Fiscal Capacity and Dualism in Colonial States: The French Empire 1830-1962

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Abstract: A novel data collection provides comparative evidence on the colonial states of the “second” French colonial empire, from their foundation to their devolution in the 1960s. Colonial states were neither omnipotent Leviathans nor casual night watchmen. On the one hand, we emphasize the extractive efficiency and capacity of adaptation of colonial states to different socioeconomic contexts and varying historical conditions. On the other hand, we put forward dualism as their main common feature and legacy. Colonial public expenditure was biased towards the needs of French settlers and capitalists. It was also costly, as high wages had to be paid to expatriated civil servants.

Type de document: Pré-publication, Document de travail
PSE Working Papers n°2018-27. 2018

Domaine: Sciences de l’Homme et Société / Economies et finances

Liste complète des métadonnées

Littérature citée [11 références]

https://halshs.archives-ouvertes.fr/halshs-01818700
Contributeur : Caroline Bauer <bauer@pse.ens.fr>
Soumis le : mardi 24 juillet 2018 - 11:50:31
Dernière modification le : mercredi 8 août 2018 - 14:09:01
Document(s) archivé(s) le : jeudi 25 octobre 2018 - 13:00:27

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wp_201827_.pdf
Fichiers produits par l'(les) auteur(s)
The French colonial empire constituted the overseas colonies, protectorates and mandate territories that came under French rule from the 16th century onward. A distinction is generally made between the "first colonial empire," that existed until 1814, by which time most of it had been lost, and the "second colonial empire," which began with the conquest of Algiers in 1830. The second colonial empire came to an end after the loss in later wars of Indochina (1954) and Algeria (1962), and relatively In 1830, the French captured Algiers and from 1848 until independence in 1962, Algeria was treated as an integral part of France. Seeking to expand their influence, the French established protectorates to the east and west of it. The French protectorate of Tunisia was established in 1881 during the French colonial Empire era and lasted until Tunisian independence in 1956. Tunisia formed a province of the decaying Ottoman Empire but enjoyed a large measure of autonomy under the bey Muhammad III as-Sadiq. In 1877, Russia declared war on the Ottoman Empire. Sub Navigation. The French Empire (1830-1962). Syllabus. We will discuss both conquest of empire and its maintenance, through analysis of such topics as colonial authority, the structure of colonial society, and the role of colonies in European conflicts. Thematic analysis will focus on the culture of empire, concepts of racial difference and métissage, colonial medicine, and urban planning. Two class meetings per week. Spring semester.