Long-run effects of the Spanish Inquisition
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1. Analyzes if the Spanish Inquisition had long-lasting or permanent effects on Spanish economic development.

The Spanish Inquisition

The Inquisition Trials Data (1478-1808)

- Individual trial data (35,255 trials): Barcelona, Valencia, Murcia, Cuenca and Toledo
- Offender's name, year, charges, sentence and village
- Regions (CCAA, 5 and Provinces (14))
- Inquisitorial trials in 47 comarques (counties)

Empirical strategy: Differences-in-differences

- $p_{i,t} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot t + \beta_2 \cdot X_{i,t} + \gamma \cdot \text{Inc}_{i,t} + \alpha_i \cdot t + \text{After}_i \cdot t + \text{After}_i \cdot X_{i,t} + \epsilon_{i,t}$
- $p_{i,t}$: average annual population growth at municipality $i$ between $t$ and $t-1$
- $X_{i,t}$: treatment group dummy (i.e. municipalities affected by the Inquisition)
- $\text{After}_i$: dummy variable for the period after the first trial of the Inquisition takes place in a municipality $i$; dummy for the period the first trial occurs in a neighbour municipality
- $X_{i,t}$: vector of time-invariant variables of each municipality interacted with the set of year fixed effects

The Spanish Inquisition and Population growth

- Negative significant effect of the Inquisition on population growth after a municipality has experienced an inquisitorial trial until the first half of the 19th century.
- The Inquisition lead to a 0.11% lower annual population growth (average annual population growth is 0.3% approx.)
- Controls include County FE, Year FE, Initial population, and geography variables (Altitude and ruggedness). Standard errors clustered at the town level.
- Years: 1497 to 1991.

Robustness checks

- Crypto-moral trials do not drive the effect of the Inquisition; Repressive trials have a negative effect on growth until the mid 19th century
- Jewish settlements are positively associated with growth until the mid 19th century

Channels of persistence

- Trust: Institutions, people
- Knowledge, culture, technological improvements
- Artistic and cultural outcomes
- Levels of Trust and Attitudes towards Scientific Advances: Regional and province levels
- Science and scientific literacy: Ateneus Populars in 19th century Catalonia

Discussion

- Municipalities affected by the Inquisition are linked to lower population growth afterwards. Villages that suffered at least one trial of the Inquisition grew at 0.11 percentage point lower rate than those that were not exposed to trials. The significance of this effect vanished after 1840.
- Results show significant negative associations between trials of the Inquisition and attitudes towards new technologies or the spread of culture. In particular, we show that people that lived in areas with more intense levels of inquisitorial activity are more likely to think that new technologies will harm them (4 percent more likely with a difference of 1,000 trials).
- Municipalities that experienced trials of the Inquisition were less likely to have a cultural center between 1860 and 1930.
- These results suggest that the effect of the Inquisition on economic performance would have been achieved through reduced entrepreneurship.

Table: Population and Inquisition: Municipal Level (Catalonia)

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Alternative explanations: factors that explain inquisitorial activity and growth

- Historical economic relevance
- Migration
- Other economic drivers
- Roman roads and accessibility
- Jewish settlements
- Rivers network

Please note that the above text is a summary of the research findings and does not represent the full content of the document.