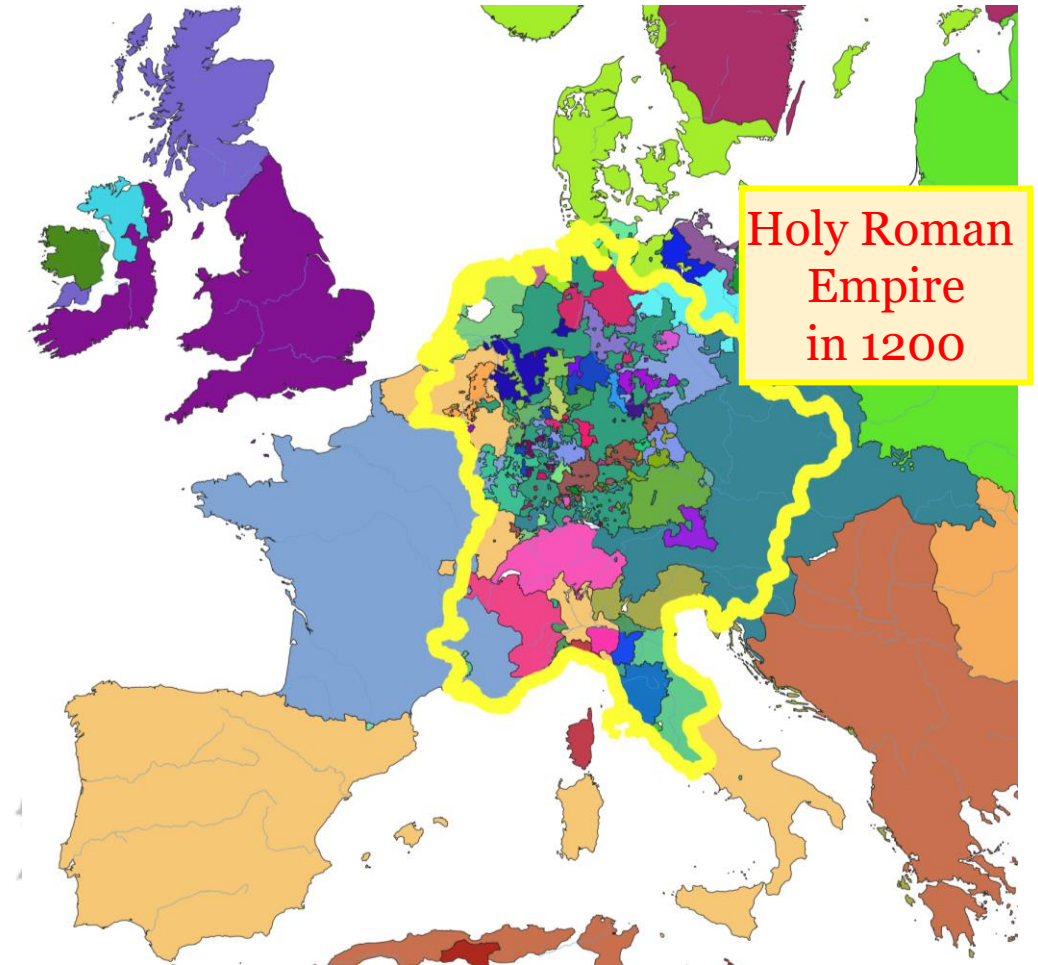
**ASSA 2026 Annual Meeting**

Philadelphia

January 3, 2026

# Europe's deeply-rooted fragmentation

- Rooted in the **HRE's legacy of weak power.**
- Manifested also religiously:
  - East–West Schism (1054)
  - Church vs. state (e.g. 12<sup>th</sup> cent. Investiture Controversies)
  - Western Schism (1378-1417)
  - Reformations (1517)



**Europe ca. 1600**

# Fragmentation may *harm* creativity

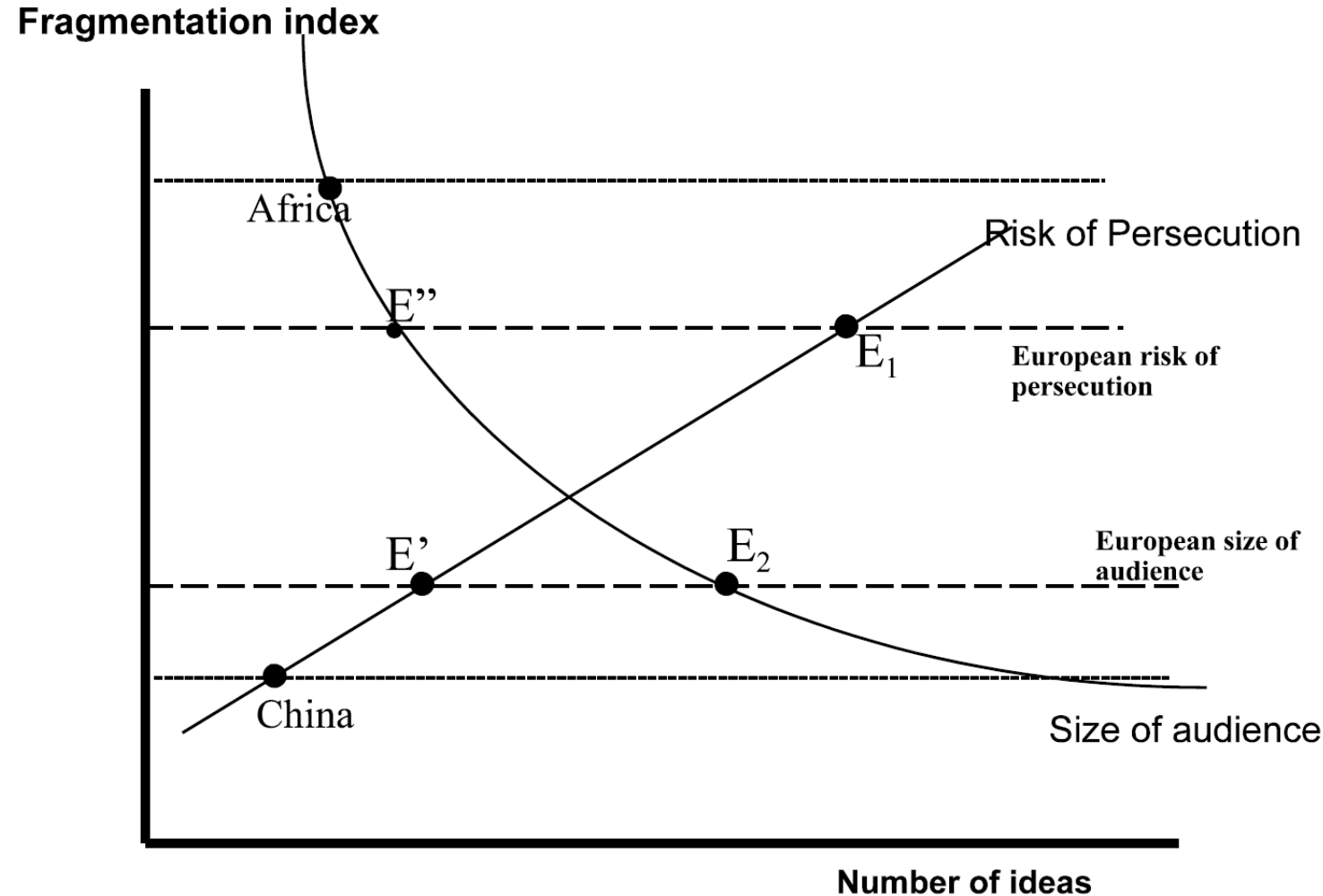
## Political

- Fewer agglomeration effects
- Waste in wars and conflict

## Religious

- Also possibly leading to intolerance, censorship, lack of communication.

# Fragmentation may *spur* creativity



Europe's intellectual community > Europe's political unit size

Mokyr, J. The Market for Ideas and the Origins of Economic Growth in Eighteenth Century Europe. *Tijdschrift voor Sociale en Economische geschiedenis* **2007**, 4 (1), 3–38.



# Fragmentation may *spur* creativity

## Mechanism 1: Persecution-ineffectiveness

“... the political fragmentation of Europe ... made it almost impossible for rulers and organized religion to suppress heterodox ideas. ...

The main mechanism that made [The Enlightenment] possible was the capability of creative and original thinkers and scientists to move around on the continent, so that no single ruler could control them.”

Mokyr, 2005, *Mobility, Creativity, and Technological Development*

# Fragmentation may *spur* creativity

## Mechanism 2: Peaceful competition channel

Examples:

- Jesuits vs. Jansenists competing education. [Mokyr, 2017](#)
- Dissenter academies in Britain. [Mokyr, 2017](#)
- “Columbus succeeded on his **fifth try** in persuading one of Europe's hundreds of princes to sponsor.” [Diamond, 2007](#)
- “**Europe's disunity** stand in sharp contrast to those of **China's unity**. ... [which] decided to halt other activities besides overseas navigation.” [Diamond, 2007](#)

Did fragmentation *harm*/*spur* Europe's creativity?

(and through which channels?)

# Data (Europe only)

- Per capita **creative individuals** and their fame. Appendix
  - *Intellectuals* (incl. *scientists*) and *artists*.
  - Wikidata, Wikipedia ([Wasmer et al](#)), RETE ([de la Croix et al](#)), Bairoch, Burigh.
- **Political fragmentation** within 100, 200, ... , 500 km. Appendix
  - Cleaned [Abrahmson](#) 5-year panel; adapted [Nüssli](#) vector data
  - 19<sup>th</sup> cent.: [Max Planck](#) Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR)
- **Religious fragmentation** within 50, ... , 200 km. Appendix
  - Wikidata

# Causal propositions

**Prop. 1:** *Fragmentation  $\rightarrow$  Religious diversity*

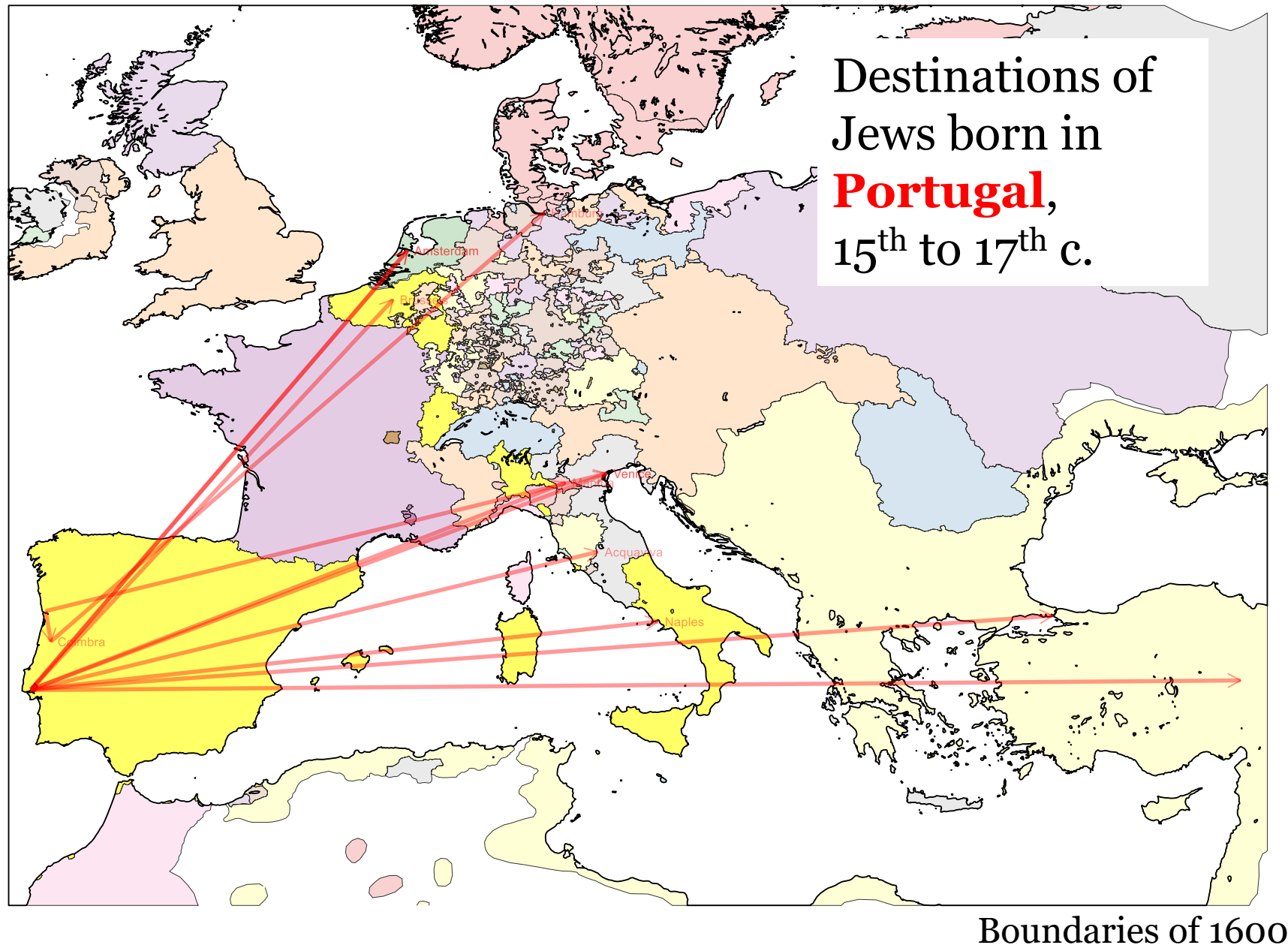
## Prop. 1: *Fragmentation* → *Religious diversity*

### Why?

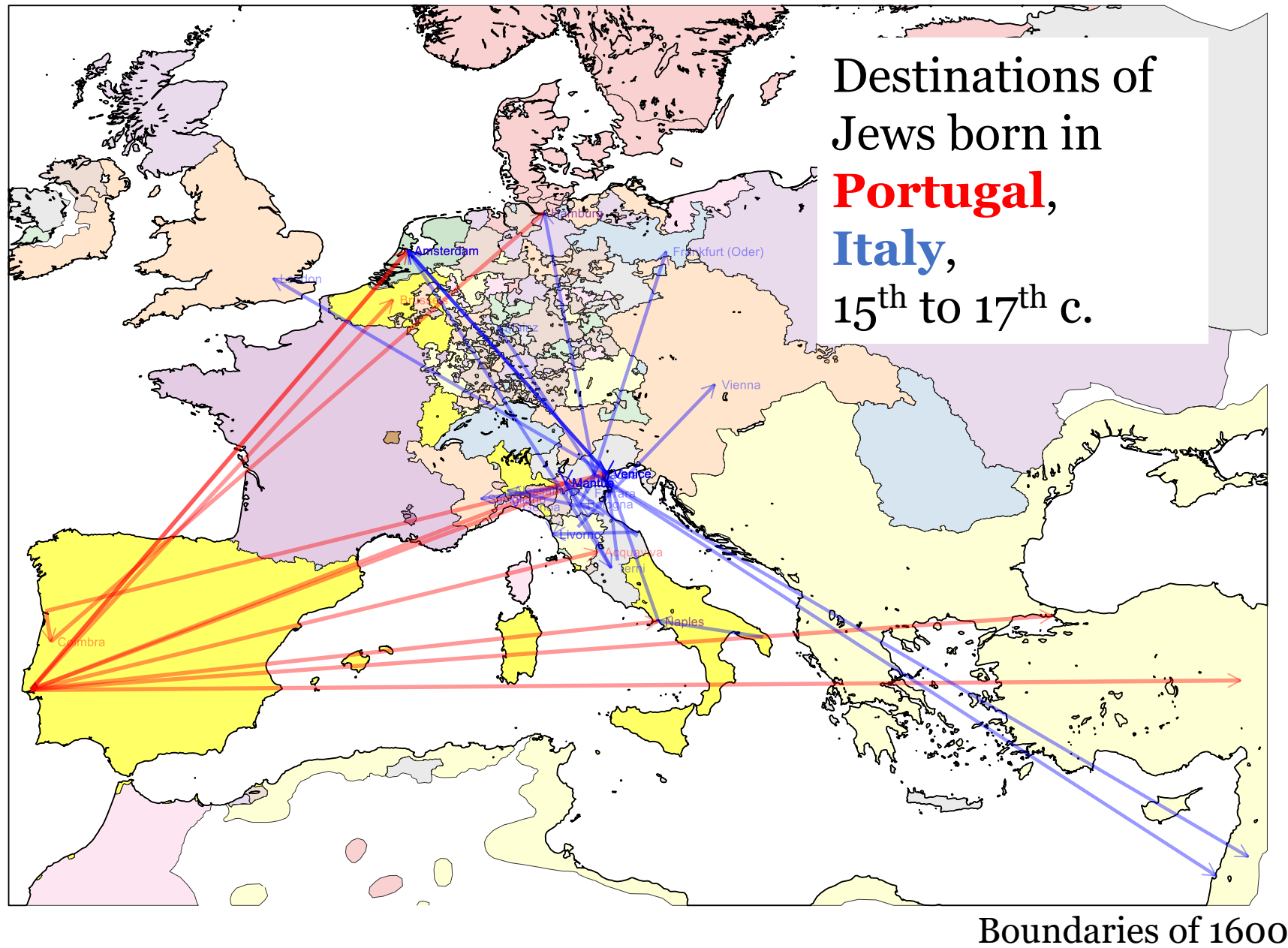
- Obvious after Reformation: *cuius regio, eius religio* (“whose realm, their religion”)

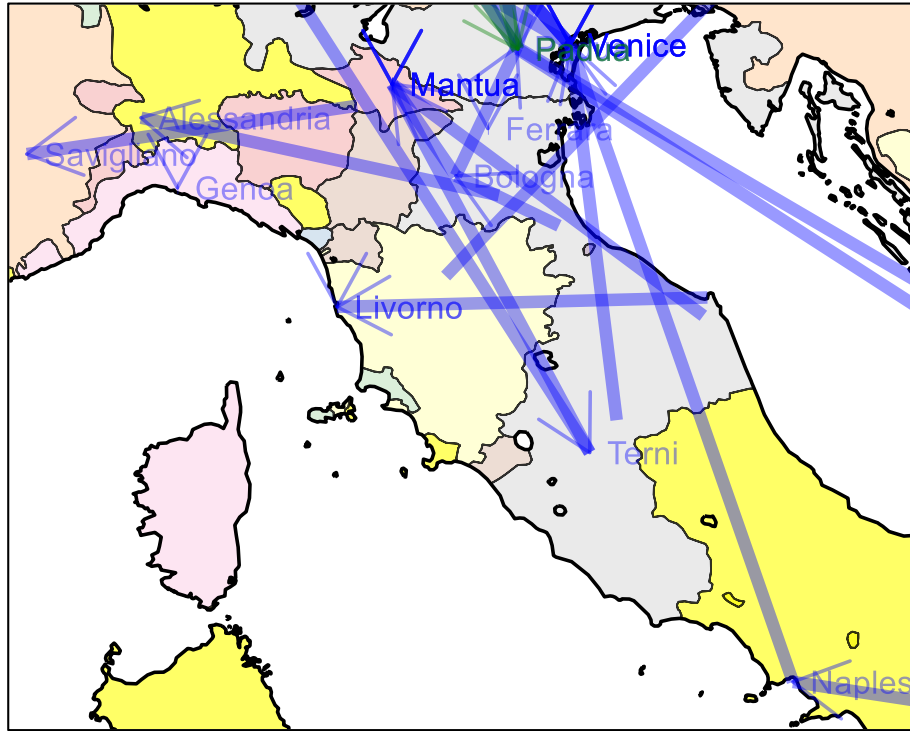
- More generally:

Pol. frag. → Religiously persecuted found shelter in nearby states (i.e. *within* the regional state system)



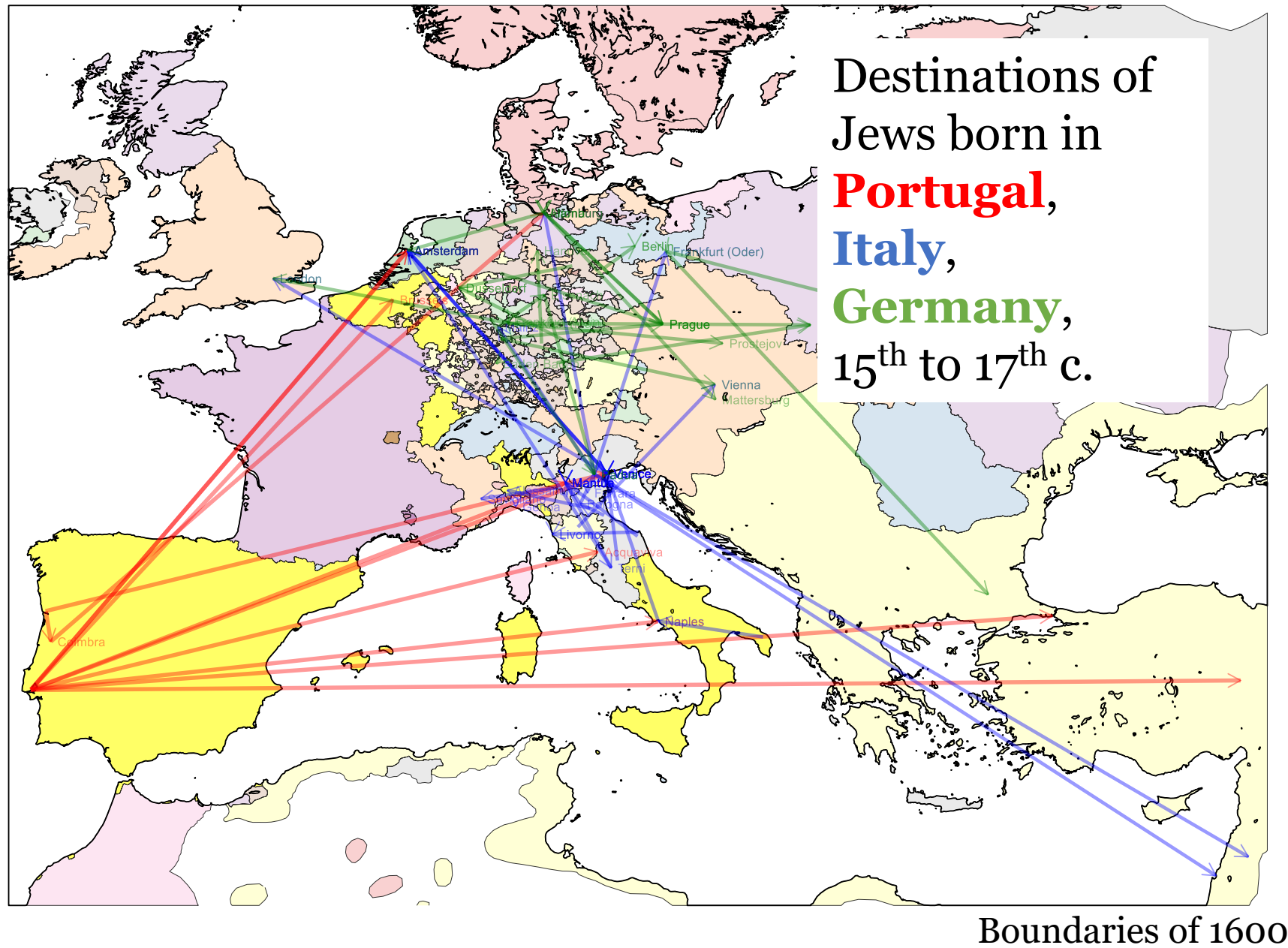






Many stayed  
within the  
Italian states  
system.

