

Towards a Stable and Peaceful State: Implications for Afghanistan

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Research Question



What are the factors that are associated with a stable and peaceful state?

Key findings



- Good public administration improves political stability
- It matters even more for low income countries
- Policy implication: a focus on incremental state building/good governance not just income

Characteristics of a stable state



- *Territorially defined boundary*
- *Monopoly on the means of coercion (violence)*
- *Monopoly to make laws*
- *Set of institutions and personnel differentiated from the 'economy' and 'society'*

A stable state?



- *Dispute resolution* btw people, btw people and state, btw branches of state
- Some degree of *legitimacy* and role in maintaining *cohesion/nationhood*
- Providing basic *infrastructure* and *public goods*

Testing the Stable State: Dependent Variables



- *Monopoly of Violence* : Extent state's monopoly on force covers entire territory (10-0), 10 being virtually no competition with state's monopoly (from BTI)
- *Political Stability* –likelihood government will be destabilized/overthrown by unconstitutional/violent means (from World Bank, -2.5 to 2.5, where 2.5= highly stable)

Research design



- 1) Using a cross-national dataset, see if governance and development factors predict monopoly of violence and political stability
- 2) Implications for countries similar to Afghanistan
- 3) Control for polity and income
- 4) Lag variables because of possible endogeneity

Independent variables (partial list)



- Independent judiciary
- Confidence: the civil services
- Confidence: the government
- Muslim
- Services' share of economy (% of GDP)
- Population below national poverty line (%)
- Total Debt Service (%)
- Forest Growing Stock Change 2000-2005
- Civilian Dictatorship
- Military dictatorship
- Royal dictatorship
- Income per capita (control)
- Polity scores (control)

Significant Findings: Monopoly of Violence



- Govt revenue as %
- Govt spending on education as %GDP
- Civilian dictatorships lead to less monopoly of violence
- State identity *highly*
- No interference of religious dogmas *highly*

Significant Findings: Monopoly of Violence



- Basic Administration highly significant and *wipes out effect of income*
- Judicial independence *highly*
- Confidence in civil service, and government, *highly*
- Voice and participation *highly*
- Low corruption monopoly

Significant Findings: Political Stability



- Govt revenue as %
- Tax as %GDP
- Govt spending on education as %GDP
- Civilian dictatorships and military dictatorships lead to lower stability
- Higher exports %GDP greater stability

Significant Findings: Political Stability



- Religious dogma, basic admin highly significant
- State identity highly sig, and when in models *democracy no longer significant*
- Exports %GDP positive and significant
- Judicial independence
- Confidence in government

Significant Findings: Political Stability



- Voice and accountability
- Higher service share %GDP, greater stability
- Total debt service – greater debt %GDP the more unstable, after controlling income and regime type
- High corruption increases instability

Interesting *not* significant findings



- Fiscal imbalance, ODA as %GNI, and % population below national poverty line NOT significant for either DV
- [Karl]

Predicting Political Stability

Mean value	Dem& Income	B. Admin	Corruption (TI)	Indep. Jud.	State Iden.
Global	-.10	-.52	-.15	-.21	-.52
OECD	.95	.10	.50	-.07	-.26
LIC	-.64	-.87	-.45	-.28	-.65
AFGH	-1.14	-1.51	-.48	-.31	-.95
Mean Value	Religious Dogma	Rule of Law	Control Corr.	Govt. Effect.	Prop. rights
Global	-.52	-.10	-.11	-.11	-.52
OECD	-.38	1.30	.81	.82	-.29
LIC	-.56	-.67	-.56	-.62	-.63
AFGH	-1.42	-1.60	-1.06	-.85	-.54

Economic development, yes, but also:



