
INSTITUTIONS, PARASITES AND THE PERSISTENCE OF IN-GROUP PREFERENCES

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ABSTRACT

20 Much research has established reliable cross-population differences in motivations
to invest in one's in-group. We compare two current historical-evolutionary
hypotheses for this variation based on (1) effective large-scale institutions and (2)
25 pathogen threats by analyzing cross-national differences (N= 122) in in-group
preferences measured in three ways. We find that the effectiveness of government
institutions correlates with favoring in-group members, even when controlling for
25 pathogen stress and world region, assessing reverse causality, and providing a check
on endogeneity with an instrumental variable analysis. Conversely, pathogen stress
shows inconsistent associations with in-group favoritism when controlling for
government effectiveness. Moreover, pathogen stress shows little to no association
30 with in-group favoritism within major world regions whereas government
effectiveness does. These results suggest that variation in in-group preferences
across contemporary nation-states is more consistent with a generalized response
to institutions that meet basic needs rather than an evolved response dedicated to
pathogens.

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40 The degree to which people prefer interacting with and investing in family, friends,
and in-group members—which we label “in-group preferences”—varies
substantially across human societies, and has been associated with a variety of
population-level cognitive differences [1-5]. For example, in one multi-country
study of hypothetical decision-making, the probability of lying to help a friend over
45 telling the truth in court varied between 5% and 70% [6]. Nevertheless, despite a
large and expanding body of findings showing reliable differences across
populations, only recently has research begun to develop and test historical-
evolutionary causal explanations for such differences.

Here we assess two current historical-evolutionary accounts for this cross-cultural
50 variation in in-group preferences, focused on the effects of (1) large-scale
uncertainty-reducing institutions, and (2) pathogen threats.

The first *material or existential security* hypothesis proposes that these population-
level differences are responses to the existence of social institutions that can buffer
risk, ensure basic needs are met, and mitigate threats to survival [7]. Like other
55 animals who engage in social niche construction, humans actively modify their
social environments as a means of adapting to material threats, including pathogen
stress [8,9], environmental extremes [10], food insecurity [11], and inter-group
conflict [12]. However, humans are unique in their ability to construct their social
environments cumulatively over generations, with the cultural transmission of
60 social norms (e.g., food sharing), knowledge (e.g., germ theory of disease), practices
(e.g. food storage, charity), complex technologies (e.g., boiling water, burying the

dead) and formal institutions (e.g., courts, police, hospitals, health care, insurance and social safety nets). In these culturally-constructed niches, humans face frequent decisions about investing in one's family or in-group vs. pursuing other social investments, including cultivating new relationships in a broader social network. Under different social and ecological conditions, the same investments can have very different consequences. For example, public services, global markets, and social safety nets that mitigate material threats may render investments in an expansive network of kith and kin less necessary as alternative forms of social insurance. Moreover, limiting one's social interactions to local in-group members can prevent one from accessing the benefits of trade and comparative advantage, of expanded mating opportunities, and of new ideas and cultural innovations. By contrast, in societies lacking such institutions, where plagues, injuries, and economic shocks represent serious and persistent threats, in-group members may be the only reliable source of social insurance and support, and intensive investments in enduring social relationships may serve as a crucial buffer against threats to survival and reproduction [13-15]. The cultural evolution of norms, know-how, technologies and institutions that increasingly mitigate threats to material insecurity may create new contexts which permit reallocations of investment away from in-group relationships via several mechanisms [15-17]. These can include facultative calculations of costs and benefits, learning over the lifespan, genetic changes, and culturally acquired beliefs, values, habits and motivations [10,18,19]. For example, a vast body of experimental work indicates that cuing uncertainty in a number of domains, including mortality, disease, and social exchange, makes people more likely to invest

85 in cultivating cooperative social ties and to favor in-group members [20-25].
Conversely, priming individuals with terms related to safety and security make
them less likely to favor in-group members [26]. This suggests that decisions about
in-group and out-group investment involve at least some facultative responses to
the current level of certainty and safety. These facultative responses and the other
90 mechanisms outlined above may contribute to the extant patterns of variation in in-
group investment. Some researchers have also proposed an opposite causal
pathway linking in-group preferences and institutions. Specifically, lower levels of
in-group favoritism may foster economic growth and the development of
institutions that mitigate material threats [27]. In both cases, we would expect a
95 correlation between institutional quality and in-group favoritism.

The second account proposes that in-group preferences are a form of
behavioral immune system reflecting a cognitive adaptation evolved specifically to
protect against the spread of pathogens. According to this hypothesis, in regions
with high risk of infection by dangerous pathogens, individuals will preferentially
100 affiliate with in-group members in a way that insulates them from infection by out-
group members [8,28-30]. Though originally predicting xenophobia (negative out-
group attitudes and behaviors), the theory has been extended to account for in-
group favoritism (positive in-group attitudes and behaviors) as well [30].

Depending on the specific treatment of this hypothesis, the adaptive mechanisms
105 may range from short-term cost-benefit calculations to longer term changes due to
cultural learning, epigenetics, or even genetic adaptation [28]. Emerging
experimental evidence suggests that people do indeed adjust social motivations and

behaviors (i.e. conformism) to specific cues of pathogen threats over and above generalized threats [31]. Broadly, this hypothesis is subsumed by the material
110 insecurity hypothesis, which views pathogen threat as but one type of material insecurity. However, this hypothesis differs crucially from the material security hypothesis by positing that the adaptive mechanisms responsible for this effect are specific to pathogen risk and were designed to impede the spread of pathogens. In addition to critiques of the theory's key assumptions [32], scholars have recently
115 criticized cross-population tests of the pathogen stress hypothesis for not considering alternative hypotheses [31,33] and for not accounting for the non-independence of country-level data [34].

Here we assess these two hypotheses using available cross-national measures of in-group preferences. We focus our analyses on three independent
120 measures of in-group preferences used in the literature. First, we use Hofstede's measure of collectivism as one of the first and most commonly deployed assessments of loyalty to one's in-group in cross-national analyses. Second, Van der Vliert's measure of in-group favoritism is a reliable between-country measure of in-group favoritism which incorporates in-group preferences at several social scales—
125 including immediate family, extended relatives, and country. Third, Fincher and Thornhill's measure of familism is a key variable in current studies of pathogen stress. We also further validate these findings against five additional measures of in-group favoritism—particularism, compatriotism, nepotism, familism, and embeddedness—in on-line Supporting Information. These measures include

130 preferences for in-groups of varying kinds and at differing social scales, from close
friends and family to members of the same country.