The same applies to the German states system ...

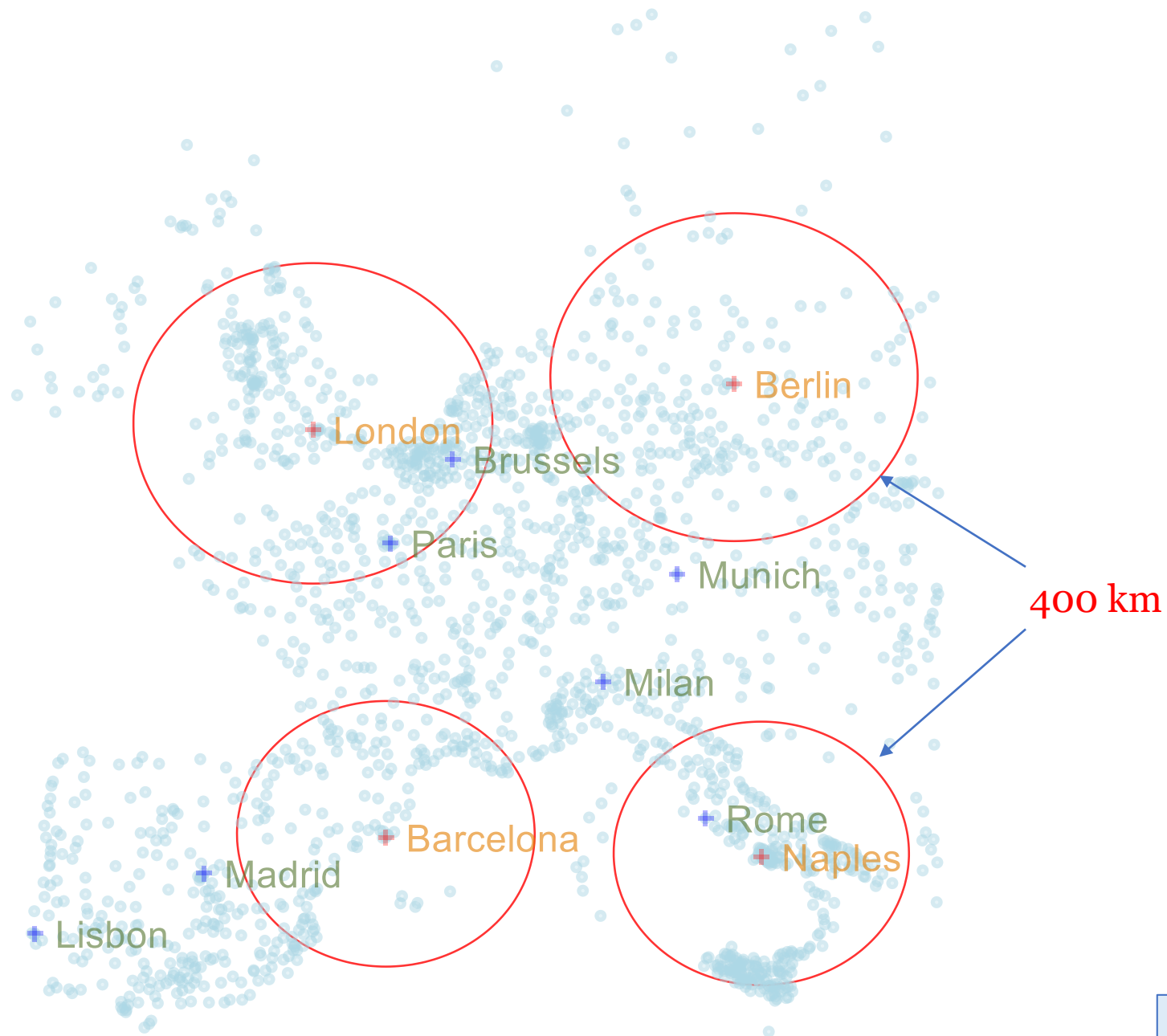


# Prop. 1: Fragmentation $\rightarrow$ Religious diversity

Dependent variable: Religious diversity within <u>50km</u>	Period			
	1100–1550	1560–1690	1700–1790	1800–1900
State fragmentation ( <u>400km</u> )	0.21 <sup>•</sup>	0.06***	0.03*	0.11 <sup>•</sup>
Dep. variable in $t - 100$	✓	✓	✓	✓
Full controls	✓	✓	✓	✓
Observations	1990	4098	4320	4908
R-squared	0.37	0.45	0.50	0.54

*Notes:* Population-weighted, city-decade OLS estimates. Full controls are latitude, longitude, latitude  $\times$  longitude, log population of the city, the number of cities and their population within 400 km, and fixed effects for time, languages, and countries. Sources described in the main text. \*  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ , •  $p < 0.00000001$

**Robustness**



## **Prop. 2:** *Fragmentation $\rightarrow$ Universities*

# Prop. 2: Fragmentation $\rightarrow$ Universities

local

Dependent variable: Universities within 50km

	Period			
	1100–1550	1560–1690	1700–1790	1800–1900
State fragmentation ( <u>400km</u> )	0.08 <sup>•</sup>	0.08 <sup>•</sup>	0.07***	0.11 <sup>•</sup>
Dep. variable in $t - 100$	✓	✓	✓	✓
Full controls	✓	✓	✓	✓
Observations	89286	27174	19410	19410
R-squared	0.55	0.66	0.81	0.60

System

*Notes:* Population-weighted, city-decade OLS estimates. Full controls are latitude, longitude, latitude  $\times$  longitude, log population of the city, the number of cities and their population within 400 km, and fixed effects for time, languages, and countries. Sources described in the main text. \*  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ , <sup>•</sup>  $p < 0.00000001$

Robustness



# Prop. 2: Fragmentation → Universities

## Why?

Religious/state fragmentation → Universities obvious after the Reformation (*cuius regio, eius religio*).

But why also before?

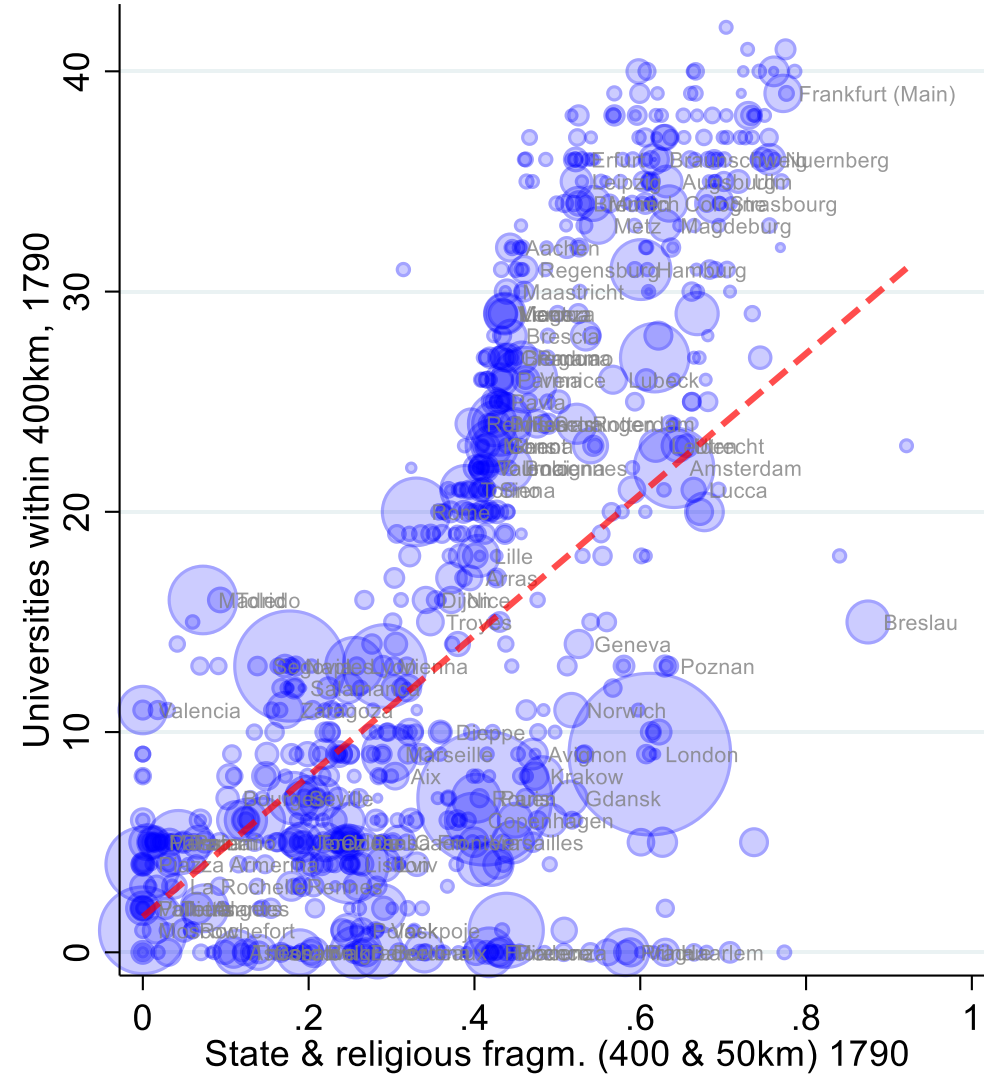
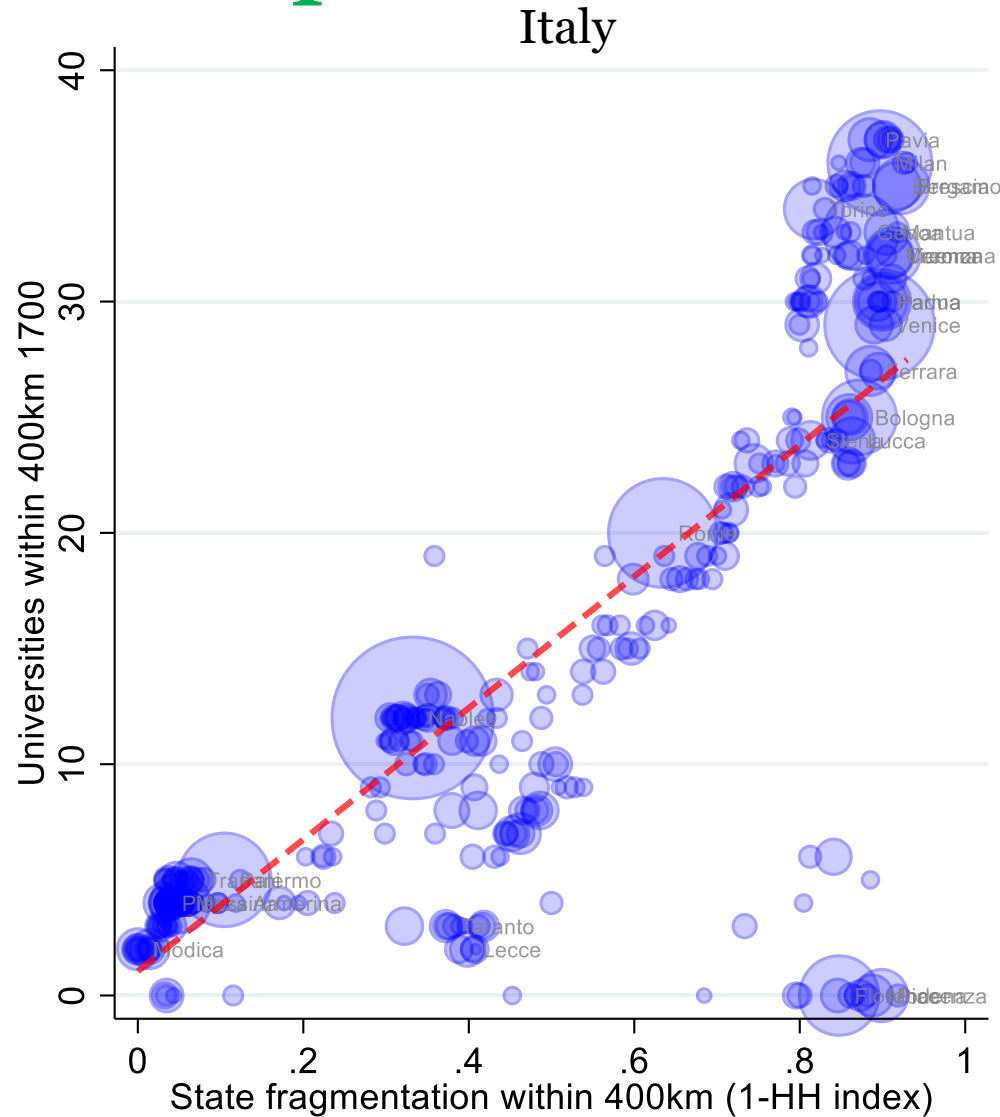
- States need bureaucrats,  
... ideally their *own* bureaucrats → Universities founded
- Prestige state competition → Universities founded
- Papal Schism 1378-1417 → Universities founded
- Charters as *intra-state* monopolies → Universities **blocked**

Examples

Examples

Examples





**Prop. 3:** *Fragmentation*  $\rightarrow$  *Creativity*

# Prop. 3: *Fragmentation* → *Creativity*

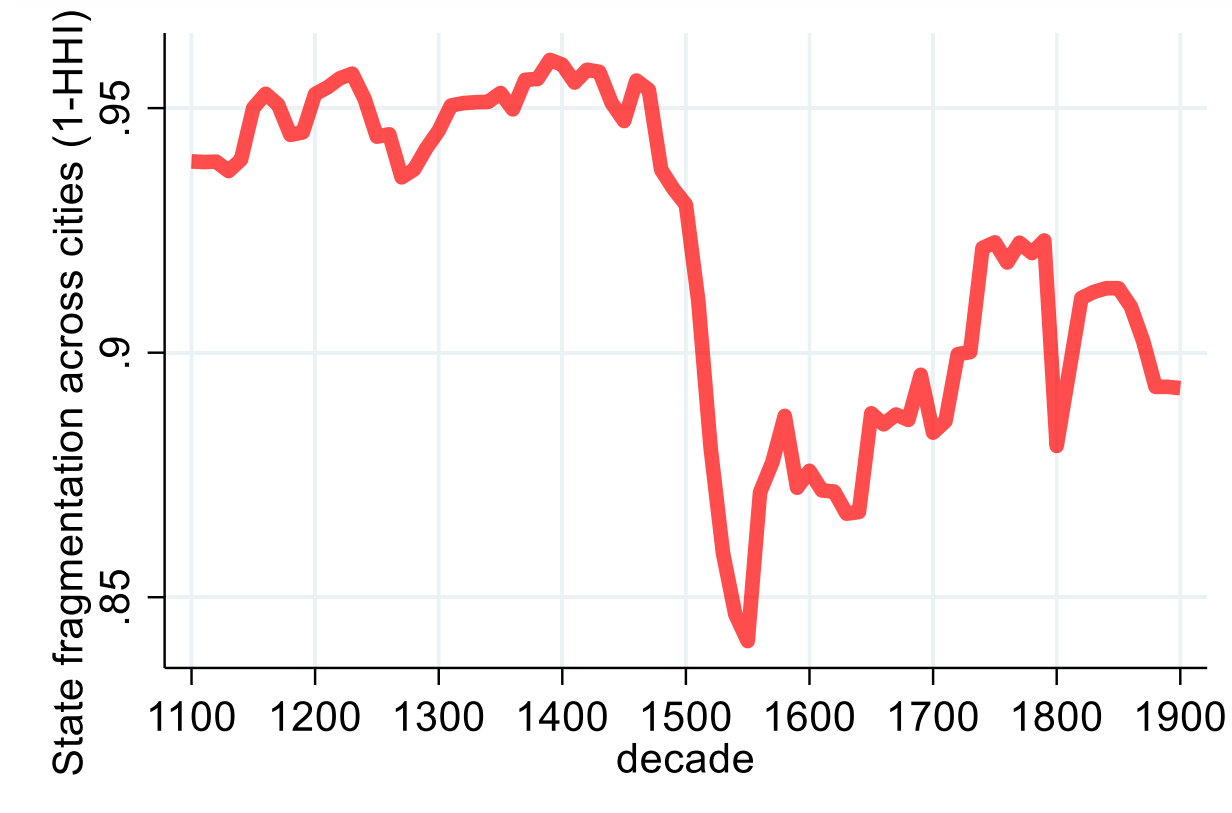
Dependent variable: Creatives' biographies p.c.

	Period			
	1100–1550	1560–1690	1700–1790	1800–1900
State fragmentation (400km)	0.97 <sup>•</sup>	0.46 <sup>•</sup>	0.77 <sup>•</sup>	0.55 <sup>•</sup>
Dep. variable in $t - 100$	✓	✓	✓	✓
Full controls	✓	✓	✓	✓
Observations	7543	10629	9891	12716
R-squared	0.41	0.35	0.50	0.56

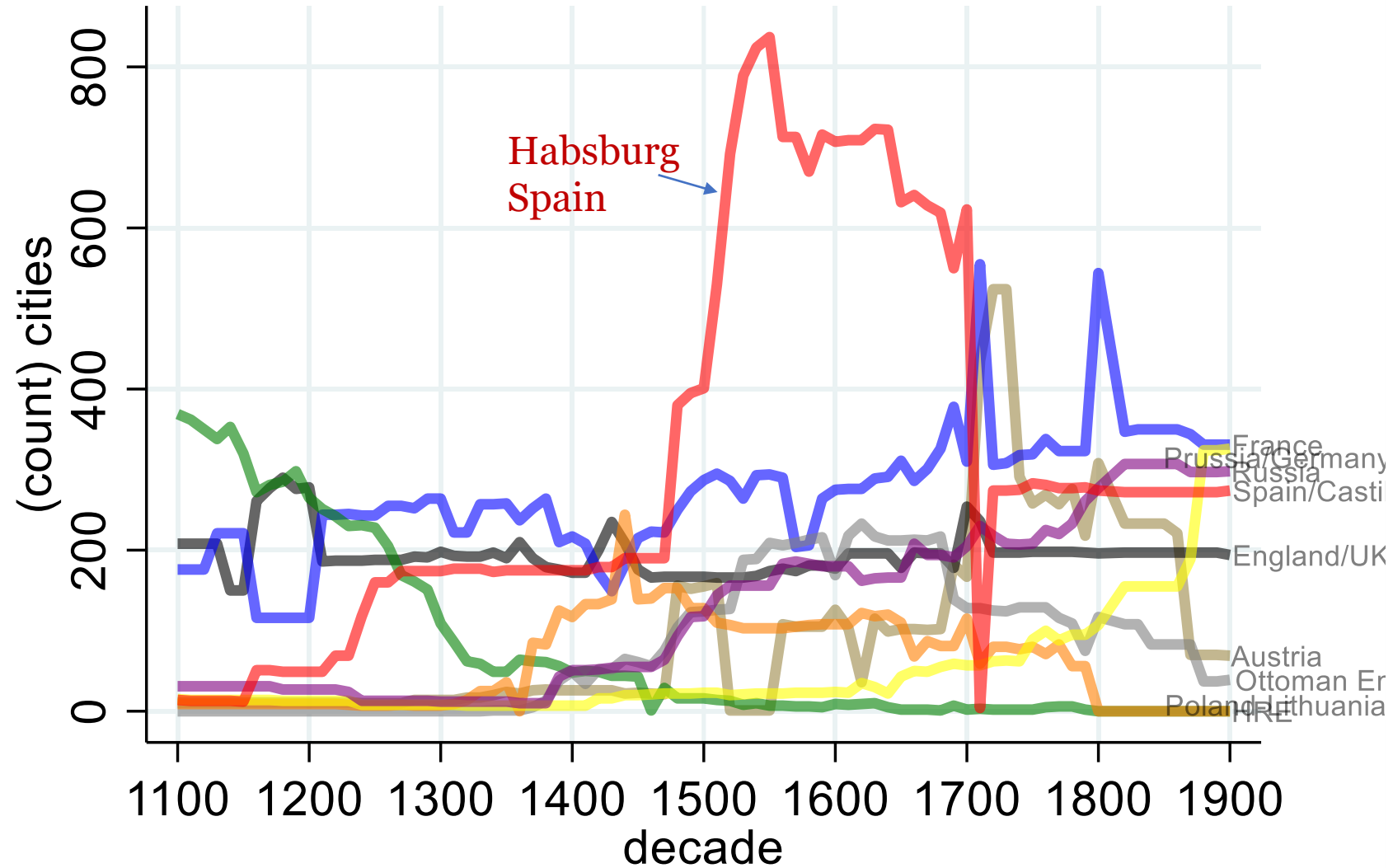
*Notes:* Population-weighted, city-decade OLS estimates. Full controls are latitude, longitude, latitude  $\times$  longitude, log population of the city, the number of cities and their population within 400 km, and fixed effects for time, languages, and countries. Sources described in the main text. \*  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ , <sup>•</sup>  $p < 0.00000001$