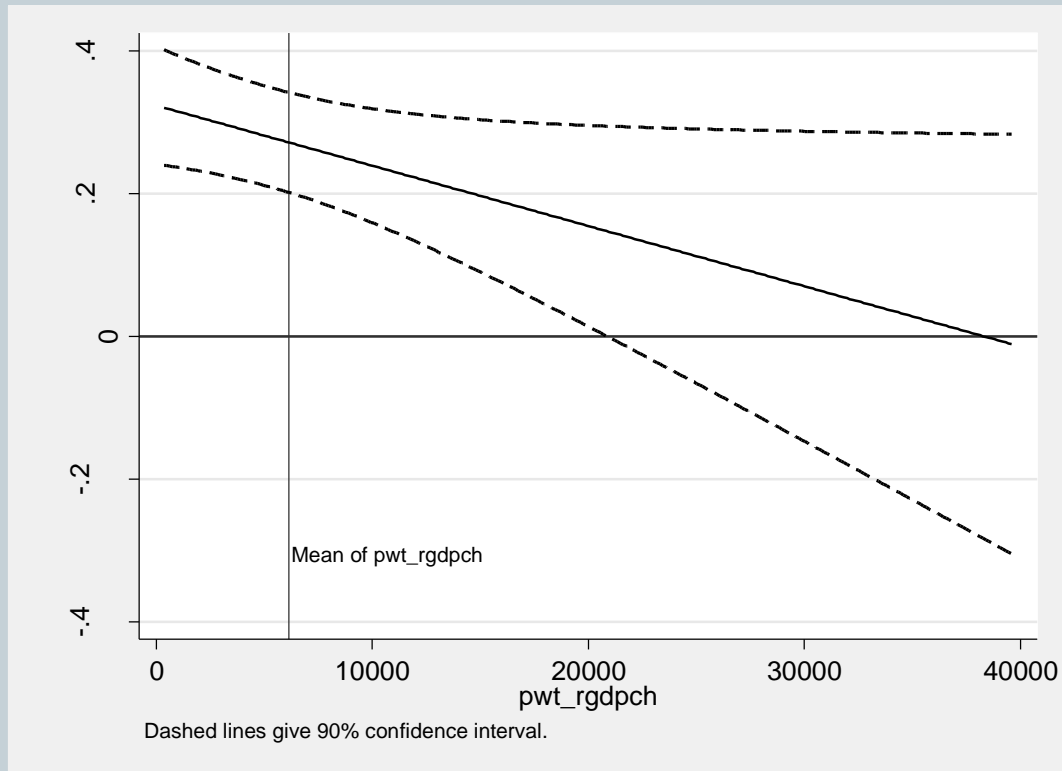
- Building an effective state
- Broaden participation in governance
- Human rights and democracy
- As we show next, many factors can have strong impact even at low levels of income

Does governance have different impact at various levels of income?

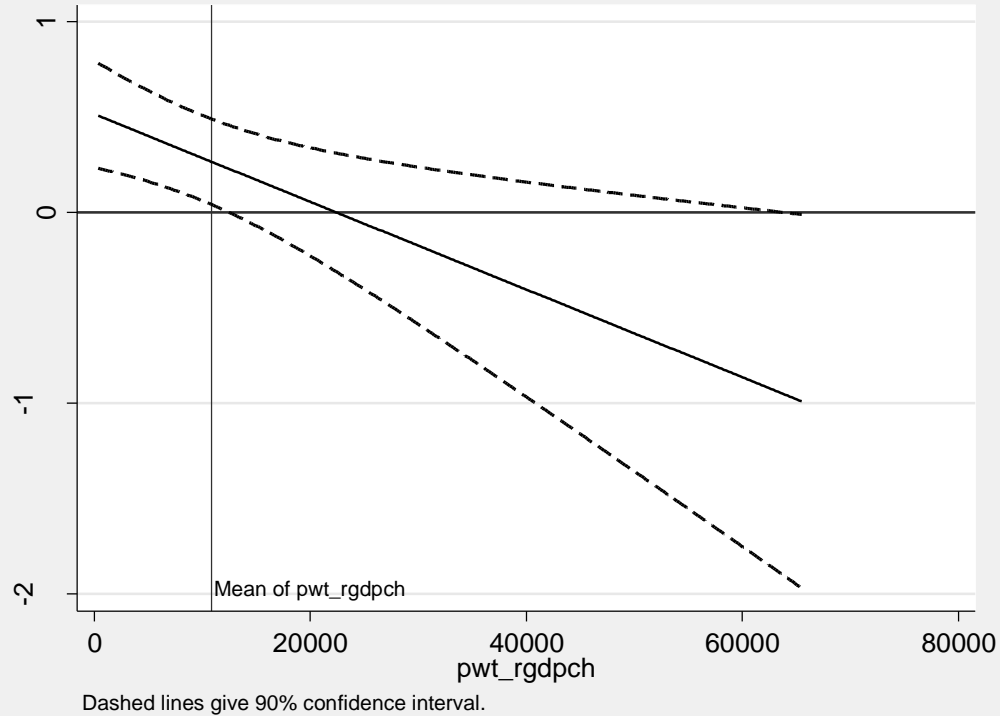


- Yes
- Interacting various independent variables with income and then graphing the results reveals interesting findings
- In general, these variables have greater impact on Political Stability at lower levels of income

