

Smallpox, slaves and statistics

19th century population figures of
Indonesia's Outer Islands

Elements for a model

Point of departure

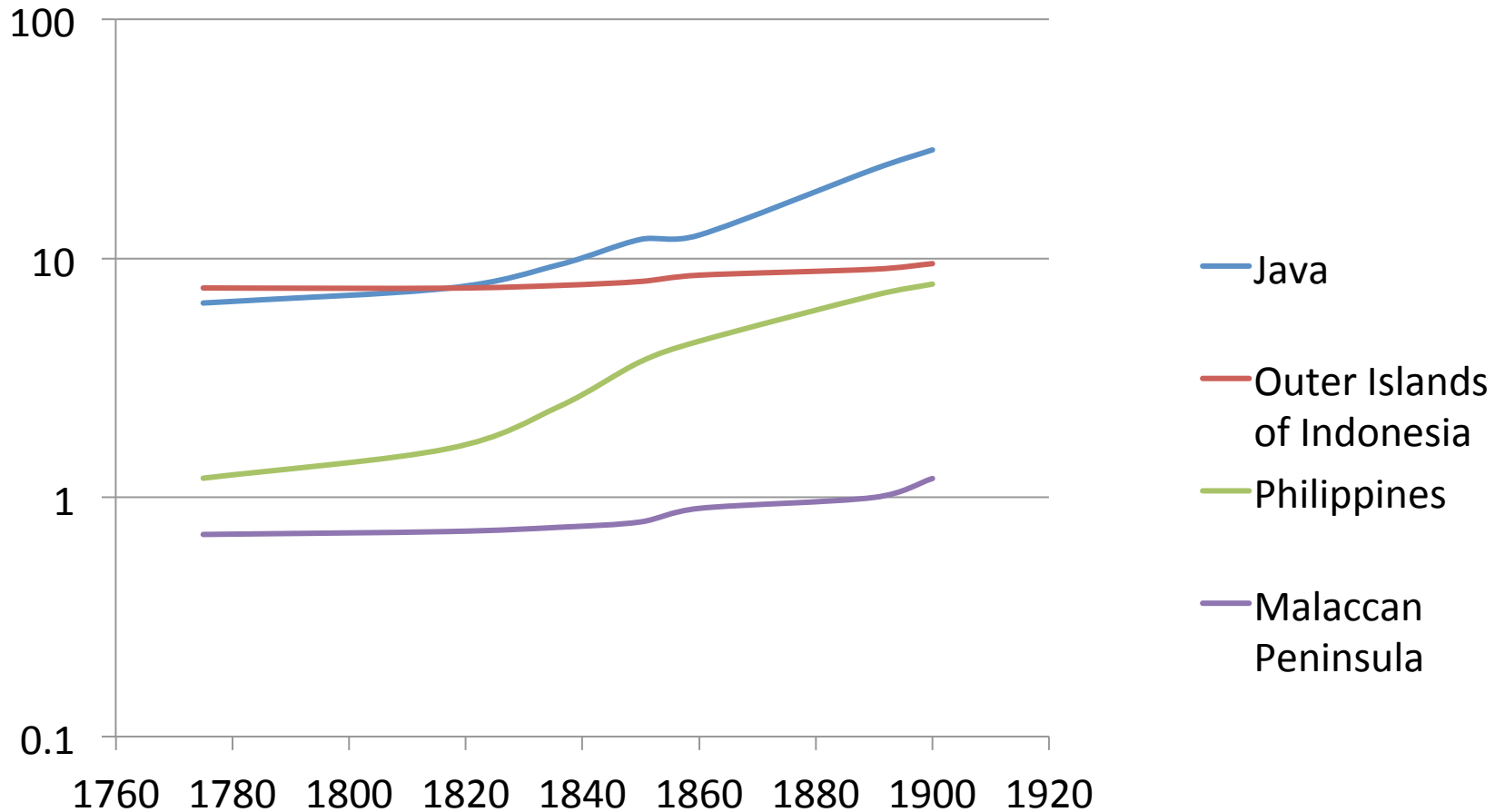
- The debates on Java's 19th century rapid population growth.
- Economic incentives/pressures, smallpox vaccination and pax imperica as explananda
- The need for a long-term and regional perspective (including pre-1500 and "death by conquest")

Sources

- SECONDARY
- Scant systematic historical study of South East Asia outside Java and the Philippines (Boomgaard, Gooszen, Owen, Newson)
- International Union Asian Population History, Taipeh 4-8 January 1996.

- PRIMARY
- Government reporting
- Geographical expeditions
- Newspapers
- Conjectures based upon assumptions about the impact of relevant factors
- Method: source criticism (also used by David Henley for Sulawesi)

A more general picture of Southeast Asia (log-scale)



Determinants

- **Non-human:**
 - Environmental (ecological)
 - Earthquakes, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions
 - Connections: location, rivers, sea
- **Human-bound:**
 - Diseases (“death by conquest”)
 - Political, military (e.g. war, pax imperica)
 - Social-Economic

Human Determinants I

- I. Diseases
- Smallpox: Debates about the effects of smallpox vaccination in the Philippines and Java: positive effect on demographic growth could amount to an average 10‰ per annum
- Cholera: From early 19th century onwards throughout Southeast Asia

Human determinants II

- II. Political, military (*pax imperica*)
- The effect of suppression of **slave raiding by pirates** 1-3‰ per annum?
 - - on the Philippines and Java from the late 18th and early 19th century
 - - In the Malay peninsula and North Borneo from 1850s onwards
 - - in some parts of the Outer Islands slave raiding continued up to the end of the 19th century

Human determinants III

- **III. Social-Economic**
- The institution of slavery. In a map in Nieboer's classic the Malay-Philippine archipelago's are the world's most prominent late 19th century slave holding areas after Africa.
- Demographic effects of forced labour (incentives or disincentives?)
- Demographic effects of commodification?

Preliminary concluding observations

- 1. The importance of a wider regional and longue durée perspective
- 2. The importance of theoretical/modelling consistency. Effects of epidemic or endemic diseases, slave raiding, slavery and economic incentives on demographic growth rates should be studied from a global perspective in globally consistent manner.