

Age structure and the Political Future of the Sahel

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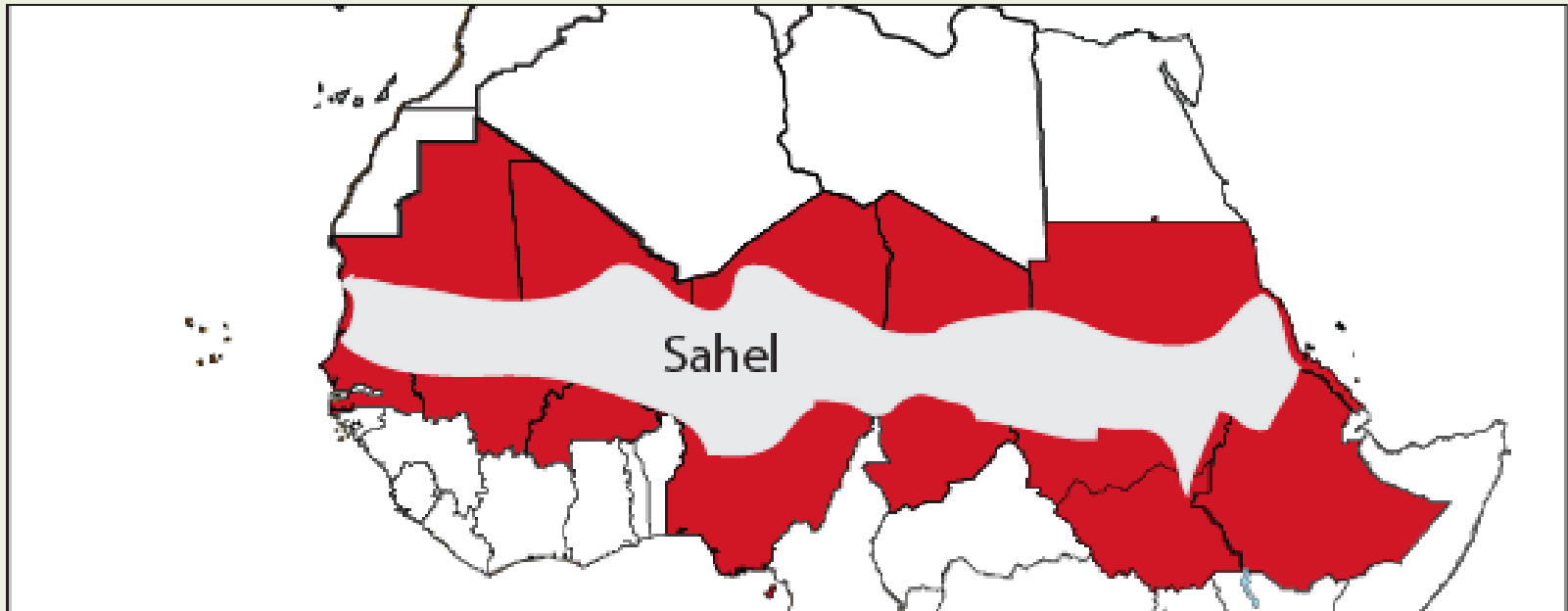
Environmental Change and Security Program

and

The Stimson Center

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The Sahelian Countries



- Senegal
- Mauritania
- Mali
- Burkina Faso
- Niger

- Nigeria
- Chad
- Sudan
- South Sudan
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia

9 States (1975)

11 States (2015)

The Sahel: When it's difficult to "be a state".

- **Deep ethno-linguistic cleavages** (Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Mali).
- **Borders** initially fixed by colonial-era agreements.
- Significant portions of populations that are **transhumant**, and difficult to service.
- Extraordinarily **rapidly growing urban populations**.
- **Declining per-capita levels of renewable resources:**
 - cropland,
 - renewable fresh water, and
 - seasonally viable perennial rangelands.

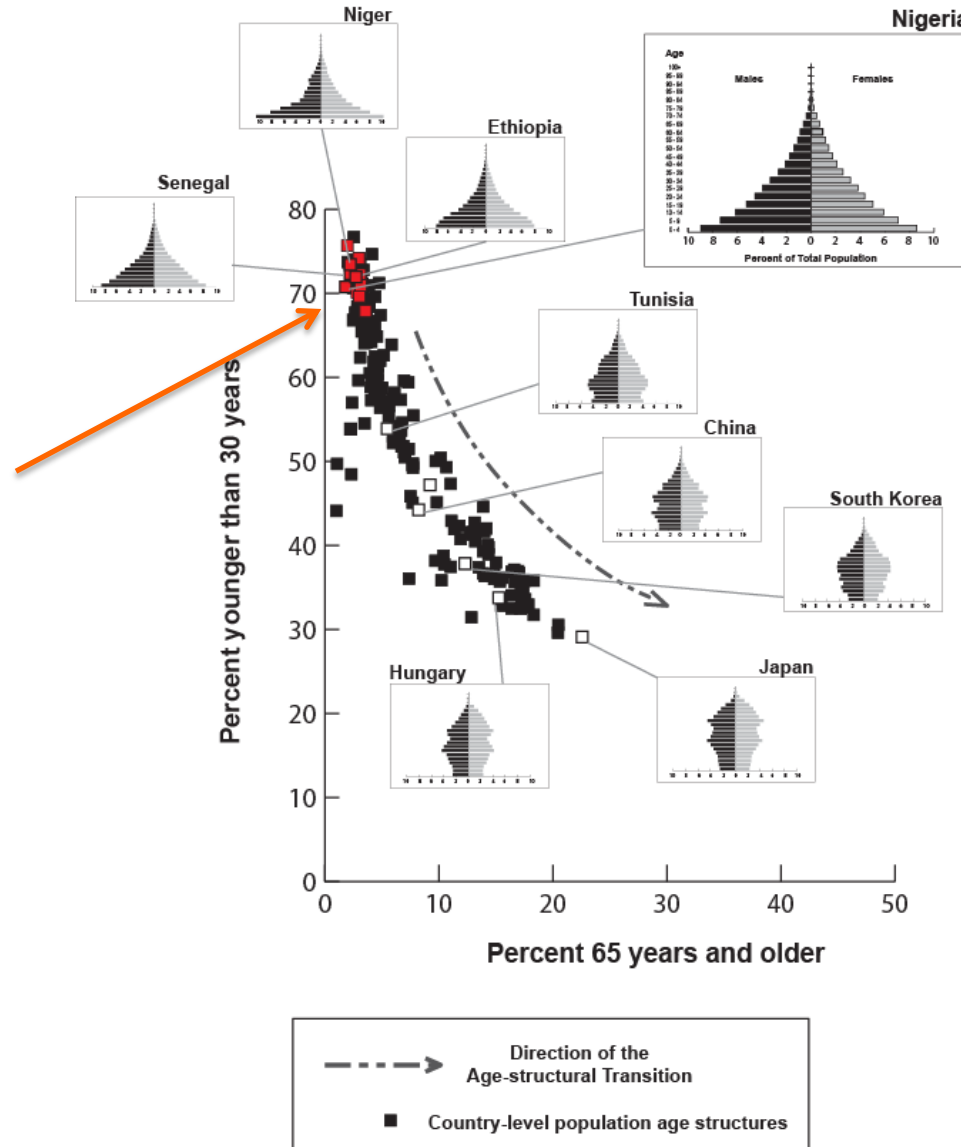
The Age-structural
Transition,

2010

11 Sahelian States

Country-level Age Structures along the path of the age-structural transition

Year: 2010



YOUTHFUL

Origin of ~80% of all “new” intra-state conflict.
~15-20% assessed as a liberal democracy,
but most unstable.

INTERMEDIATE

~50% assessed as a liberal democracy.

