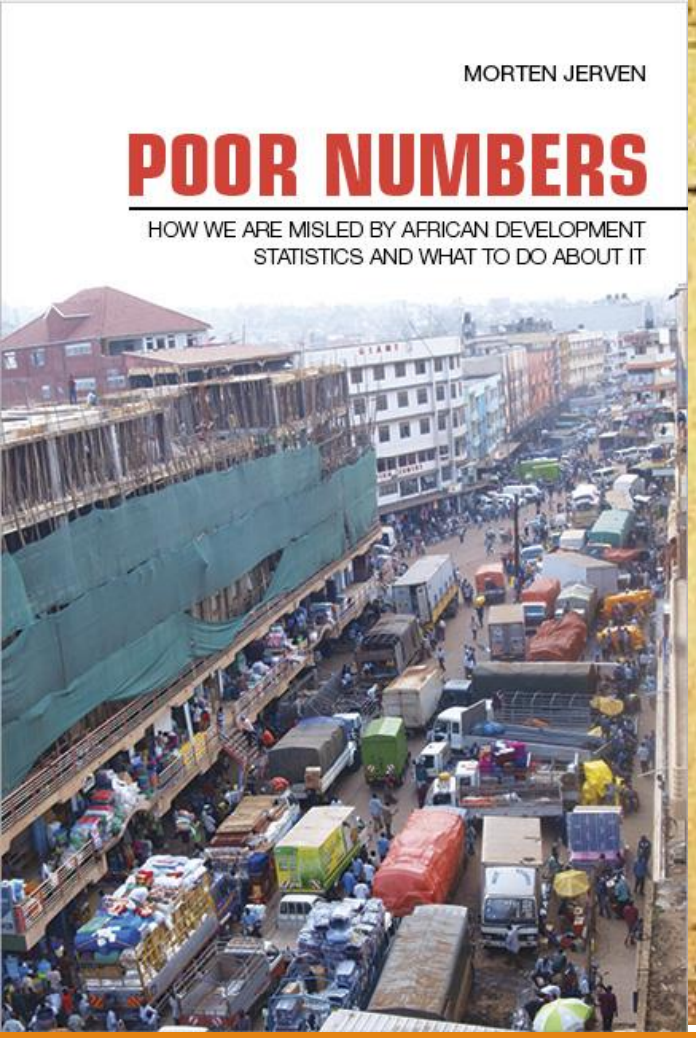

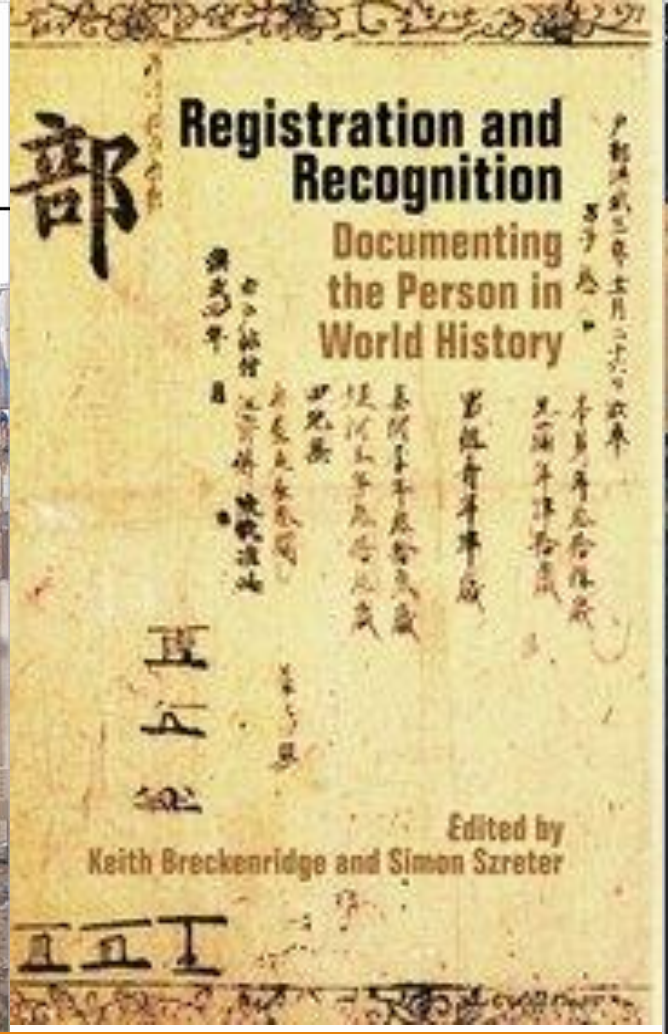

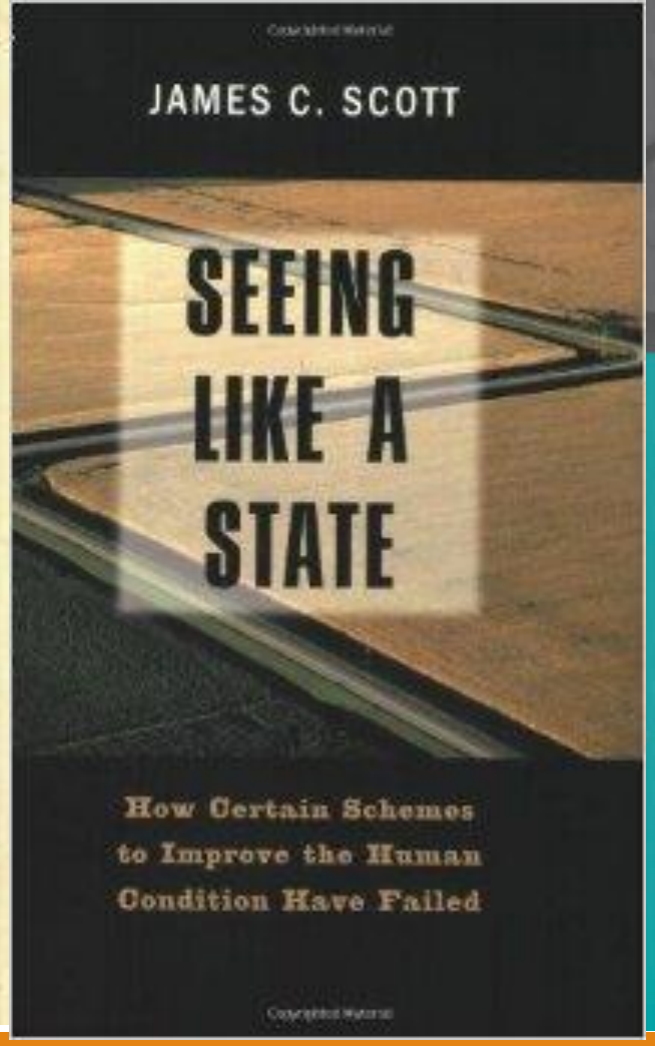

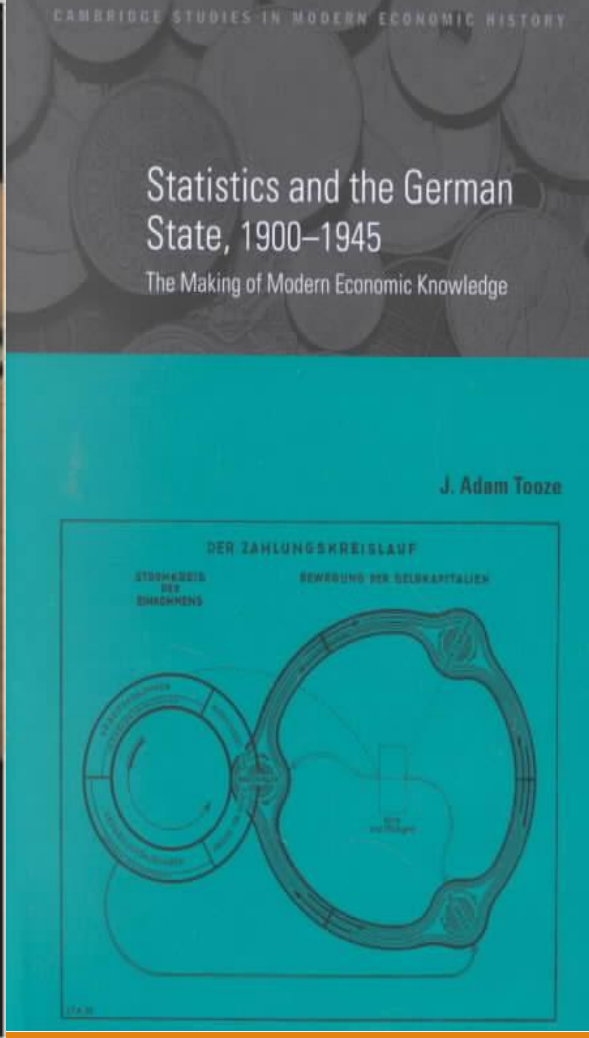

States and statistics: Why do states count?

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Ruling the World By Numbers

06.02.2017	**1. Ruling the world by numbers: introduction**