To analyze these measures we used a three-pronged approach that goes
beyond previous tests of the pathogen stress hypothesis. First, using ordinary least
squares regression, we assess the effect of quality of basic government services
135 (government effectiveness, GE) and parasite stress on all three assessments of in-
group preferences, controlling for world region and dominant religious tradition. As
a confirmatory check, we also look for evidence of reverse causality by which
greater in-group favoritism might weaken large-scale institutions [27,35,36].
Specifically, we assess how our measures of in-group favoritism predict change in
140 government effectiveness from 1996 to 2009. This approach further confirms that
reverse causality is unlikely at least at relatively short 13-year time scales, though
such reverse causality remains possible on larger time scales. Finally, we develop
an instrumental variable regression as an additional check on selection and omitted
variables in any observed relationship between government effectiveness and in-
145 group preferences [37,38].

Overall, these analyses suggest that general material insecurity in the face of
weak institutions, not just a dedicated response to pathogens, is an important
determinant of in-group preferences. Moreover, the instrumental variable analysis
suggests a historical explanation for the raw, unadjusted correlations observed
150 between pathogen stress and in-group favoritism.

DATA AND METHODS

In this section we first discuss our sample and then how we measured preferences for in-group investment, institutional quality, pathogen risk, and religion. Then, we lay out the analysis and results.

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SAMPLE

The units of analysis are geopolitical regions, which are usually formal countries (e.g. Italy), but also include regions defined by political, economic and cultural history (e.g. Hong Kong). Henceforth, we will refer to these units as “countries.” Countries can contain substantial within-population heterogeneity in cultural, religious and economic factors, but they also exhibit sufficient between-population variation to support informative ecological analyses [39]. The samples used in this paper differ depending on the availability of outcome measures, with sample sizes listed below.

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MEASURING IN-GROUP PREFERENCES

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For each variable, higher values indicate stronger in-group preferences. The derivation and description of these three in-group preference measures, five additional in-group preference measures, as well as predictor and control variables are described in on-line Supporting Information (Supplementary Tables 1-3).

170 **Hofstede's Collectivism** (N = 72). Collectivism is the tendency to care about the
consequences of one's behavior for in-group members and to sacrifice personal
interests for collective gains [2,40]. The extreme individualism that distinguishes
many western societies, by contrast, measures people's lack of willingness to
differentiate an in-group and sacrifice for the collective good of that in-group. We
175 use Hofstede's national measure of collectivism assessed from the work attitudes of
over 100,000 IBM employees.

Van der Vliert's In-Group Favoritism (N= 121). Van der Vliert [10] developed a
scale of in-group favoritism from three highly correlated international assessments
of: (1) familism, (2) nepotism, and (3) compatriotism (Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.89$).

180 Familism is preferential concern for and investment in one's closest relatives
(parents, children and siblings) assessed from middle managers about how parents
and children respect each other and live together [41], and this specific measure has
also been used in other work as "in-group collectivism" [8]. Nepotism is favoring
relatives over non-relatives in the allocation of resources, and was measured from a
185 multi-country survey of business executives from nationally representative samples
of firms about the degree to which senior management positions are chosen based
either on superior qualifications or on one's kin relationship [42]. Compatriotism is
favoring members of one's own nationality over others, and was derived from
questions in the World Values Survey (1999-2002 wave) about whether employers
190 should give priority to compatriots [43]. Additional analyses in the on-line
Supporting Information, confirm that the general results for this composite variable
also hold for each of the three components.

Fincher and Thornhill's Strength of Family Ties ($N = 71$). In order to compare our

195 results with recent findings by Fincher and Thornhill about the pathogen stress hypothesis, we use the measure of in-group preference—strength of family ties—they use in a recent publication. Family investment is preferential concern for and investment in one's closest relatives (parents, children and siblings). Fincher and Thornhill (2012) derived this measure as the sum of five items in the 1981-2007
200 pooled dataset of the World Values Survey about the value placed on immediate family. Despite capturing different dimensions of in-group preferences the three measures of in-group preference show moderate to high correlations among themselves (collectivism-favoritism $\rho = 0.70$, collectivism-family ties $\rho = 0.65$, favoritism-family ties $\rho = 0.56$, $p < 0.001$).

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Pathogen Stress: Estimates of contemporary pathogen prevalence were used from Fincher and Thornhill (2012). To assess F&T's hypothesis about a dedicated
210 psychological response to human-to-human pathogens, we focus on their preferred measure of non-zoonotic pathogens. In the on-line Supplemental Materials (Supplementary Table 4), we also assess the hypothesis with a historical measure of pathogen stress [9].

Quality of Government Services: To assess quality of government services, we used
215 the World Bank's 1996 measure of government effectiveness which indexes the quality of public and civil services in a country, including roads, schools, hospitals, and courts [44]. The on-line Supporting Information consider three other measures of institutions and material security: GDP per capita, the Human Development Index, and Food Stress (Supplementary Table 5).

Religion: To adjust for potential confounding effects of shared religious
220 background [45,46] [47], we use world religious tradition with a plurality of adherents in a country as determined by Inglehart and Norris (2004). The categories include Muslim, Jewish, Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant, and Eastern (which includes Hindu, Buddhist, Shinto and Confucian traditions). We use Catholic
225 as the reference category in regressions.

World Region: To assess and adjust for potential confounding effects of shared social, political, and cultural history as well as shared genetic background, we use world regions defined by the World Bank, including sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East

and North Africa, East Asia, South Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and
230 Europe and Central Asia. We use Europe and Central Asia as the reference category
in regressions. Such controls importantly assess whether observed associations
could be due to unmeasured similarities among nation-states based on shared
ecological, cultural, social or religious factors which are not causally related to key
predictors. If observed associations don't hold up under such controls, it is not
235 possible to disentangle whether the effect of pathogens or institutions is due
directly to these specific variables or rather to some underlying cultural or regional
similarity which effects both pathogens or institutions and in-group favoritism. In
short, including regional controls helps address the problem of the non-
independence of countries as data points created by shared history, geography and
240 proximity. Without such controls, Germany and Austria are considered as
independent as Germany and Niger.