MATURE

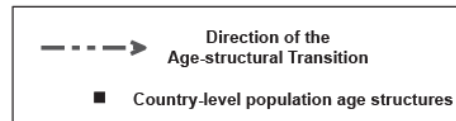
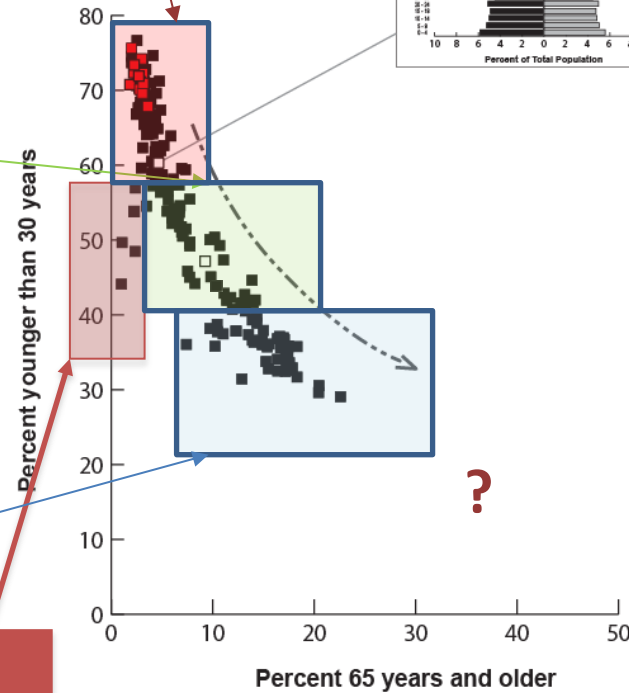
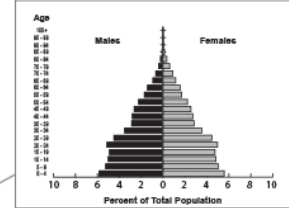
~80% assessed as a liberal democracy.

