

Supplementary Material for “Four levers of reciprocity across human societies: concepts, analysis and predictions”

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Here, we present the structural dimension for the five societal types in five distinct tables. These tables are structured according to our game theoretic framework (recall section 2.3 of the main text). The tables were constructed using classic syntheses, like Johnson and Earle (1987) and Maryanski and Turner (1993), and validated and complemented with recent textbooks on big-history (Christian et al., 2014) and macrosociology (Nolan and Lenski, 2014), as well as political science literature (all references used are listed in the tables’ footnotes).

Table 1: Mobile foragers

| Dimension | Description |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Population | |
| Density | Range between 0.005-0.9 individuals per km ² . |
| Spatial | Local groups (bands) of small size; 20-100 individuals forming a few families living in non-permanent settlements sometimes with temporary household shelters but relocated at least seasonally or depending on conditions. Bands are usually embedded within a network of similar bands, forming communities up to a few thousand individuals that define the scale of society. |
| Interactions | Mainly among band members, occasionally with individuals from other bands. |
| Economy | |
| Subsistence | Communal hunting of animals and gathering of plants. |
| Production | Clear division of labour between men hunting more unpredictable and dangerous resources, and females gathering more dependable yield. Use of hunting and cooking equipment but infrastructure for resource production essentially non-existent; occasionally known to burn areas and dig canals. |
| Distribution | Tendency of private ownership of gathered resources but communal ownership of hunted resources. Hence, resources are widely shared at the local group level. No surplus, hence no material inequality nor much trade except with members from other bands or communities usually under the form of gifts that are reciprocated later. |
| Appropriation | Since no surplus and food stores, little to appropriate from conspecifics and thus to protect, except for females and perhaps fire and recognized communal ownership of land or waterholes. Occasional contests and raids between groups, more rarely battles, but no defensive infrastructures. |
| Polity | |
| Decision-making | Decentralized consensus building at the band level and possibly at the community level. |
| Power | Equal authority by all group members. No delegation of power, except to delegated speakers when decisions are taken at the community level. Hence, no central authority or leadership. |
| Rules | Informal customs and norms. |
| Enforcement | Decentralized as well as centralized at the group level through consensus based group-level decisions that enable coalitionary power. Penalties are mainly reputational or due to ostracism, but sometimes killing can occur. |
| References: Service (1975); Johnson and Earle (1987); Maryanski and Turner (1993); Christian (2004); Kaplan et al. (2005); Gat (2006); Kaplan et al. (2009); Fukuyama (2011); Gualla (2012); Christian et al. (2014); Nolan and Lenski (2014); van Schaik (2016); Turner and Maryanski (2016); Gat (2017); Smil (2017); Stutz (2020). | |

Table 2: Horticulturalists

| Dimension | Description |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Population | |
| Density | Range between 10-60 individuals per km ² . |
| Spatial | Local groups of small size; 20-200 individuals. Local groups are partly sedentary and form small villages where individuals live in agglutinated semi-permanent communal houses or longhouses (usually one or very few at the local level). Local groups are usually embedded into larger communities or tribes that can reach around 5,000 individuals. The tribal structure can give rise to chiefdoms in areas of high resource productivity. |
| Interactions | Mainly among local group members, occasionally with individuals from other groups. |
| Economy | |
| Subsistence | Hunting but mainly semi-permanent communal food planting and harvesting (extremely variable from fruits to roots and tubers), and tending of small domestic animals such as goats, sheep, chickens. |
| Production | Division of labour between females doing mainly gardening and males doing more hunting, tool/weapon-making, house-building, and boat-building. Use of equipment and tools for production as well as some infrastructures of production, such as field clearing (sometimes fire-assisted), paths clearing, developing irrigation systems. |
| Distribution | Generally low productivity and no private resource ownership and redistribution of produced resources at the group level. Tendency to some long distance trade by men. Sometimes surplus with appearance of communally owned food stores and in chiefdoms private ownership of such food stores. |
| Appropriation | In ecologies with more densities and/or production, presence of fighting and war raids above a certain density, which results in food and bride capture. But no clear infrastructure for appropriation nor defense. |
| Polity | |
| Decision-making | Variable at the village level. Mix between decentralized consensus building and centralized leadership generally organized along kinship lines. In chiefdoms, there is more hierarchy and thus more centralization of decision-making. |
| Power | In principle, equal authority by all group members but some delegation of power to the leadership. |
| Rules | Informal customs and norms. Sometimes differentiation between <i>substantive law</i> —rules describing how members of a society are to behave—and <i>procedural law</i> —rules describing procedures for developing and enforcing the substantive law itself, yet all legal codes remain unwritten and not clearly codified. |
| Enforcement | Decentralized as well as centralized at the group level. Leadership has staff and sometimes small armies. This results in the slow emergence of coercive capacity by a segment of society. |
| References: Service (1975); Johnson and Earle (1987); Maryanski and Turner (1993); Earle (1997); Christian (2004); Kaplan et al. (2005); Gat (2006); Kaplan et al. (2009); Fukuyama (2011); Kelly (2013); Christian et al. (2014); Nolan and Lenski (2014); Flannery and Marcus (2014); Turner and Maryanski (2016); Gat (2017); Smil (2017). | |