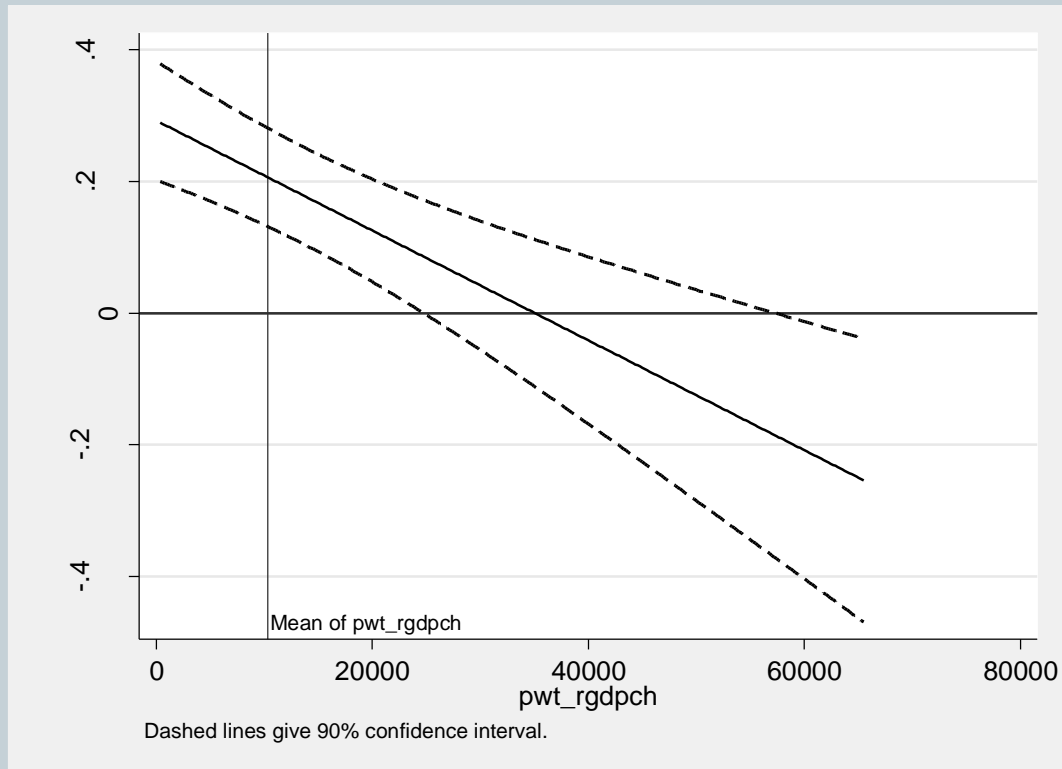
State identity



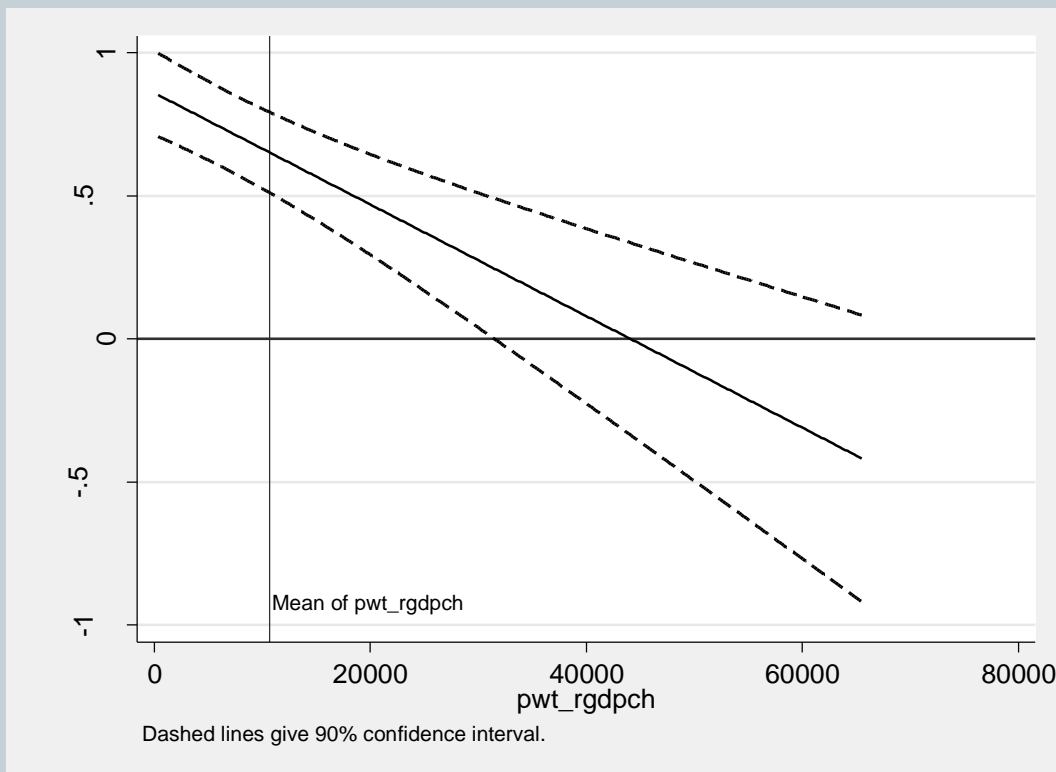