Country-level Age Structures

along the path of the age-structural transition

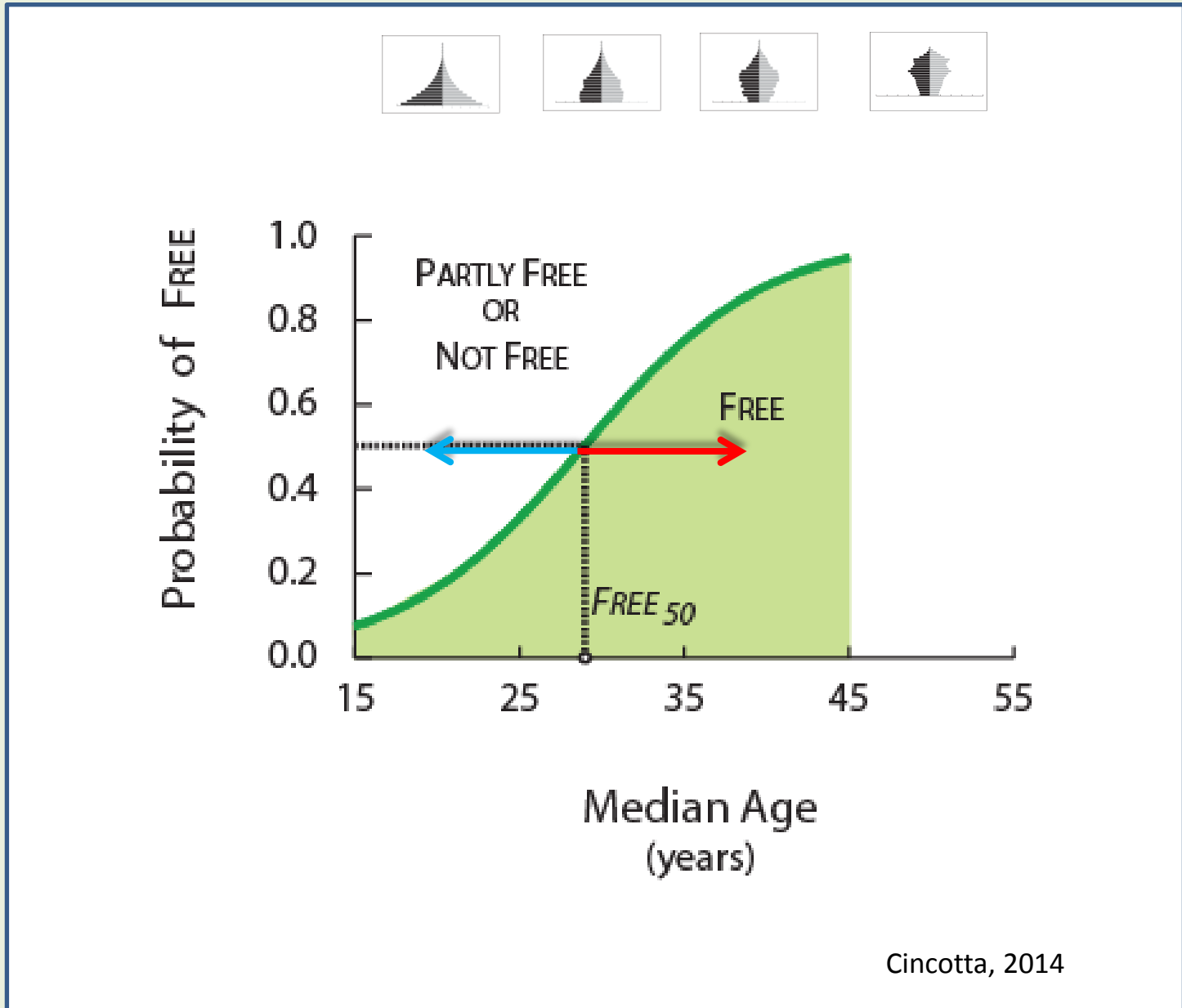
Year: 2010

Egypt

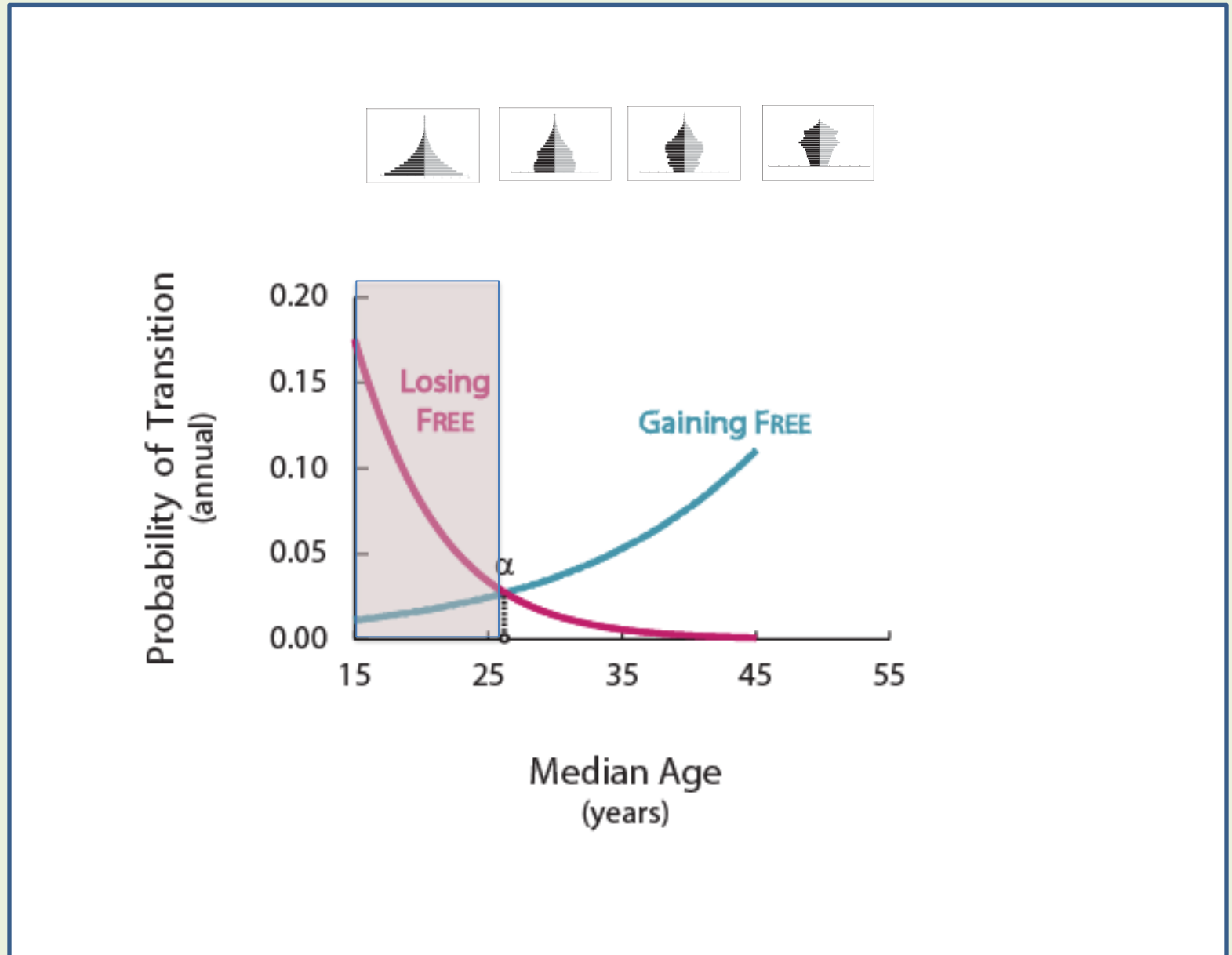


GCC States

General Model: *Liberal Democracy*

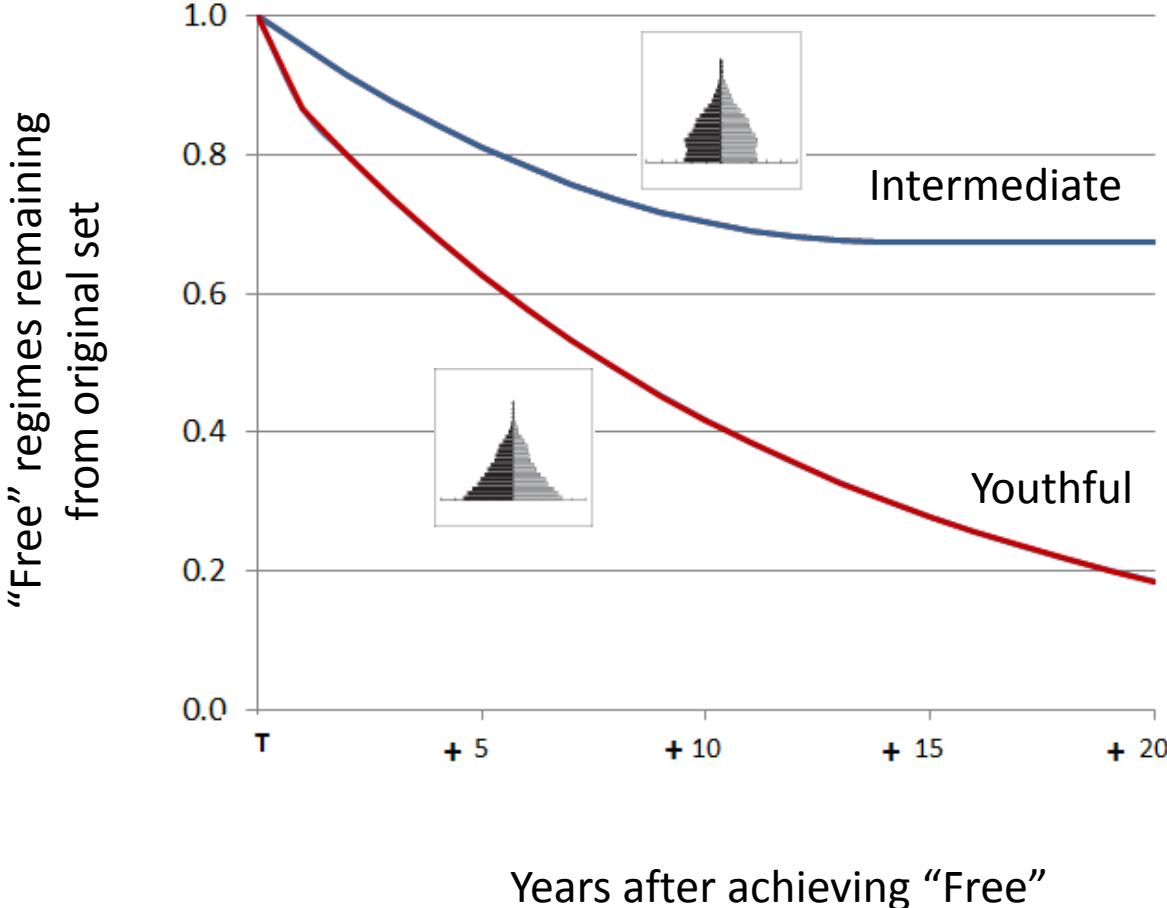


Gain & Loss Models: Liberal Democracy

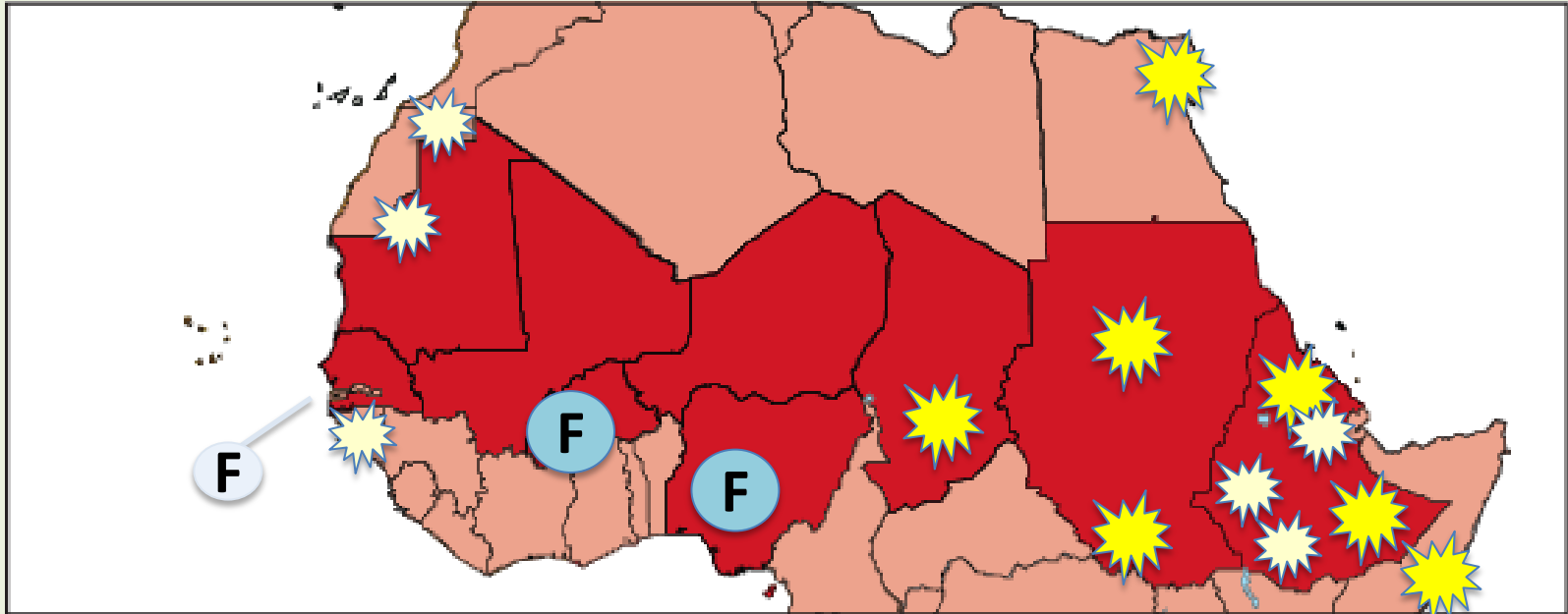


States achieving "Free" from 1973 to 1993

Liberal regime decay functions



1972-79



Median age