Additional Control Variables: We also assessed whether bivariate associations and
model estimates changed when including a measure of income inequality in the
models—the Gini coefficient measure closest to 1996 [48]. There were no
245 substantive changes in effect sizes or inferences when including the Gini coefficient,
and to maintain the largest sample size, we report results without Gini controls. We
also assessed an interaction between government services and temperature
variability based on prior analyses suggesting that this interaction may predict in-
group favoritism [10].

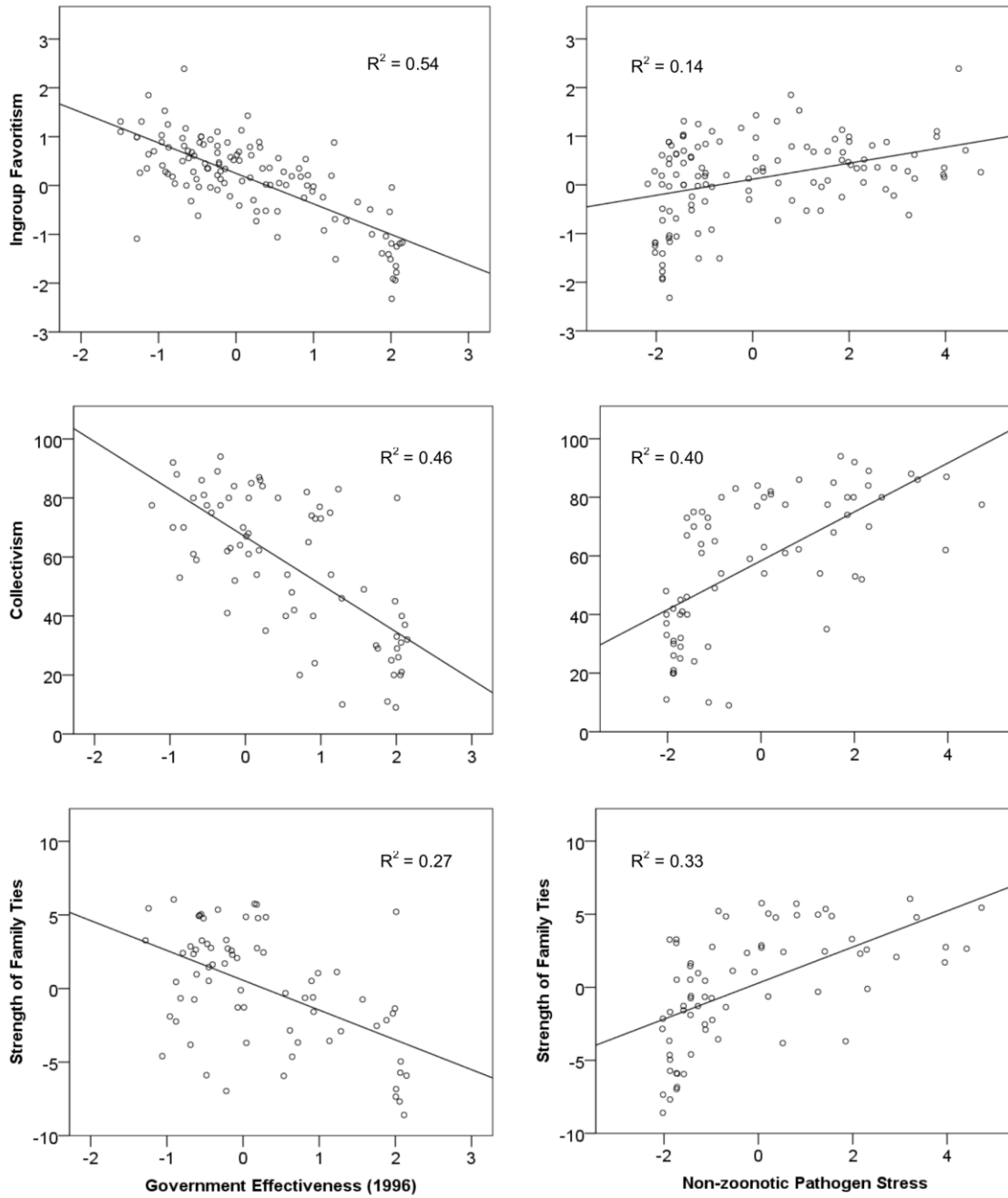
250 ***Instrumental Variable:*** Widely used in economics, an instrumental variable regression helps identify what part of the association between a predictor variable (X, government effectiveness in this case) and an outcome (Y, in-group favoritism in this case) is due to the direct effect of X on Y, rather than due to reverse causality of Y on X or from other omitted variables. An instrumental variable Z is a variable
255 which is expected to cause the predictor variable (X), but whose effect on Y is mediated via X. An instrumental variable regression considers only the variation in X predicted by Z, and examines how this variation predicts the outcome Y. If a relationship between the variation in X predicted by the instrumental variable and the outcome can be shown, this contributes to establishing a causal relationship
260 between X and Y more than a standard multiple regression. Following work in economics on historical determinants of economic growth [49,50], we use the mortality rates of early settlers in European colonies (1600-1875) as an instrumental variable which is expected to affect contemporary government effectiveness. Acemoglu et al. provide ample historical evidence that European
265 colonizers avoided settling in places with high mortality rates, such as in the Belgian Congo. In lieu of settling, they set up extractive systems in these places. In situations of low mortality, on the other hand, colonizers settled in larger numbers and brought with them institutions, such as respect of private property, checks and balances in government, and equality of opportunity, which in turn fostered greater
270 government effectiveness that persisted even after independence [49]. These measures of settler mortality allow us to identify what portion of the variance in government institutions is due to early (exogenously caused) settlement patterns.

Given this reasoning and the strong association between early settler mortality and contemporary government effectiveness ($\rho = -0.54$, $N = 55$), we use settler mortality
275 (1600-1875, [49,51]) as an instrumental variable for the relationship between effectiveness of government institutions and in-group preferences. More details on this approach are provided in the Supporting Information.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

Here we present analyses of three measures of in-group preferences using one
280 measure of public services and one measure of pathogen stress. Additional analyses
of other measures of in-group preferences, pathogen stress, and material security as
well as tests of potential interactions are presented in the on-line Supporting
Information.

