

PLS 343

Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa

Week 15:  
Review

# Plan for this week

- Review:
  - Course material
  - Benefits and challenges of studying Africa
- Final exam overview

# Historical legacies

- Nature and evolution of African polities during the precolonial, colonial, and early postcolonial periods:
  - Centralization
  - Geographic reach
  - Relations with society
- Contemporary effects of historical developments

# Postcolonial politics

- Neopatrimonialism and authoritarianism
- Politics of identity, esp. ethnicity
- Political violence
- Economic development

# Contemporary politics

- Democratic transition
- Democratic consolidation
- Democratic backsliding and re-authoritarianization

# Single stories



# Empirical puzzles

- Why is Africa poorer than other world regions / continents?
- Why is Tanzania stable, while neighboring DRC is riven by conflict?
- Why have some African countries undergone successful democratic transitions, while democratization failed in others?

# Inferential leverage

- What is the effect of colonialism on economic performance, state capacity, or government accountability?
- What is the relationship between ethnic diversity and conflict?



# Final exam

- Two parts, 50% each:
  - Part I:
    - 1 essay that responds to a question chosen from a list of 3
    - ~2-4 pages, 24 hours
  - Part II:
    - 4 short answers to prompts chosen from a list of 10
    - ~100-150 words per term, 1 hour
- Class + readings
- Description + analysis

# Review activities

- Outline essays responding to Part I questions
- Write short answers in response to Part II prompts

*The End*

