

Review of: "Institutions and Socioeconomic Development: Do Legacies and Proximity Matter? Case Studies of Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand"

Ilia Murtazashvili

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is an interesting article on an important topic. I have a few suggestions to improve the article. First, the concept of institutional quality is not precisely defined. That leads to some conflation of institutional quality measures with the outcomes measures (some measures of institutions seem like they are included in measures of socioeconomic development). Second, the limitations of lack of a causal story should be acknowledged more clearly, especially since much of the research on institutional quality focuses on causal inference. Third, there is a vast literature in economics on institutional quality. More of that research should be engaged in the paper, in my opinion. Finally, there might be more discussion of state capacity as an explanation for some of these outcomes. Piano (2019) has a review essay in *Public Choice* that may be useful in this regard.