In bivariate correlations with in-group preferences, both government effectiveness
285 ($\rho = -0.52, -0.68, -0.74, p < 0.001$) and pathogen stress ($\rho = 0.58, 0.64, 0.37, p <$
 0.001) were significantly associated with all three measures of in-group
preferences—strength of family ties, collectivism, and in-group favoritism,
respectively (Figure 1). When including government effectiveness and non-zoonotic
pathogen stress together in a linear regression predicting in-group favoritism,
290 government effectiveness remained significantly associated with all three primary
measures (and all five alternative measures) of in-group favoritism. In the
regression, pathogen stress showed less consistent associations with in-group
favoritism measures. It was significantly associated with only two of the three
primary variables—Collectivism and Strength of Family ties—and only two of the
295 five alternative measures—Nepotism and Embeddedness.



300 **Figure 1.** Three Measures of In-group Preferences by Government Effectiveness and Pathogen Stress.

We fit regression models of each of the three measures of in-group preferences on Government Effectiveness (GE) and Pathogen Stress (PS) controlling for (1) world region alone and (2) both world region and dominant religion. The standardized regression coefficients in Table 1 show that after controlling for shared regional background, GE is significantly related to Collectivism (standardized beta = -0.54, ΔR^2 when adding Collectivism to regional model = 0.17), Ingroup Favoritism (standardize beta = -0.75, $\Delta R^2 = 0.48$), and Strength of Family Ties (standardized beta = -0.36, $\Delta R^2 = 0.13$). This is consistent with the five other measures of in-group measures in the supporting information online. No associations between in-group preference measures and non-zoonotic pathogen prevalence remained significant after controlling for world region. In the Supporting Information, we show that historical pathogen stress remains associated with one of the three primary outcomes—Strength of Family Ties, $p = 0.015$ —but not with any of the other five variables included in the on-line Supporting Information. Figure 2 graphically shows the relationship of the in-group preference measures with GE and PS, when the impact of world region has been removed. Within-region analyses of the association of government effectiveness and pathogen stress with in-group favoritism measures are consistent with these findings (see Supporting Information).

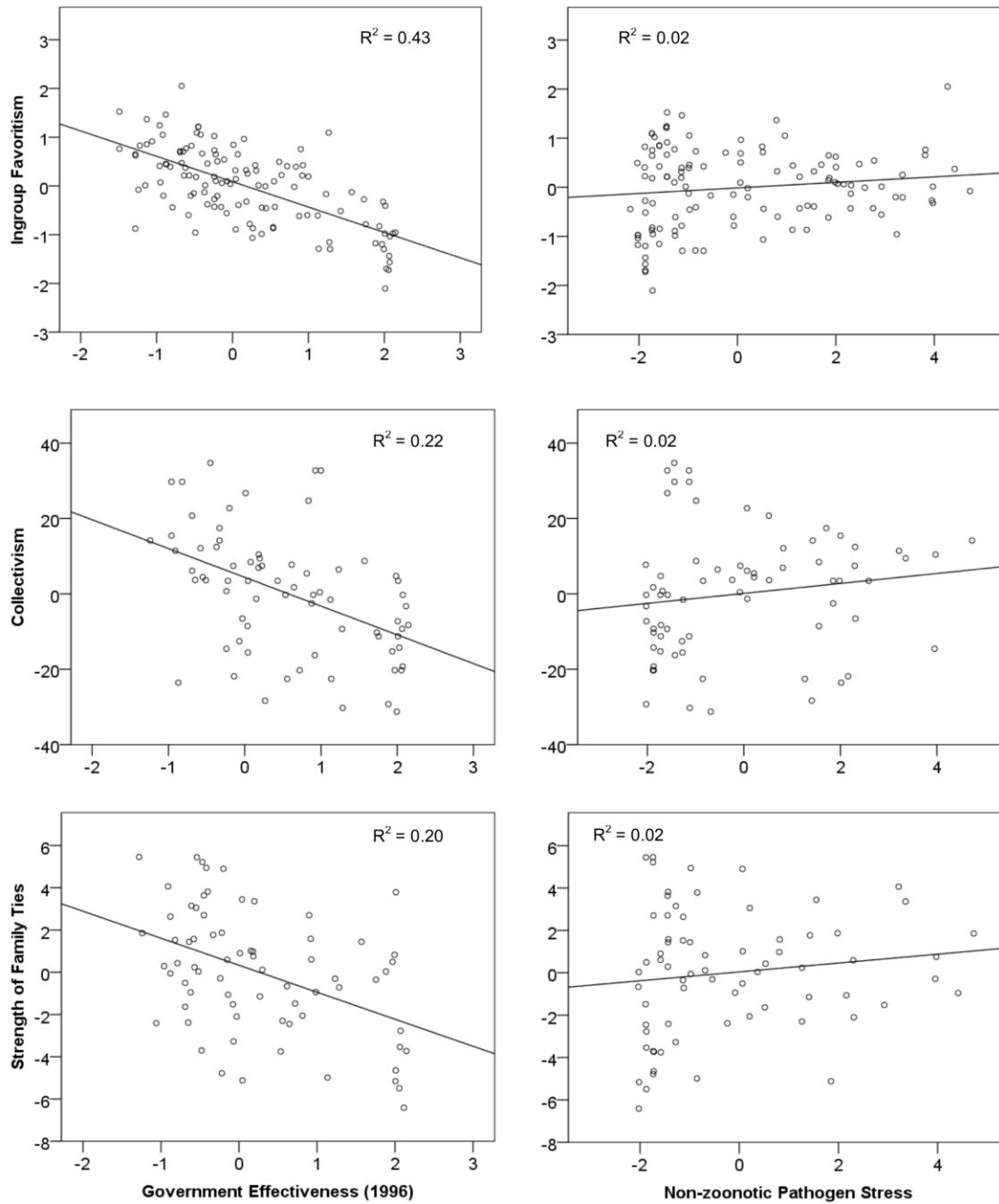


Figure 2. Three Measures of In-group Preferences (residualized by world region) by Government Effectiveness and Pathogen Stress

