

# A G D I Working Paper

WP/16/012

## **Political Regimes and Stock Market Performance in Africa**

Forthcoming: Political Studies Review

**Simplice A. Asongu**

African Governance and Development Institute,  
P.O. Box 8413 Yaoundé, Cameroon.

E-mail: [asongusimplice@yahoo.com](mailto:asongusimplice@yahoo.com) /[asongus@afridev.org](mailto:asongus@afridev.org)

**Jacinta C. Nwachukwu**

School of Economics, Finance and Accounting,  
Faculty of Business and Law,  
Coventry University

Priory Street, Coventry, CV1 5FB, UK  
Email: [jacinta.nwachukwu@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:jacinta.nwachukwu@coventry.ac.uk)

**AGDI Working Paper**

Research Department

**Political Regimes and Stock Market Performance in Africa**

**Simplice A. Asongu & Jacinta C. Nwachukwu**

January 2016

**Abstract**

This paper assesses the effect of political institutions on stock market performance in 14 African countries for which stock market data is available for the period 1990-2010. The estimation technique used is a Two-Stage-Least Squares Instrumental Variable methodology. Political regime channels of democracy, polity and autocracy are instrumented with legal-origins, religious-legacies, income-levels and press-freedom qualities to account for stock market performance dynamics of capitalization, value traded, turnover and number of listed companies. The findings show that countries with democratic regimes enjoy higher levels of financial market development compared to their counterparts with autocratic inclinations. As a policy implication, the role of sound political institutions has important effects on both the degree of competition for public office and the quality of public offices that favour stock market development on the African continent.

*JEL Classification:* G10 ; G18; G28; P16; P43

*Keywords:* Financial Markets; Government Policy; Development

## 1. Introduction

The evolution of politics in Africa, vis-à-vis the investment climate and financial market development can be discussed in two main stages, notably: (i) before the fall of the Berlin wall that marked the advent of multiparty politics and (ii) the post-1989 era that is characterized by multiparty politics and the growth of stock markets. According to Yartey and Adjasi (2007), there has been substantial progress in stock markets in Africa since the 1990s. Before 1989, there were only eight stock markets in the continent: three in North Africa and five in sub-Saharan Africa. Today there are 29 stock markets representing thirty-eight countries. With the exception of South Africa, between 1992 and 2002, stock market capitalization doubled in most countries: increasing to US\$244.672 million from US\$113.423 million. Unfortunately, these developments have not moved hand-in-glove with maturity in stock markets. This is essentially because in many of the stock markets, trading still occurs in a very limited number of stocks which make-up a substantial part of the total market capitalization. Moreover, vital issues in disclosure, information-sharing and supervision that are related to the overall institutional quality are affecting the development of these stock markets. Such institutional concerns are closely related to the quality of government.

The emergence of London as a major financial center in the world can be explained by her tradition of fairness in the settlement of judicial matters (Asongu, 2012a). According to the narrative, the experience of Russia has shown that foreign investors are more likely to invest in environments that are characterized by limited expropriation risk and sound political institutions.

The growing depth and width of financial markets in developing countries (IMF, 2008; Mosley, 2008) has unfortunately been accompanied by deteriorating levels of political governance in recent decades (Asongu & Nwachukwu, 2016a). While the bulk of political science literature has focused on mechanisms by which globalization in finance and trade influence government policy choices and economic outcomes (Friedman, 1999; Obstfeld & Taylor, 2004), as far as we have reviewed, little is currently known about how political regimes affect the health of financial markets. We fill this gap by assessing the effect of political regimes on stock market performance in Africa.

Consistent with Asongu (2012a), the intuition behind the inquiry is that the process enhancing the value of stock markets is contingent on policies which are the result of institutional processes. Hence, it is relevant to examine how political regimes influence stock

market performance on the continent for at least a two reasons. First, the African business literature has substantially documented the need for other forms of investment because privatization and liberalization projects have failed to deliver the much needed foreign direct investment (FDI) (Rolfe & Woodward, 2004; Asongu, 2013). Second, there is a growing stream of African stock market literature showing that the stock markets of the continent substantially depend on the quality of institutions (Asongu, 2012a).

With the above facts in mind, the political climate in Africa over the past decades has been characterized by political strife, violence and a plethora of governance issues, notably: the Kenyan 2007/2008 post-election violence; Nigeria's 2008 marred transition; the 2011 Arab Spring and negative externalities across North Africa; Côte d'Ivoire's unfortunate political transition in 2011; the South-Sudanese political crisis that began in mid-December 2013 and has displaced hundreds of thousands of citizens and the Burundian failing political transition since April 2015 which has been caused by President's Pierre Nkurunziza's decision to seek a third term in office.