14 - 26



26 - 36



36 - 46



Conflict Intensity



Low



High

Liberal Democracies

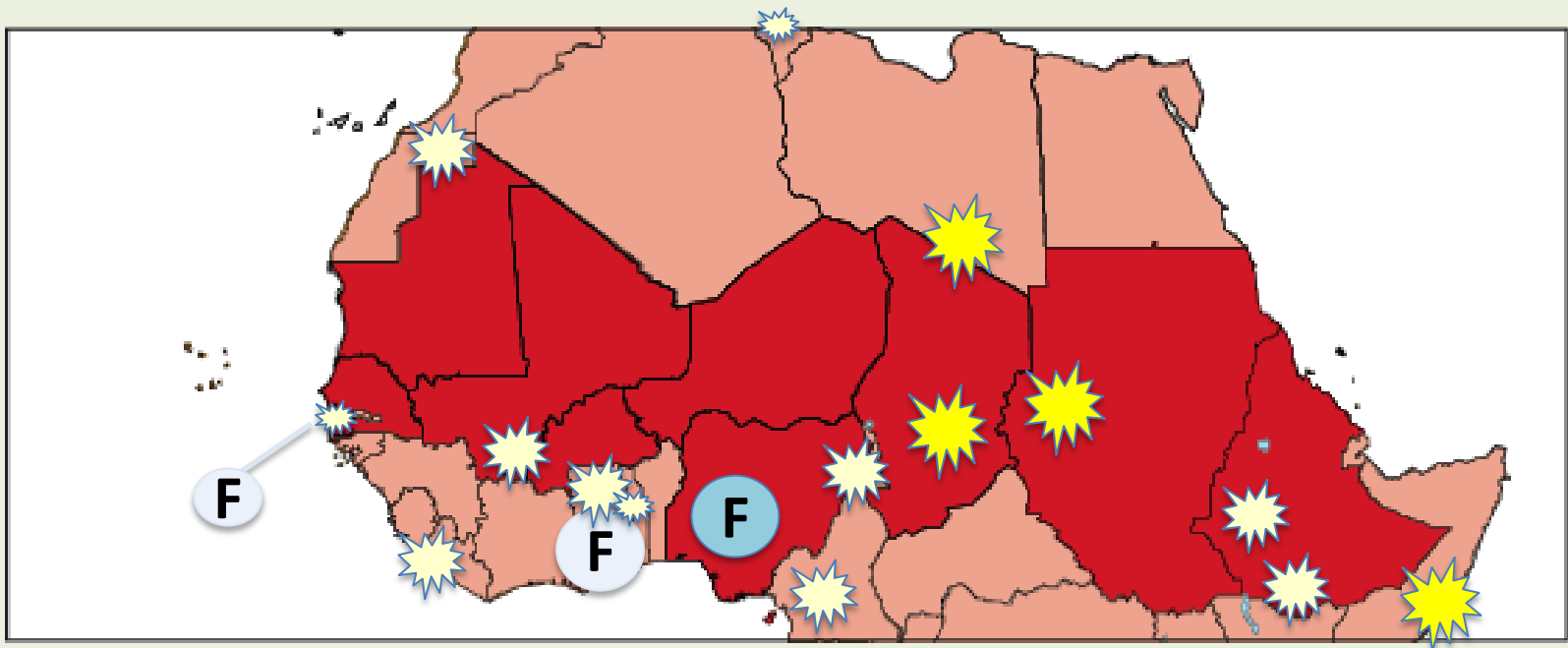


Sahelian



Other

1980-89



Median age

14 - 26



26 - 36



36 - 46



Conflict Intensity



Low



High

Liberal Democracies

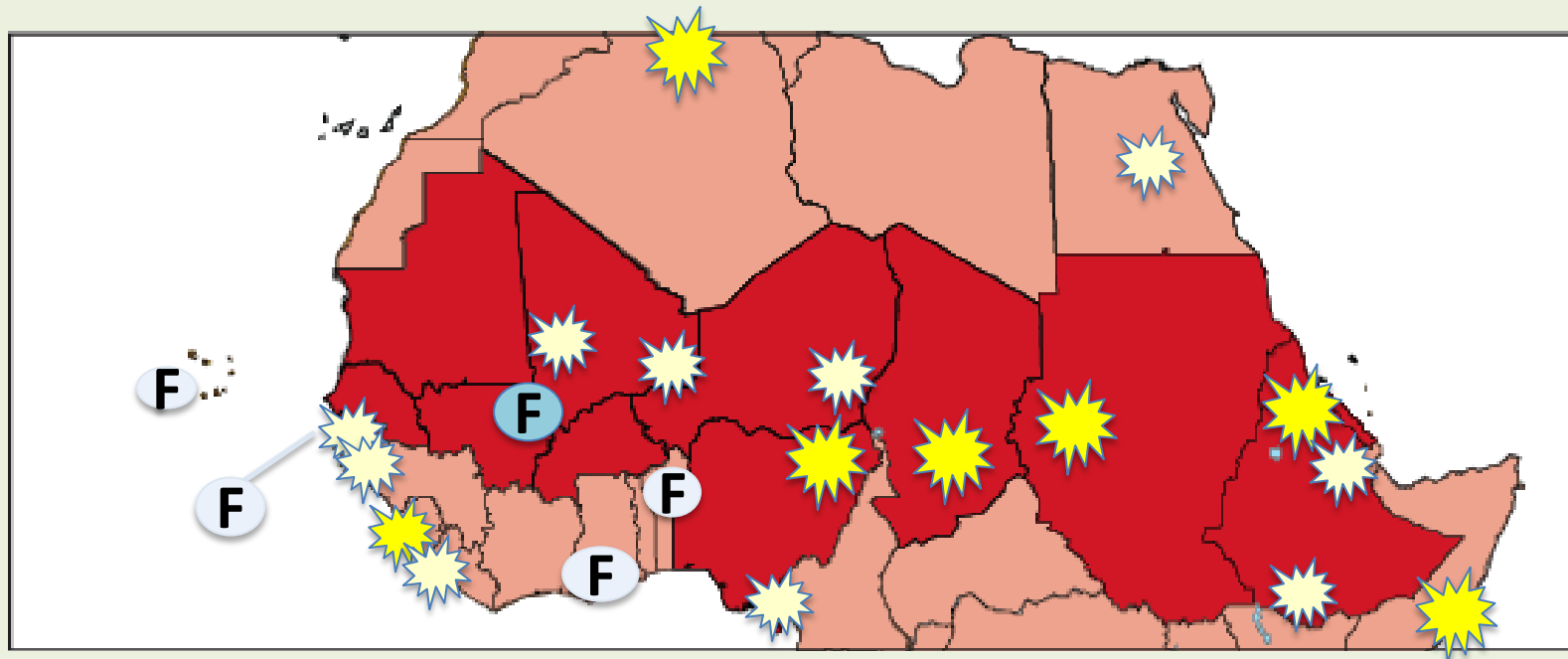


Sahelian



Other

1990-99



Median age

14 - 26



26 - 36



36 - 46



Conflict Intensity



Low



High

Liberal Democracies