Table 1. Regression models predicting 3 measures of in-group preference by government effectiveness, pathogen stress, and dominant religion (Coefficients are standardized betas). Models 2 and 3 include regional controls. ΔR^2 is the increase in adjusted R^2 when adding Government Effectiveness and Pathogen Stress Base Model

	Collectivism N =72			Ingroup Favoritism N =121			Strength of Family Ties N =71		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Government Effectiveness (GE)	-0.47***	-0.52***	-0.031*	-0.72***	-0.75***	-0.63***	-0.35*	-0.36***	-0.08
Pathogen Stress (PS)	0.34*	-0.01	-0.06	0.03	0.05	-0.01	0.45***	0.14	0.13
Religion									
Catholic			--			--			--
Protestant			-0.27**			-0.33***			-0.33*
Orthodox			0.14			0.05			0.08
Islam			0.09			-0.08			0.30*
Eastern			-0.03			-0.08			-0.08
Jewish			0.02			-0.09			--
Adjusted R^2	0.52	0.66	0.72	0.53	0.57	0.64	0.43	0.53	0.63
ΔR^2 from adding GE & PS	--	0.17	0.03	--	0.48	0.22	--	0.13	0.00

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.005$, *** $p < 0.001$

330 After adding controls for dominant religion, GE remains significantly related to Collectivism (ΔR^2 when adding GE to region+religion model = 0.03) and Ingroup Favoritism ($\Delta R^2 = 0.22$), which is consistent with four other measures of in-group measures modeled in on-line Supporting Information, but not with Strength of

Family Ties. In all cases, adding dominant religion to the model significantly reduces the independent variation accounted for by GE. Importantly, collinearity statistics
335 indicated no substantial problems with collinearity in these models (all tolerances > 0.20 and VIF < 5).

In the full model including region, religion, government effectiveness and parasite stress, a country's predominant religion accounted for additional variation in in-group preferences across all measures of in-group preferences. Table 1 shows that,
340 adjusting for GE and PS variables, Protestant religion most consistently affected in-group preferences. Countries with a plurality of Protestants had lower average in-group preferences for all three measures. In the full model, regions show less consistent relationships with in-group favoritism, with East Asian and sub-Saharan African countries showing significantly higher levels of collectivism and strength of
345 family ties, Latin American countries show significantly higher levels of collectivism, and North African and Middle Eastern countries show higher levels of in-group favoritism (Supplementary Tables 8 & 9).

To assess whether the observed associations between the effectiveness of government institutions and in-group preferences are due to confounding or
350 omitted variables, we conducted two checks (full analyses available in online Supporting Information).

For the first check, we estimated how well in-group preferences predicted changes in GE from 1996 to 2009 as well as related measures of GDP per capita from 1996 to 2009 and the UN Human Development Index from 1995 to 2010, adjusting for

355 geographic region and dominant religion. The effects were either non-significant or
significant in the opposite direction expected by an argument for reverse causality
(Supplementary Table 6). Thus the cross-sectional association between in-group
preferences and these measures is unlikely a result of in-group preferences leading
to higher levels of material insecurity or depressed economic growth at least at a
360 13-year time scale. If anything, the opposite is true.

The second check involved an instrumental variables regression and followed
Acemoglu et al. [49] by using settler mortality during colonization as an exogenous
source of variation in later quality of government institutions. We find that the
estimates from the original OLS regression are consistent with the estimates from
365 the instrumental variable regression, indicating that omitted variables have not
introduced substantial bias (Supplementary Table 7 and Figures 1-3). In fact, for all
three of our measures of in-group favoritism, the IV coefficient estimates are larger
in magnitude than the OLS coefficients, and for Collectivism, they are significantly
larger in magnitude. This suggests that any endogeneity issues we have not
370 modeled—if anything—likely suppress the size of the observed relationship.

These findings are robust to a variety of checks and alternative hypotheses.
Supplementary tables on-line provide analyses parallel to those shown above for all
eight of the available measures of in-group preferences, including individual
analyses of the measures that compose Van der Vliert's In-Group Favoritism
375 (Supplementary Tables 8 & 9) and various measures of pathogen stress, including
both historical pathogen stress and zoonotic pathogen stress (Supplementary Table

4). Supplementary Tables 10 to 12 show that including an interaction term for GE and PS does not improve the model, that including a term for Temperature Range and the interaction of Temperature Range and GE does not improve the model, and
380 that historical pathogens do not confound the relationship between GE and In-group Favoritism.

DISCUSSION

Cross-national variation in in-group preferences or favoritism, measured in three distinct ways, reveal a consistent relationship between government effectiveness
385 and in-group preferences. Specifically, in societies where government services are less likely to meet people's basic needs, people invest preferentially in family and in-group members. This finding remains for all three of our in-group preferences measures when both pathogen stress and world region are included in the analysis. The effect is robust across alternative proxies for government effectiveness as well
390 as all five alternative measures of in-group favoritism considered in the Supporting Information. These effects also remain for two of three measures (and four of five supplementary measures) even after removing global level variation in religious denomination. Finally, these effects withstand checks on reverse causality and omitted confounding and selection.

395 Contrary to a recent finding that specific psychological responses to pathogens explain this cross-population variation [8], there is no significant effect of non-zoonotic pathogen stress on any of the three measures of in-group preferences

(or the five supplementary measures) after including controls for geography and shared cultural history. Even when simply controlling for government effectiveness, 400 parasite stress only remains significantly associated with four of the eight measures of in-group preferences. Moreover, when these associations are significant, the coefficients on pathogen stress predictor variables are no larger than other material security measures. These findings indicate that pathogens are inconsistently associated with measures of in-group favoritism when controlling for government 405 effectiveness, that significant associations may be due to confounding from other variables which covary across major world regions, and that the effects of pathogens are generally weaker than the effects of government institutions. Taken together, these findings suggest that a generalized response to social resources available to meet basic needs (which may include buffers against disease threats) appears the 410 more plausible adaptive account for variation in in-group preferences, than a response dedicated specifically to pathogens

We also identified an independent contribution of shared religious heritage to in-group preferences that accounted for a substantial portion of the effect of institutions on in-group preferences. A large part of this effect is carried by 415 Protestantism, and countries with a plurality of Protestant adherents have significantly lower levels of in-group favoritism even after controlling for government effectiveness and world region. This is consistent with Weber's view that a key effect of Protestantism was to "shatter the fetters" of extended family, and presumably other kinds of in-groups [52]. Recent authors have pinned this on 420 Protestant core values of self-reliance and individualism which potentially led to

less investment in family, friends and local in-groups [53,54]. The current data is not equipped to discriminate between hypotheses for the role that dominant religion plays in the relationship between institutions and in-group preferences, though these findings are consistent with work suggesting that modern religions have
425 evolved culturally to expand the sphere of social interaction, cooperation and exchange [55]. Taken together, these findings suggest that both general processes of adaptation to material insecurity, as well as particular historical contingencies or trajectories, may play a role in shaping people's in-group preferences.