13.02.2017	2. States and statistics: Why do states count?
20.02.2017	3. Auditing the world: The IMF
27.02.2017	4. Counting the poor: The World Bank
06.03.2017	5. A world that counts: from millennium development goals (MDGs) to sustainable development goals (SDGs)
13.03.2017	6. Poor Numbers? Statistical capacity in low income countries
20.03.2017	7. Governance matters: democracy by numbers
27.03.2017	8. Correlates of war: Studying war and peace by numbers
03.04.2017	9. Evidence based policy : Knowledge and governance requirements
11.04.2017	Easter BREAK
18.04.2017	Easter BREAK
25.04.2017	10. Contesting poor numbers: qualitative and quantitative research.
08.05.2017	11. Conclusion

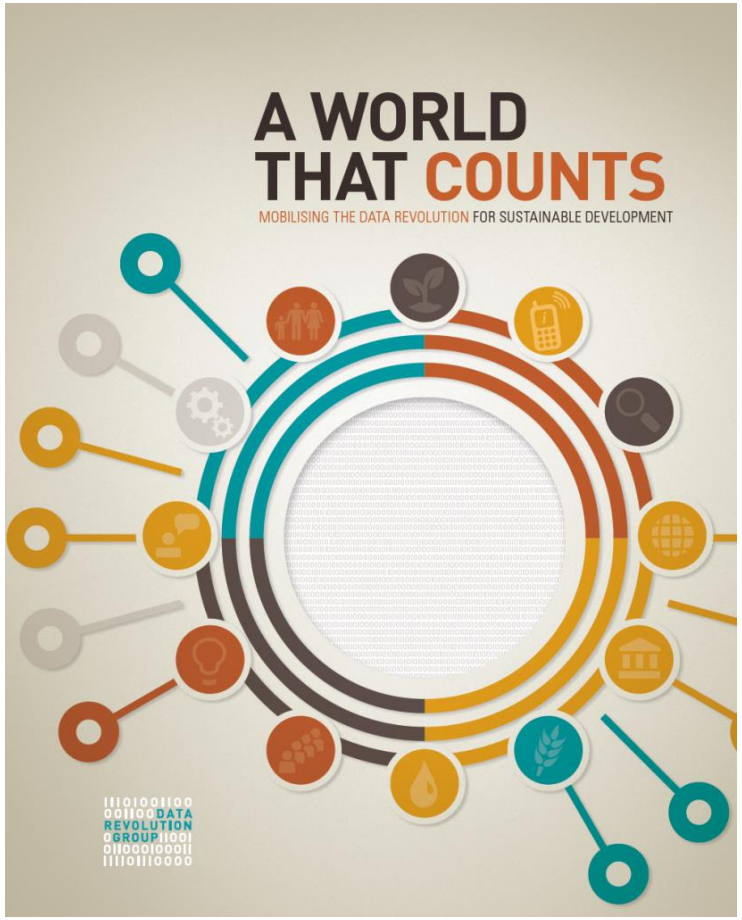
A world that counts?