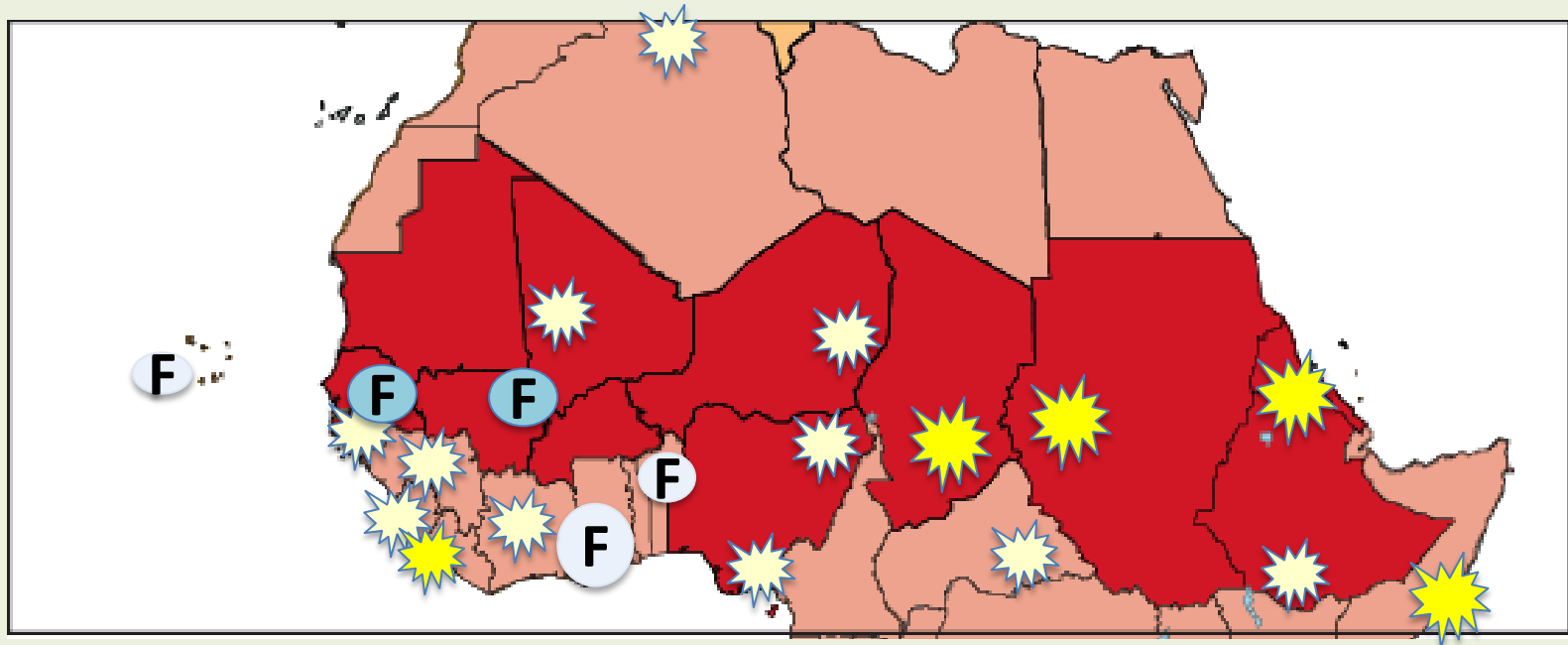


Sahelian



Other

2000-09



Median age

14 - 26



26 - 36



36 - 46



Conflict Intensity



Low



High

Liberal Democracies

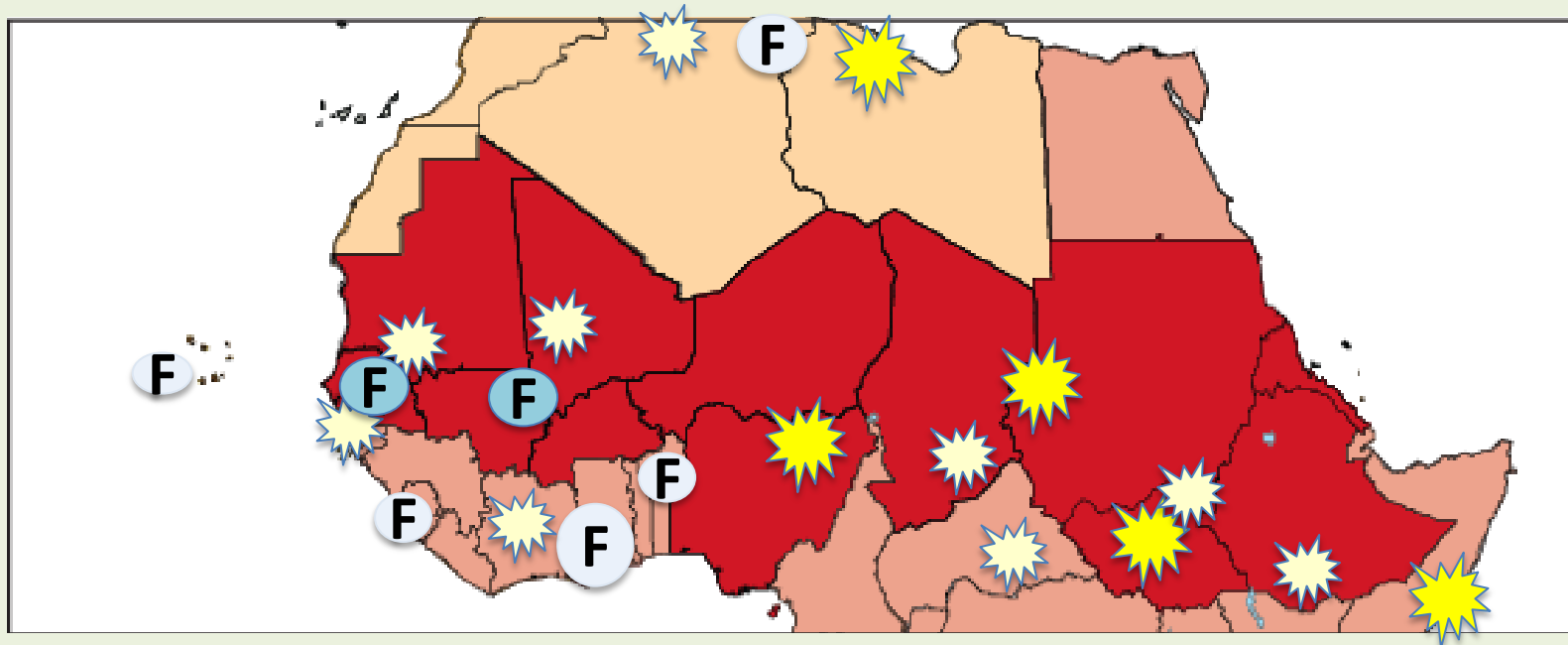


Sahelian



Other

2010-15



Median age

14 - 26



26 - 36



36 - 46



Conflict Intensity



Low



High

Liberal Democracies



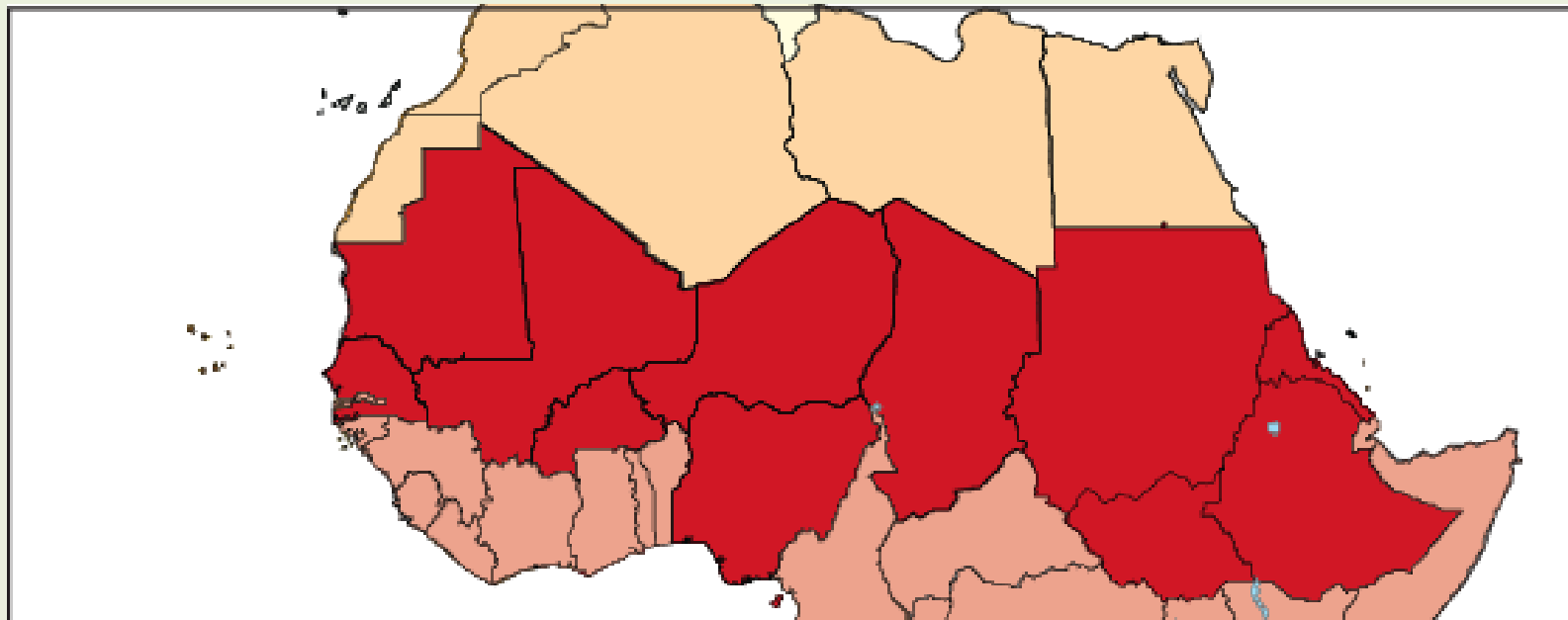
Sahelian



Other

2030

(UN Medium Fertility Variant Projection)