We argue that variation in institutional resources creates the relevant social niche to
430 which a variety of in-group preferences may be a response. However humans also possess several different mechanisms that permit adaptation at different time scales, including immediate cost-benefit calculations, learning over the life course, and cross-generational transmission [56-61]. The current data is insufficient to discriminate between these different pathways [28]. Some researchers have
435 proposed that high endemic pathogen load accounts for the observed link between low institutional quality and in-group preferences by both: (1) inhibiting economic growth and the development of public services [62] and (2) spurring in-group favoritism. A related argument proposes that high pathogen load leads to in-group preferences, which in turn lead to weak institutions [63]. Two of our findings
440 suggest these proposals are unlikely. First, the effect of pathogen prevalence on in-group favoritism generally does not withstand simple controls for common regional and religious background. This suggests that the second pathway is not well-supported by existing cross-national data. Second, the effects of other measures of

material security on in-group preferences are usually stronger than are pathogen
445 stress, indicating that pathogen stress is not a relevant confounder. A more
plausible explanation based on our analysis would place the causal role of
pathogens (at least among former European colonies) at much deeper time scales
[50]. Specifically, places with low pathogen stress led European colonizers to settle
and to forge effective institutions. In places with high pathogen stress, colonizers
450 set up extractive regimes with little concern for fostering effective institutions. That
is, pathogen stress may have influenced the spread of effective, pluralistic,
government institutions, which in turn influences in-group favoritism (and GDP per
capita). Consistent with this hypothesis, government effectiveness significantly
mediates the effect of historical pathogens on seven of the eight measures of
455 contemporary in-group preferences (see on-line Supporting Information). However,
future studies that go beyond cross-sectional, cross-national datasets will be
necessary to disentangle such potential interactions.

There are a number of limitations to our cross-sectional, cross-national analyses.
We are analyzing aggregate decisions based on aggregate predictors, and it is
460 possible that the associations do not reflect between-individual differences in
decisions and adaptations—though other work suggests they do [58]. Second, since
most data was only available at single time points, it is difficult to sort out the causal
direction underlying observed associations. That said, when longitudinal data was
available, we have tried to assess the possibility of reverse causation. Checks on
465 reverse causation suggest that greater in-group preferences at the national level are
not associated with reductions in government effectiveness over a 13-year period.

Thus, there is little support for the claim that the cross-sectional association results from in-group preferences decreasing government effectiveness at least over the short run. Third, our controls for shared culture—World Bank region and dominant world religion—are admittedly coarse-grained. However, they do help discriminate between the government effectiveness and parasite stress hypotheses. Future work, will hopefully apply more sophisticated checks on Galton’s problem or at least determine that they are unnecessary. Fourth, the national level measures of in-group favoritism we use in this study tap into only some aspects of in-group favoritism and are available for limited samples of countries. Future analyses with measures that cover a more representative sample of countries and examine in-group favoritism at differing social scales and in different social situations will provide important refinements of these analyses. Finally, with observational studies there is always the problem of unmeasured confounding. An instrumental variable analysis indicates that the results are robust to omitted confounding or selection. We have also examined two omnibus sources of confounding, world region and dominant religious traditions, as well as economic inequality. The first two capture geography, shared cultural history and other effects, such as those associated with colonization and religious assimilation. If alternative theories are proposed, it may be possible to identify variables for assessing such confounding. Here we have focused on only one kind of cultural niche construction, how institutions, pathogens, economic growth and technologies have shaped a variety of cultural and behavioral responses toward in-group members. Humans also devote considerable time and effort to investing in religious activities, such as attending

490 religious services and praying, which can be framed as an investment in
relationships with supernatural entities. Interestingly, cross-national studies of
religious investment—e.g., praying and attending services—indicate similar
associations with material security [43]. Strong secular institutions may create
cultural evolutionary pressures for different forms of religiosity or spirituality.
495 Future work that examines the influence of material security on this and other kinds
of social niche construction will hopefully shed light on the nature and bounds of
this association.

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DERIVATION AND DESCRIPTION OF VARIABLES

IN-GROUP PREFERENCES

Our eight measures of in-group preferences vary in terms of their emphasis on: (1) kin relationships (family members and friends and compatriots), (2) size of in-group (friends and family vs. compatriots), (3) the nature of observation (reports of others' behaviors vs. report of own behaviors and preferences), and (4) the social tradeoff involved (investment in self, in out-group members, in following a norm, or no specific tradeoff). Here we describe the source and derivation of these variables.

The three measures used in the Main text

10 *Van der Vliert's In-Group Favoritism.* Van der Vliert developed a scale of in-group favoritism from three highly correlated international assessments of: (1) familism, (2) nepotism, and (3) compatriotism [1] (Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.89$). Familism is preferential concern for and investment in one's closest relatives (parents, children and siblings) and is assessed from middle managers in each of 60 countries about how parents and children respect each other and live together [2]. Nepotism is favoring relatives over non-relatives in the allocation of resources, and was measured from a multi-country survey of business executives from nationally representative samples of firms about the degree to which senior management positions are chosen based either on superior qualifications or on one's kin relationship [3]. Compatriotism is favoring members of the one's own nationality over others, and was derived from questions in the World Values Survey (1999-2002 wave) about whether employers should give priority to compatriots [4]. Further explanation of these scale components is provided under "Alternative Measures" below.