In the light of the above, the present inquiry assesses how political regimes of democracy and autocracy affect stock market performance in the African countries for which a stock market exists. The study's contribution to current literature is at least fivefold. First, due to lack of relevant data, the relationship between stock market performance and political regimes has received little scholarly attention. Accordingly, stock markets on the continent for the most part are in their infancy. Second, the growing depth of financial markets on the continent represents an interesting opportunity to assess the role of political regimes in their evolution. Third, we have highlighted above that the continent is in dire need of alternative forms of investment. Moreover, recent African business literature is consistent with the position that institutional arrangements have contributed substantially to affecting the state of capital flows across the continent (Bartel et al., 2009; Tuomi, 2011; Darley, 2012). Therefore, it is relevant to assess the influence of political regimes on stock market development or long-run finance. Fourth, current trends in stock market on the continent reveal that, countries in the French-speaking community have comparatively less healthy stock markets. Given that Africa's former French colonies have registered more coup d'états than the rest combined since independence (Klah, 2010), findings from the study could provide some insights into why these set of countries are lagging behind their English counterparts. Fifth, despite the wealth of studies in the literature on finance and

institutions, there has been limited focus on Africa. Alagidede (2008) has argued that the underlying neglect is partly traceable to the institutional environment of Africa. The theoretical underpinning motivating this line of inquiry is the law and finance theory from Beck et al. (2003).

The rest of the study is organized as follows. Section 2 discusses the data and methodology. The empirical analysis and discussion of results are discussed in Section 3. Section 4 concludes.

## **2. Intuition and theoretical background**

The intuition for assessing the relationship between political regimes and stock market development builds on the fact that political institutions are very likely to influence arrangements that regulate stock markets. Within this framework, legal and supervisory bodies that provide order and cohesion in financial markets are shaped by political institutions. The intuition here is broadly consistent with the literature supporting the relationship between political connections and market value (Fisman, 2001; Faccio, 2002; Francis et al., 2009). Hence, it is logical to think that democratic versus autocratic institutions have important and considerable implications on these relationships and dealings between firms and their sources of capital.

According to the World Bank (2010): (i) ‘institutionalized democracy’ is the presence of procedures and institutions via which citizens can express their preferences about alternative leaders and policies, that guarantee civil liberties for all citizens and (ii) ‘institutionalized autocracy’ is the absence of institutions and procedures through which citizens can express their preferences about them. In the latter case, there is an absence of guarantee for civil liberties for all citizens.

In the light of the above, political regimes and financial development are directly linked to political actions which affect financial development. For instance, Keefer (2007) has shown that government actions influence financial development through channels of *inter alia*: secured property, financial regulation and contracts rights. Hence, such public commodities are sensitive to political incentives. Political economy theories are consistent with the view that where a small elite control political decisions, financial development can be constrained by the lack of competition. This theoretical underpinning has been confirmed by Girma and Shortland (2008). Given that autocratic regimes are more characterized by a narrow elite that influences political

decisions, we expect democratic regimes to more positively influence stock market development. A democratic environment is more likely to increase shareholders' return by reducing both agency and transaction costs. Moreover, within the framework of financial markets, compared to autocratic institutions, democratic institutions are more likely to enforce the control of corruption which is a source of insider-trading in financial markets. It is interesting to note that insider-trading has been documented to reduce stock market development (Bhattacharya & Daouk, 1999).

Under the assumption that autocratic regimes are less politically-stable, political regimes indirectly affect stock market activity through political uncertainty. In essence, political instability negatively affects stock market development because it limits economic growth. This perspective has been confirmed using broad (Alesina et al., 1996) and African-specific (Fosu, 2002) samples. The indirect effect builds on the theory of investment uncertainty which has been confirmed by Bittlingmayer (1998) within Germany, notably that political uncertainty can simultaneously reduce output and increase volatility.

### **3. Data and Methodology**

#### **3.1 Data**

We examine a panel of 14 African countries with data from African Development Indicators (ADI) of the World Bank (WB) for the period 1990 to 2010 (World Bank, 2010). The sample is restricted to 14 countries due to data availability constraints. Consistent with recent African stock market literature (Asongu, 2012, 2013), the dependent variables are: stock market capitalization, stock market value traded, stock market turnover and number of listed companies.

Political institutions variables include: democracy, polity and autocracy. Instrumental variables are: legal-origins, press-freedom, income-levels and religious-domination. These instruments are consistent with African stock market (Asongu, 2012a) and growth (Agbor, 2015) literature. Moreover, they have been substantially documented in the economic development literature (La Porta et al., 1997; Stulz & Williamson, 2003; Beck et al., 2003).