Median age

14 - 26



26 - 36

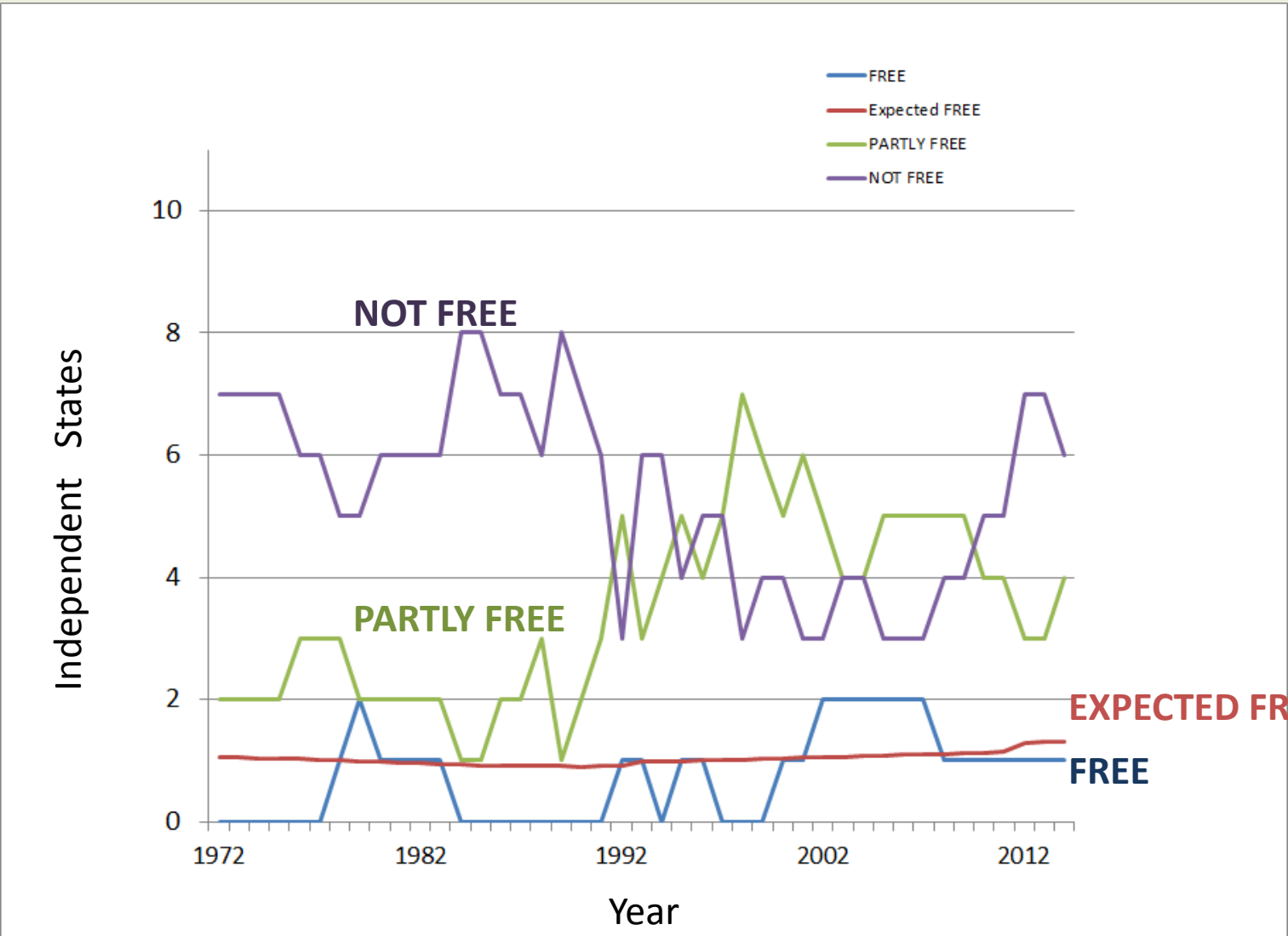


36 - 46



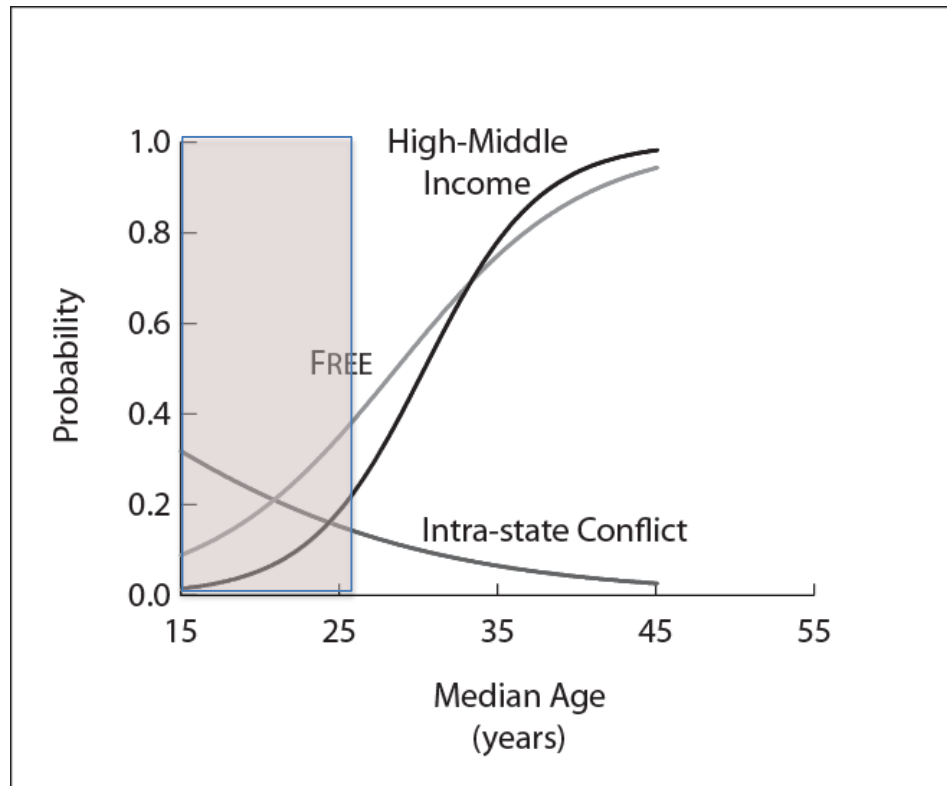
Median age: UN Population Div., 2013 (medium var.)

