The Global Spread of National Universities: Modern State Formation and Geopolitical Anxieties in Higher Education Policy

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National Universities

- **National Universities**
    - What are they?
    - Formative Concepts (Bengson, 2024)
    - Twin Approaches: De Jure vs. De Facto

- **Global Spread of National Universities**
    - Modern State Formation and the University after the Medieval Age
    - Identifying a (De Jure) National University
    - Comparative Sequential Method
    - Results
    - Tendencies of the National University
    - Conclusion

National Universities: What are they?

National Universities: What are they?

- Social Imaginary (Taylor, 2004) <u>above</u> the Local
  but <u>below</u> the Global
    - Universities mostly named after their municipalities or founders.

- Towards a Research Agenda
    - Organizational form, model, or script?
    - Substantive and analytical / functional conceptualizations.

National Universities: What are they?

- Formative Concepts of NUs (Bengson, 2024)

  core themes
  1. Functioning as a tool for state development in terms of human capital, cultural identity, and social networks;
  2. Serving as a nation's most advanced learning institution;
  3. Providing meritocratic higher education without discrimination and in consideration of subnational divisions; and
  4. Possessing a definite link with the central government.

Twin Approaches: De Jure vs. De Facto

	De Jure	De Facto
Nature	Organizational Form	Analytical Category
Number	Singular	Plural
Emphasis	flagship (internal)	ranking (external)
Approach	historico-legal	socio-cultural

Global Spread of National Universities

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Global Spread of National Universities

- Modern State Formation c1500-

  - Establishment of an International System
    - Trade, Industrialization, and Globalization
    - Modern Cartography and Territorial Conflict
    - Colonization and World Systems

  - Nationalisms, Statecraft, and Bureaucracy
    - Citizenship and Cultural Identities
    - Working Populations with Income
    - Nationalization of Science and HE (Stichweh, 2015)

Global Spread of National Universities

- The University after the Medieval Age

    - Early Modern Transformations
        - French – Napoleon – Specialist Grandes Ecoles
        - Prussian – Humboldt et al. – Generalist University of Berlin

    ➢ Where does the National University figure within these?
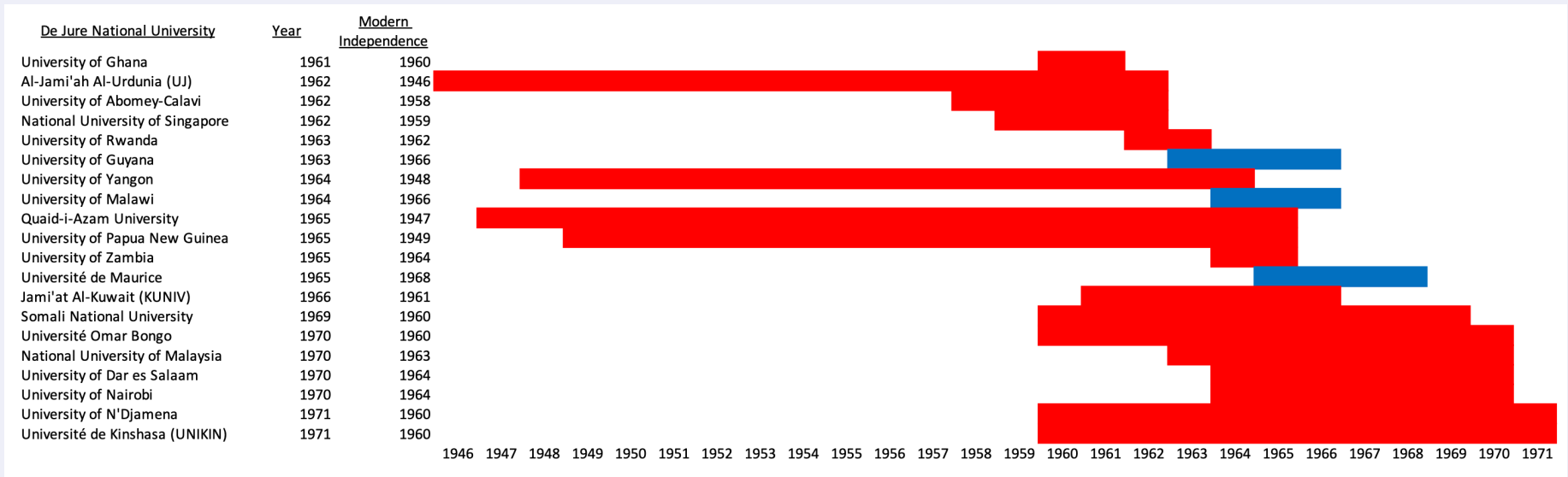   ➢ When and where did the form arise? Why?