In the regressions, we control for voice and accountability and regulation quality in the first-stage, but not in the second-stage. The control variables from which we expect positive effects are consistent with recent African law-finance literature (Asongu, 2012b). Selective introduction of control variables at the second-stage is in accordance with Beck et al (2003) and

Asongu (2012a). The choice of the control variables are also constrained by the degrees of freedom needed for the OIR test at the second-stage of regressions. In essence, given the number of instruments under consideration, control variables at the second-stage would either result in exact- or under-identification. Such implies that the instruments are either equal-to or less-than the number of endogenous explanatory variables respectively.

Definitions and sources of variables are presented in Appendix 1, while the summary statistics are disclosed in Appendix 2. A correlation matrix is provided in Appendix 3 whereas categorization of countries is given in Appendix 4. Two insights are worth noting from the summary statistics: (i) the variables are comparable from mean values and (ii) the substantial variations imply we can be confident that reasonable estimated linkages will emerge. The purpose of the correlation matrix is to limit potential multicollinearity issues.

### 3.2 Methodology

Consistent with Beck et al. (2003) and recent African development (Asongu, 2014; Asongu and Nwachukwu, 2016b) we adopt an Instrumental Variable (IV) estimation technique. IV estimates address the puzzle of endogeneity and thus avoid the inconsistency of estimated coefficients by Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) when the explanatory variables are correlated with the error term in the main equation. The Two-Stage-Least-Squares (2SLS) technique entails the following steps.

First-stage regression:

$$\begin{aligned} PoliticalChannel_{it} = & \gamma_0 + \gamma_1(legalorigin)_{it} + \gamma_2(religion)_{it} + \gamma_3(incomelevel)_{it} \\ & + \gamma_4(pressfreedom)_{it} + \alpha_i X_{it} + v \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

Second-stage regression:

$$Finance_{it} = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1(Democracy)_{it} + \gamma_2(Autocracy)_{it} + \beta_i X_{it} + \mu \quad (2)$$

In both equations,  $X$  is a set of explanatory control variables. For Eq. (1) and Eq. (2),  $v$  and  $u$ , respectively represent the disturbance terms. Instrumental variables include legal-origins, dominant-religion, press-freedom and income-levels. In Eq.(1), ‘*PoliticalChannel*’ denotes: democracy, polity and autocracy. ‘*Finance*’ in Eq.(2) represents stock market performance

dynamics in terms of (i) stock market capitalization, (ii) stock market value traded, (iii) stock market turnover ratio and (iv) number of listed companies.

We adopt the following steps in the analysis: (i) justify the use of a 2SLS over an OLS estimation technique with the Hausman-test for endogeneity, (ii) demonstrate that the instruments are exogenous to the endogenous components of the explanatory variables (political institutions) conditional on other covariates (control variables) and (iii) verify that the instruments are valid and not correlated with the error-term in the equation of interest through an Over-identifying Restrictions (OIR) test.

To ensure further robustness, the following checks are performed: (1) usage of alternative indicators of political institutions, (2) employment of two distinct interchangeable sets of instruments that engender every category of the instruments, (3) usage of alternative indicators of stock market performance and (4) employment of Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to reduce the dimensions of stock market and political indicators.

#### **4. Empirical Analysis**

This section addresses: (i) the ability of the exogenous components of political institutions to account for differences in stock market performance, (ii) the ability of the instruments to explain variations in the endogenous components of political institutions and (iii) the possibility of the instruments to account for stock market performance beyond political institution channels. To these ends, we employ the 2SLS-IV estimations with legal-origin, press-freedom, income-levels and religious-domination as instrumental variables.

##### **4.1. Political regimes and instruments**

In Table 1 below, we regress the political-regime indicators on the instruments and test for their joint significance. This is the first-stage (requirement) of the IV estimation technique for which the endogenous components of the independent variables must be explained by the instruments, contingent on other covariates (control variables). From the results of the Fisher-statistics, it could be established that the instruments are strong, essentially because in presence of control variables they jointly enter significantly into all regressions at the one percent significance level. Thus, ‘instrumenting’ political regimes with legal-origin, religious-domination, income-levels and press-freedom qualities help explain cross-country differences in



the quality of political institutions. We engage two separate regressions for each political-regime: one with the first set of instruments and the other with the second set. Results from both sets of instruments are similar. Based on the findings, the following could be established. (1) Consistent with the law-finance (growth) literature (La Portal et al., 1997, 1998; Beck et al., 2003; Agbor, 2015), English common-law countries have higher levels of democracy compared to their French civil-law counterparts. (2) Contrary to Vaidya (2005) and Oscarsson (2008), democratic institutions improve with press-freedoms.