The use of numbers, performance indicators and benchmarks have grown exponentially over the last two decades, particularly in the field of international politics and development. Indicators are now firmly established as a distinct mode of global governance. The process of numbering involves translating complex phenomena into numerical values. The procedure converts what might otherwise be highly contentious normative agendas into numbers that appear technocratic and objective. The politics of numbers has implications for global governance, and particularly so for making norms, rules and regulations in the fields of international politics and economic development.

Missing in our current thinking about data, decisions and knowledge

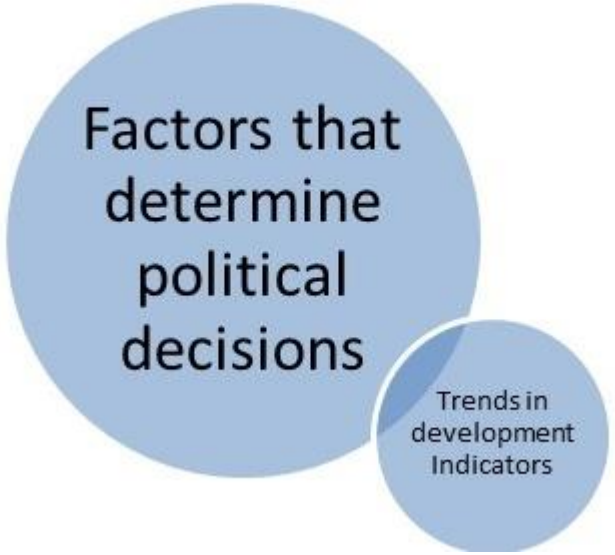
1. When do we use numbers, and when do we not? Why?
2. What is the role of statistics in making decisions?
3. How do we improve ‘statistical capacity’ and does it lead to better decisions?
4. What are good numbers and what are bad numbers?
5. What are the knowledge and governance effects of relying upon numbers?

A World That Counts: Mobilising The Data Revolution for Sustainable Development.



"Never again should it be possible to say 'we didn't know'. No one should be invisible. This is the world we want – a world that counts."

Does better statistics mean better decisions?



Does better statistics mean better decisions?

Outline

1. What do states count
2. Counting people
3. Measuring the economy

Some preliminaries:

Data: what is given…

Quantitative versus Qualitative
- Categories versus Judgement

Statistics: Descriptive versus Inferential

Unit of Analysis: State and Official Statistics

Statistics: ‘of the state’