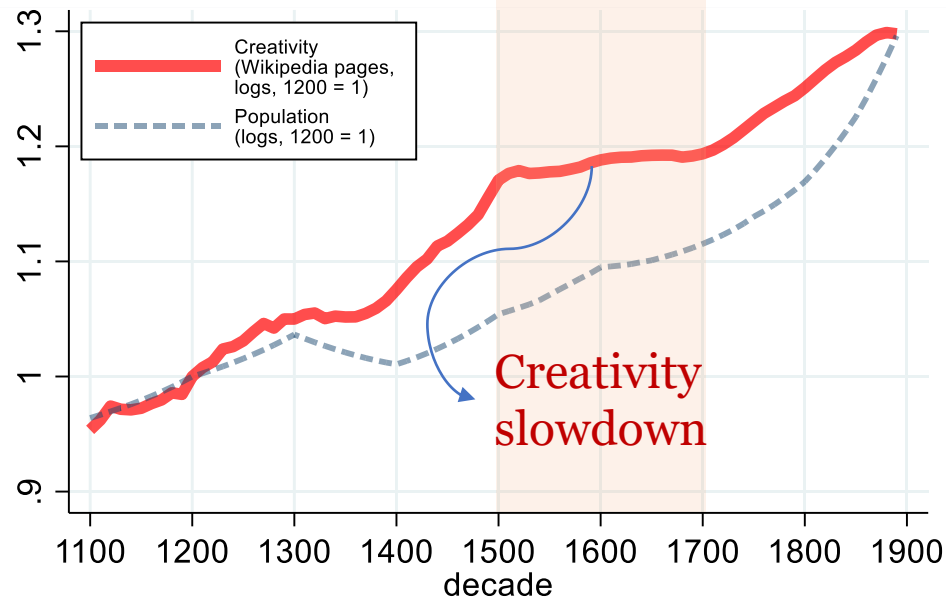
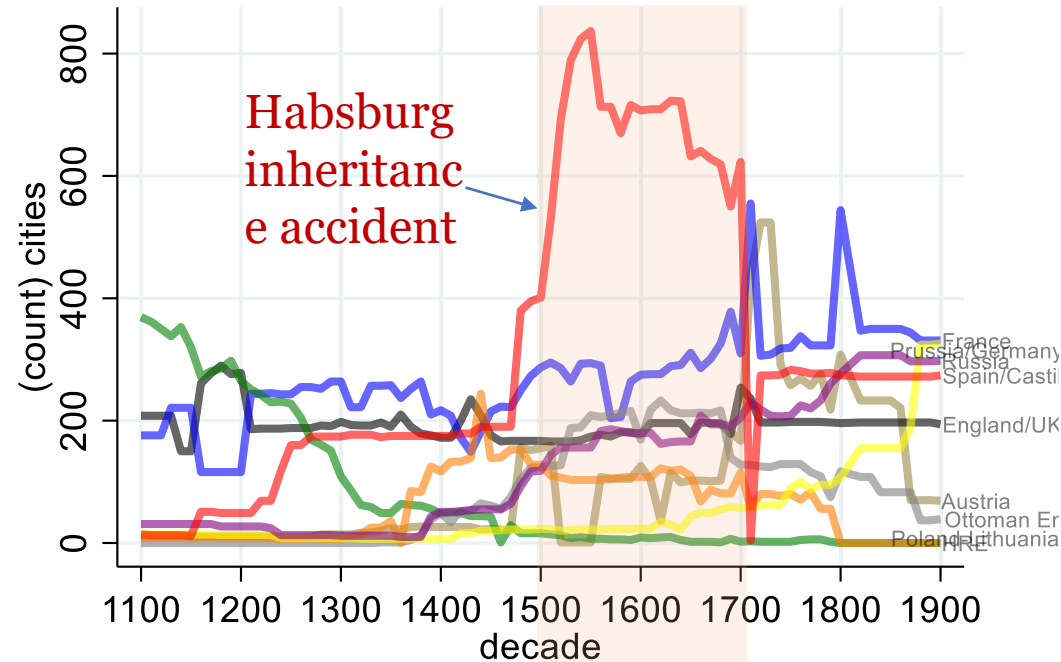
**Robustness**

# The big shock to Europe's political fragmentation



# The big shock to Europe's political fragmentation



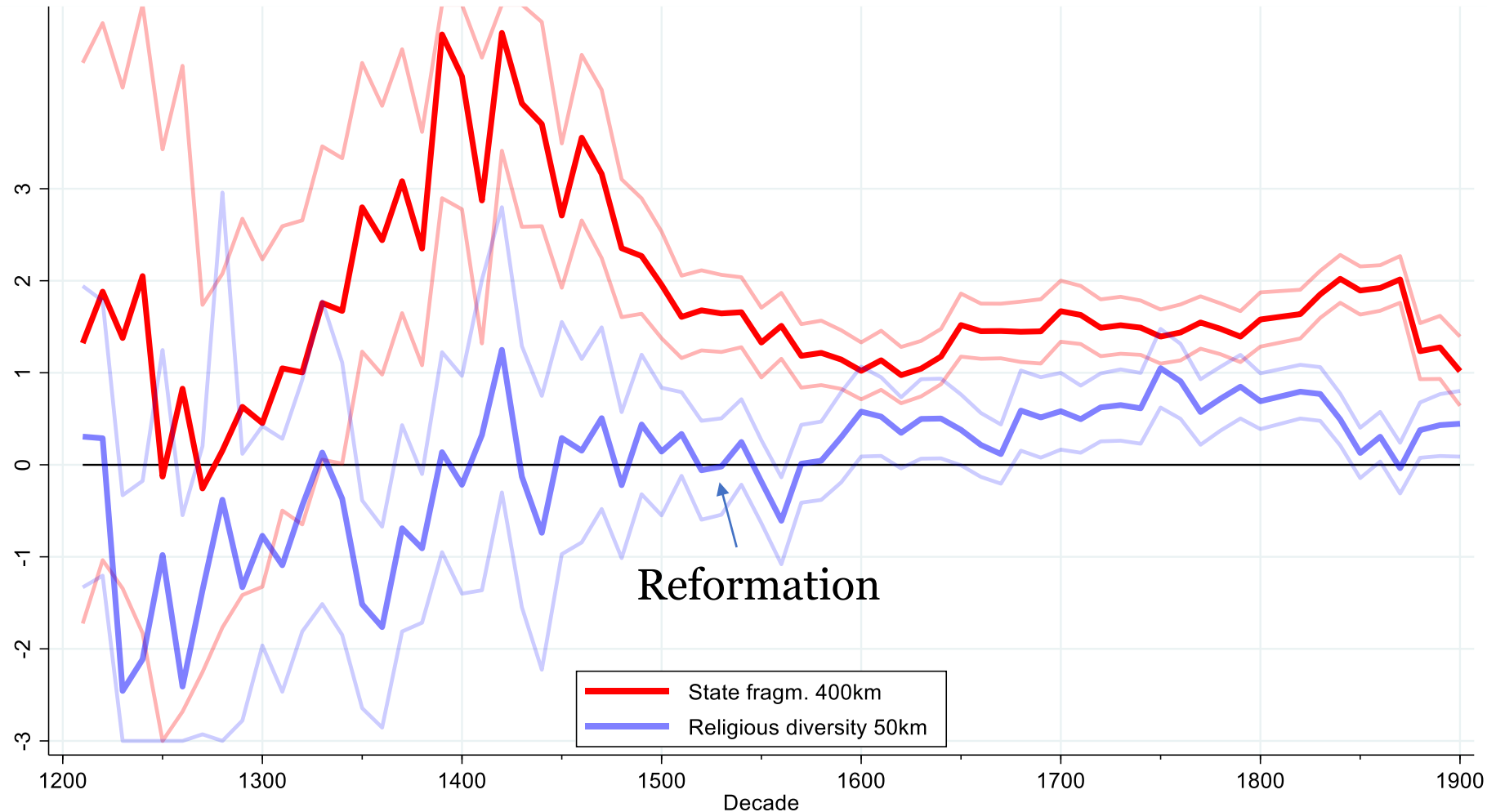


## Natural experiment:

- Habsburg “accident of inheritance” (MacKenney, 1993, p. 219)
- “No one foresaw that Charles would rule the greatest empire seen in a millennium” (Parker, 2021, p. 4)
- **Creativity slowdown**
  - Why? Religious conflicts (see Cabello 2024a, Cabello 2024b)

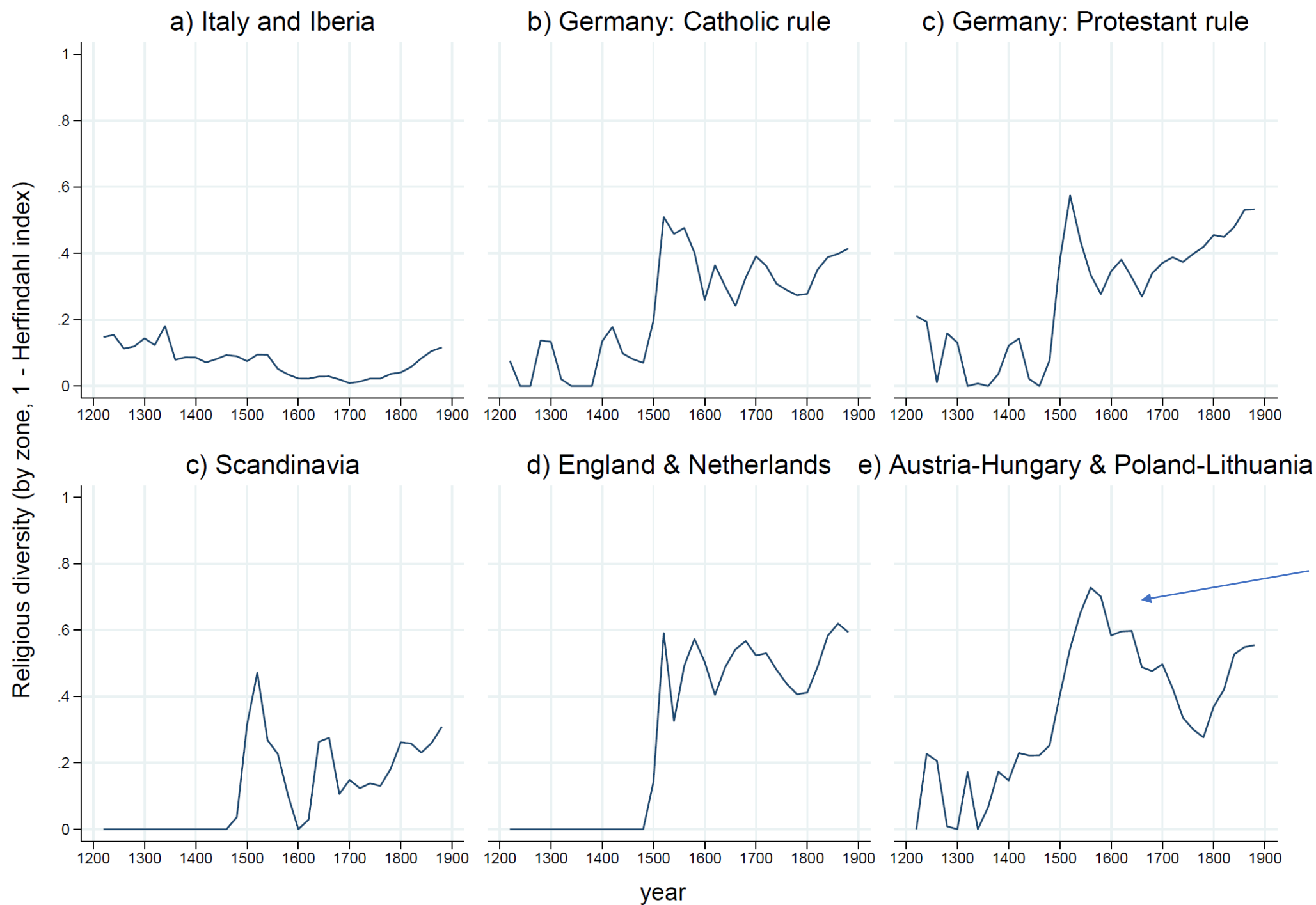
[Appendix figures and tables](#)

# What determined creativity, political or religious fragmentation?



Dep. var.: Creatives' biographies p.c.. Controls: cities within 400km, pop. within 400km, log population.

Robustness

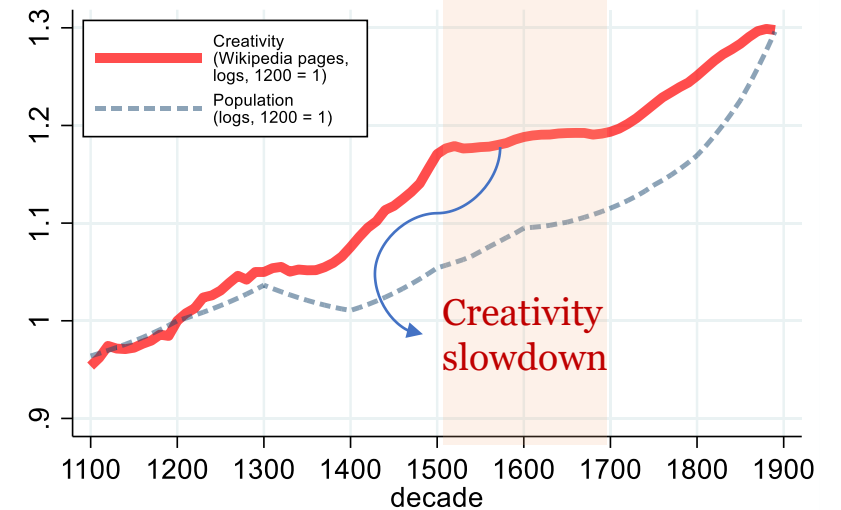
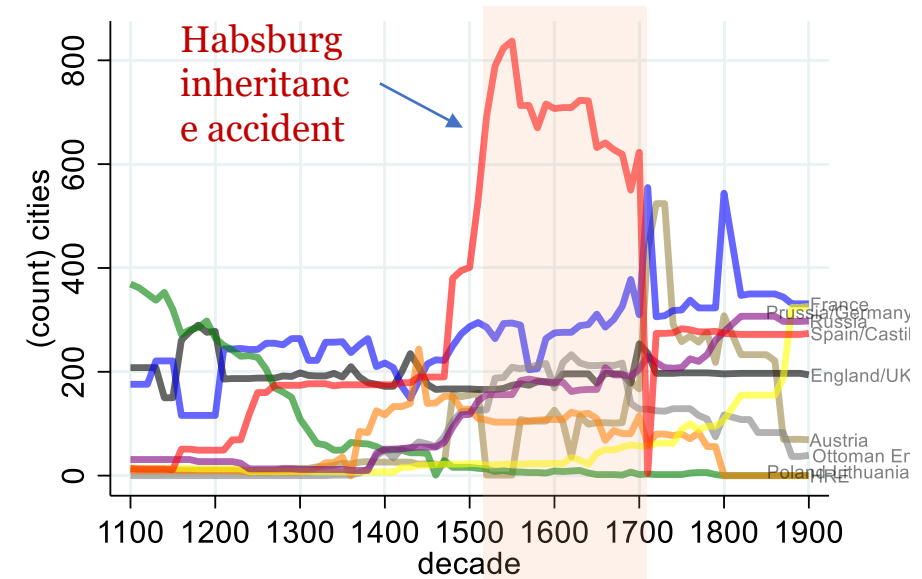


Highly religiously  
fragmented, yet  
not particularly  
creative



# Takeaways

- Cities in **more politically-fragmentated zones** exhibited
  - higher future **religious diversity**,
  - higher future density of **educ. institutions**,
  - **more creative growth** in times of religious peace (benign competition),
  - **less creative decline** in times of religious and geopolitical conflict (ineffective persecution)
- Persistent “effects” even after political unification.  
Why?
  - Universities endured
  - Religious fragmentation endured
  - Political unity + religious fragmentation = tolerant laws. (Work in progress)



# Thank you!

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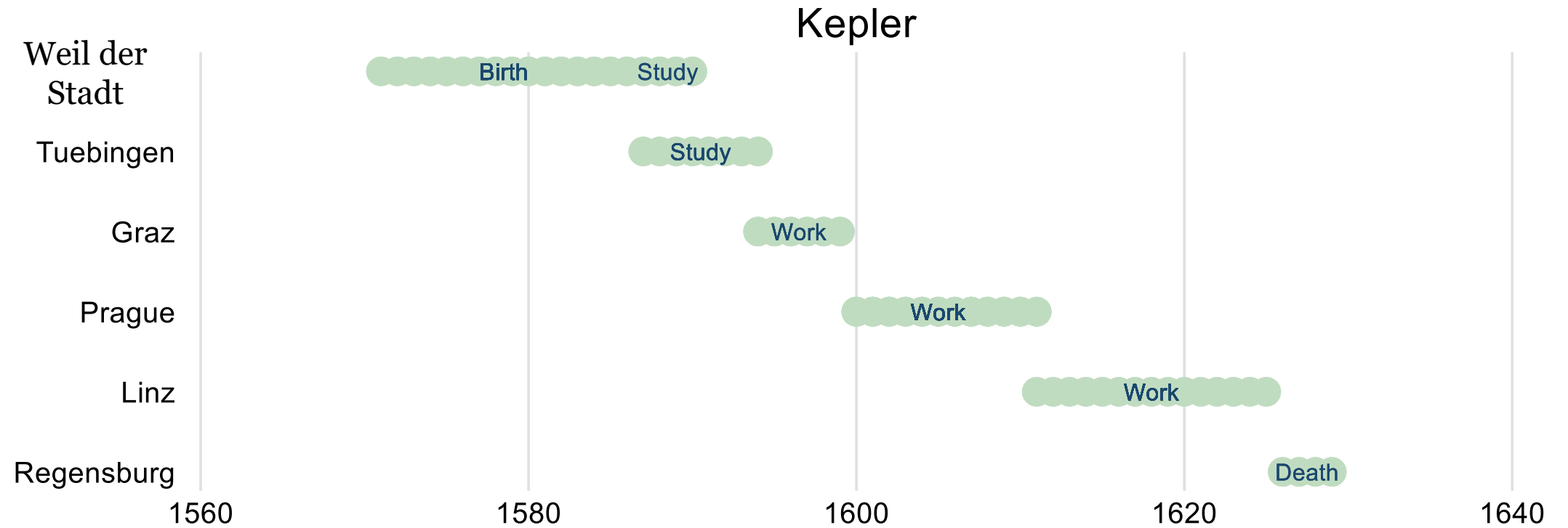
<https://sites.google.com/view/mcabello>

# **Data Appendix**

# Data on **creativity**

- Per capita creative individuals and their fame.
  - *Intellectuals* (incl. *scientists*) and *artists*.
  - **Sources:** Wikipedia ([Wasmer et al](#)), RETE ([de la Croix et al](#)), Wikidata, Bairoch, Burigh.
  - **Fame:** Length of all Wikipedia pages
    - *perfall* variable transformed to Wikipedia pages-length through linear projection
    - if no pages-length or *perfall* available, then assume smallest observed length
- Person assigned to which city?
  - Ages 16-30 in birth city
  - Places of study or work (if available)
  - Remaining time in death city