**Table 1: Political-regime channels and instruments (First-Stage regressions)**

		Democracy		Polity		Autocracy	
	Constant	0.948 (0.456)	<b>6.374***</b> (5.970)	<b>21.016***</b> (8.080)	0.359 (0.345)	<b>-20.311***</b> (-8.830)	<b>6.374***</b> (5.970)
Legal-origins	English common-law	<b>4.193***</b> (4.417)	---	<b>-8.805***</b> (-7.411)	---	<b>13.004***</b> (12.38)	---
	French civil-law	---	<b>-12.597***</b> (-12.37)	---	<b>7.594***</b> (7.641)	---	<b>-12.597***</b> (-12.37)
Religions	Christianity	-1.062 (-0.900)	---	<b>-9.909***</b> (-6.706)	---	<b>9.035***</b> (6.914)	---
	Islam	---	<b>-8.171***</b> (-7.089)	---	<b>7.211***</b> (6.408)	---	<b>-8.171***</b> (-7.089)
Income Levels	Low Income	---	<b>-5.537***</b> (-6.041)	---	<b>6.152***</b> (6.874)	---	<b>-5.537***</b> (-6.041)
	Middle Income	-0.479 (-0.657)	---	-0.257 (-0.282)	---	-0.236 (-0.293)	---
	Lower Middle Income	<b>-2.935***</b> (-2.868)	---	<b>-10.057***</b> (-7.848)	---	<b>7.175***</b> (6.332)	---
	Upper Middle Income	---	<b>-5.106***</b> (-3.781)	---	<b>4.078***</b> (3.093)	---	<b>-5.106***</b> (-3.781)
Press Freedoms	Free	<b>4.113***</b> (5.032)	---	<b>5.375***</b> (5.253)	---	-1.193 (-1.318)	---
	Partly Free	<b>2.818***</b> (3.870)	---	<b>3.695***</b> (4.055)	---	-0.780 (-0.969)	---
	No Freedom	---	0.108 (0.131)	---	<b>-1.845**</b> (-2.286)	---	0.1086 (0.131)
Control Variables	Regulation Quality	<b>1.601***</b> (3.721)	---	<b>2.384***</b> (4.425)	---	<b>-0.804*</b> (-1.688)	---
	Voice and Accountability	---	<b>-1.914***</b> (-2.867)	---	<b>5.716***</b> (8.767)	---	<b>-1.914***</b> (-2.867)
	Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.796	0.637	0.808	0.864	0.617	0.637
	Fisher test	<b>61.842***</b>	<b>32.957***</b>	<b>66.576***</b>	<b>116.951***</b>	<b>26.107***</b>	<b>32.957***</b>
	Observations	110	110	110	110	110	110

\*, \*\*, \*\*\*: significance levels of 10%, 5% and 1% respectively.

## 4.2. Financial markets and democracy

This section seeks to address two main issues, (i) the ability of the exogenous components of political institutions to explain stock market performance and (ii) the ability of the instruments to explain stock market performance beyond political regime channels. To make these assessments, we employ the 2SLS-IV approach.

In the second-stage regressions, we first justify our choice of the IV estimation technique with the Hausman test for endogeneity. The null hypothesis of the Hausman test is the position that the estimates from OLS are efficient and consistent. Thus, a rejection of the null hypothesis reflects the presence of endogeneity and hence justifies the choice of our estimation technique. In cases where the null hypothesis of the Hausman test is not rejected (first four columns), regressions by OLS are provided. We also examine the validity and strength of the instruments with the Sargan-OIR and Craig-Donald tests respectively. The null hypothesis of the OIR test is the position that the instruments explain stock market performance only through political regime channels. Therefore a rejection of the null hypothesis is a dismissal of the view that the instruments do not explain stock market performance beyond political regime channels. The Craig-Donald test is for the strength of the instruments at first-stage regressions. Its null hypothesis is the position that the instruments are weak. Hence its rejection confirms the strength of the instruments. While the first issue is addressed by the significance of estimated coefficients, the second issue depends on the outcome of the OIR test.

With regard to the first concern, the overwhelming significance of political-regime effects on stock market performance dynamics indicates that democracy and polity positively affect stock market development, while autocracy (but for 'listed companies') reduces it. The signs and significance of these effects are robust to the 'stock market index' regressions in the last column of Table 2. With regards to the second issue which is addressed by the Sargan-OIR test, only the instruments pertaining to 'stock market turnover' and 'stock market index' regressions are valid, since their null hypotheses are not rejected. Hence we conclude that in addition to political regime channels, the instruments explain the 'number of listed companies' through some other channels. Moreover, the instruments do not explain 'stock market turnover' and 'stock market index' beyond political regime channels. For all regressions that passed the Hausman test (last five columns), the instruments are strong based on the Craig-Donald test since the critical values for 2SLS bias relative to OLS are 15.72 and 9.48 at five percent and ten percent significance levels respectively. Overall, our findings are inconsistent with Mulligan et al. (2004) because democracies have important effects on both the degree of competition for public office and the quality of public policies that favour stock market expansion in developing countries.