FREEDOM HOUSE: Regime Status



Data: Freedom House, 2014
Expectations: Cincotta, 2015

Age structural “general models”



Sahel: The Future

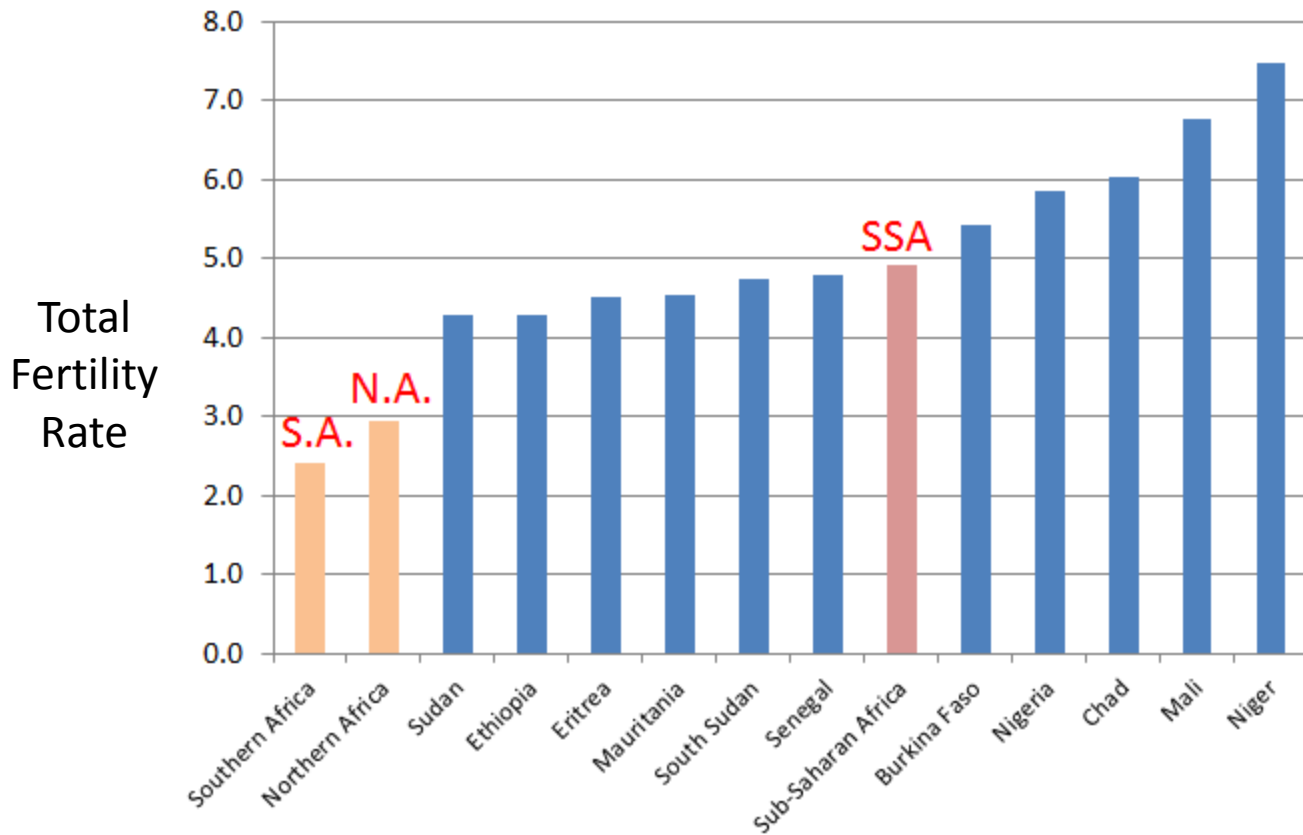
- Continues at relatively **high risk of intra-state conflict**.
- **Low probability of *stable* liberal democracy.** (Senegal more stable than expected).
- Possibility of spillover conflict from Nigeria.
- Possibility of breakups of some states.

End

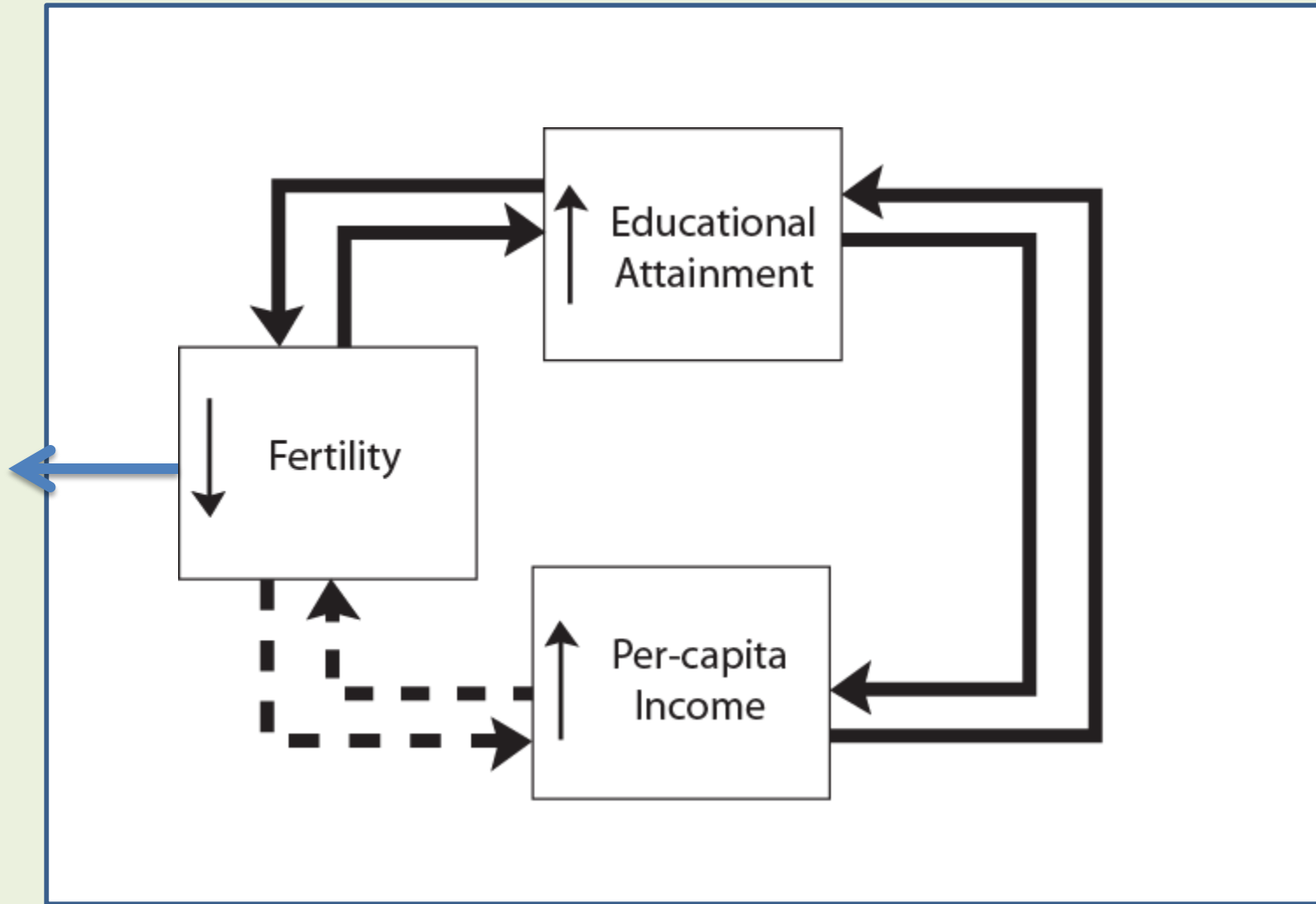
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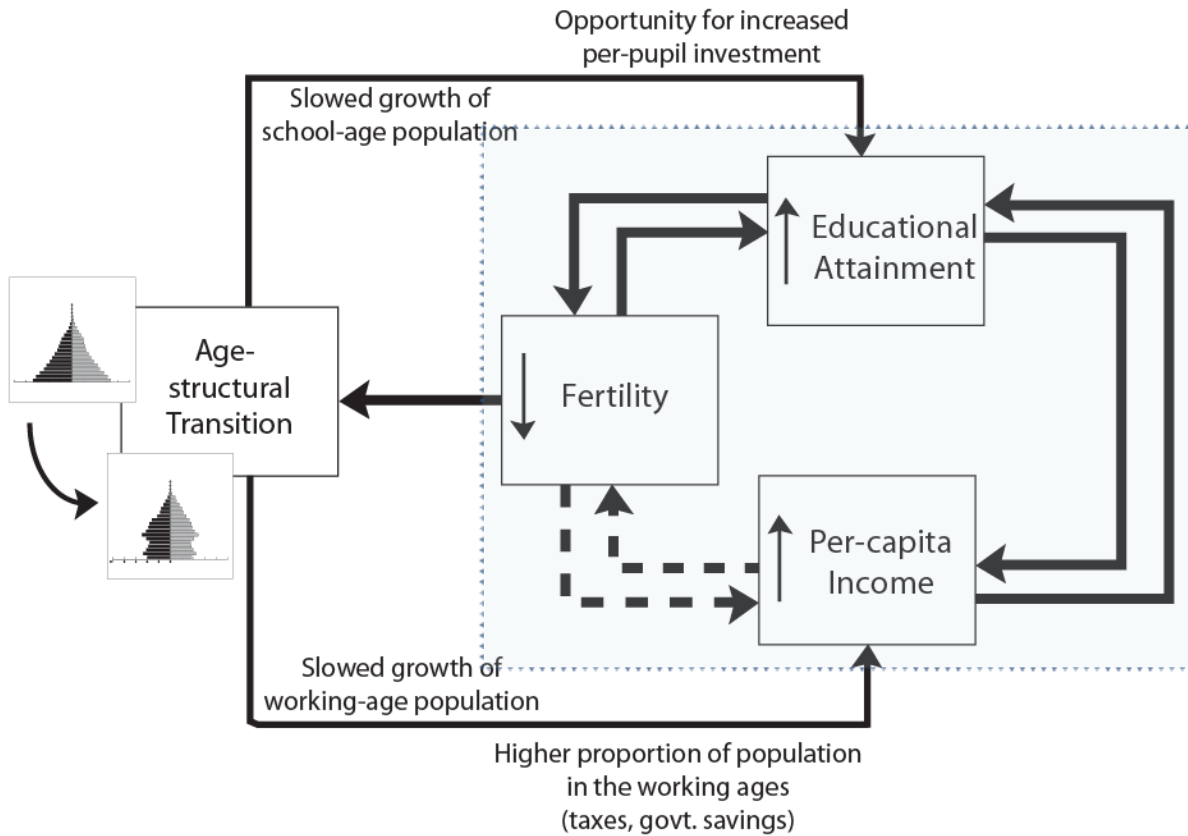
Sahel: Fertility, 2015