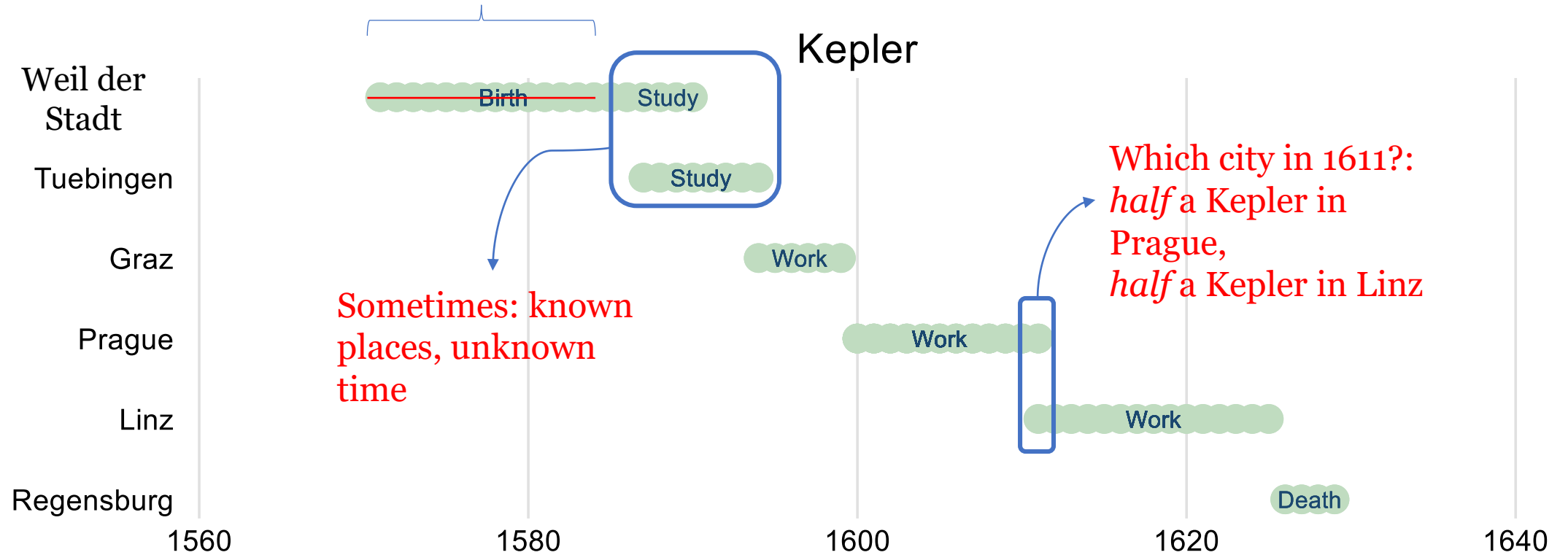
# Some issues



# Some issues

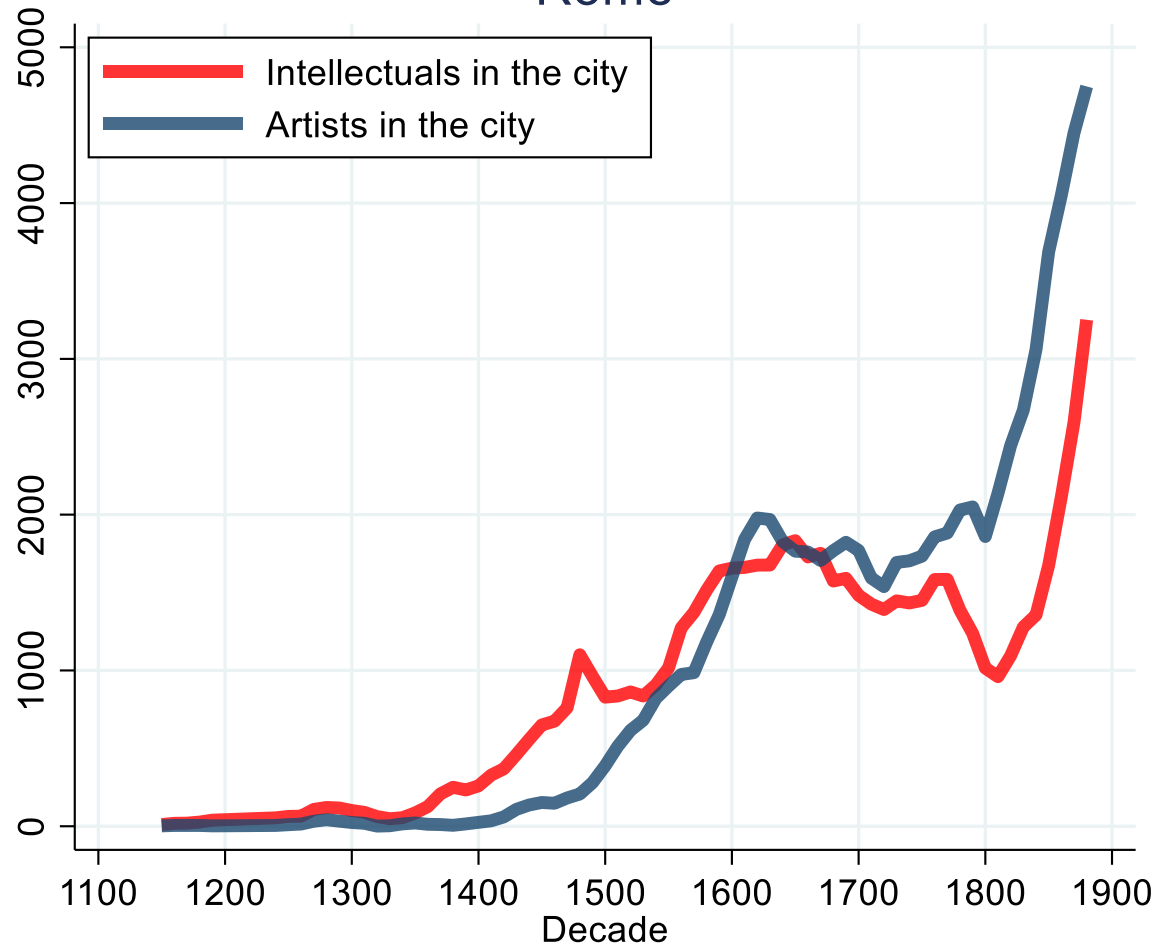
Not in Bairoch

First 16 years dropped

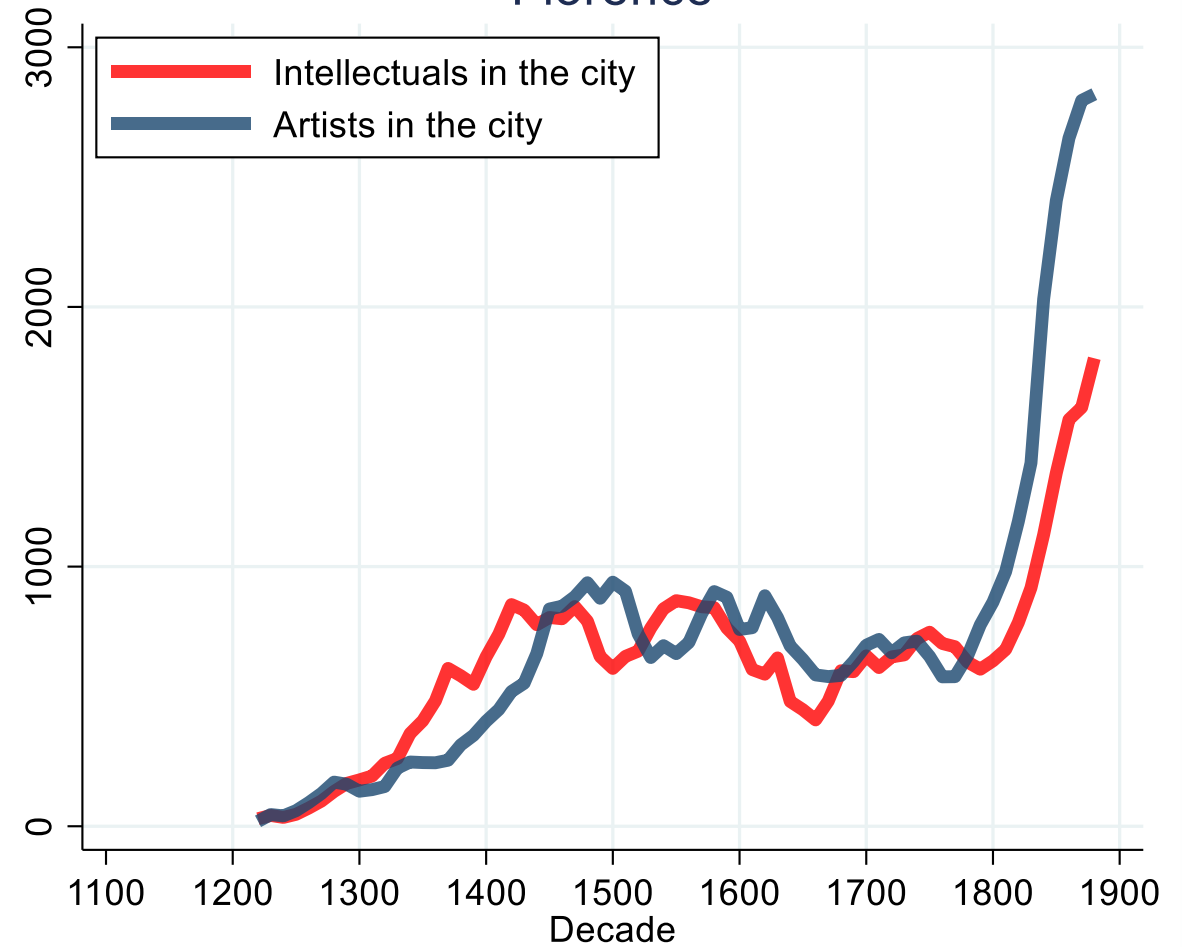


# Result: intellectuals and artists (count)

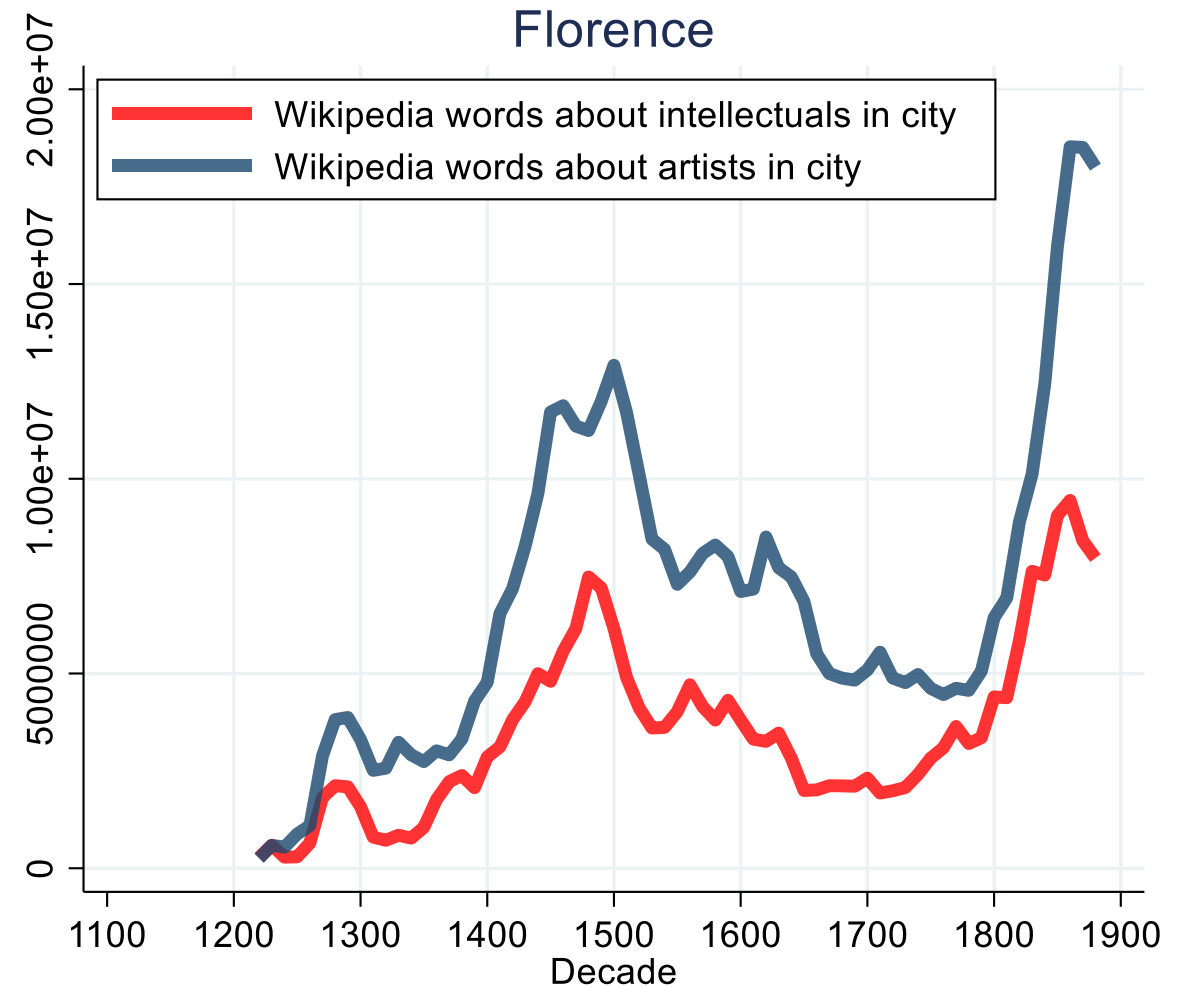
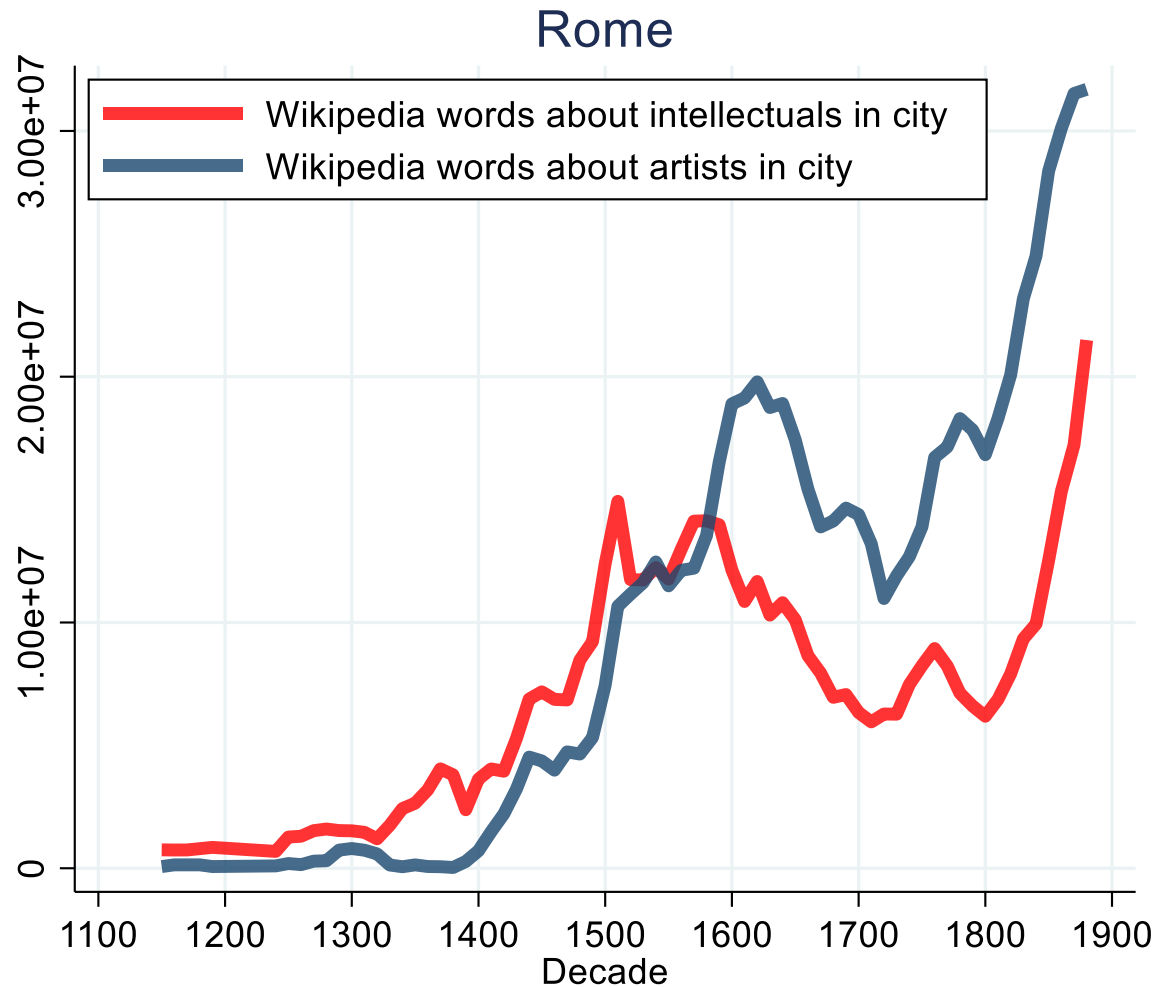
Rome



Florence



# Result: intellectuals and artists (weighted\*)



\* Fame = sum of words of Wikipedia pages in all languages



# Fragmentation data: **Political**

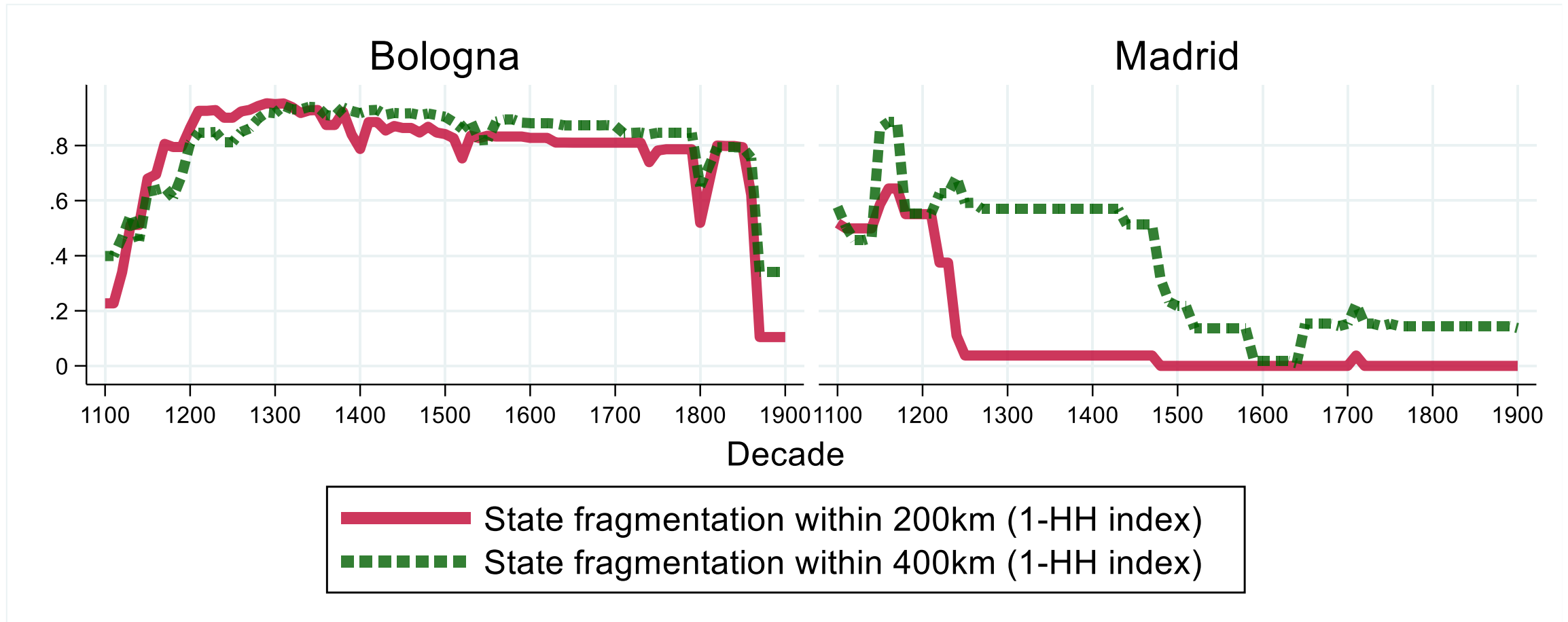
## **Sources**

- Abrahmson
  - Every 5 years between 1100 and 1790 but needs cleaning (and Medieval borders were fuzzy anyway)
- 19<sup>th</sup> cent.: Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR)
- Nüssli vector data

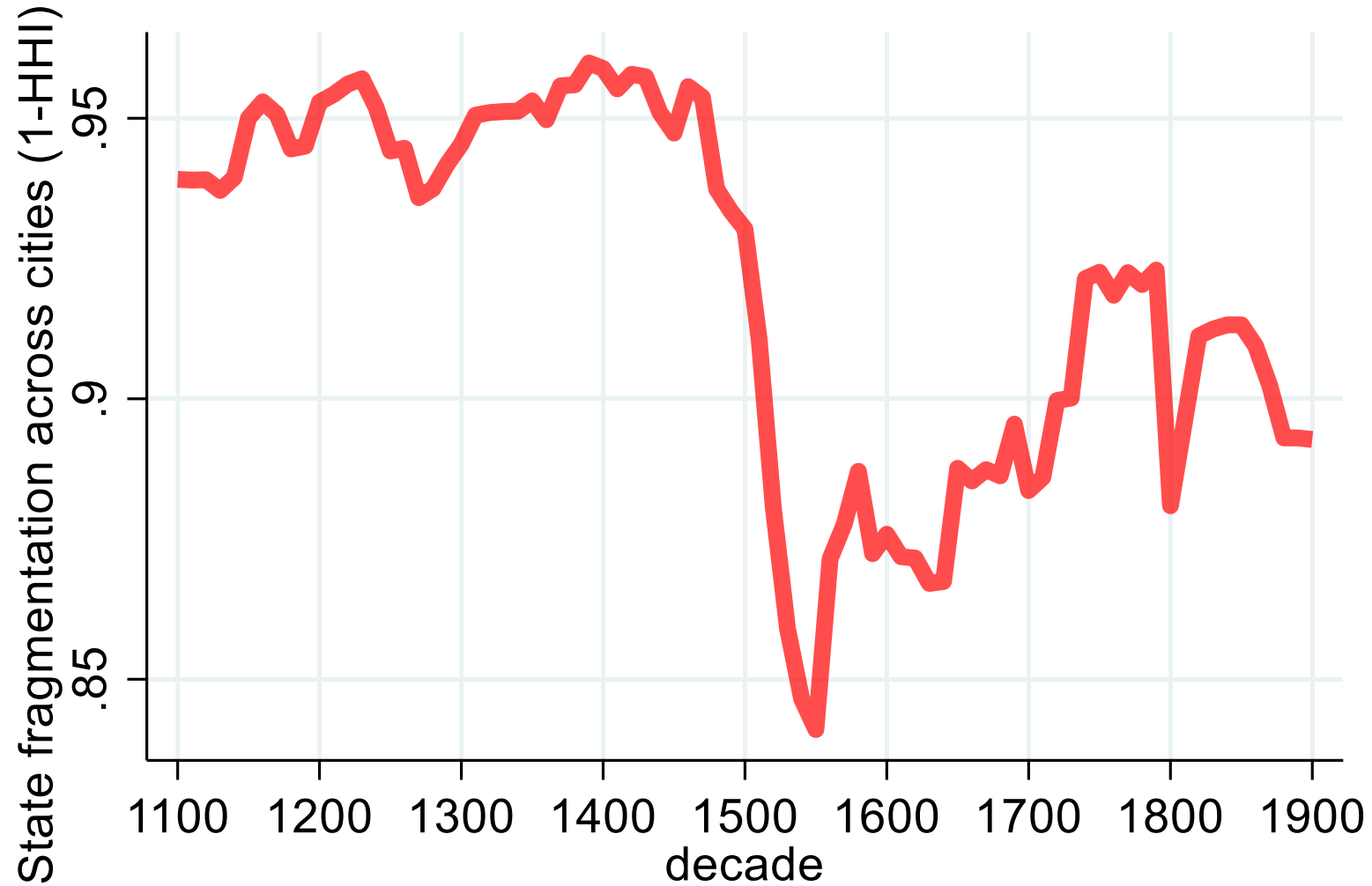
## **Output:** city-decade panel

- State concentration within 100, 200, ... , 500 km.
- 1 – Herfindahl-Hirschman index