Table 3: Pre-state agriculturalists

| Dimension | Description |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Population | |
| Density | Average at least 40 individuals per km ² . |
| Spatial | Local groups of highly variable size, could consist of single families but often consists of more or less scattered settlements consisting of several permanent separate households (villages). Local groups are always hierarchically embedded in larger units such as tribes and chiefdoms, with perhaps 10,000 members but still based on a single ethnic unit with one language. |
| Interactions | Mainly through flat networks of exchange at the local group level. |
| Economy | |
| Subsistence | Intensive cultivation of variable scale, usually involving metal tools and draft animals, which generates tradeable and taxable surplus. |
| Production | Division of labour between male and female with increased occupational specialization into farming, house-building, metal-working, weaving, pottery-making and commerce. Appearance of sizeable infrastructure for resource production, such as roads for vehicles, land improvement including deforestation, irrigation systems and canals, stores of grain and large villages. |
| Distribution | Largely private ownership of resources, land and real estate (except communal grazing areas), which results in varying degree of material inequality. Redistribution of resources as a result of flourishing exchange, which results in some long-distance trade networks largely between societies and largely about non-essential luxury goods. |
| Appropriation | Owing to increased density and productivity warfare (or raiding) is prevalent among localities and created needs for communal defence. Appearance of infrastructure of protection such as walled villages. |
| Polity | |
| Decision-making | Variable but tends to be centralized. At the village level explicit leaders taking decisions in consultations with others. Appearance of leadership at the community level. |
| Power | Targeted delegation of power towards the local or regional leadership. Authority starts to be concentrated in the leadership in chiefdoms. |
| Rules | Customs and norms codified by tradition. Differentiation between substantive and procedural law. |
| Enforcement | Leaders gain centralised coercive capacity allowing for the extraction of labour but there is no monopoly on coercion. |

References: Service (1975); Johnson and Earle (1987); Maryanski and Turner (1993); Earle (1997); Christian (2004); Gat (2006); Fukuyama (2011); Christian et al. (2014); Nolan and Lenski (2014); Flannery and Marcus (2014); Turner and Maryanski (2016); Scott (2017). In Tables 3-5, we use the notion of flat and hierarchical networks, meaning they have many hubs following Christian (2004, p. 292). In Tables 3-5, we also follow Brousseau et al. (2010, p. 258) in using the notion of *targeted delegation* of power, which consists of granting a limited amount of focused authority, as well as *extended delegation* of power, which consists of delegating most decisions to the central authority.