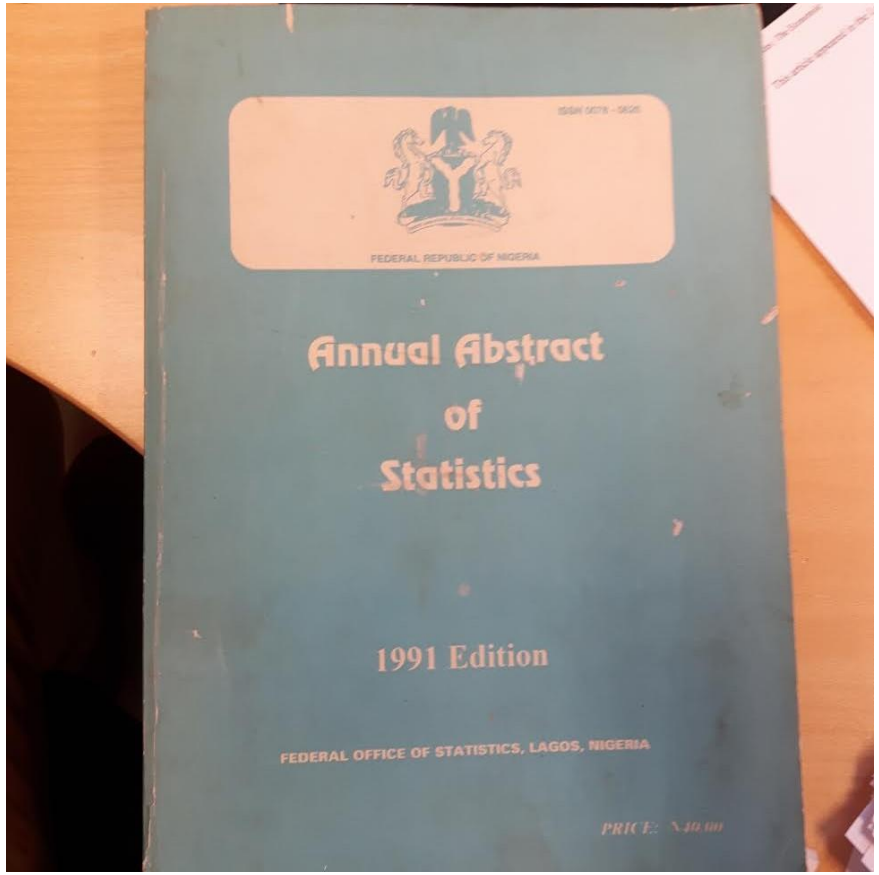
Validity of statistics: ‘valid’ latin root linked to ‘power’

Valid official statistics: the study of the power and legitimacy of states ability to project itself, collect information about itself and its citizens and control what kind of knowledge is disseminated and accepted about the state.

What do states count?

1. People
2. Land
3. Economy

4. Other things: weather, roads, transport, health, education…



Counting people

As old as recorded history:

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Counting people

Basis for all *per capita* trends

Importance: taxations and elections

Controversy: categorization of groups

De facto versus de jure census

State legitimacy

Rule of thumb: Every 10 years

Counting people in Nigeria

TABLE 3.1. Nigerian population in census years (in millions)

	1911	1921	1931	1952/53	1962	1963	1973	1991	2006
North	8.12	10.56	11.44	16.84	22.01	29.78	51.38	47.37	n.a.
South	7.93	8.16	8.62	13.58	23.28	25.88	28.38	41.62	n.a.
Total	16.05	18.72	20.06	30.42	45.29	55.66	79.76	88.99	140

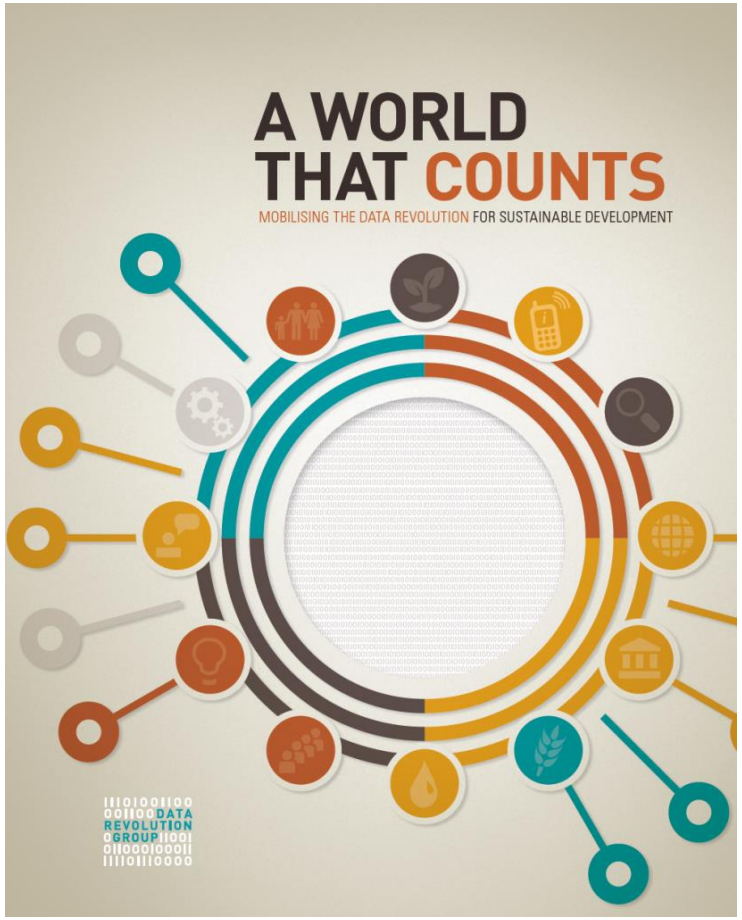
Source: R. T. I. Suberu, *Federalism and Ethnic Conflict in Nigeria* (Washington, DC: Institute of Peace Press, 2001), 169. Adapted from R. K. Udo, "Geography and Population Censuses in Nigeria," in *Fifty Years of Geography in Nigeria: The Ibadan Story*, edited by Olusegun Areola and Stanley I. Okafor (Ibadan: Ibadan University Press, 1998), 356; and "Report of Nigeria's National Population Commission on the 2006 Census," *Population and Development Review* 33, no. 1 (2007): 206–10.