**Table 2: Second-Stage regressions**

	Stock Market(SM) Performance								Robustness
	SM Capitalization	SM Value Traded	SM Turnover	Listed Companies	SM Index				
Constant	<b>0.312***</b> (6.594)	<b>0.294***</b> (6.103)	<b>0.045*</b> (1.825)	0.041 (1.610)	<b>0.046***</b> (3.192)	<b>0.046***</b> (3.242)	<b>0.022*</b> (1.876)	<b>0.023*</b> (1.939)	<b>-0.277*</b> (-1.655)
Democracy	<b>0.0308***</b> (4.169)	---	<b>0.013***</b> (3.547)	---	<b>0.008***</b> (3.991)	---	<b>0.012***</b> (6.722)	---	---
Polity 2(Revised)	---	<b>0.034***</b> (4.518)	---	<b>0.014***</b> (3.604)	---	<b>0.008***</b> (3.982)	---	<b>0.012***</b> (6.702)	---
Democracy Index	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	<b>0.580***</b> (4.722)
Autocracy	<b>-0.019**</b> (-2.333)	0.016 (1.302)	-0.003 (-0.866)	0.011 (1.638)	-0.004 (-1.352)	0.004 (0.987)	-0.002 (-0.842)	<b>0.010***</b> (2.803)	-0.001 (-0.021)
Hausman-test	4.190	4.240	2.496	2.524	<b>7.473**</b>	<b>7.552**</b>	<b>6.545**</b>	<b>6.721**</b>	<b>5.593*</b>
OIR-Sargan	---	---	---	---	<b>2.196</b>	<b>2.249</b>	32.909***	32.93***	<b>6.467</b>
P-value	---	---	---	---	<b>[0.699]</b>	<b>[0.690]</b>	[0.000]	[0.000]	<b>[0.166]</b>
Craig-Donald	---	---	---	---	<b>21.144**</b>	<b>20.992**</b>	<b>23.167**</b>	<b>22.982**</b>	<b>20.605**</b>
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.098	0.108	0.053	0.054	0.085	0.084	0.241	0.087	0.134
Fisher Statistics	<b>15.163***</b>	<b>16.750***</b>	<b>7.846***</b>	<b>8.052***</b>	<b>11.516***</b>	<b>11.478***</b>	<b>27.529***</b>	<b>27.380***</b>	<b>15.096***</b>
Observations	259	259	245	245	158	158	163	163	154
Initial Instruments	Constant; Lower-Middle-Income; Middle-Income; English; Christians; Free Press; Partly Free Press								
Robust Instruments	Constant; Upper-Middle-Income; Low-Income; French; Islam; Not Free Press								

OIR: Overidentifying Restrictions. Cragg-Donald Weak Instrument test for First-Stage regressions. Critical values for TSLS bias relative to OLS for Cragg-Donald Statistics are 15.72 and 9.48 for 5% and 10% respectively. \*, \*\*, \*\*\*: significance levels of 10%, 5% and 1% respectively. The democracy index is the first principal component of democracy and polity, while the stock market index is the first principal component of all stock market performance dynamics.

#### 4. Concluding implications

This paper has assessed the effect of political institutions on stock market performance in 14 African countries for which stock market data is available for the period 1990-2010. The estimation technique used is a Two-Stage-Least Squares Instrumental Variable methodology. Political regime channels of democracy, polity and autocracy are instrumented with legal-origins, religious-legacies, income-levels and press-freedom qualities to account for stock market performance dynamics of capitalization, value traded, turnover and number of listed companies. The findings show that countries with democratic regimes enjoy higher levels of financial market development compared to their counterparts with autocratic inclinations.

Consistent with the theoretical background, democracy and good governance increase stock market development directly and indirectly by favouring *inter alia*: reduced transaction and agency costs, improved corporate governance and investor protection, better enforceability of contracts, improved understanding of the agency problems between shareholders and managers, and fairness in judicial administration of conflicts. It is important to balance this narrative with the possibility that autocracy can also positively affect stock market development in the area of increasing listed firms from the political connections and firm value literature.

Thus, this positive democracy-financial development nexus may partly elucidate the reasons why many African countries, especially those of Francophone Africa, have financial markets that are comparative less developed (see Asongu, 2012a). The relative importance of democratic institutions in English common-law countries compared to their French civil-law counterparts also provides insights into possibly why some French speaking countries (e.g the Douala Stock Exchange of Cameroon) have not improved much in operational activities since they were launched. It is also interesting to note that in the post-colonial era, as of 2014, countries in Francophone Africa had accounted for much more than half of the documented political coup d'états in Africa, notably: 45 versus 22 (Koutonin, 2014).