Identifying a (De Jure) National University

- By name alone?

- Official Policy / Function Connected to Central Government

    - Organizational, Country, and System Histories and Data
    - Addis Ababa University, previously called the University of Ethiopia.
    - Prominent Individuals e.g. North Korea's Kim Il-sung University.
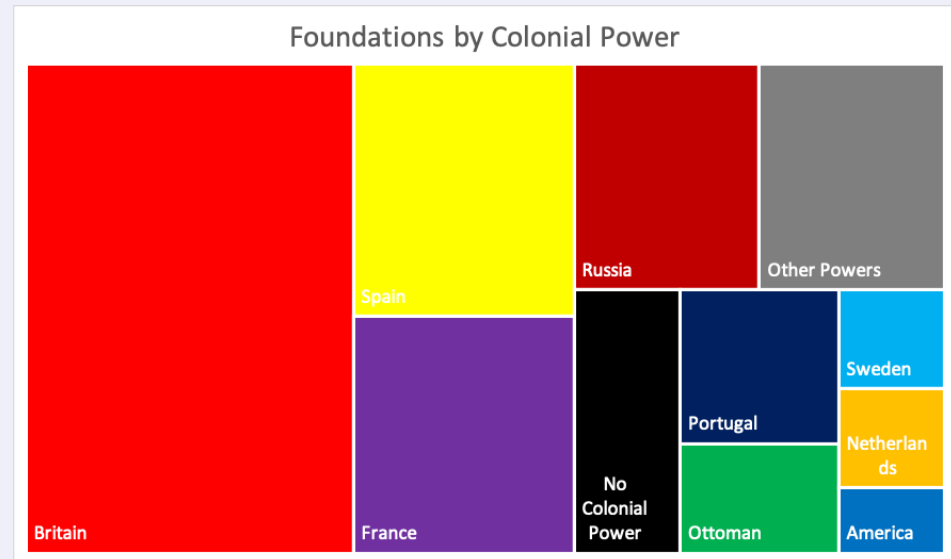
Comparative Sequential Method

- **Comparative-Historical Analysis (Falleti and Mahoney 2015)**

  - Historical establishment of identified institutions and modern establishment of 197 countries.
  - Secondary considerations: Colonisation background; Secularisation; Research position within national higher education system; Location within political capital.
  - Data from World Higher Education Dataset produced by the International Association of Universities (IAU) and UNESCO.

  o Infer external factors / internal motivations that have led to emergence.

Comparative Sequential Method

De Jure National University	Year	Modern Independence
University of Ghana	1961	1960
Al-Jami'ah Al-Urdunia (UJ)	1962	1946
University of Abomey-Calavi	1962	1958
National University of Singapore	1962	1959
University of Rwanda	1963	1962
University of Guyana	1963	1966
University of Yangon	1964	1948
University of Malawi	1964	1966
Quaid-i-Azam University	1965	1947
University of Papua New Guinea	1965	1949
University of Zambia	1965	1964
Université de Maurice	1965	1968
Jami'at Al-Kuwait (KUNIV)	1966	1961
Somali National University	1969	1960
Université Omar Bongo	1970	1960
National University of Malaysia	1970	1963
University of Dar es Salaam	1970	1964
University of Nairobi	1970	1964
University of N'Djamena	1971	1960
Université de Kinshasa (UNIKIN)	1971	1960