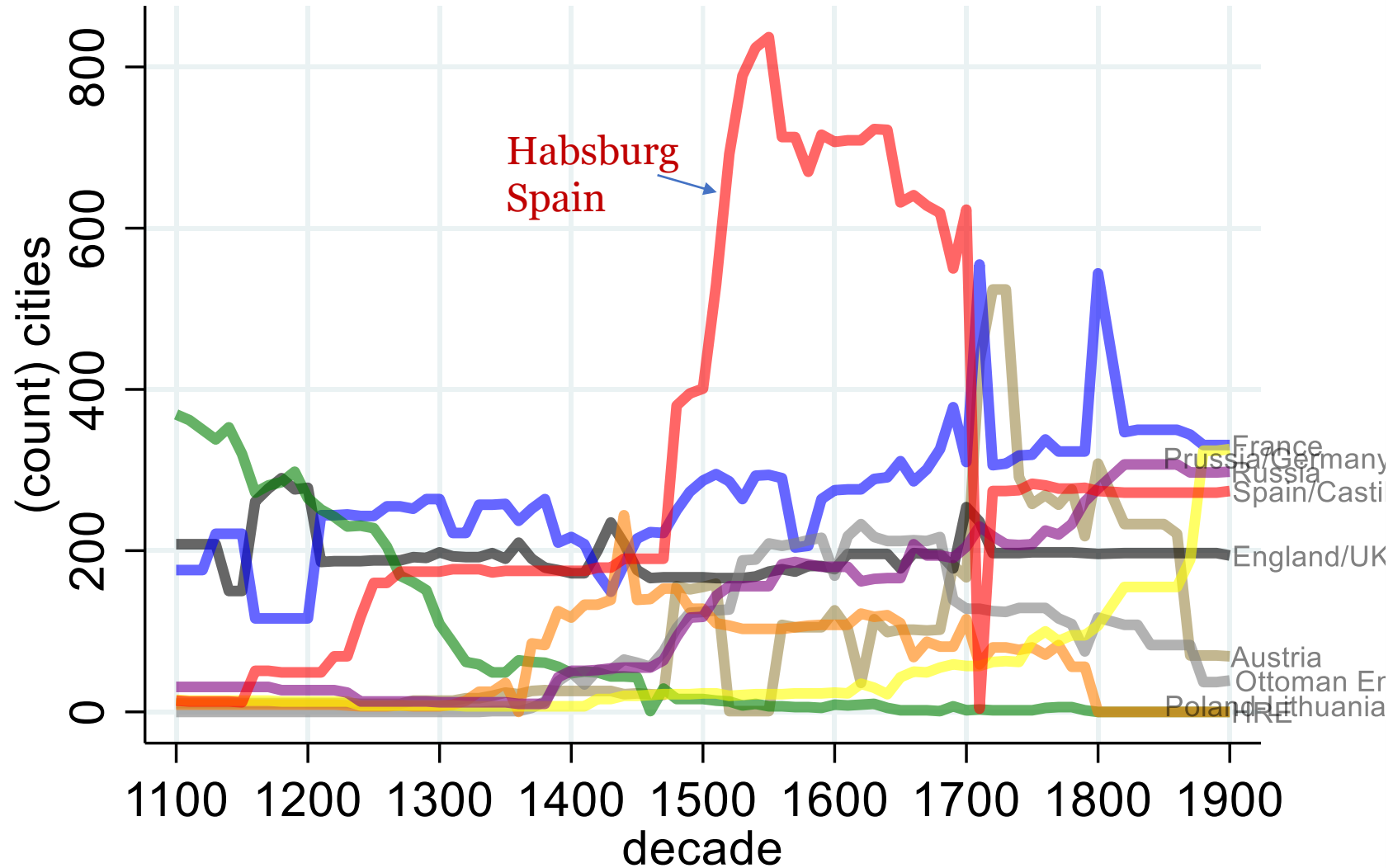
# Fragmentation data: **Political**



# Fragmentation data: **Political**



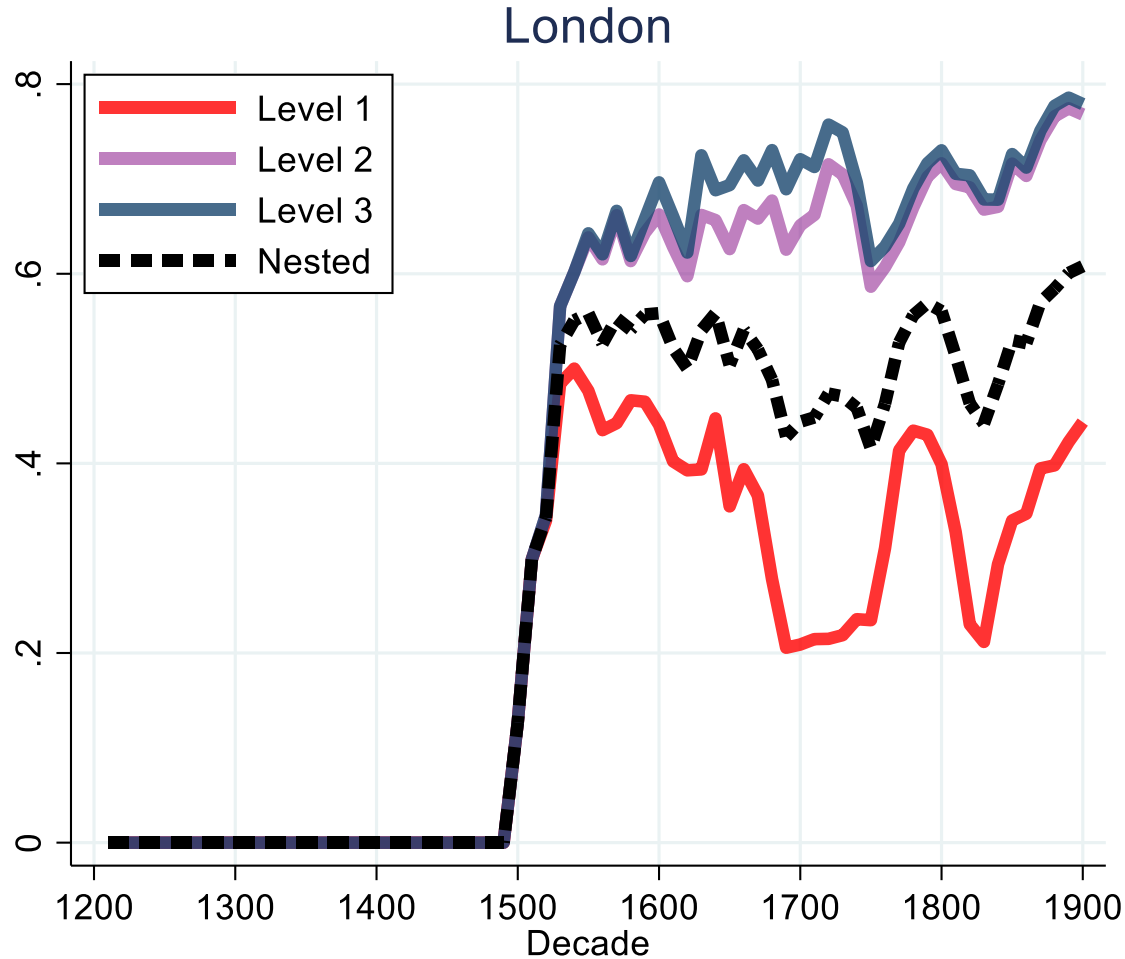
# Fragmentation data: **Political**



# Fragmentation data: **Religious**

- At the city level
  - Within city or within 50, ..., 200 km.
  - 1 – Herfindahl-Hirschman index
- Wikidata: religion by person
  - Person's relig. assigned to city
    - Ages 20-30 in birth city
    - Places of study or work (if available)
    - Remaining time in death city

# Fragmentation data: **Religious**

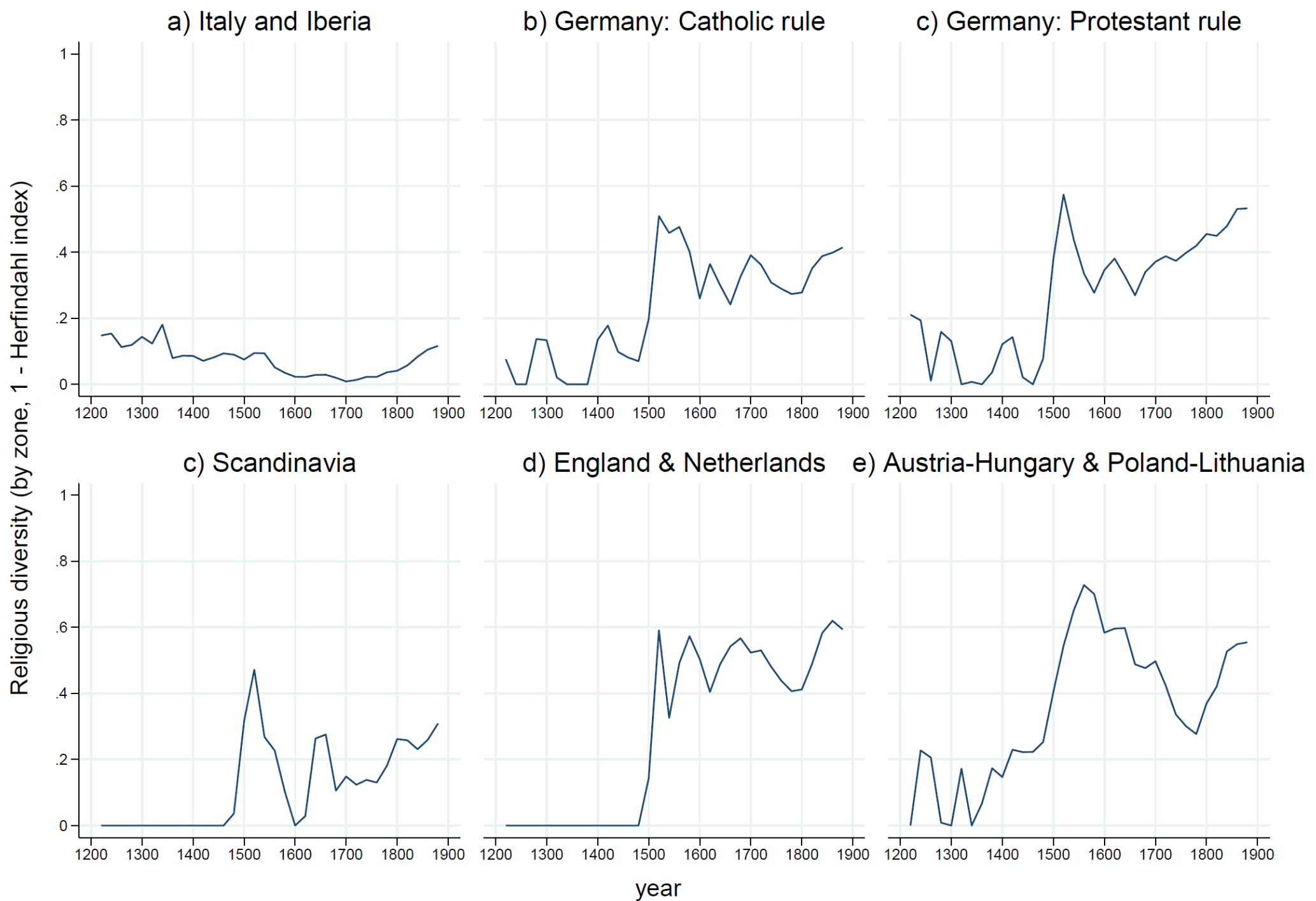


## Levels of diversity\*

1. Distinguishes *Roman Catholics, Other Christians, Jews, Muslims*.
2. Subdivided in *Lutherans, Calvinists, Anglicans, Eastern Orthodox, Anabaptists, ... Cathars, Hussites, etc.*
3. Subdivided in *Presbyterians, Methodists, Arminians, Quakers, ... , Old Catholics, Ruthenian Uniate Church, etc.*

$$\text{Nested} = 0.5 * \text{Level1} + 0.3 * \text{Level2} + 0.2 * \text{Level3}$$

\* Main source: Hillerbrand, H. *Encyclopedia of Protestantism*, 2004.



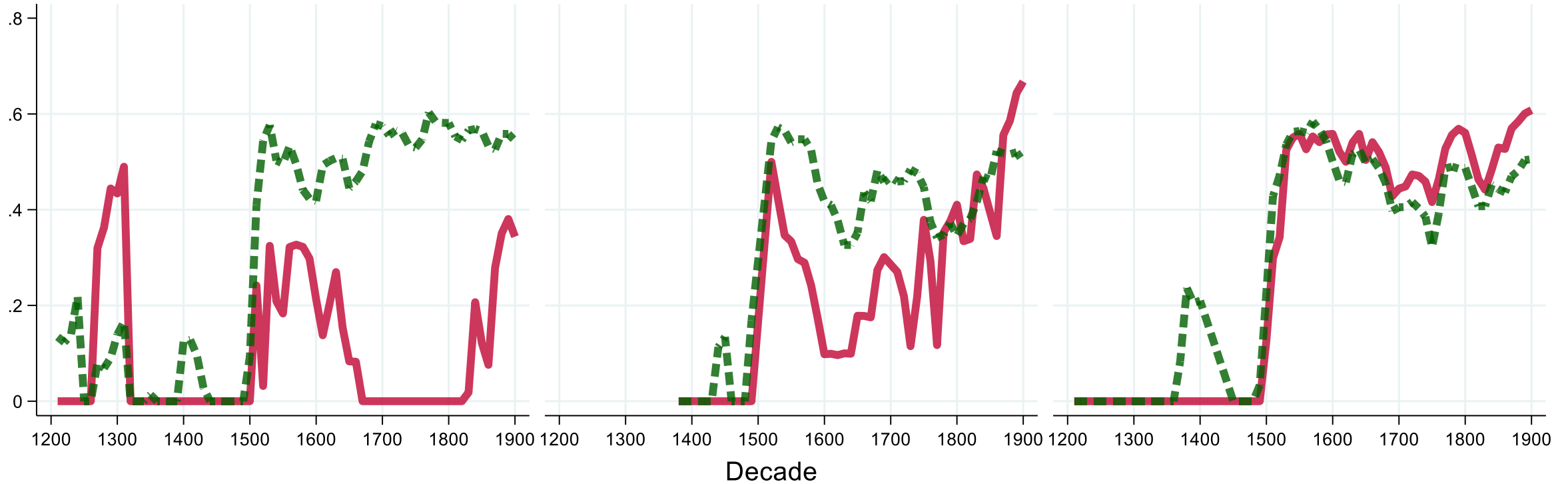
# Fragmentation data: **Religious**

Varying distances

Cologne

Geneva

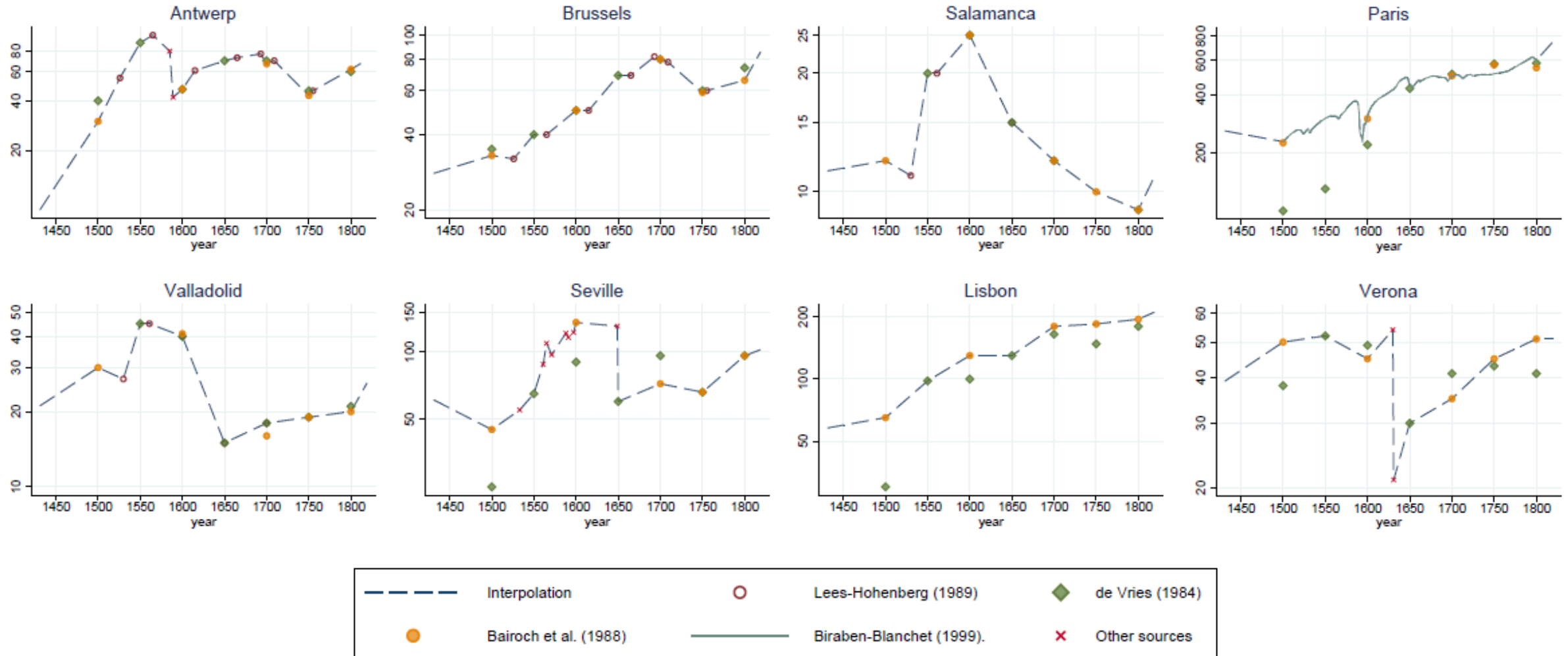
London



— Religious diversity within 10km    - - - Religious diversity within 200km



# Population estimates



# Fragmentation may *spur* creativity

## Peaceful competition channel

“In Catholic France ... competition among different religious movements led to competition in the educational sphere, such as the competition between Jesuit and Jansenist schools ...

Religious competition was also an important factor in Britain, where the Church of England had to contend with dissenters, who founded the ‘dissenting academies’ ...

... peaceful competition among religions, much like peaceful competition between states, encouraged intellectual innovation and progress.”

Mokyr, 2017, *A Culture of Growth*

# Fragmentation may *spur* creativity

## Peaceful competition channel

...because Europe was fragmented, Columbus succeeded on his **fifth try** in persuading one of Europe's hundreds of princes to sponsor.

The story was the same with Europe's cannon, electric lighting, printing, small firearms, and innumerable other innovations: ... first neglected or opposed in some parts of Europe ... but once adopted in one area, [they] spread to the rest of Europe.

Diamond, 2007, *Guns, Germs and Steel*

# Fragmentation may *spur* creativity

## Peaceful competition channel

... These consequences of **Europe's disunity** stand in sharp contrast to those of **China's unity**. ... [which] decided to halt other activities besides overseas navigation: it abandoned development of an elaborate water-driven spinning machine, stepped back from the verge of an industrial revolution in the 14th century, demolished or virtually abolished mechanical clocks after leading the world in clock construction, and retreated from mechanical devices and technology in general after the late 15th century.

Diamond, 2007, *Guns, Germs and Steel*

## Prop. 2: *Fragmentation* → *Universities*

Why?

Go  
back

### **Demand for bureaucrats**

- “In the thirteenth century kings and princes became more anxious to have the services of university-trained administrators” (Nardi, 1991, p. 93).
- “the rise of bureaucratic institutions in Spain in the years between 1500 and 1700, and the changes in Spanish society that this occasioned, were the most important and far reaching influences upon Spanish educational history during that period” (Kagan, 1974).

# Prop. 2: *Fragmentation* → *Universities*

## Why?

Go  
back

### **Papal Schism (1378-1417)**

- “Evidently the rival popes realized that they needed the intellectual support of part of the academic world. They therefore encouraged the foundation of universities in areas on whose fidelity they could count” (Nardi, 1991, pp. 101–2).
- “The tendency to multiply Universities in Germany gained further strength from the Schism, since the Roman Popes were always ready to grant the necessary bulls as a means of weakening Paris, the great champion of the Avignon Pontiffs. (Rashdall, 1895b, p. 247)

## Prop. 2: *Fragmentation* → *Universities*

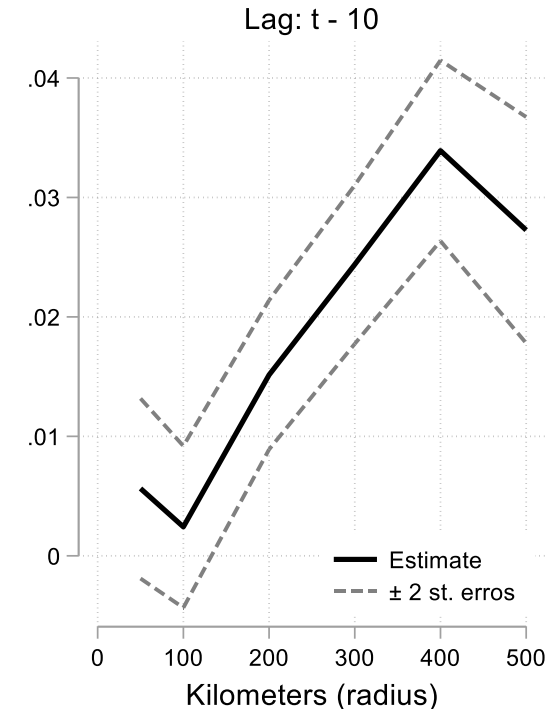
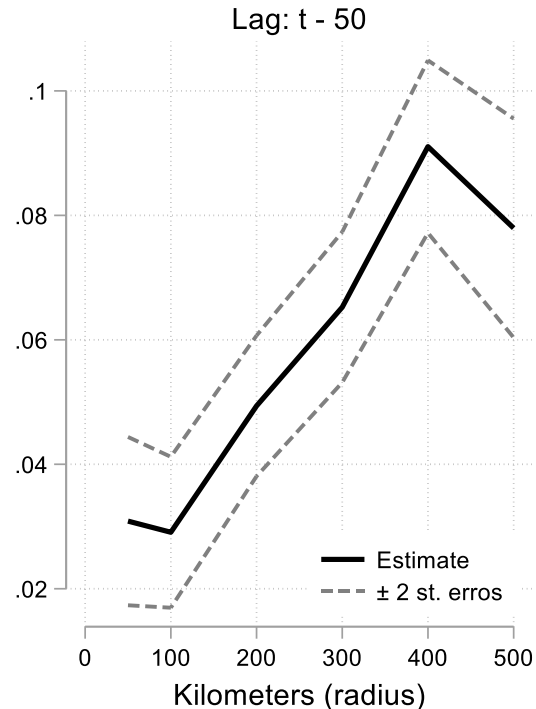
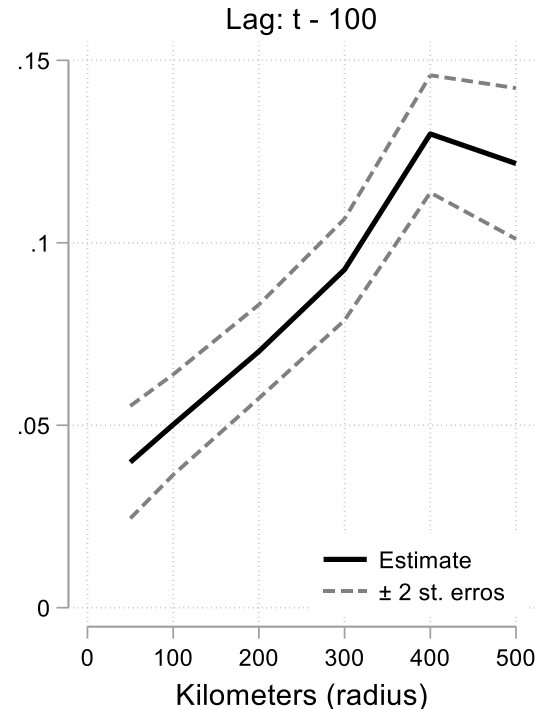
### Why? Intra-state monopolies

Go  
back

- “the University of **Paris**, believing that the towns of Caen and Bourges were too close, sought to check the creation of new universities there.”
- “In the kingdom of Aragon, the University of **Lerida** never ceased reminding the world at large of the monopoly granted it in 1300 by its founder, King Diego II, in order to impede plans for the founding of universities in other cities, in Barcelona in particular.”
- “Likewise, in Italy, **Pavia** managed to establish its right to remain the one and only university within the duchy of Milan, and thus to restrict the claims of existing or projected schools in Piacenza, Parma, and Milan itself.” (Verger, 1991, p. 58)

# Distance and lag robustness

Go  
back



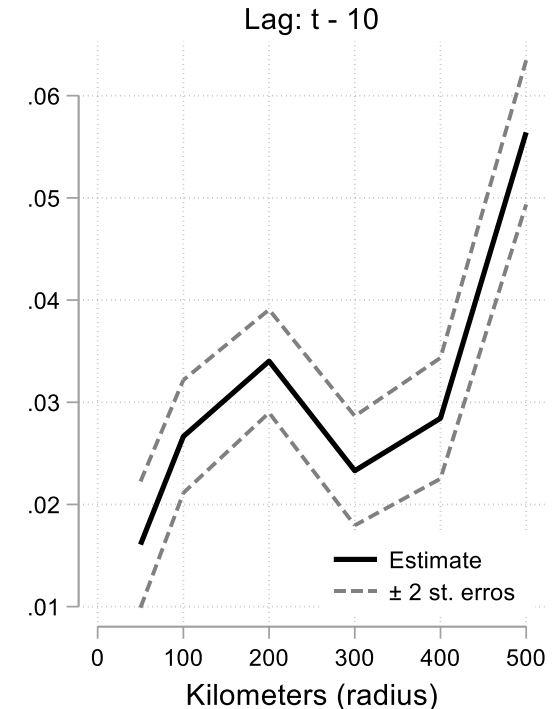
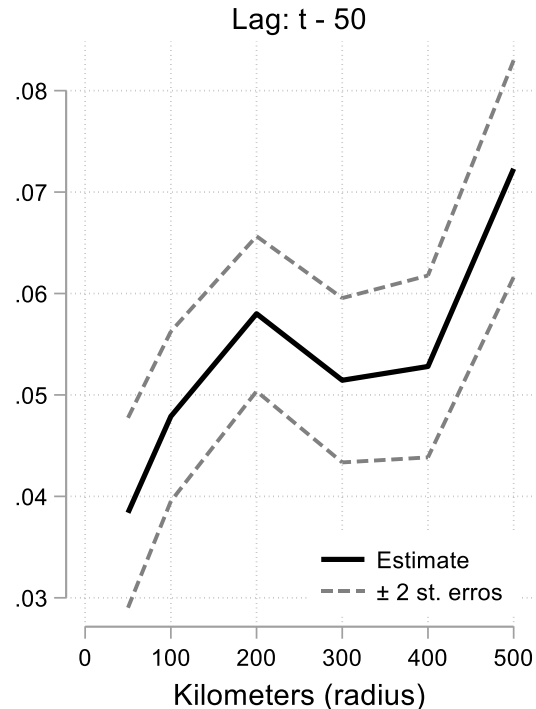
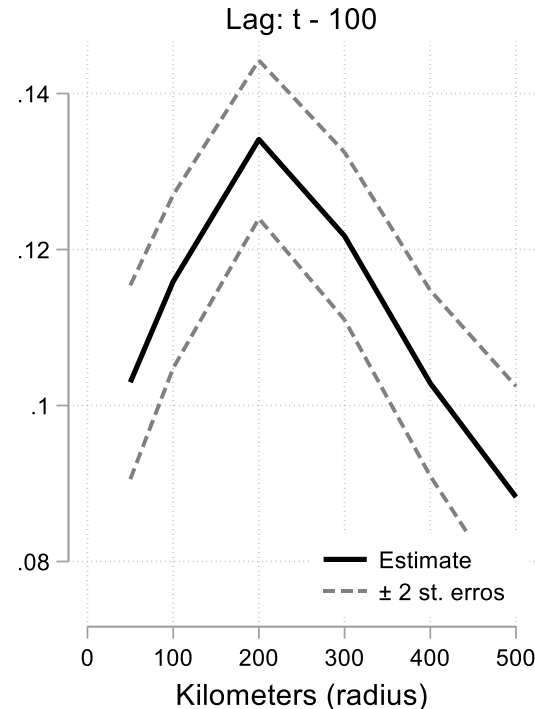
Estimates of coefficient  $\beta$  in  $y_{it} = \beta \cdot StateFrag(r)_{it} + \alpha y_{i,t-1} + X_{it}\gamma + \varepsilon$ , where  $y_t$  is **religious diversity** within 50km.