25 *Collectivism.* Collectivism is the tendency to care about the consequences of one's behavior for in-group members and to be willing to sacrifice personal interests for collective gains [5,6]. One of the most commonly used measures of collectivism at the national level is reported by Hofstede (2001) who assessed work attitudes from over 100,000 IBM employees worldwide. From these data Hofstede estimated collectivism scores for 68 specific geopolitical regions included in our analyses. Hofstede's measure correlates strongly with an alternative measure constructed by Suh et al. ($\rho = 0.91$), and Suh's score was used to calculate a comparable collectivism score for Nepal, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, and Egypt which were not reported in Hofstede [7](Hofstede = $-9.537 + \text{Suh} * 10.749$). We use an inverse of Hofstede's score (100 - individualism), so that a higher score indicates greater collectivism.

35 *Fincher and Thornhill's Strength of Family Ties.* In order to compare our results with recent findings by Fincher and Thornhill about the pathogen stress hypothesis, we use the measure of in-group preference—strength of family ties—they use in a recent publication. Fincher and Thornhill (2012) derived this measure as the sum of five items in the 1981-2007 pooled dataset of the World Values Survey about the value placed on immediate

40 family. The items included statements about the importance of: (1) family in one's life, (2)
loving and respecting parents despite their faults, (3) doing one's best for one's children
even at expense of one's own well-being, and (4) making one's parents proud. The last
item asked if people lived with their parents (Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.86$).

45 **Five Alternative measures**

Familism. Family investment is preferential investment in one's closest relatives (parents,
children and siblings). This is the first component of Van der Vliert's measure of ingroup
favoritism (see above). This measure is based on data from House et al. (2004) and derived
50 by Van de Vliert (2011). Between 1994 and 1997, House et al. sampled middle managers (n
 $= 17,370$) from domestic organizations in each of 60 countries in the target industries of
food processing, financial services, and telecommunications [2]. Participants answered
four questions about interactions with family members as observed in their society (1 =
strongly disagree, 7 = *strongly agree*). These were: "In this society, children take pride in the
55 individual accomplishments of their parents", "In this society, parents take pride in the
individual accomplishments of their children", "In this society, aging parents generally live
at home with their children", "In this society, children generally live at home with their
parents until they get married". The internal consistency of these four items was good
(Cronbach's $\alpha = .77$), and reported estimates are response bias corrected [2]. A higher
60 score indicates greater familism.

Nepotism. Nepotism is the favoring of relatives over non-relatives in the allocation of
resources. This is the second component of Van der Vliert's measure of ingroup favoritism
(see above). Data were used from a multi-country survey of business executives from
65 nationally representative samples of firms [3]. Executives responded to a 7-point likert
scale, "Senior management positions in your country are: (1) held by professional
managers chosen based on superior qualifications, ..., (7) usually held by relatives." Here
we use standardized values provided by Van de Vliert (2011).

70 *Compatriotism.* Compatriotism is favoring members of the one's own nationality over
others. This is the third component of Van der Vliert's measure of ingroup favoritism (see
above), and is derived from data for nationally representative subsamples of adults from
73 countries from the 1999-2002 wave of the World Values Survey [4]. Professional
interviewers substituted their own nationality for "British" when asking: "Do you agree or
75 not agree with the following statement? When jobs are scarce, employers should give
priority to [British] people over immigrants" (3-point response scale: agree, disagree, or
neither). We use the variable reported by Van de Vliert (2011), which is a standardized
score based on the percentage of individuals in a country who agreed with the statement.

80 *Schwartz's Cultural Embeddedness.* Based on a reviewer's earlier suggestion, we included
Schwartz's dimension of cultural embeddedness as an alternative measure of in-group
preference. This dimension captures the relationship between the individual and the

group, and involves an emphasis on maintenance of the status quo, propriety, and restraint of actions or inclinations that might disrupt group solidarity or the traditional order [8].

85 *Particularism*. Particularism is the preference for helping kith and kin over following
universally applicable rules of fairness [9]. In several publications, Trompenaars and
Hampden-Turner describe the responses of multi-national corporate managers to the
passenger's dilemma, whereby one must make the choice between telling the truth under
oath and helping a friend [10-12]. The variable reported by Trompenaars and Hampden-
90 Turner is the probability that a respondent from a country stated either: (1) that the friend
has a definite right to expect the respondent to lie for him or (2) that the respondent would
lie under oath. As data was updated in successive publications, more recent publications
take precedence over earlier publications. This measure of particularism correlates
moderately with other measures collected by Trompenaars and Hampden, including the
95 willingness to give a friend insider information from one's corporation ($\rho = 0.66$, 1993, n
=35 countries), the willingness to lie about a friend's medical exam to improve his
insurance premium ($\rho = 0.51$, 1998, $n = 28$), and the willingness to lie about a friend's
restaurant in a published review ($\rho = 0.65, 0.69$, 1993, 1998, $n = 32$, $n = 30$).

INSTITUTIONS AND MATERIAL SECURITY

100 The key variable used for our analyses in the main text was the World Bank measure of
government effectiveness as a measure of quality of government services. In the
supplementary materials below we also examine related measures that assess: (1) material
resources available per capita (GDP per capita), (2) general material security, and (3) food
security.

105 *Quality of Government Services (1996)*: To assess quality of government services, we used
the World Bank's measure of government effectiveness which indexes the quality of public
and civil services in a country, including roads, schools, hospitals, and courtsⁱ.

110 *Material Resources:* To assess material resources, we used log(GDP per capita) (World Bank 1996 measure, gross domestic product per capita purchasing power parity in 2005 dollars).

115 *Material Security:* We used the United Nations human development index (HDI), which Norris and Inglehart have used previously as a measure of “existential security” grounded in social and economic development [13,14]. This measure includes indices of health, and thus is directly measuring both the quality of institutions and pathogen stress. For this reason, we do not use this as the primary measure for analyses.

120 *Food Insecurity:* Food insecurity was assessed using country-level data for proportion of total household consumption expenditure devoted to food.ⁱⁱ The larger share of overall household consumption devoted to food, the more sensitive household budgets are to changing food prices and the more prone they are to food insecurity.