Independent judiciary



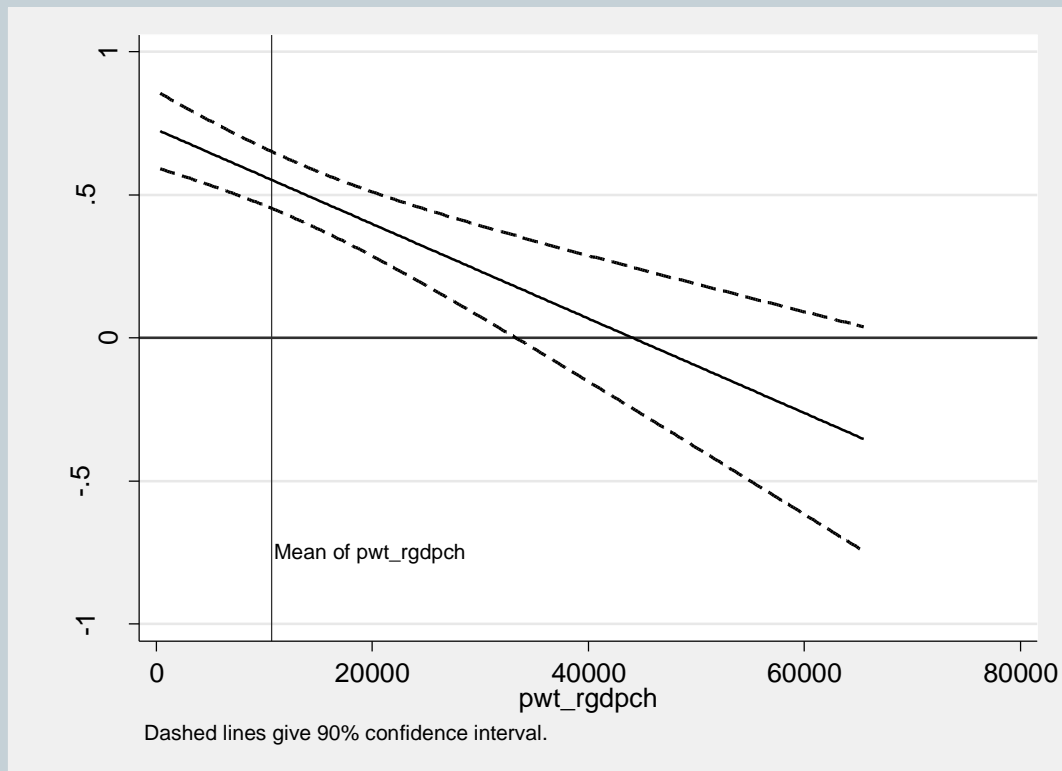
Corruption (TI)