1946 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959 1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969 1970 1971
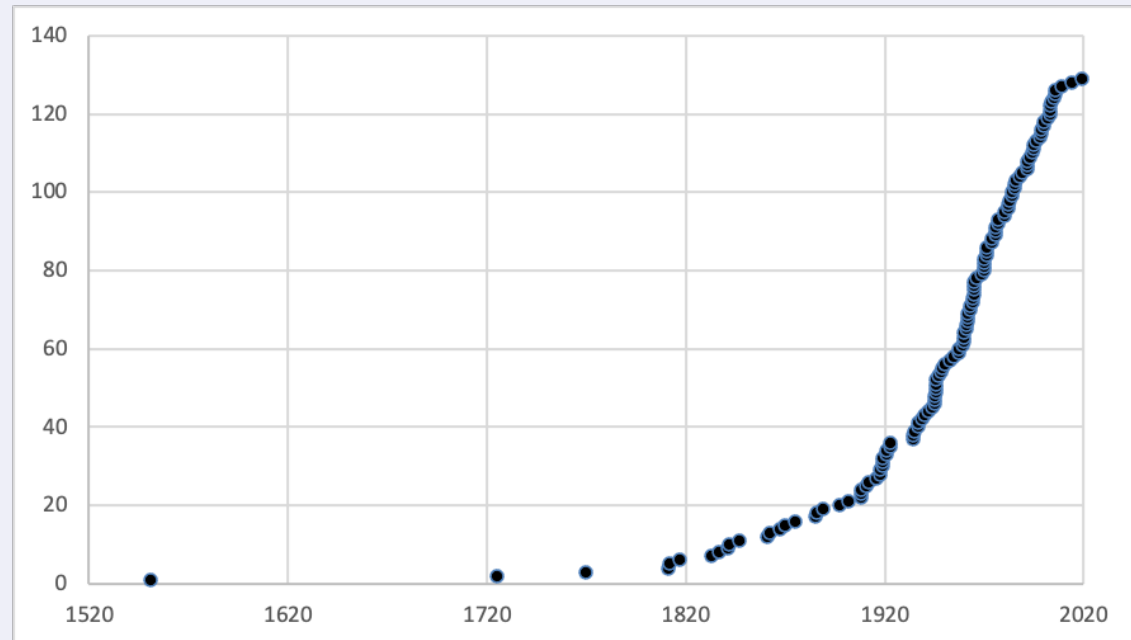
Results

- 129 out of 197 jurisdictions.
  - 120 were colonized with 9 with no colonization background.
- None established by major colonizing powers.
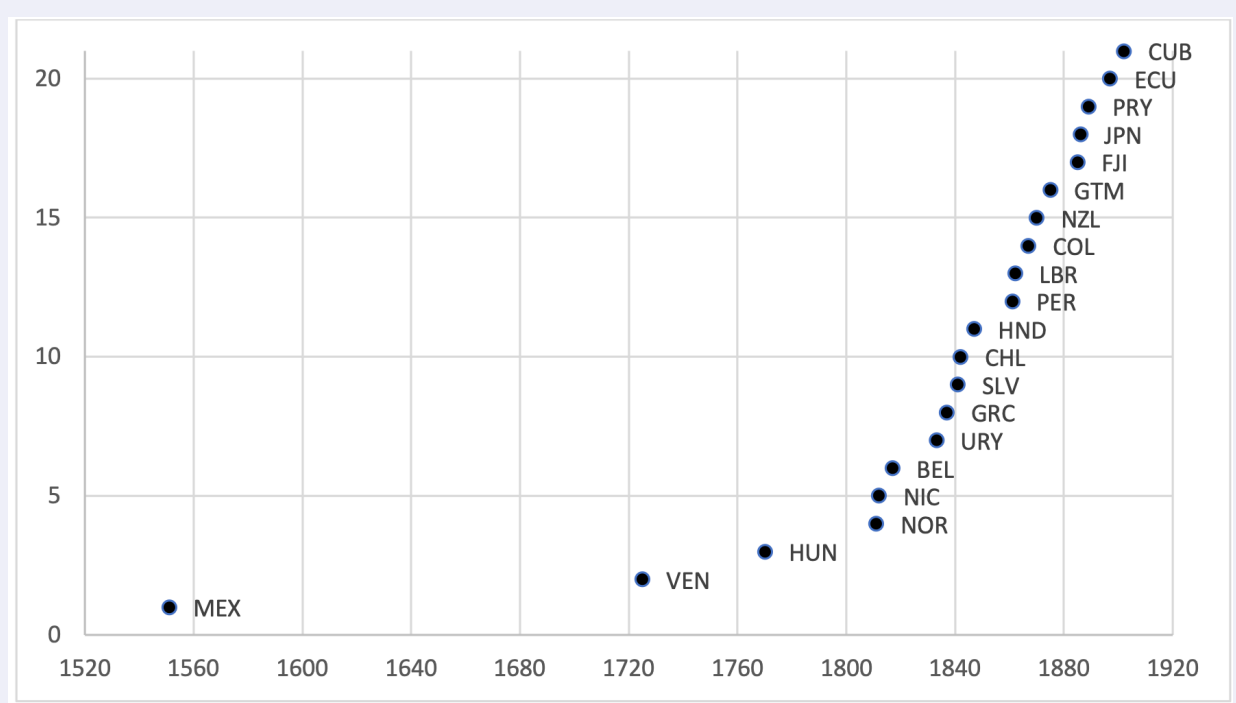- Wide spread suggest establishment by the global periphery e.g. Singapore.