Table 4: State-based agriculturalists (archaic states)

| Dimension | Description |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Population | |
| Density | Average well over 100 individuals per km ² . |
| Spatial | Local groups range from villages of various sizes up to cities, which are multi-ethnic and based on the fusion of communities or sometimes massive import of people of different languages. Hierarchical networks of villages and cities form <i>states</i> , which is a set of people united into a single territorial limit with a central government. (The defining feature of the state is the monopoly of coercion over society members and the ability to tax). |
| Interactions | Through various local exchange networks that become hierarchical and sometimes extend to the the societal level. |
| Economy | |
| Subsistence | Large-scale intensive permanent cultivation generating large surplus where one farmer can sustain several non-farmers specialists. |
| Production | Continuing increased of division of labour with appearance of new occupational trades, such as soldiers and bureaucrats; slaves, serfs and elites; and regional specializations. Continuing increase of infrastructure for food production such as roads, canals, large scale irrigation systems, large stores, walled cities with infrastructures for waste management, and regional integration. |
| Distribution | In principle private ownership of resources, yet production is heavily taxed and often centrally controlled. Trade within societies as well as between societies important and involved importation of metal and building materials. |
| Appropriation | Cities are defended and there are incessant conflicts, often armed, between states having developed military infrastructure. |
| Polity | |
| Decision-making | Fully centralized in an hereditary monarchy that is supported by elites and subtented by a hierarchy of officials. |
| Power | Extended delegation of powers towards the leadership, which retains unequal authority and tends towards the despotic. The power structure within society is very hierarchical. |
| Rules | Beginning of written legal rules. Clear differentiation between procedural and substantive law. |
| Enforcement | Organized state bureaucracy, consisting of religious elites and military and administrative personal, including slaves. Bureaucracy can enforce taxation and essentially everything else by the use of the monopoly of force. |
| References: Service (1975); Johnson and Earle (1987); Maryanski and Turner (1993); Earle (1997); Christian (2004); Gat (2006); Fukuyama (2011); Christian et al. (2014); Nolan and Lenski (2014); Hoffman (2015); Turner and Maryanski (2016); Gat (2017); Scott (2017); Smil (2017). | |

Table 5: Liberal democracies

| Dimension | Description |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Population | |
| Density | Up to 2000 individuals per km ² . |
| Spatial | Variable local group size, ranging from small villages to mega-cities where millions of families reside. These common residence groups are embedded in nation-states of highly variable size. |
| Interactions | In various hierarchical networks pertaining to work and leisure and where these networks can be world wide. |
| Economy | |
| Subsistence | Large-scale intensive permanent mechanized cultivation and industrial food and technological production allowing for massive surplus per farmer (one American farmer now produces enough food to feed more than 150 people). |
| Production | Decrease of division of labour between males and females yet increase of overall division of labour and specialization with strong reliance on machines and computerized information-processing mechanisms shifting work increasingly to secondary and tertiary industries. Extensive infrastructure for food and good production such as roads, water canals, various forms of energy and information networks. Very high level of organization of cities, sanitation, organization of schools, and overall civil society infrastructures. Virtually all economic activity is carried out not by individuals but by organizations. |
| Distribution | Private property of resources yet large inequality in resource ownership. Resources or transformation thereof (goods) are exchanged on decentralized markets that cause an endless transformation of materials, products, energy, and information. Global networks of exchange connecting the whole world. Resources under the form of wealth are also partly redistributed by the state by way of levying taxes. |
| Appropriation | Conscripted armies and high-tech military infrastructure often leading technological innovation that later benefit civil society. Yet less warfare between nation (liberal democracies themselves do not wage war against each other). |
| Polity | |
| Decision-making | Centralized in the hands of a mix of elected leaders and legislative bodies. |
| Power | Nominal equality in power, but extended delegation of powers towards the centralized government ("constitutional delegation of power"). The rule of law entails that the government is subject to disclose legal codes and processes resulting in check-and-balances feedback between civil society and the government. The power structure within society is thus relatively flat ("universal rights to anybody"), yet can be concentrated in influence groups. |
| Rules | Large bodies of written procedural and substantive law regulating essentially all spheres of behaviour. Legal protection of individuals, corporations, select assets, and parts of the environment. |
| Enforcement | Large standing military, police, and bureaucratic systems. These high technology systems guarantee the monopoly on force to the state and enable taxation and redistribution, enforcement of rules and rights, and adjudicating disputes and fostering scientific research. |
| References: Johnson and Earle (1987); Maryanski and Turner (1993); Christian (2004); Mankiv (2010); Fukuyama (2011, 2014); Christian et al. (2014); Nolan and Lenski (2014); Hoffman (2015); Gat (2017); Turner and Maryanski (2016); Smil (2017); Pastor (2019) | |

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