Core Development Conceptual Model



Age Structure + Core Development



The Authoritarian Bargain and the Age-structural Transition

Youthful **Intermediate** **Mature** **Post-Mature**



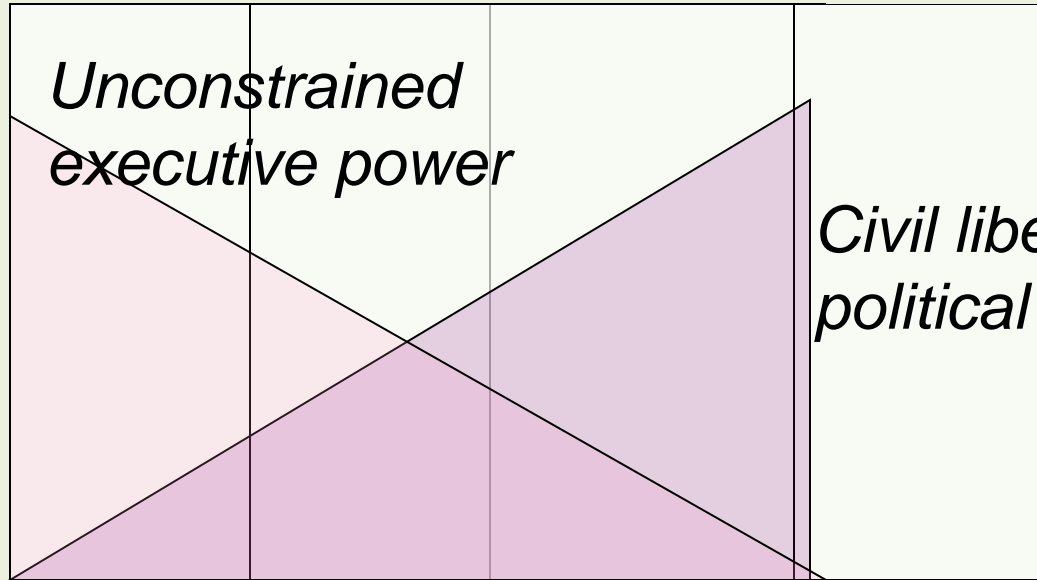
**Net
Benefits**

*Unconstrained
executive power*

*Civil liberties &
political rights*

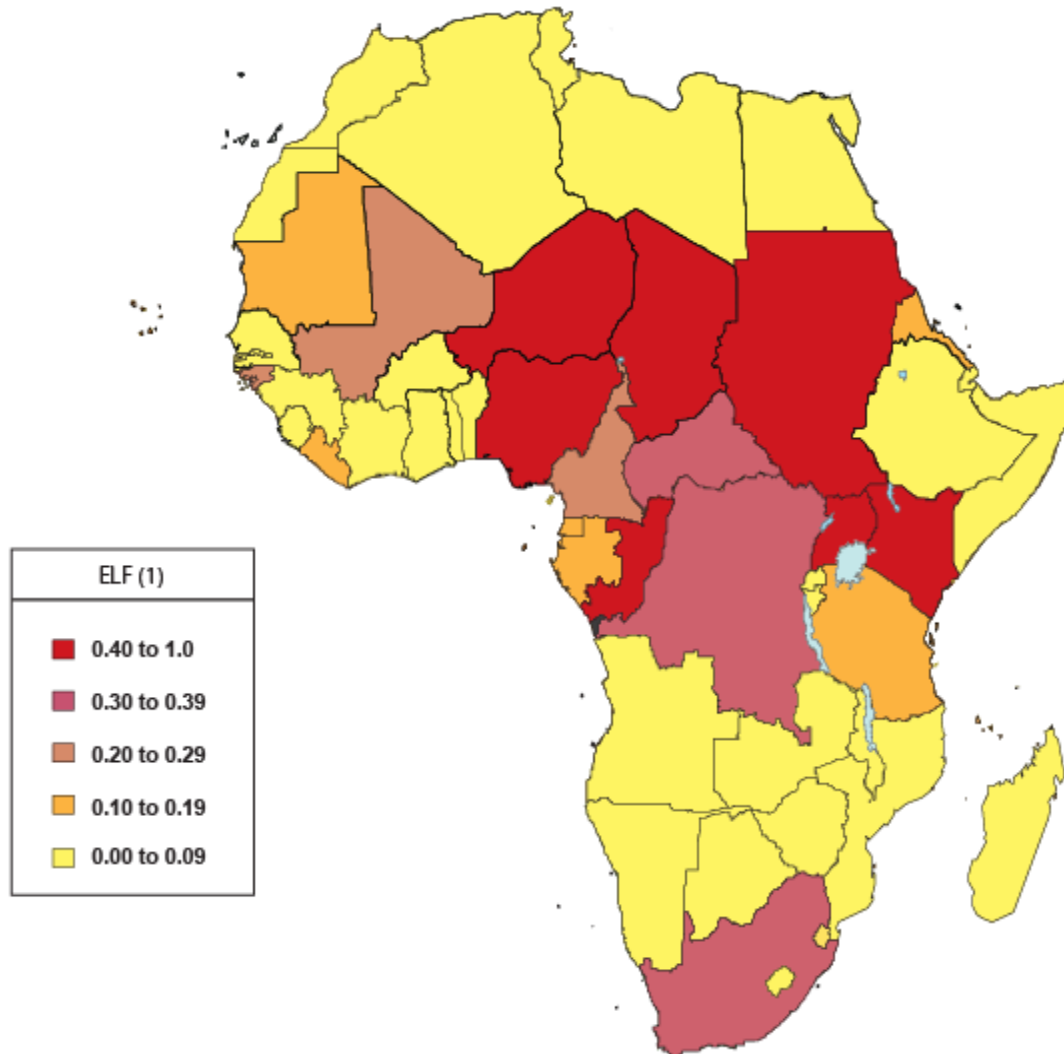
15 25 35 45 55

**Median Age
(Years)**



Ethnolinguistic Cleavages

Deep Cleavages (Level 1)



Ethno-linguistic Polarization

“Deep cleavages”