TABLE 3.2. Estimating Nigerian population growth (%)

From	1911	1921	1931	1953	1953	1963	1973	1991	1911	1953	1963
To	1921	1931	1953	1962	1963	1973	1991	2006	2006	2006	2006
Growth	1.55	0.69	1.91	4.52	6.23	3.66	0.61	2.31	2.31	2.92	2.17

Source: My own calculations based on the data reported in Table 3.1. Percentage growth calculated as compound growth rates between census years.

A World That Counts: Mobilising The Data Revolution for Sustainable Development.



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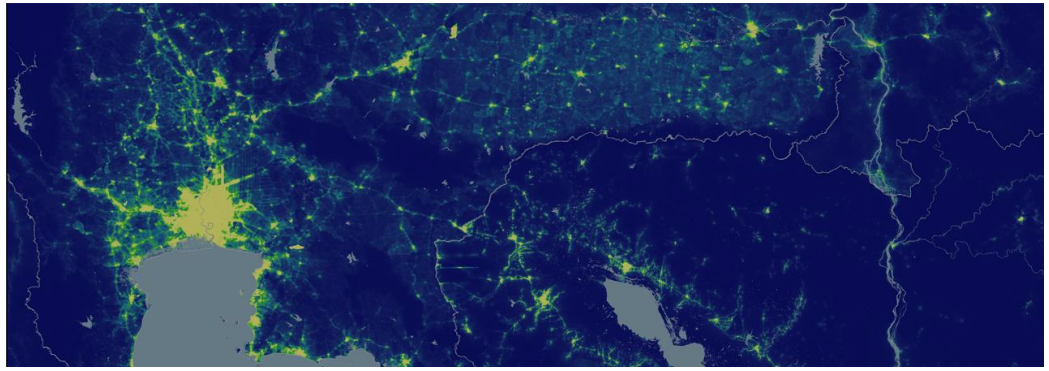
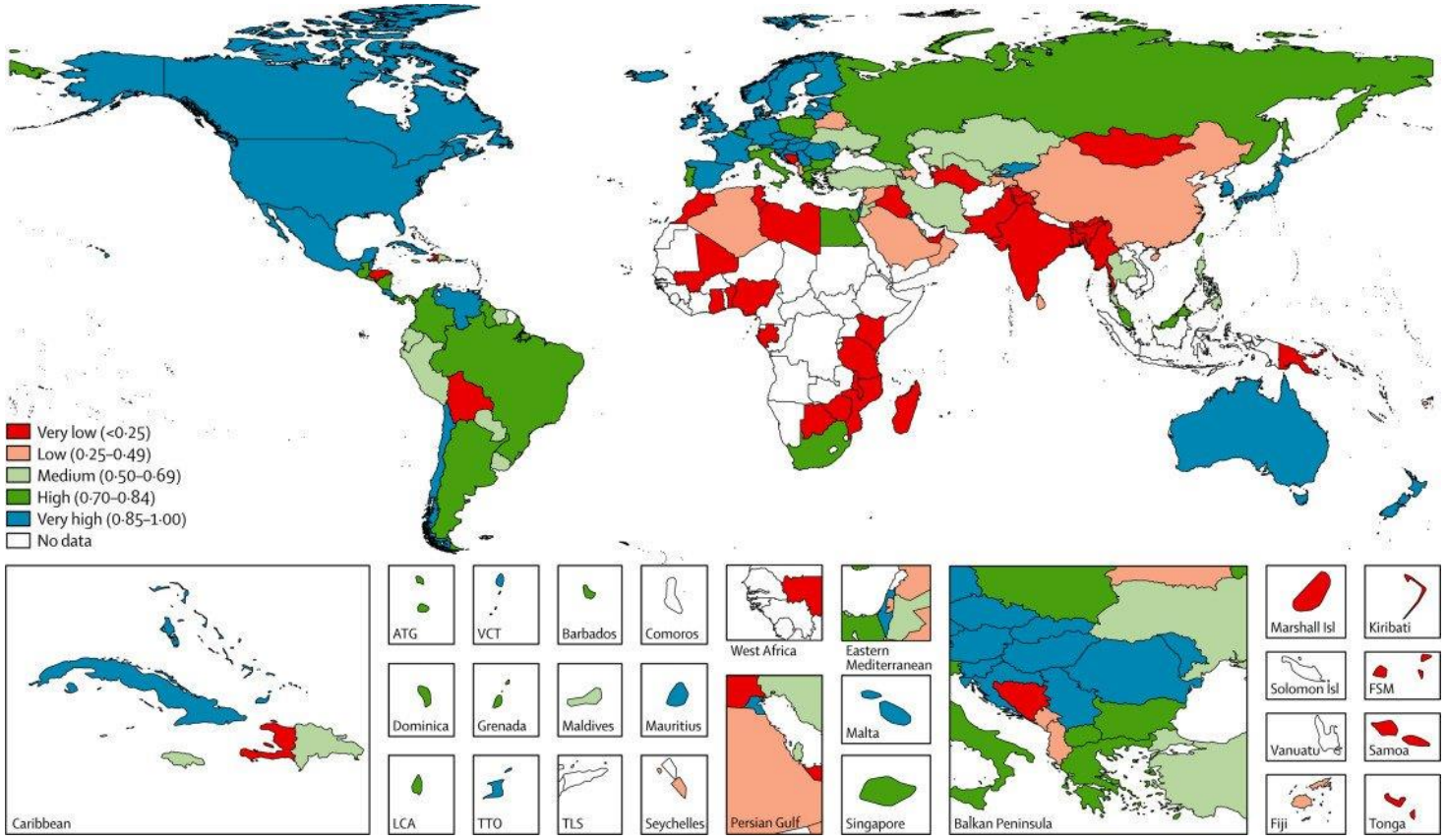
Politics versus Precision



http://maps.worldpop.org.uk/#/

Universal Registration?



http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2815%2960171-4/fulltext

Different States, Different Statistics?

Different approaches to institions, states and development.

State Formation linked to different factor endowments, thus states and their institutions will follow different paths.

Meji Restoration and the Japanes Land Tax Reform, 1873

Taxes were calculated as a proportion of the cash value of the land based on estimated value potention. A cash-based system (rather than in kind) with a niformly set tax rate at 3%; a reduction from the previous system. The landowner, confirmed by the issuance of land bonds, was liable for the taxes instead of the farmer.

Measuring Economies

Table 1. *Date of first publication of official estimate of national income*

Year	Country
1886	Australia
1925	Soviet Union and Canada
1929	Germany
1931	Netherlands
1931	New Zealand
1934	United States
1935	Turkey
1937	Yugoslavia
1939	Switzerland and Mexico
1941	United Kingdom
1944	Sweden and Norway
1947	France

Sources: P. Studenski, *The Income of Nations* (New York, revised edn. 1958), I, pp. 151–153; F. Fourquet, *Les comptes de la puissance. Histoire de la comptabilité nationale et du plan* (Paris, 1980).