$X_t$  contains log city population, latitude & longitude with interaction, languages FE, country FE, year FE, the no. of cities within radius  $r$ , log total urban population within radius  $r$ .



# Distance and lag robustness

Go  
back

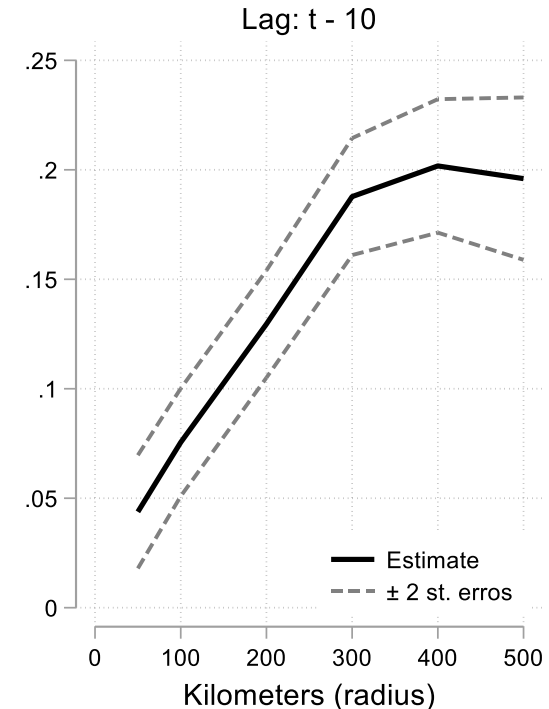
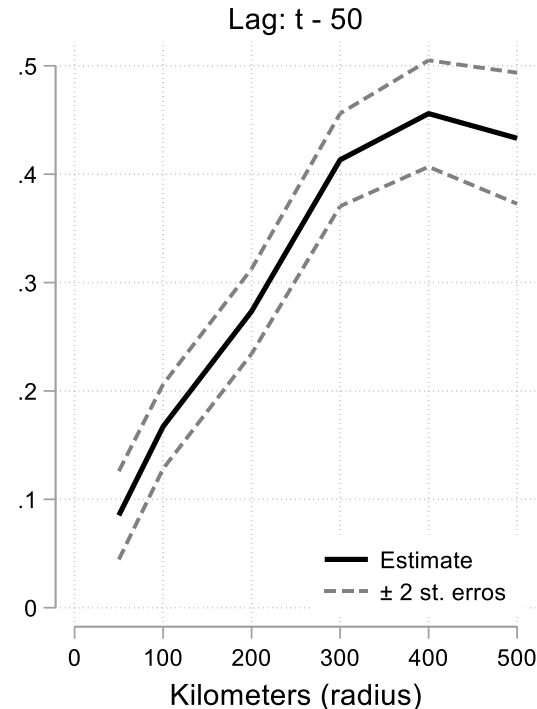
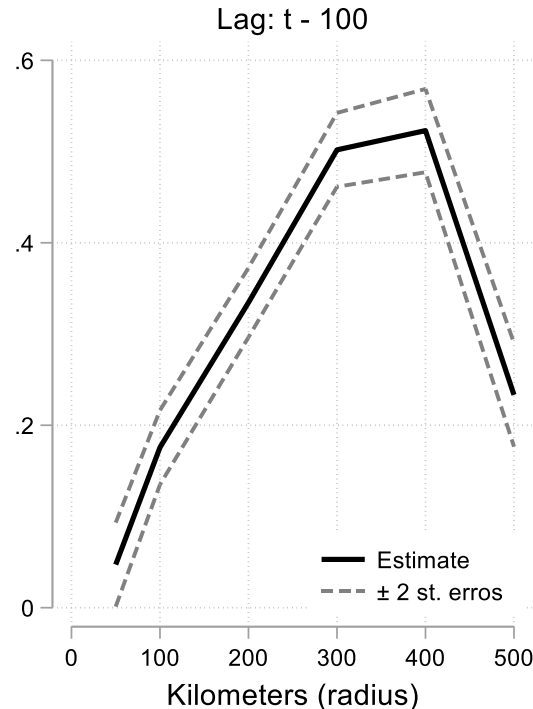


Estimates of coefficient  $\beta$  in  $y_{it} = \beta \cdot StateFrag(r)_{it} + \alpha y_{i,t-1} + X_{it}\gamma + \varepsilon$ , where  $y_t$  is the **number of universities** within 50km.

$X_t$  contains log city population, latitude & longitude with interaction, languages FE, country FE, year FE, the no. of cities within radius  $r$ , log total urban population within radius  $r$ .

# Distance and lag robustness

Go  
back



Estimates of coefficient  $\beta$  in  $y_{it} = \beta \cdot StateFrag(r)_{it} + \alpha y_{i,t-1} + X_{it}\gamma + \varepsilon$ , where

$y_t$  is [log\(creative individuals / population\)](#)

$X_t$  contains log city population, latitude & longitude with interaction, languages FE, country FE, year FE, the no. of cities within radius  $r$ , log total urban population within radius  $r$

# Prop. 3: *Fragmentation* → *Creativity*

[Go back](#)

Dependent variable: Creatives' Wikip. visibility p.c.

	Period			
	1100–1550	1560–1690	1700–1790	1800–1900
State fragmentation (400km)	1.74 <sup>•</sup>	0.50***	0.67 <sup>•</sup>	0.76 <sup>•</sup>
Dep. variable in $t - 100$	✓	✓	✓	✓
Full controls	✓	✓	✓	✓
Observations	7547	10635	9891	12716
R-squared	0.23	0.25	0.41	0.48

*Notes:* Population-weighted, city-decade OLS estimates. Full controls are latitude, longitude, latitude  $\times$  longitude, log population of the city, the number of cities and their population within 400 km, and fixed effects for time, languages, and countries. Sources described in the main text. \*  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ , <sup>•</sup>  $p < 0.00000001$

# Prop. 3: *Fragmentation* → *Creativity*

[Go back](#)

Dependent variable: Creatives' Wikip. visibility p.c.

	Period				
	1100–1550	1560–1690	1700–1790	1800–1900	
State fragmentation (400km)	1.63 <sup>•</sup>	0.53***	0.72 <sup>•</sup>	0.78 <sup>•</sup>	System ✓
State fragmentation (100km)	-0.08	-0.37***	-0.09	0.11**	Local x
Dep. variable in $t - 100$	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Full controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Observations	8150	11369	10564	13549	
R-squared	0.22	0.25	0.41	0.47	

*Notes:* Population-weighted, city-decade OLS estimates. Full controls are latitude, longitude, latitude × longitude, log population, and fixed effects for time, languages, and countries. Sources described in the main text. \*  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ , <sup>•</sup>  $p < 0.00000001$

# Prop. 3: *Fragmentation* → *Creativity*

[Go back](#)

Dependent variable: Creatives' biographies p.c.

	Period				
	1100–1550	1560–1690	1700–1790	1800–1900	
State fragmentation (400km)	0.82 <sup>•</sup>	0.42 <sup>•</sup>	0.61 <sup>•</sup>	0.59 <sup>•</sup>	System ✓
State fragmentation (100km)	-0.01	-0.13 <sup>**</sup>	0.15 <sup>***</sup>	0.01	Local x
Dep. variable in $t - 100$	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Full controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Observations	8146	11363	10564	13549	
R-squared	0.41	0.34	0.50	0.56	

*Notes:* Population-weighted, city-decade OLS estimates. Full controls are latitude, longitude, latitude × longitude, log population, and fixed effects for time, languages, and countries. Sources described in the main text. \*  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ , <sup>•</sup>  $p < 0.00000001$

# Excluding Italy

[Go back](#)

Dependent variable: Creatives' biographies p.c.

	Period				
	1100–1550	1560–1690	1700–1790	1800–1900	
State fragmentation (400km)	0.50***	0.41***	0.37***	0.65 <sup>•</sup>	System ✓
State fragmentation (100km)	-0.29***	-0.27***	0.02	-0.07	Local x
Dep. variable in $t - 100$	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Full controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Observations	5822	9321	8897	11566	
R-squared	0.44	0.34	0.50	0.57	

*Notes:* Population-weighted, city-decade OLS estimates. Full controls are latitude, longitude, latitude  $\times$  longitude, log population, and fixed effects for time, languages, and countries. Sources described in the main text. \*  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ , <sup>•</sup>  $p < 0.00000001$

Table 12: Fragmentation and impact of creatives

Dependent variable: Creatives' Wikip. visibility p.c. (logs)				
	Period			
	1100–1550	1560–1690	1700–1790	1800–1900
<b>State fragmentation</b>				
- within 400km	1.14***	0.39***	0.33***	0.70 <sup>•</sup>
- within 100km	0.16	-0.01	-0.21***	-0.05
<b>Religious fragmentation</b>				
- within 50km	-0.35***	-0.03	0.03	0.36 <sup>•</sup>
- within 200km	0.43**	-0.10	0.18	-0.45***
<b>Universities</b>				
- within 50km	0.41 <sup>•</sup>	0.26 <sup>•</sup>	0.23 <sup>•</sup>	0.20 <sup>•</sup>
- within 400km	-0.02***	-0.01***	-0.01***	-0.00**
<b>Controls</b>				
Dep. var. in $t - 100$	0.26 <sup>•</sup>	0.34 <sup>•</sup>	0.38 <sup>•</sup>	0.45 <sup>•</sup>
Catholic rule in 1600	0.14	-0.55 <sup>•</sup>	-0.11**	0.25 <sup>•</sup>
Full controls	✓	✓	✓	✓
Observations	3692	6603	5992	7514
R-squared	0.42	0.44	0.57	0.64

*Notes:* City-decade OLS estimates. Full controls are latitude, longitude, latitude  $\times$  longitude, log population, and fixed effects for time, languages, and countries. Sources described in the main text. \*  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ , <sup>•</sup>  $p < 0.00000001$

**Go  
back**



Table 14: Fragmentation and impact of scientists

[Go back](#)

Dependent variable: Scientists' Wikip. visibility p.c. (logs)				
	Period			
	1100–1550	1560–1690	1700–1790	1800–1900
<b>State fragmentation</b>				
- within 400km	0.48	0.87 <sup>•</sup>	0.16	0.61 <sup>•</sup>
- within 100km	0.44 <sup>**</sup>	-0.46 <sup>***</sup>	-0.26 <sup>***</sup>	0.08
<b>Religious fragmentation</b>				
- within 50km	0.17	0.03	0.20 <sup>*</sup>	0.24 <sup>***</sup>
- within 200km	0.84 <sup>**</sup>	-0.29	0.25	-0.16
<b>Universities</b>				
- within 50km	0.37 <sup>•</sup>	0.33 <sup>•</sup>	0.32 <sup>•</sup>	0.23 <sup>•</sup>
- within 400km	0.01	-0.01 <sup>***</sup>	-0.01 <sup>•</sup>	-0.00 <sup>*</sup>
<b>Controls</b>				
Dep. var. in $t - 100$	0.28 <sup>•</sup>	0.26 <sup>•</sup>	0.29 <sup>•</sup>	0.37 <sup>•</sup>
Catholic rule in 1600	0.29	-0.53 <sup>***</sup>	-0.17 <sup>**</sup>	0.14 <sup>***</sup>
Full controls	✓	✓	✓	✓
Observations	1501	3773	4235	6341
R-squared	0.33	0.36	0.52	0.58

*Notes:* City-decade OLS estimates. Full controls are latitude, longitude, latitude  $\times$  longitude, log population, and fixed effects for time, languages, and countries. Sources described in the main text. \*  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ , <sup>•</sup>  $p < 0.00000001$



Table 18: Fragmentation and impact of artists

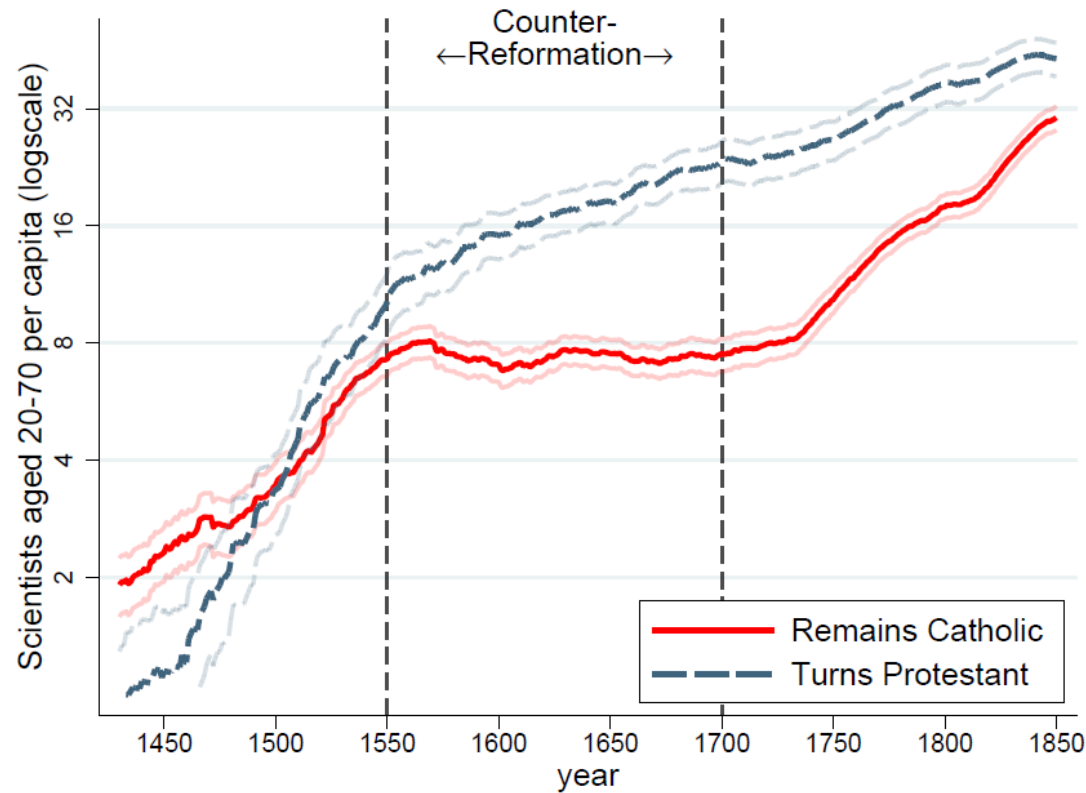
Dependent variable: Artists' Wikip. visibility p.c. (logs)	Period			
	1100–1550	1560–1690	1700–1790	1800–1900
<b>State fragmentation</b>				
- within 400km	1.78***	0.47***	0.63 <sup>•</sup>	0.70 <sup>•</sup>
- within 100km	0.24	0.08	-0.37***	-0.06
<b>Religious fragmentation</b>				
- within 50km	-0.04	-0.08	0.17*	0.52 <sup>•</sup>
- within 200km	0.12	-0.28	0.15	-0.75 <sup>•</sup>
<b>Universities</b>				
- within 50km	0.03	0.16 <sup>•</sup>	0.18 <sup>•</sup>	0.19 <sup>•</sup>
- within 400km	-0.01	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01***
<b>Controls</b>				
Dep. var. in $t - 100$	0.24 <sup>•</sup>	0.33 <sup>•</sup>	0.33 <sup>•</sup>	0.44 <sup>•</sup>
Catholic rule in 1600	0.17	-0.51 <sup>•</sup>	-0.03	0.30 <sup>•</sup>
Full controls	✓	✓	✓	✓
Observations	1362	3691	4112	6065
R-squared	0.45	0.46	0.53	0.63

*Notes:* City-decade OLS estimates. Full controls are latitude, longitude, latitude  $\times$  longitude, log population, and fixed effects for time, languages, and countries. Sources described in the main text. \*  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ , <sup>•</sup>  $p < 0.00000001$

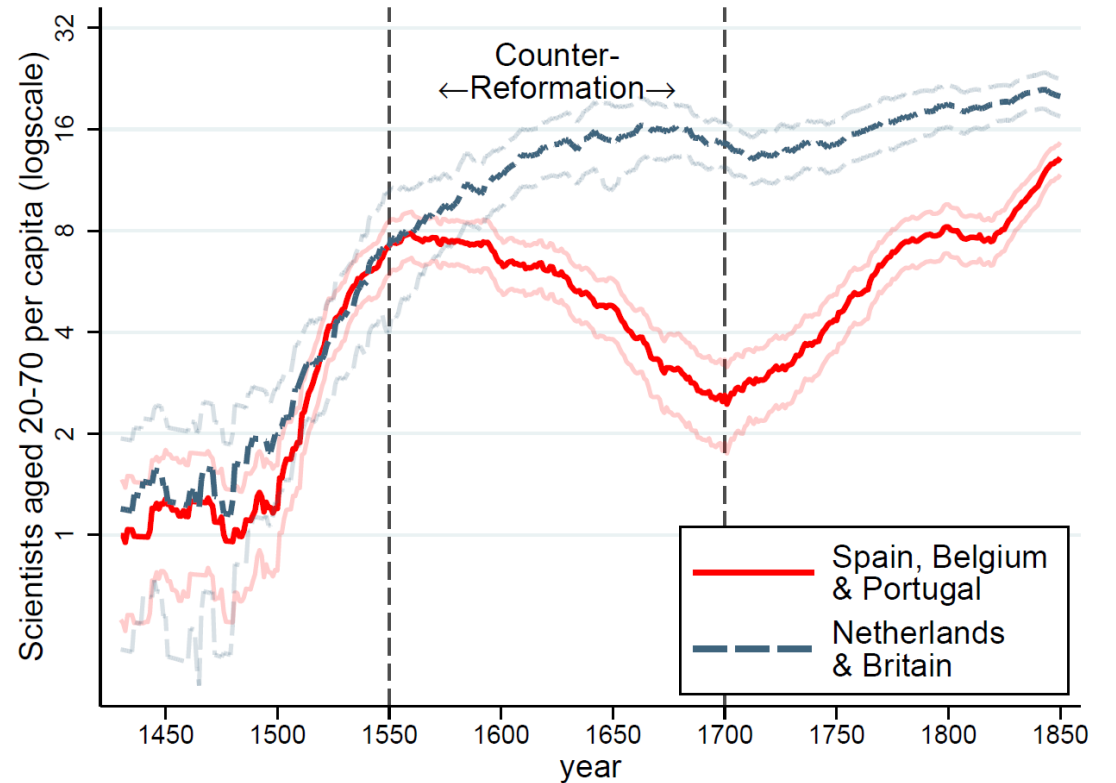
**Go  
back**

# 1550-1700: Catholics vs. Protestants

a) All cities

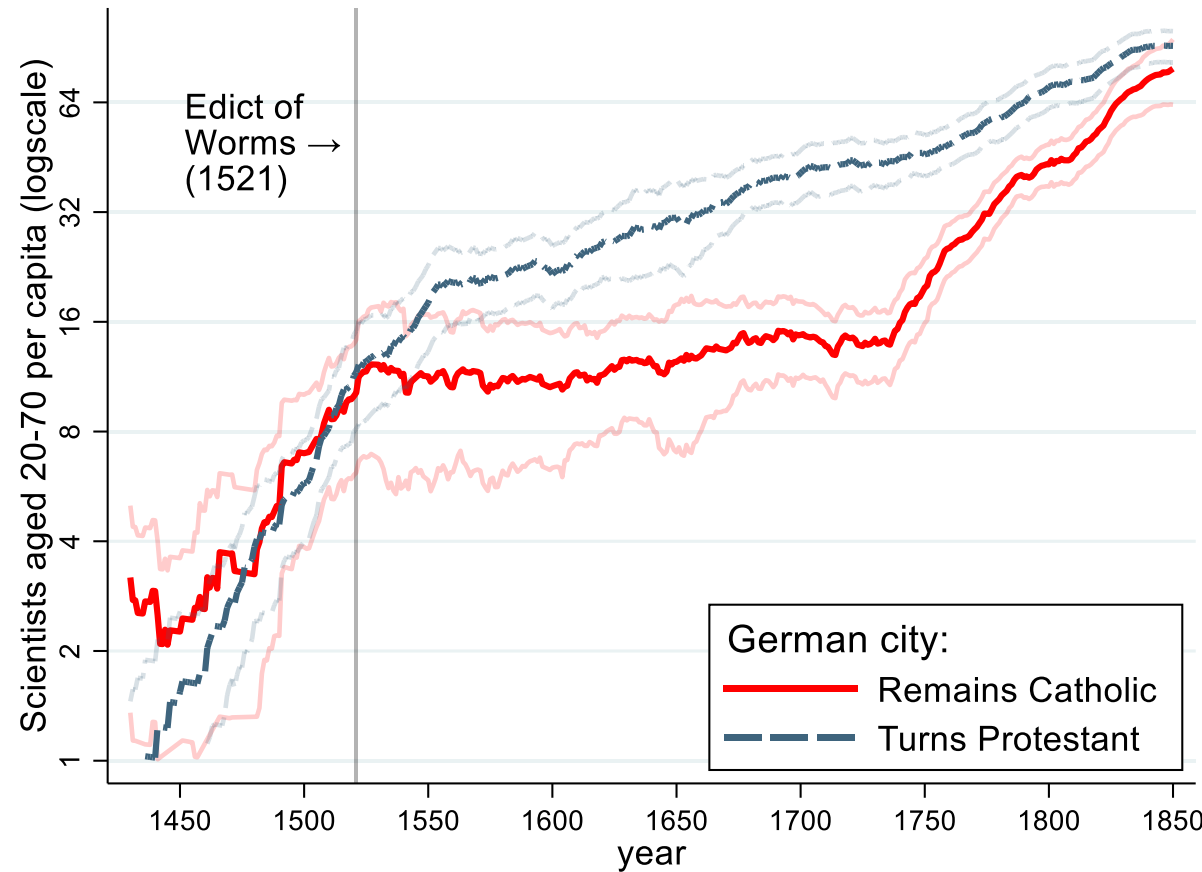


b) Atlantic countries



See also decline in quality: [plot1](#), [plot2](#). Source: [Cabello 2023](#)