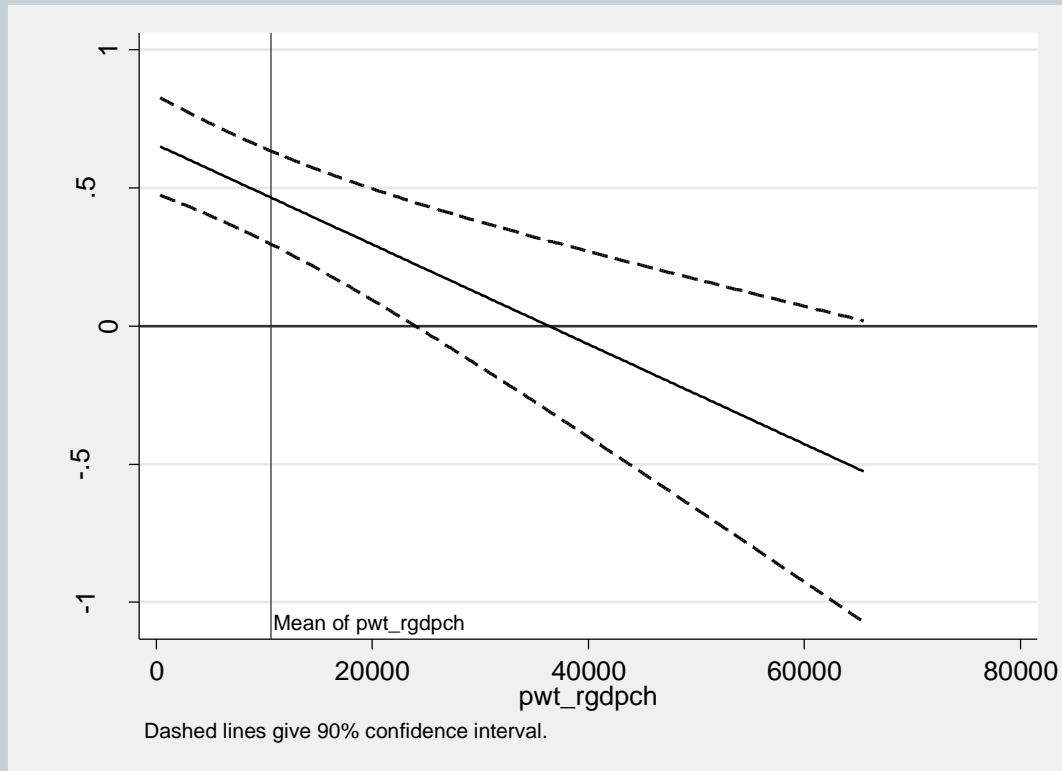
Rule of Law



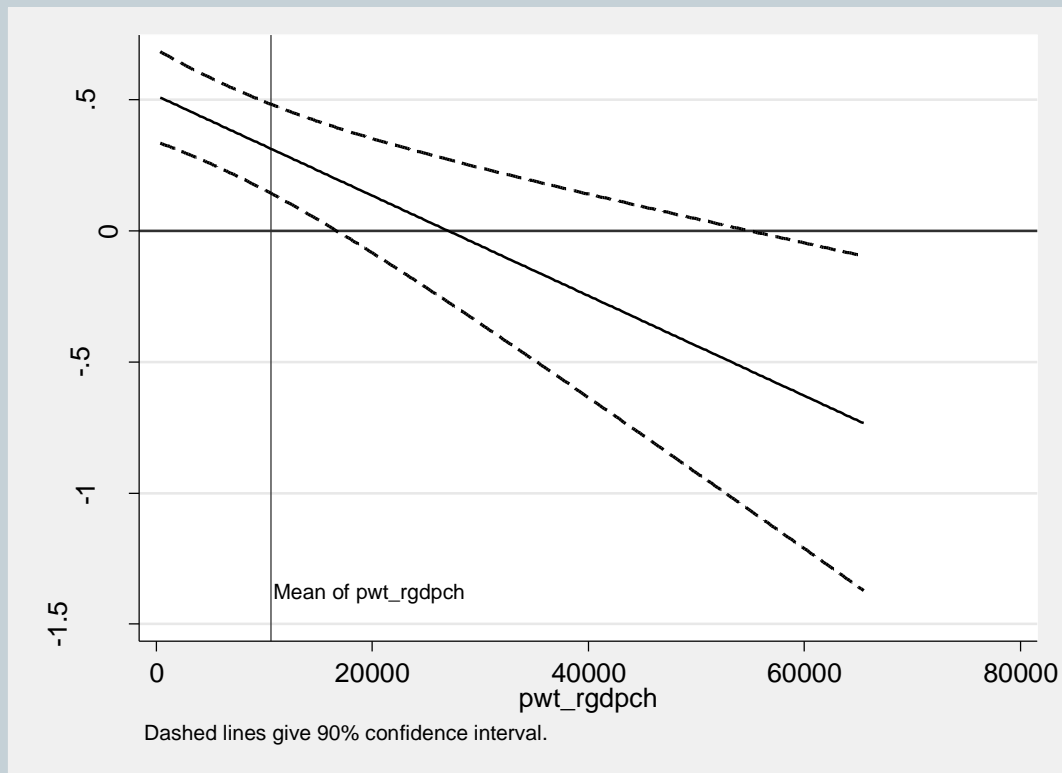
Voice and accountability



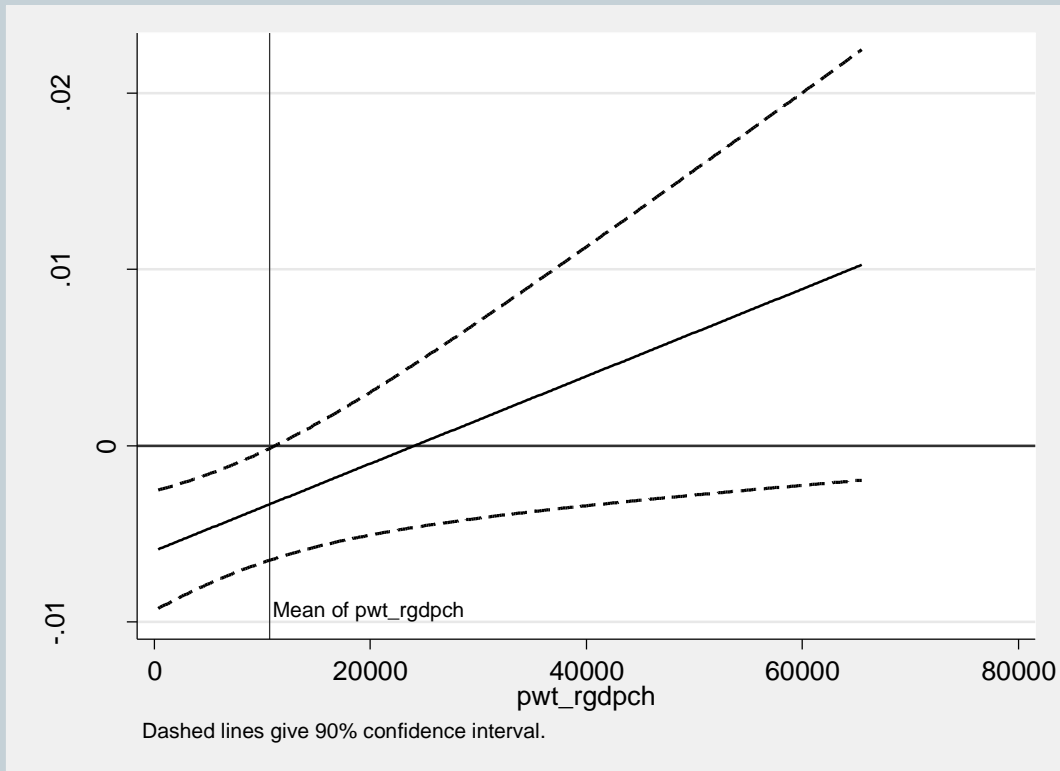
Government effectiveness



Regulatory quality



% Muslim



Conclusions



- Not simply an issue of democracy/not democracy or low income/high income
- One of the most important factors is judicial independence, even apart from democracy
- National identity, legitimacy and state capacity very important
- % Muslim in population has increasingly positive impact on stability as income increases

Continued



- Many independent variables have bigger impact at lower levels of income: rule of law, government effectiveness, corruption, state identity, independent judiciary, regulatory quality
- The policy implication is that there is hope for poor countries by developing good public administration