As a policy recommendation, the role of sound political institutions is crucial for financial development in Africa. Democracies have important effects on both the degree of competition for public office and the quality of public offices that favour stock market development on the continent.

## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Variable Definitions

Variables	Signs	Variable Definitions(Measurement)	Sources
Stock Market Capitalization	SMC	“Stock Market Capitalization (% of GDP): Measured as the share price times the number of shares outstanding”.	World Bank (FDS)
Stock Market Value Traded	SMVT	“Stock Market Total Value Traded (% of GDP): Measured as total value of shares traded during a given period”.	World Bank (FDS)
Stock Market Turnover	SMT	“Stock Market Turnover Ratio: Measured as total value of shares traded during a period divided by average market capitalization for that period”.	World Bank (FDS)
Listed Companies	ListC	Number of Listed Companies Per Capita (% of Population)	World Bank (FDS)
Democracy	Demo	“Institutionalized Democracy: Measured by the presence of institutions and procedures through which citizens can express preferences about alternative policies and leaders; the guarantee of civil liberties for all citizens”.	World Bank (WDI)
Polity	Pol	“Revised Combined Polity Score: Measured as Net Democracy/Autocracy Scores”.	World Bank (WDI)
Autocracy	Auto	“Institutionalized Autocracy: Measured by the absence of institutions and procedures through which citizens can express preferences about alternative policies and leaders; absence of guarantees for civil liberties for all citizens”.	World Bank (WDI)
Regulation Quality	R.Q	“Regulation Quality (estimate): Measured as the ability of the government to formulate and implement sound policies and regulations that permit and promote private sector development”.	World Bank (WDI)
Voice and Accountability	V & A	“Voice and Accountability (estimate): Measures the extent to which a country’s citizens are able to participate in selecting their government and to enjoy freedom of expression, freedom of association, and a free media”.	World Bank (WDI)
Press Freedom	Free	Freedom House Index : Level media freedom	Freedom House

FDS: Financial Development and Structure Database. WDI: World Bank Development Indicators.

## Appendix 2: Summary Statistics (1990 to 2010)

		Mean	S.D	Min.	Max.	Obser.
Stock Market Performance	Stock Market Capitalization	0.354	0.521	0.008	3.382	259
	Stock Market Value Traded	0.078	0.268	0.000	2.591	245
	Stock Market Turnover	0.095	0.119	0.000	0.704	253
	Number of Listed Companies	0.067	0.085	0.002	0.712	268
Democracy	Democracy Index	3.170	4.315	-8.000	10.000	294
	Polity Index(Revised)	0.653	6.499	-10.000	10.000	294
Autocracy	Autocracy Index	2.544	3.837	-8.000	10.000	294
Control Variables	Regulation Quality	-0.224	0.694	-2.394	0.905	168
	Voice and Accountability	-0.389	0.793	-1.805	1.047	168
Legal Origin Religion	English Common-Law	0.714	0.452	0.000	1.000	294
	French Civil-Law	0.285	0.452	0.000	1.000	294
	Christianity	0.714	0.452	0.000	1.000	294
	Islam	0.285	0.452	0.000	1.000	294
Income Levels	Low Income	0.285	0.452	0.000	1.000	294
	Middle Income	0.714	0.452	0.000	1.000	294
	Lower Middle Income	0.428	0.495	0.000	1.000	294
	Upper Middle Income	0.285	0.452	0.000	1.000	294
Freedom of the Press	Press Freedom	0.345	0.476	0.000	1.000	165
	Partial Press Freedom	0.230	0.422	0.000	1.000	165
	No Press Freedom	0.424	0.495	0.000	1.000	165