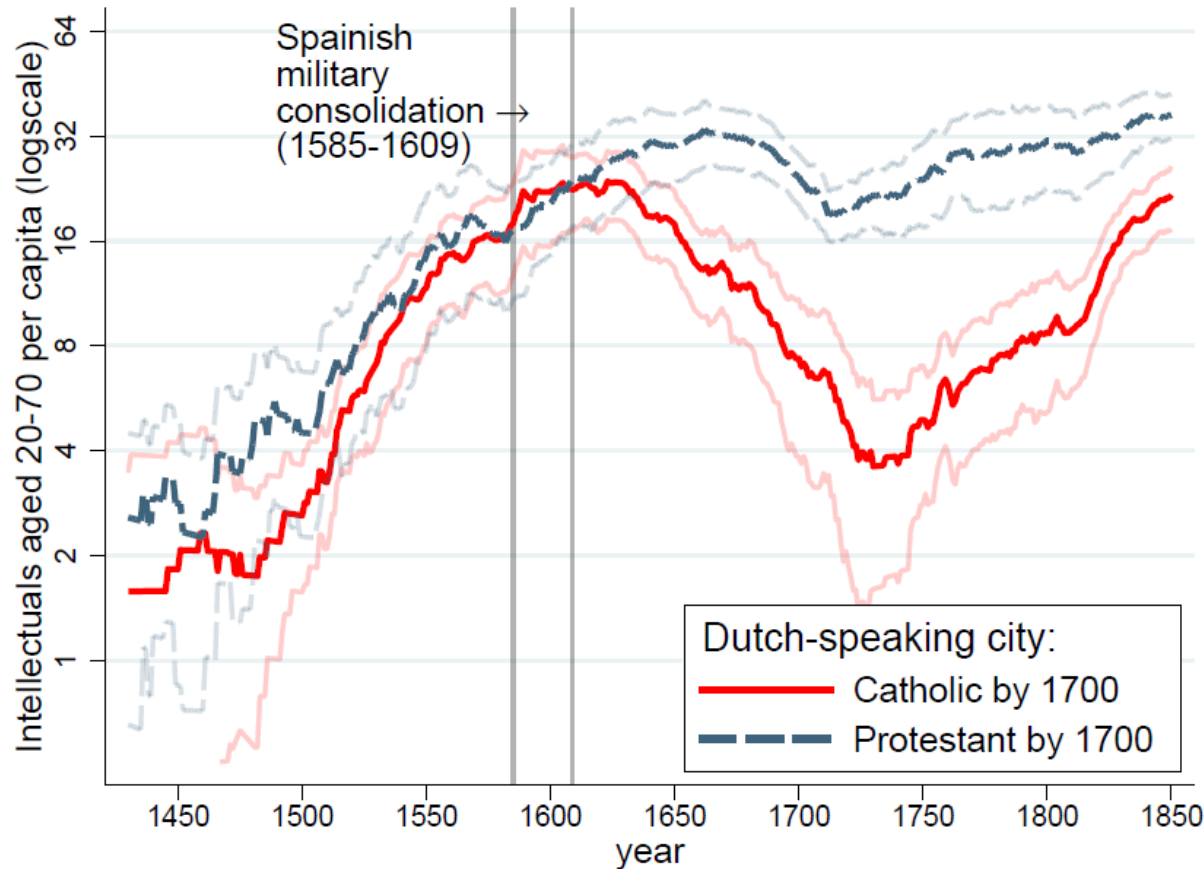
# Case study: Germany



Other age intervals [here](#). Source: [Cabello 2023](#)

- 1517: Charles V titled “Holy Roman Empire” by the pope
- 1517: Luther’s 95 Theses
  - More Protestant sects emerge
- 1521: Edict of Worms
  - Luther = “the Devil itself”
  - Protestantism banned
  - Persecution

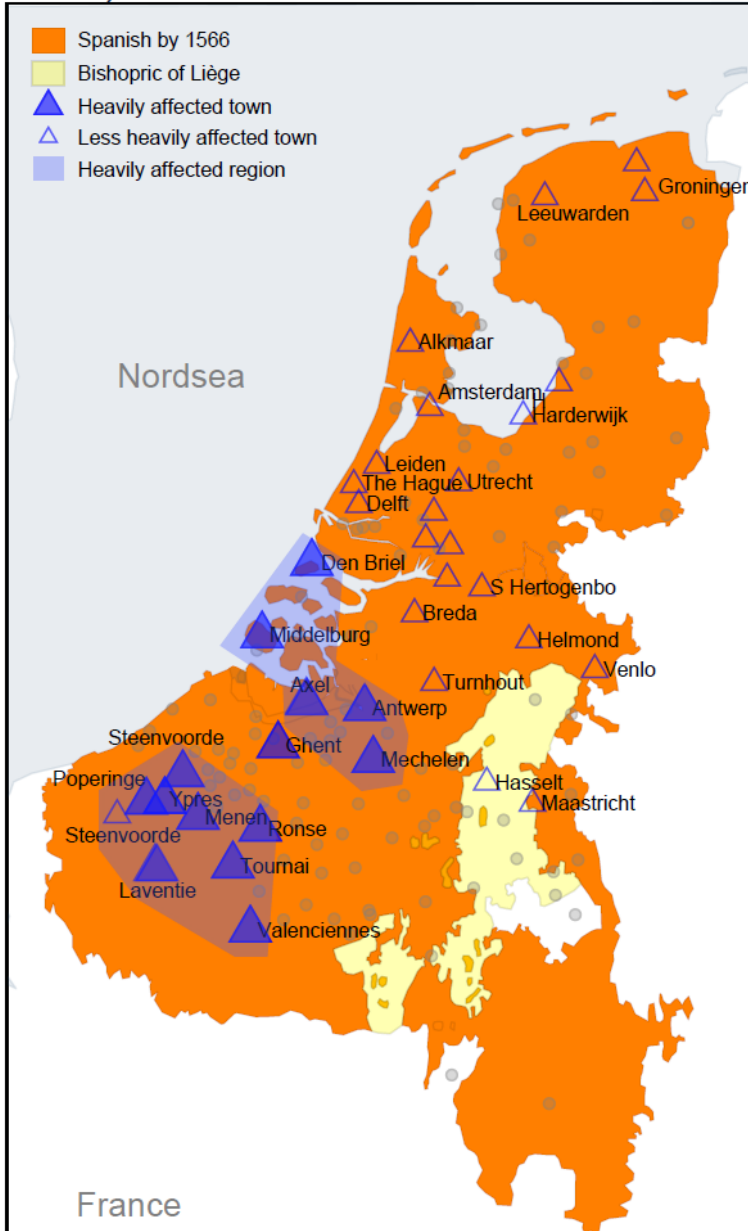
# Case study: Low Countries



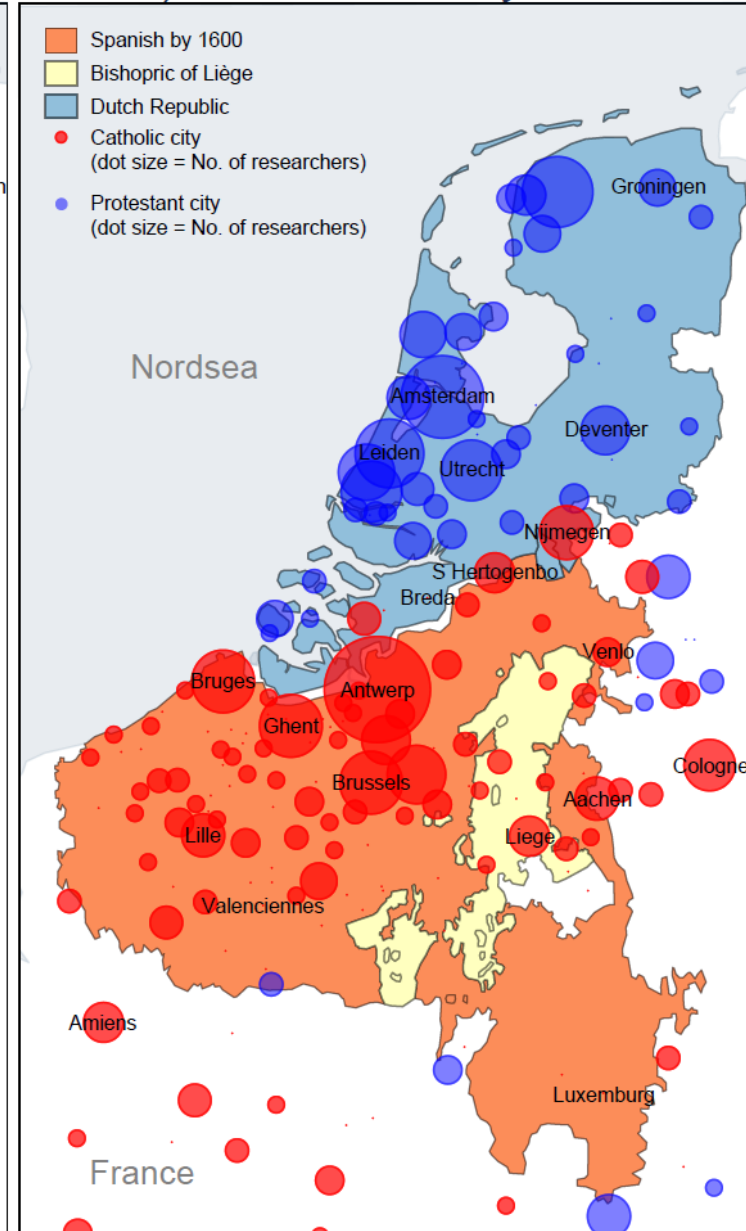
Source: [Cabello 2023](#)

- 1517: Charles V titled “Holy Roman Empire” by the pope
- 1517: Luther’s 95 Theses
  - More Protestant sects emerge
- 1521: Edict of Worms
  - Luther = “the Devil itself”
  - Protestantism banned
  - Persecution

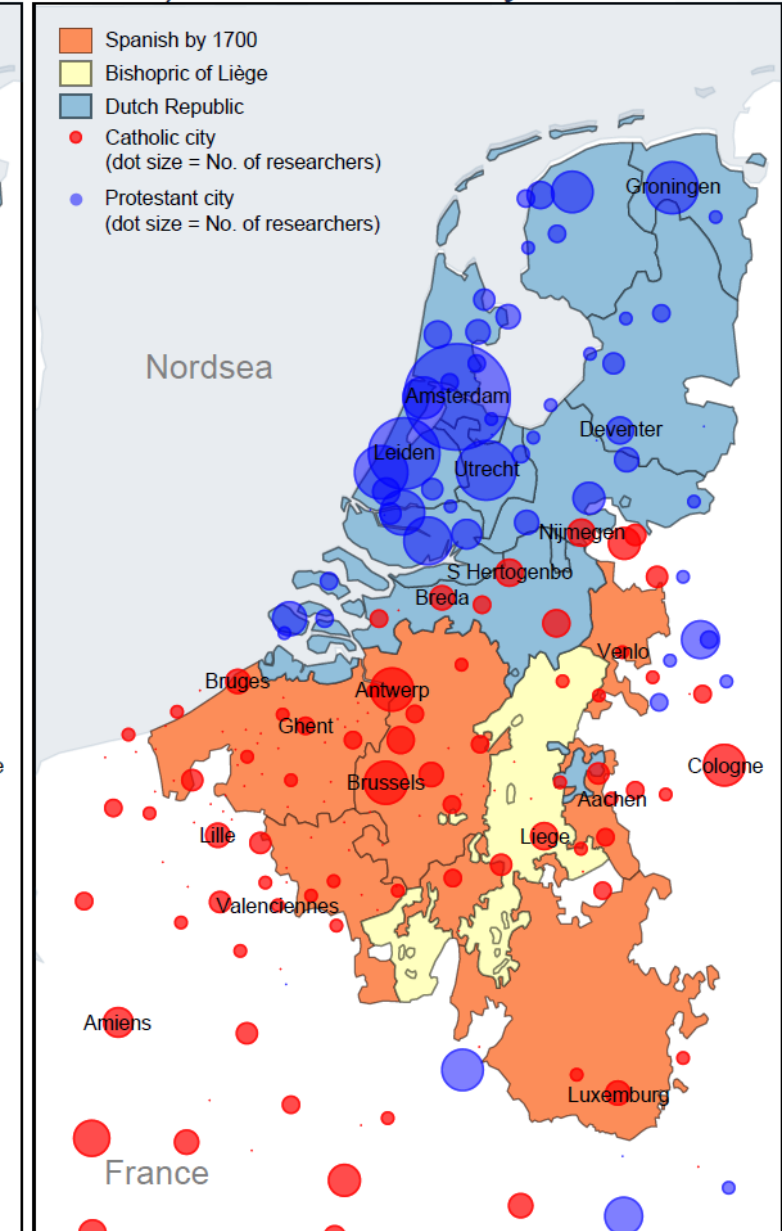
a) Anti-Catholic revolt of 1566



b) Researchers by 1600

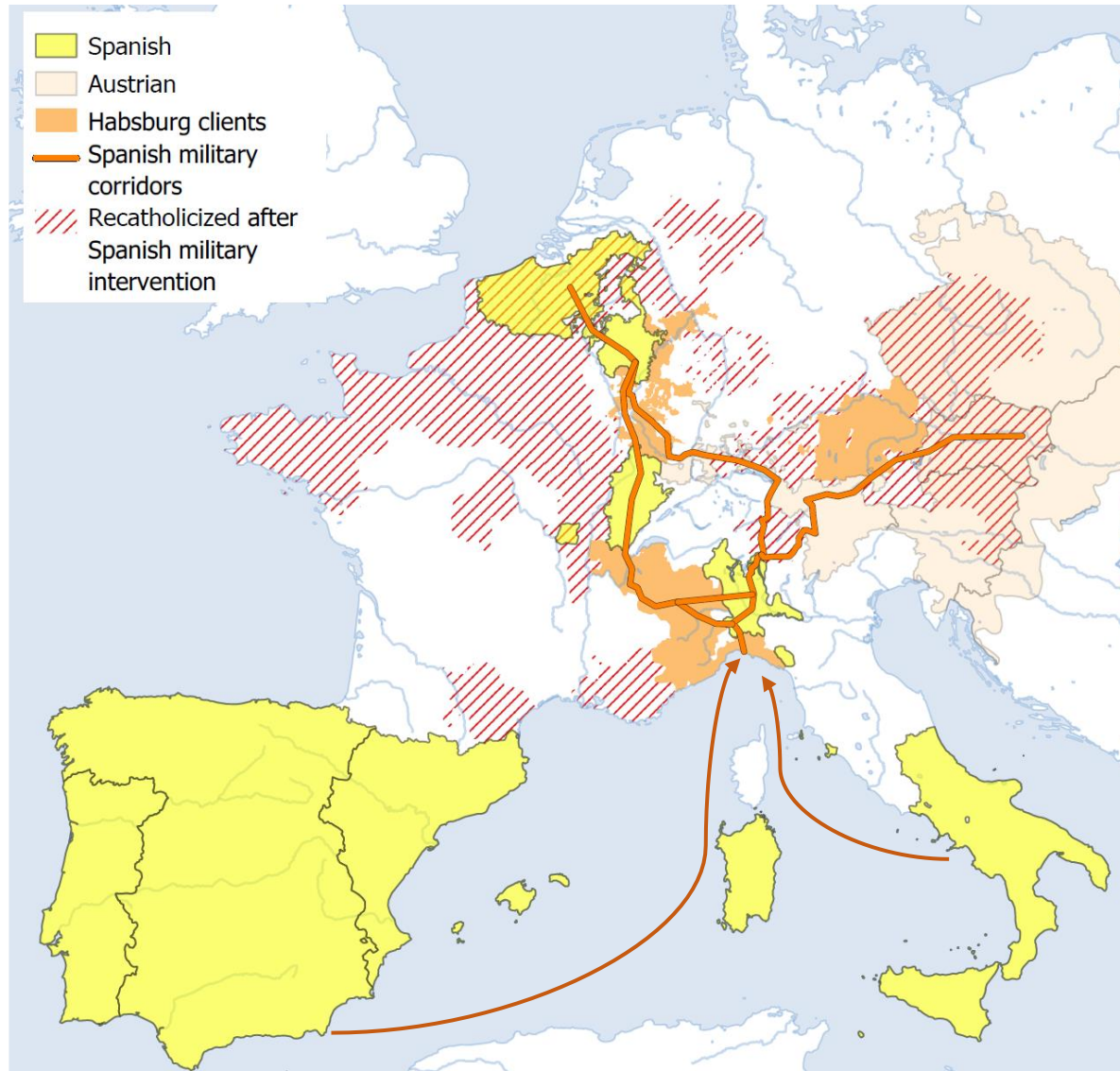


c) Researchers by 1700



[Back](#)





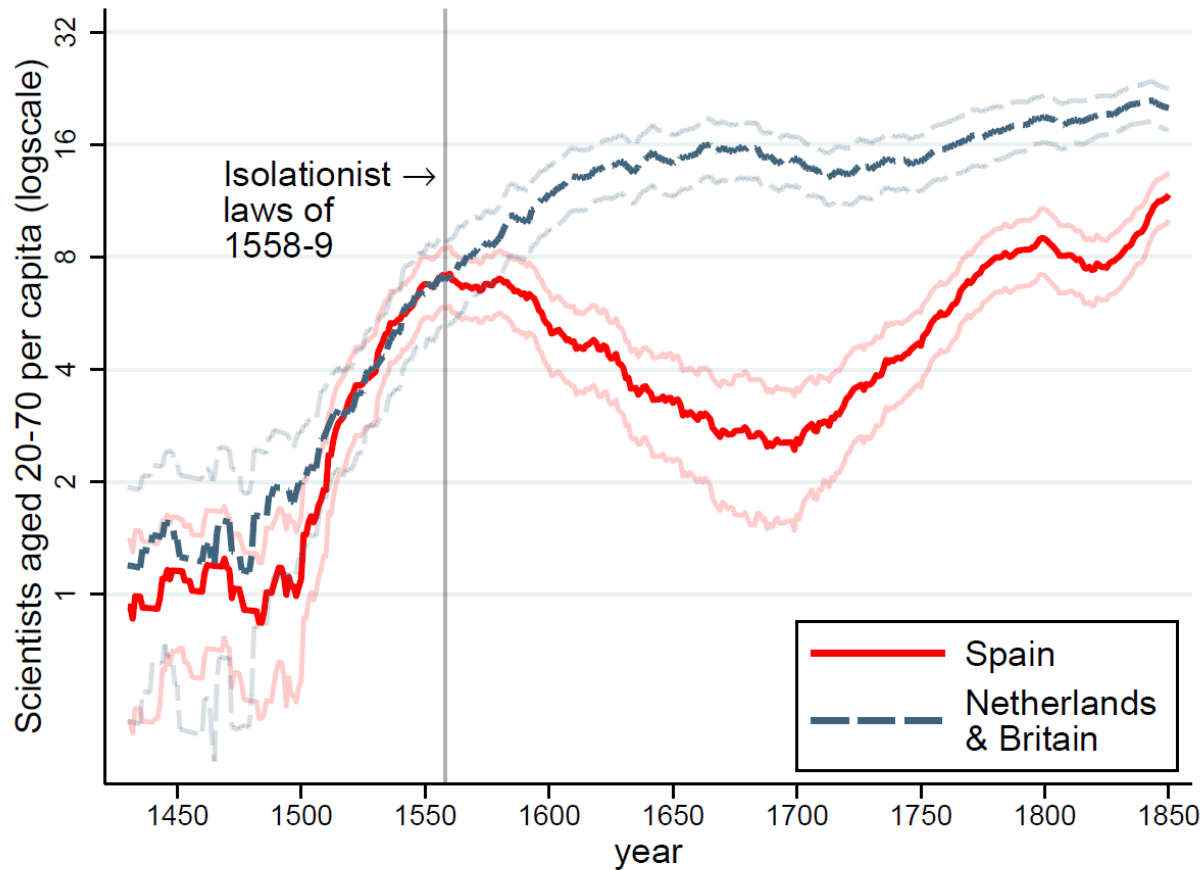
Source: [Cabello 2023](#)

