

Discussion to

# Can countries escape low-level equilibrium poverty traps?

## The case of Bangladesh and Niger

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## Summary

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## Questions

- Why these two particular countries? → initial conditions differ completely
- Why not countries with more equal initial conditions?

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- emigration → but where?
- continued dependency on exp of uranium & now oil
  - issues of corruption?
  - ethnic favourism → since independence mainly Zarma in power but Hausa are the majority

## Some other aspects:

### Role colonization

- Bangladesh part of British India (British Raj) vs Niger (French protectorate)
- Bengals fight for independence vs. Niger released from France
- common values vs. conflictual interests of different ethnic groups
- effect of settler mortality on institutional performance (Acemoglu et al (2001))

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### Presence of NGO's

- in Bangladesh: faster social gains
- lack of NGO's in Niger?