S.D: Standard Deviation. Min: Minimum. Max: Maximum. Obser : Observations

### Appendix 3: Correlation Analysis

Stock Market Performance				Political-regimes			Control Vbles		Instrumental Variables											
SMC	SMVT	SMT	ListC	Demo	Poli	Auto	R.Q	V&A	Eng.	Frch.	Chris	Islam	LI	MI	LMI	UMI	Free	PFree	NFree	
1.000	0.863	0.733	0.242	0.294	0.331	-0.21	0.220	0.310	0.109	-0.10	0.123	-0.12	-0.14	0.144	-0.23	0.399	0.391	-0.12	-0.27	SMC
	1.000	0.795	0.084	0.240	0.228	-0.10	0.218	0.257	0.074	-0.07	0.065	-0.06	-0.13	0.130	-0.13	0.274	0.337	-0.13	-0.21	SMV
		1.000	0.078	0.118	0.056	0.039	0.128	0.096	-0.18	0.180	-0.24	0.242	-0.17	0.176	0.048	0.117	0.340	-0.06	-0.27	SMT
			1.000	0.442	0.405	-0.16	0.334	0.458	0.146	-0.14	0.156	-0.15	-0.30	0.308	-0.26	0.596	0.557	-0.18	-0.37	ListC
				1.000	0.805	-0.25	0.526	0.840	0.535	-0.53	0.353	-0.35	0.031	-0.03	-0.63	0.667	0.679	0.051	-0.69	Demo
					1.000	-0.77	0.429	0.836	0.496	-0.49	0.437	-0.43	0.032	-0.03	-0.68	0.718	0.667	0.060	-0.69	Poli
						1.000	-0.08	-0.39	-0.23	0.232	-0.33	0.336	-0.03	0.032	0.434	-0.44	-0.30	-0.03	0.324	Auto
							1.000	0.725	0.013	-0.01	0.066	-0.06	-0.39	0.399	-0.20	0.627	0.618	-0.02	-0.58	R.Q
								1.000	0.471	-0.47	0.397	-0.39	-0.07	0.079	-0.67	0.821	0.805	-0.00	-0.78	V&A
									1.000	-1.00	0.650	-0.65	0.400	-0.40	-0.73	0.400	0.229	0.173	-0.36	Eng.
										1.000	-0.65	0.650	-0.40	0.400	0.730	-0.40	-0.22	-0.17	0.368	Frch.
											1.000	-1.00	0.400	-0.40	-0.73	0.400	0.229	-0.37	0.100	Chris
												1.000	-4.00	0.400	0.730	-0.40	-0.22	0.377	-0.10	Islam
													1.000	-1.00	-0.54	-0.40	-0.36	0.095	0.268	LI
														1.000	0.547	0.400	0.363	-0.09	-0.26	MI
															1.000	-0.54	-0.44	0.020	0.410	LMI
																1.000	0.775	-0.11	-0.64	UMI
																	1.000	-0.39	-0.62	Free
																		1.000	-0.46	PFree
																			1.000	NFree

SMC: Stock Market Capitalization. SMVT: Stock Market Value Traded. SMT: Stock Market Turnover. ListC: Listed Companies. Demo: Democracy. Poli: Polity. Auto: Autocracy. R.Q: Regulation Quality. V&A: Voice and Accountability. Eng: English Common-Law. Frch. French Civil-Law. Chris: Christianity. LI: Low Income Countries. MI: Middle-Income-Countries. LMI: Lower-Middle-Income Countries. UMI: Upper-Middle-Income Countries. Free: Freedom of the Press. PFree: Partial Freedom of the Press. NFree: No Freedom of the Press.

#### Appendix 4: Presentation of Countries (as of 2010)

Instruments	Instrument Category	Countries	Num
Law	English Common-Law	Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe.	10
	French Civil-Law	Ivory Coast, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia.	4
Religion	Christianity	Botswana, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe.	10
	Islam	Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, Tunisia.	4
Income Levels	Low-Income	Ghana, Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe.	4
	Middle-Income	Botswana, Ivory Coast, Egypt, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Swaziland, Tunisia.	10
	Lower-Middle-Income	Ivory Coast, Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia.	8
	Upper-Middle-Income	Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa.	4

Num: Number of cross sections(countries)

#### References

Agbor, J. A., (2015). “How does colonial origin matter for economic performance in SubSaharan Africa?”, in *Growth and Institutions in African Development*, First edited by Augustin K. Fosu, 2015, Chapter 13, pp. 309-327, Routledge Studies in Development Economics: New York.

Alagidede, P.,(2008). “African Stock Market Integration: Implications for Portfolio Diversification and International Risk Sharing”, *Proceedings of the African Economic Conferences 2008*.

Alesina, A., Ozler, S., Roubini, N., & Swagel, P. (1996). “Political instability and economic growth”. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 1(2), pp. 189-211.

Asongu, S. A., (2012a). “Government quality determinants of stock market performance in African countries”, *Journal of African Business*, 13(3), pp. 183-199.

Asongu, S. A., (2012b). “Law and finance in Africa”, *Brussels Economic Review*, 55(4), pp. 385-408.

Asongu, S. A., (2013). “African Stock Market Performance dynamics: A Multidimensional Convergence Assessment”, *Journal of African Business*, 14(3), pp. 186-201.



Asongu, S. A. (2014). "The questionable economics of development assistance in Africa: hotfresh evidence, hot-fresh evidence", *The Review of Black Political Economy*, 41, (4), pp. 455-480.

Asongu, S. A., & Nwachukwu, J., (2016a). "Revolution Empirics: Predicting the Arab", *Empirical Economics*: Forthcoming.  
<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs00181-015-1013-0>

Asongu, S. A., & Nwachukwu, J., (2016b). "Foreign aid and governance in Africa", *International Review of Applied Economics*, 30(1), pp. 69-88.