## Geographically determined:

Spanish troops came from the south

Natural boundaries in the north

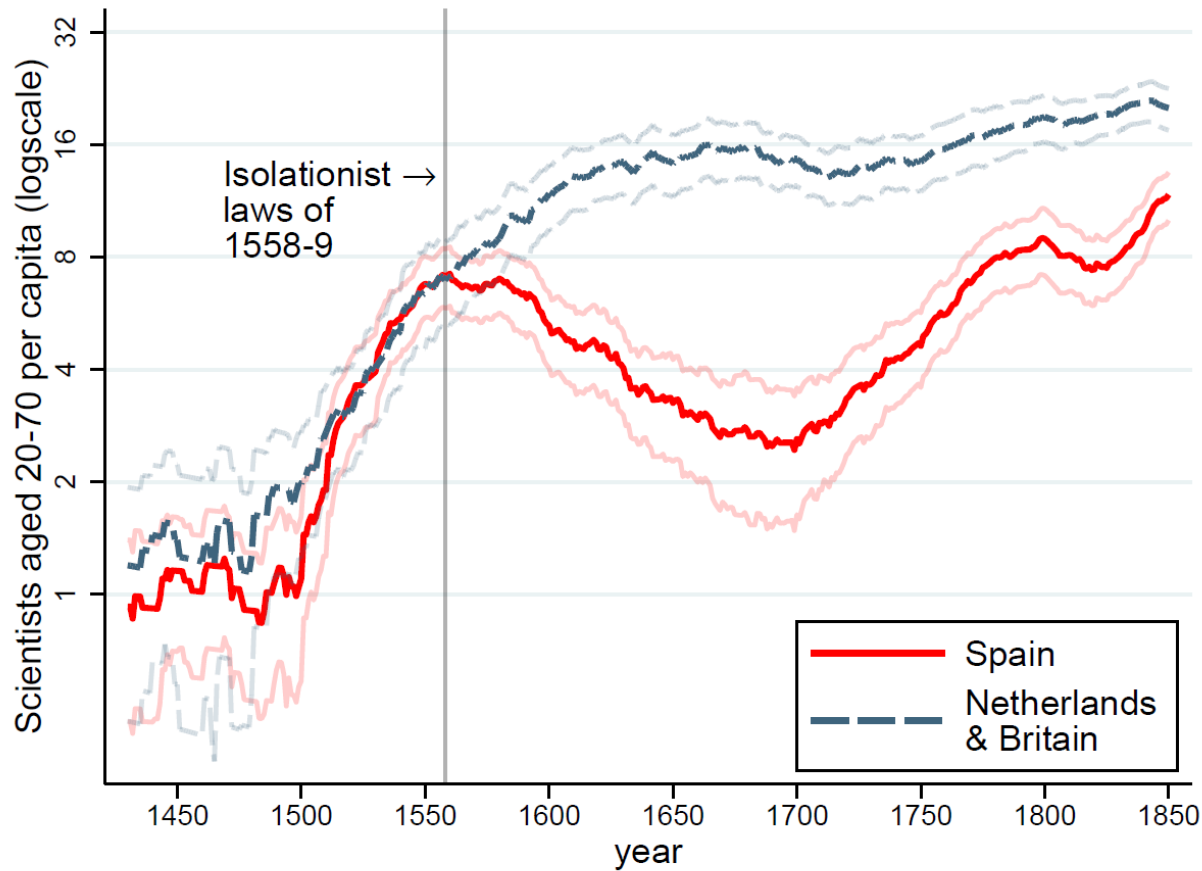
# Case study: Spain



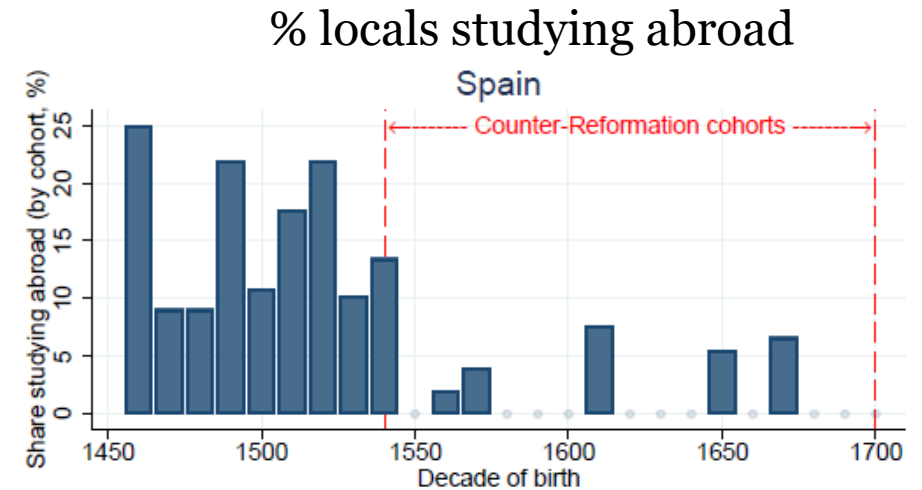
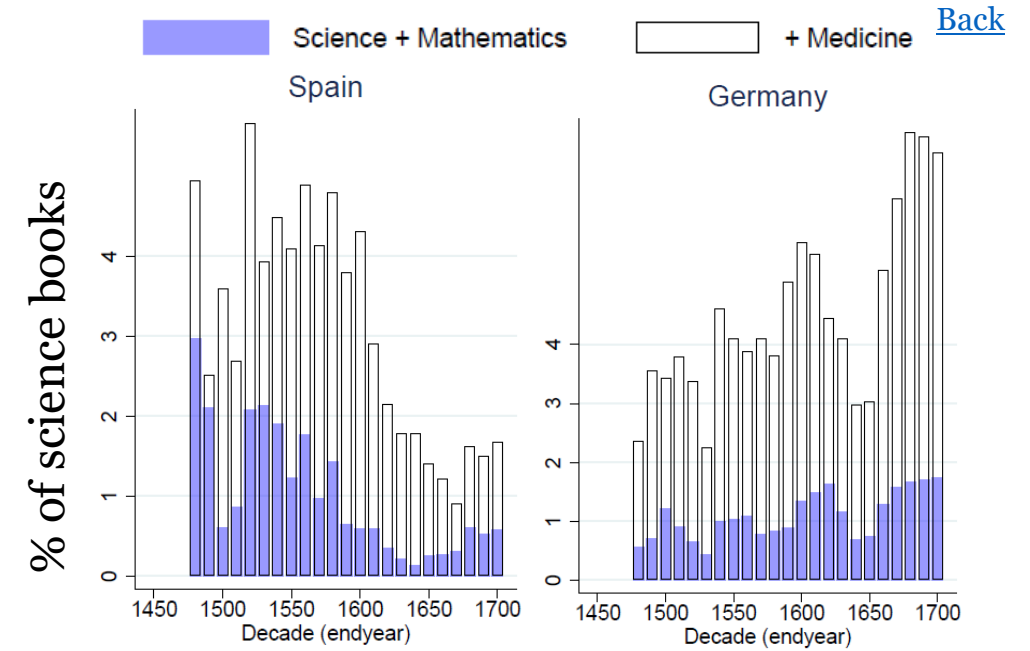
Source: [Cabello 2023](#)

- 1557-58 - Protestant cells discovered in Spain!
- 1559-1632 - Indexes prohibiting literature become increasingly comprehensive.
- 1559 - *Ban to study abroad* imposed on Castile (on Aragon in 1568).

# Case study: Spain

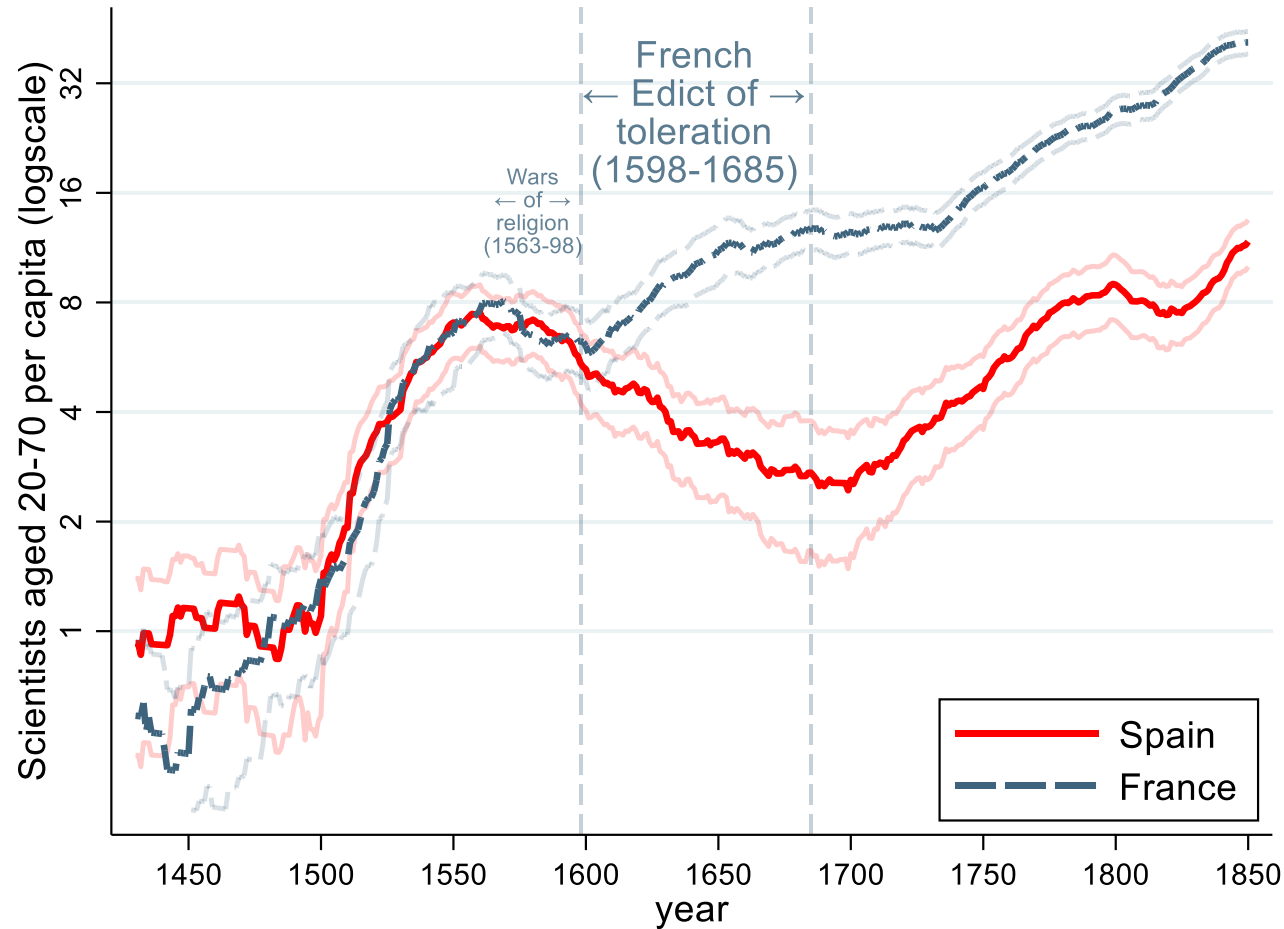


Source: [Cabello 2023](#)





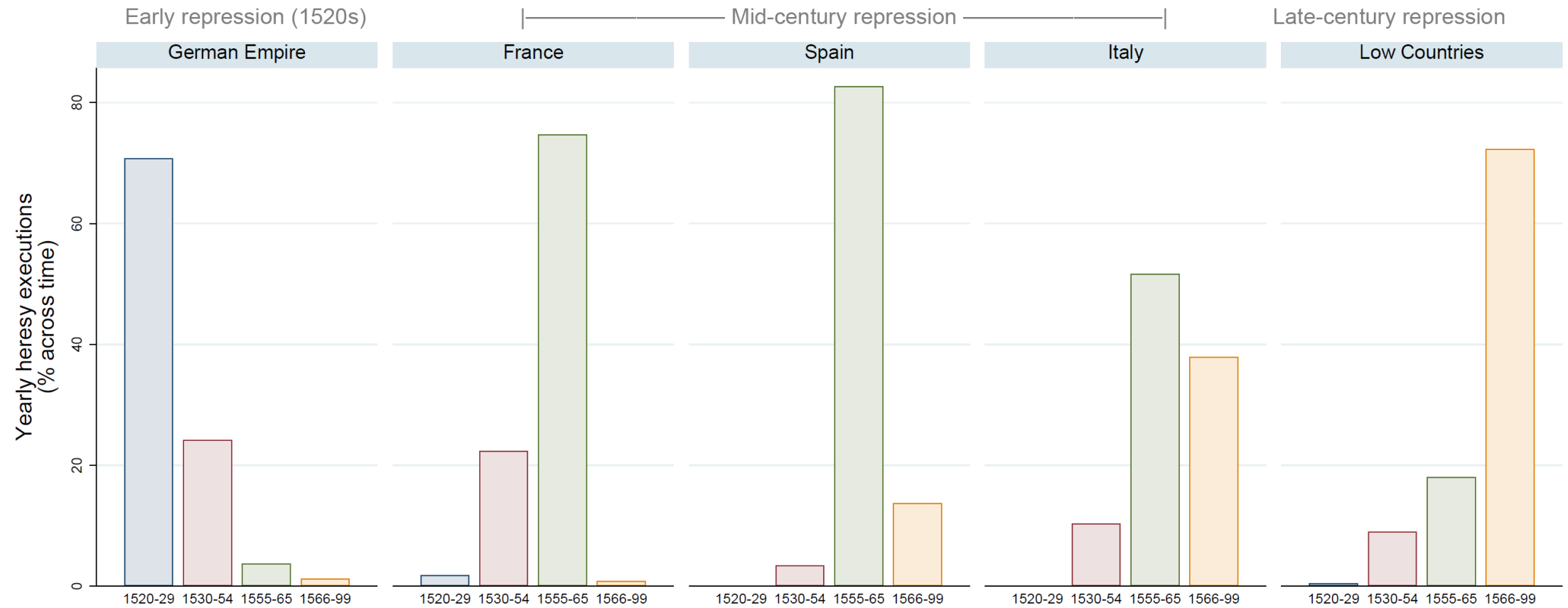
# Case study: France



Source: [Cabello 2023](#)

- 1598: Edict of Nantes
  - religious toleration!
  - right to worship, educate, even self-defence.
- 1628: la Rochelle's siege
  - Protestants weakened
- 1685: Rights revoked

# Timing of heresy persecution



Source: [Cabello 2023](#)

Table 1

[Back](#)

	Dependent variable: Change in scientists p.c. from 16th to 17th century								
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
	All cities	Religious border (100km)	All cities	Nearby Catholics (100km)	Iberia	Italy	All cities	Dutch border (100km)	All cities
Counter-Ref. intensity									
Catholic ruler 1600	-0.59***	-0.73***	-0.18				-0.24*		0.04
Strictly Catholic regime			-0.48***				-0.33***		-0.32**
Inquisitorial tribunal			-0.40***	-0.36***	-0.51*	-0.36***	-0.46***		-0.37***
Spanish Empire 1600						-0.61***	-0.35***	-0.55***	-0.36***
Catholic university 1700									-0.53***
Catholic pop. share [0,1]									-0.44***
Controls									
University in 1700	0.18**	0.35*	0.24***	-0.05	0.12	-0.07	0.25***	0.43***	0.58***
Dist. to Atlantic	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dist. to Mediterranean	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Initial researchers p.c.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Printing volume (by 1500)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pop. growth 1600–1700	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pop. growth 1500–1700	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ethno-linguistic FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fluv. catchment region FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Observations	649	172	649	171	43	105	649	75	641
R-squared	0.46	0.50	0.48	0.51	0.55	0.53	0.49	0.40	0.51

Source: [Cabello 2023](#)

Notes: Spatial-autocorrelation-adjusted standard errors within 200 km based on [Colella et al. \(2019\)](#). \*  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ .

Table 1

Table 1

Dependent variable: Change in scientists p.c. from 16th to 17th century

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

(6)

(7)

(8)

(9)

All cities

Religious border (100km)

All cities

Nearby Catholics (100km)

Iberia

Italy

All cities

Dutch border (100km)

All cities

Counter-Ref. intensity

Catholic ruler 1600

Strictly Catholic regime

Inquisitorial tribunal

Spanish Empire 1600

Catholic university 1700

Catholic pop. share [0,1]

-0.59\*\*\*

-0.73\*\*\*

-0.18

-0.24\*

0.04

-0.48\*\*\*

-0.33\*\*\*

-0.32\*\*

-0.40\*\*\*

-0.36\*\*\*

-0.51\*

-0.36\*\*\*

-0.46\*\*\*

-0.37\*\*\*

-0.61\*\*\*

-0.35\*\*\*

-0.55\*\*\*

-0.36\*\*\*

-0.53\*\*\*

-0.44\*\*\*

All these capture logistic capabilities

Controls

University in 1700

Dist. to Atlantic

Dist. to Mediterranean

Initial researchers p.c.

Printing volume (by 1500)

Pop. growth 1600–1700

Pop. growth 1500–1700

Ethno-linguistic FE

Fluv. catchment region FE

0.18\*\*

0.35\*

0.24\*\*\*

-0.05

0.12

-0.07

0.25\*\*\*

0.43\*\*\*

0.58\*\*\*

✓

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Observations

R-squared

649

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649

171

43

105

649

75

641

0.46

0.50

0.48

0.51

0.55

0.53

0.49

0.40

0.51

Source: Cabello 2023

Notes: Spatial-autocorrelation-adjusted standard errors within 200 km based on Colella et al. (2019). \*  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ .

Dependent variable: Change in scientists p.c. from 16th to 17th century

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	All cities	Religious border (100km)	All cities	Nearby Catholics (100km)	Iberia	Italy	All cities	Dutch border (100km)	All cities	All cities	
Counter-Ref. intensity											
Catholic ruler 1600	-0.59***	-0.73***	-0.18				-0.24*		0.04	0.12	
Strictly Catholic regime			-0.48***				-0.33***		-0.32**	-0.31**	
Inquisitorial tribunal			-0.40***	-0.36***	-0.51*	-0.36***	-0.46***		-0.37***	-0.37***	
Spanish Empire 1600						-0.61***	-0.35***	-0.55***	-0.36***	-0.37***	
Catholic university 1700									-0.53***	-0.54***	
Catholic pop. share [0,1]									-0.44***	-0.51***	
Controls											
University in 1700	0.18**	0.35*	0.24***	-0.05	0.12	-0.07	0.25***	0.43***	0.58***	0.59***	
Prote. with 10%–50% Cath.										0.18***	
Some Calvinists (> 1%)										0.03	
Mostly Calvinists (> 50%)										-0.07	
Fully Calvinist (> 80%)										-0.29***	
Dist. to Atlantic	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Dist. to Mediterranean	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Initial researchers p.c.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Printing volume (by 1500)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Pop. growth 1600–1700	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Pop. growth 1500–1700	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Ethno-linguistic FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Fluv. catchment region FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Observations	649	172	649	171	43	105	649	75	641	641	
R-squared	0.46	0.50	0.48	0.51	0.55	0.53	0.49	0.40	0.51	0.51	

Catholic minorities beneficial

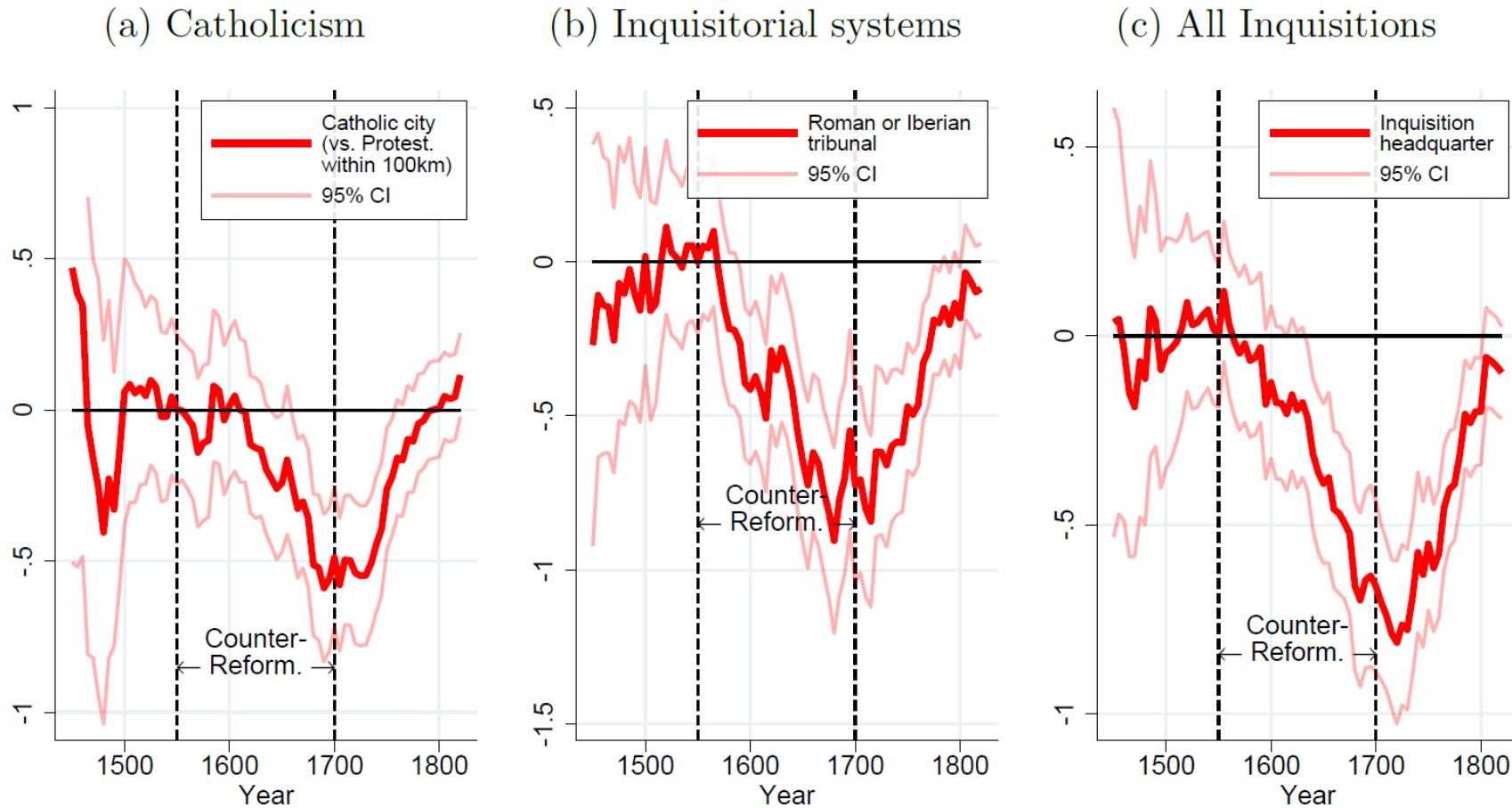
Full Protestant control also detrimental

Source: [Cabello 2023](#)

Notes: Spatial-autocorrelation-adjusted standard errors within 200 km based on Colella et al. (2019) . \*  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$

# Dynamic regressions

$$\ln \left( \frac{\text{Researchers aged 20-70}_{it}}{\text{Population}_{it}} \right) = \alpha_{0t} + \alpha_{1t} D(\text{CR-proxy}_i) + \text{controls}_{it} + \text{error}_{it}$$



Source: [Cabello 2023](#)