Foundations by Colonial Power

Results

- Initial phase in the 16th and 17th centuries.

- Establishment phase in the long 19th century.

- Intensive phase in the long 20th century.
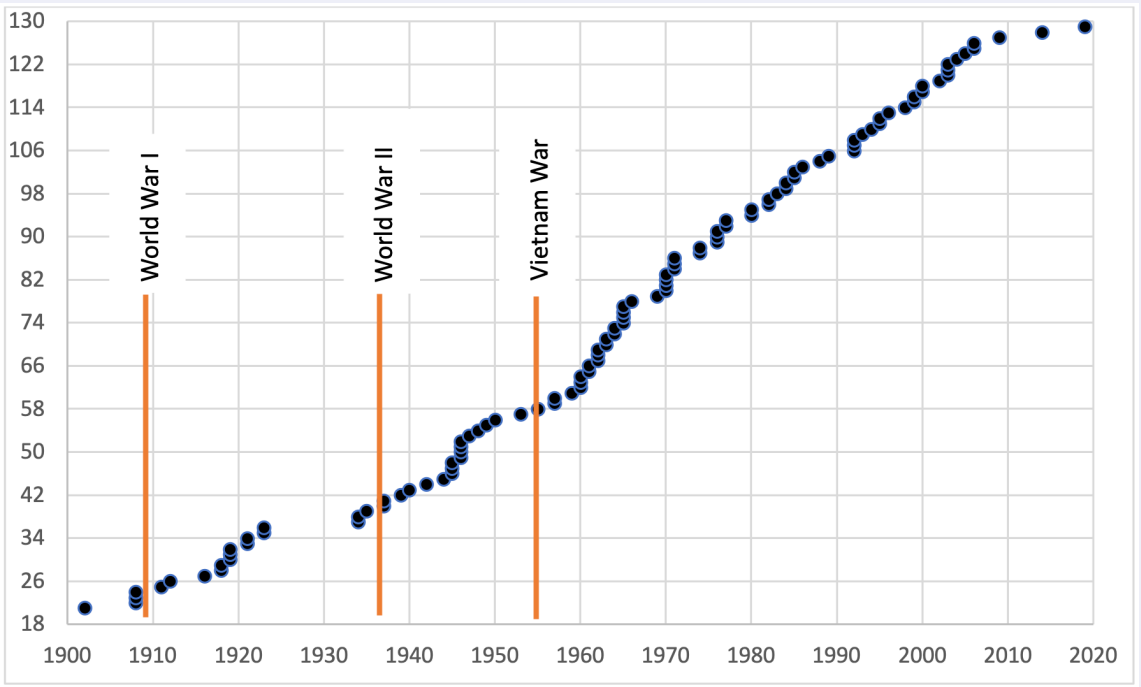
Results