Bartels, F. L., Alladina, S.N., & Lederer, S., (2009). "Foreign Direct Investment in Sub-Saharan Africa: Motivating Factors and Policy Issues", *Journal of African Business*, 10(2), 141-162.

Beck, T., Demirgüç-Kunt, A., & Levine, R.,(2003). "Law and finance: why does legal origin matter?", *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 31(4), pp. 653-675.

Bhattacharya, U., & Daouk, H., (1999). "The world price of insider-trading", *Journal of Finance*, 57(1), pp. 75-108.

Bittlingmayer, G., (1998), "Output, Stock Volatility, and Political Uncertainty in a Natural Experiment: Germany, 1880-1940", *Journal of Finance*, 53(6), 2243-2257.

Darley, W. K.,(2012), "Increasing Sub-Saharan Africa's Share of Foreign Direct Investment: Public Policy Challenges, Strategies, and Implications", *Journal of African Business*, 13(1), pp.62-69.

Faccio, M. (2006). "Politically connected firms". *American Economic Review*, 96(1), pp. 369-386.

Fisman, R. (2001). "Estimating the Value of Political Connections". *American Economic Review*, 91(4), 1095-1102.

Fosu, A. K., (2002). " Political Instability and Economic Growth: Implications of Coup Events in Sub-Saharan Africa", *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, 61(1), pp. 329-348.

Francis, B. B., Iftekhar, H., & Xian, S. (2009). "Political connections and the process of going public: evidence from China". *Journal of International Money and Finance*, 28(4), pp. 696-719.

Friedman, T., L., (1999). *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*. New York: Anchor Books.

Girma, S., & Shortland, A. (2008). "The political economy of financial development". *Oxford Economic Papers*, 60(4), pp. 567-596.

Gray, K. R., & Bythewoo, C., (2001). "Emerging Securities Exchanges in Africa. International Characteristics of the Nairobi Stock Exchange", *Journal of African Business*, 2(3), pp.65-73.

IMF (2006, April). "Market Development and Issues", IMF Global Financial Stability Report, <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/GFSR/2006/01/index.htm>.

Keefer, P. (2007). "Beyond legal origin and checks and balances: Political credibility, citizen information and financial sector development". *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper* No. 4154, Washington.

Klah, P., (2010). "Coups d'Etat en Afrique : Le rôle toxique de la France", *L'autre cinquantenaire, 1960-2010 : Afrique, les indépendances en questions* : <https://afriqueindependance.wordpress.com/2010/06/10/coups-detat-en-afrique-le-role-toxique-de-la-france/> (Accessed : 09/10/2015).

Kolstad, I., & Wiig, A., (2011). "Better the Devil You Know? Chinese Foreign Direct Investment in Africa", *Journal of African Business*, 12(2), 31-50.

Koutonin, M. R., (2014). "14 African Countries Forced by France to Pay Colonial Tax For the Benefits of Slavery and Colonization", *Silicon Africa*, <http://www.siliconafrika.com/france-colonial-tax/> (Accessed: 12/03/2016).

La Porta, R., Lopez-de-Silanes, F., Shleifer, A., & Vishny, R.W., (1997). "Legal Determinants of External Finance", *Journal of Finance*, 52(2), pp. 1131-1150.

La Porta, R., Lopez-de-Silanes, F., Shleifer, A., & Vishny, R.W., (1998). "Law and finance", *Journal of Political Economy*, 106(6), pp.1113-1155.

Mosley, L., (2008). "Taking Stock Seriously: Equity-Market Performance, Government Policy and Financial Globalization". *International Studies Quarterly*, 52(2), pp.405-425.

Obstfeld, M., & Taylor, A.M., (2004). *Global Capital Markets: Integration, Crisis, and Growth*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Oscarsson, H., (2008), "Media and Quality of Government: A research overview", *Quality of Government Working Paper Series*, 2008/12.

Rolfe, R. J., & Woodward, D. P.,(2004). "Attracting foreign investment through privatization: the Zambian experience", *Journal of African Business*, 5(1), pp.5-27.

Stulz, R., M., & Williamson, R., (2003). "Culture, Openness and Finance", *Journal of Financial Economics*, 70(3), pp. 313-349.

Tuomi, K.,(2011). "The Role of the Investment Climate and Tax Incentives in the Foreign Direct Investment Decision: Evidence from South Africa", *Journal of African Business*, 12(1), pp.133-147.

Vaidya, S., (2005), "Corruption in the media's gaze", *European Journal of Political Economy*, 21(3), pp.667-687.

World Bank (2010). “World Development Indicators 2010”, The World Bank <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators/wdi-2010> (Accessed: 12/03/2016).

Yartey, C. A., & Adjasi, C. K., (2007). “Stock Market Development in Sub-Saharan Africa: Critical Issues and Challenges”, *International Monetary Fund Working Paper* No. 07/209, Washington.