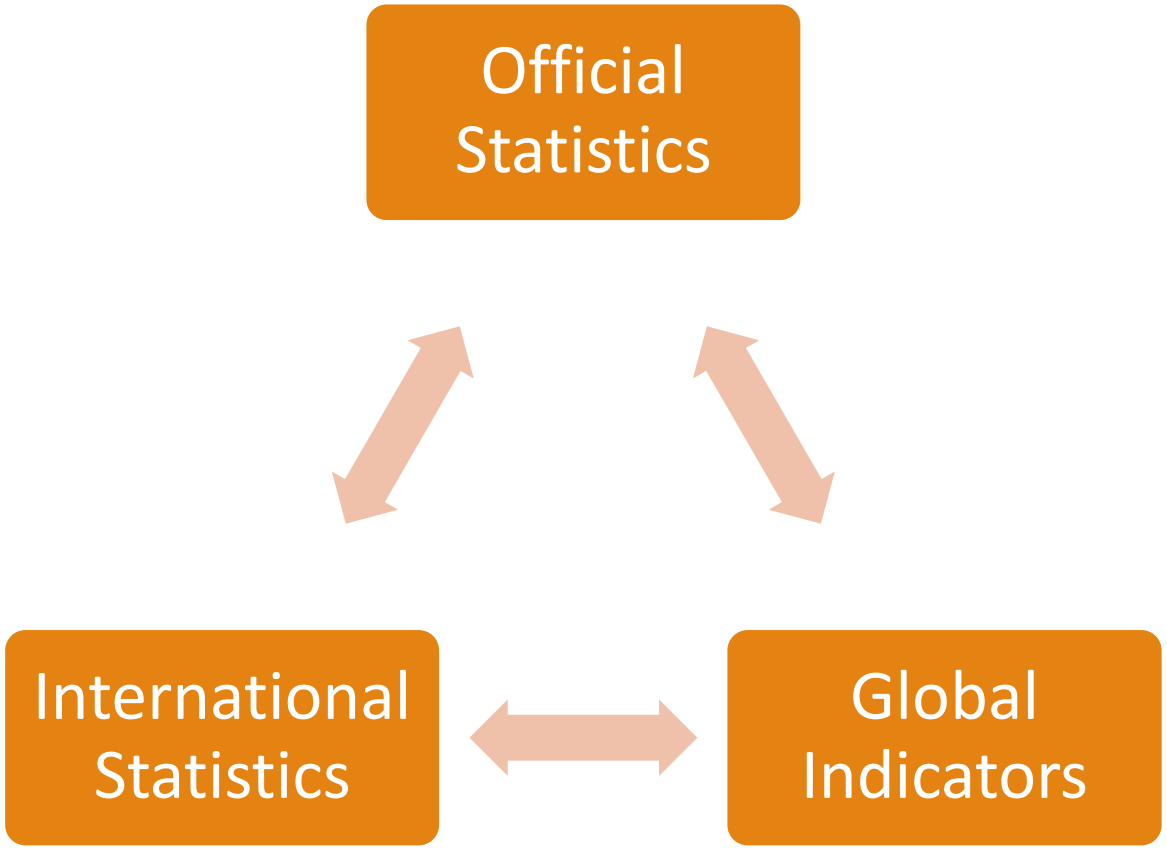
System of National Accounts

- How is GDP measured?

- Y = C+I+G+ (X-M)
- Y = Wages + Profits + Rents

- Y = Sector Production – Intermediate Consumption = Value Added
  - (Agriculture + Mining + Manufacturing + Construction + Trade + Transport + Private and Public Services)

Official Statistics, International Statistics and Global Indicators



Why do states count?

Legibility and ability to govern.

To control

To tax

To make better decisions?

States and Statistics – a place where you can see the fingerprint of the states

State Archives – a historical view of the architecture of control and knowledge