- Initial and Establishment Phases

  - Imperial Decline

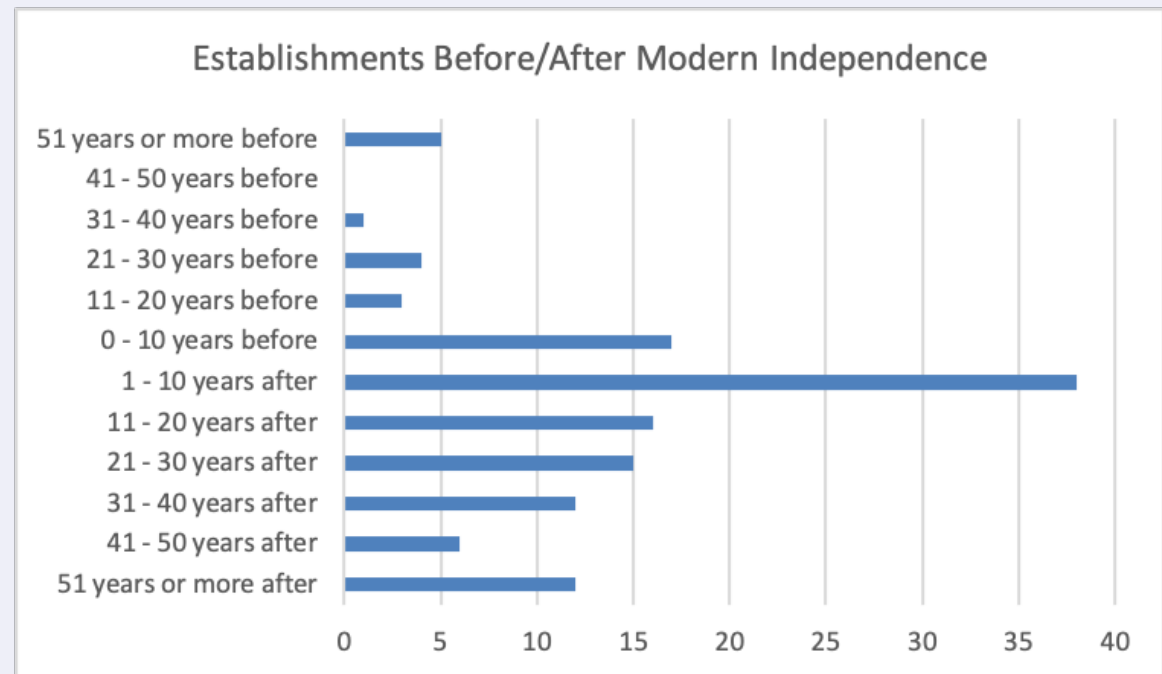 - Popular Empowerment

Results

- Intensive Phase

    - Global Conflict

    - Decolonization

Results

- Sovereignty

- Decolonization and Secularization

  - e.g. Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile vs Universidad de Chile

Establishments Before/After Modern Independence

Category	Value
51 years or more before	5
41 - 50 years before	0
31 - 40 years before	1
21 - 30 years before	4
11 - 20 years before	3
0 - 10 years before	17
1 - 10 years after	38
11 - 20 years after	16
21 - 30 years after	15
31 - 40 years after	12
41 - 50 years after	6
51 years or more after	12

Tendencies of the National University

- To Centralize
    - Concentration and country efficiencies.
    - 103 out of 129 NUs located within political capitals.

- To Politicize
    - Non-violent competition / distribution of opportunities on national level.
    - Public/private goods vis-à-vis municipal level.

- To Homogenize
    - Canonical cultural work/ers, for instance, but also knowledge and skills.
    - 112 out of 129 NUs ranked within top 3 in research (Webometrics excellence indicator).

Conclusion

- Another tradition in addition to Humboldtian and Napoleonic models in the Early Modern period.

  - Emphasizes indigenous agency in the adoption of the university as an institution by the periphery.

  - Gives nuance to common narrative of premier universities in the Global South as mechanisms for colonial extraction.

National Universities

Formative Ideas of the National University:
A Thematic Analysis of Texts from the Long 19th Century

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