

# Whither Persistence?

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This paper estimates the association between different land revenue systems in colonial India and modern day economic outcomes for villages in the colonial rural district of Madura. While villages that were under Zamindari system in 1931 continue to have poorer average nightlights, relatively higher poverty rates, there is no statistically significant difference in access to public goods relative to *Ryotwari* villages. We also find that while the *Inam* villages outperform other land tenure system in terms of nightlights and assets, they have relatively poorer access to public goods in 2011. This paper suggests that the evidence that *Zamindari* produces worse economic outcomes has to be read with caution.

JEL-Classification: N35, O12, H4.

Keywords: Historical persistence, public goods, colonial land tenure, India.

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