PREDOMINANT RELIGION

125 We use world religious tradition with a plurality of adherents in a country as determined by Inglehart and Norris (2004). The categories included Muslim, Jewish, Christian-Catholic, Christian-Orthodox, and Christian-Protestant, and Eastern (which included a combination of Hindu, Buddhist, Shinto and Confucian traditions). Eastern religions were aggregated into a single category as no single religion was sufficiently numerous in the sample to permit further stratification. When Inglehart and Norris did not specify the world religion, we assessed the world religion having a plurality of adherents in the country [15]. We use Catholic as the reference category in regressions.

130

WORLD REGION

135 To adjust for potential confounding effects of shared social, political, and cultural history, we use world regions defined by the World Bank, including sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East and North Africa, East Asia, South Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe and Central Asia. The World Bank does not classify upper income countries. We classified upper income countries based on shared cultural heritage--Japan as East Asia, continental European countries, U.K., U.S., Canada, New Zealand and Australia under Europe/Central Asia. We use Europe and Central Asia as the reference category in regressions.

Supplementary Table 1. Descriptives for key variables

Variables	N	Mean (SD)
Key Ingroup Measures		
Van der Vliert Ingroup Favoritism	121	0.14 (0.86)
Hofstede Collectivism	72	57.5 (23.7)
F & T Strength of Family Ties	71	0.03 (3.91)
Alternative Ingroup Measures		
Schwartz Cultural Embeddedness	71	10.3 (5.3)
Familism	57	0.00 (1.00)
Nepotism	118	0.01 (1.00)
Compatriotism	76	0.01 (1.00)
Particularism	43	27.9 (17.6)
Institutions and Material Security		
Quality of Public Services	128	0.16 (1.00)
Human Development Index	122	0.72 (0.20)
GDP per capita (PPP in 1000 USD)	123	10.89 (11.13)
% of household budget on food	113	0.40 (0.17)
Pathogen Stress		
Non-Zoonotic Pathogen Prevalence	128	0.14 (1.93)
Zoonotic Pathogen Prevalence	128	0.46 (0.88)
Historical pathogen prevalence	128	0.08 (0.63)

Supplementary Table 2. Bivariate correlations between institutions, material security, and pathogen stress measures. Sample sizes in parentheses. GE = government effectiveness.

Variable	GE	Log(GDP)	HDI	FS	NZPS	ZPS
Log(GDP)	0.78 (123)					
Human Development Index (HDI)	0.70 (122)	0.93 (119)				
Food Insecurity (FS)	-0.75 (112)	-0.76 (109)	-0.70 (107)			
Non-zoonotic Pathogen Stress (NZPS)	-0.50 (128)	-0.64 (123)	-0.66 (122)	0.28** (112)		
Zoonotic Pathogen Stress (ZPS)	-0.19 (128)*	-0.22 (123)*	-0.16 (122)	0.06 (112)	0.52 (128)	
Historical Pathogen Prevalence (HPP)	-0.54 (127)	-0.63 (122)	-0.62 (122)	0.37 (112)	0.79 (127)	0.36 (127)

Significant at 0.001 level unless otherwise noted. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.005$. *Non-significant* results (> 0.05 level) are in bold italics.

Supplementary Table 3. Bivariate correlations between in-group preferences. Sample sizes in parentheses.

Variable	Collect	IN	FA	NP	CO	PA	EM
Ingroup (IN)	0.70 (70)						
Familism (FA)	0.74 (49)	0.93 (57)					
Nepotism (NP)	0.66 (69)	0.87 (118)	0.69 (56)				
Compatriotism (CO)	0.59 (58)	0.85 (76)	0.82 (42)	0.44 (74)			
Particularism (PA)	0.80 (42)	0.70 (41)	0.75 (35)	0.60 (41)	0.58 (38)		
Embeddedness (EM)	0.61 (56)	0.67 (70)	0.65 (46)	0.58 (69)	0.61 (59)	0.62 (40)	
Family Ties	0.65 (52)	0.56 (70)	0.70 (39)	0.50 (68)	0.42 (67)	0.49 (32)	0.74 (52)

Significant at 0.001 level unless otherwise noted.

ROBUSTNESS CHECKS

REDUNDANT MEASURES

F&T use two measures of in-group favoritism—strength of family ties and assortative sociality. The second measure is a composite of the strength of family ties measure and a measure based on religiosity. The first and second measure are highly correlated ($\rho > 0.95$) so we focus on the direct measure of family ties [16]. However, results do not change if the second measure is used. F&T also use two measures of contemporary pathogen stress—non-zoonotic pathogen stress and combined pathogen stress. These are also highly correlated ($\rho > 0.95$), and for clarity we use the more direct measure. Again results do not change if combined pathogen stress is used [16].

SENSITIVITY OF EFFECTS TO DIFFERENT CONTROL SETS

In Tables 4.S. and 5.S. we examine how the effect sizes and p-values change for key relationships when controlling for: (1) World Region, (2) World Region + measures for the alternative hypothesis, (3) World Region + Dominant religion. After regional controls only one pathogen stress variable, historical pathogen prevalence, remains. After control for government effectiveness of world religion, that measure only remains significantly associated with one measure of in-group investment

Supplementary Table 4. Relationship of 3 major in-group preferences with alternative measures of pathogen stress using three sets of controls

	Collectivism	In-group Favoritism	Strength of Family Ties
Regional control			
Non-zoonotic Pathogen Stress	0.26	0.41*	0.32
Zoonotic Pathogen Stress	0.01	0.10	-0.03
Historical Pathogen Prevalence	0.31*	0.51***	0.60***
Regional + Government Effectiveness Controls			
Non-zoonotic Pathogen Stress	-0.01	0.05	0.14
Zoonotic Pathogen Stress	-0.14	0.00	-0.05
Historical Pathogen Prevalence	0.06	0.17	0.46***
Regional and Religion Control			
Non-zoonotic Pathogen Stress	0.04	0.18	0.15
Zoonotic Pathogen Stress	-0.10	0.04	-0.04
Historical Pathogen Prevalence	0.02	0.20	0.36*

p < 0.05, ** p < 0.005, *** p < 0.001

We apply the same approach to alternative measures of government effectiveness or material security/insecurity. All measures remain significantly associated with all measures of in-group investment with regional controls or control for non-zoonotic parasite stress. When controlling for religion these measures remain significantly associated with two of the three in-group investment measures.

Supplementary Table 5. Relationship of 3 major in-group preferences with alternative measures of institutions and material security using three sets of controls			
	Collectivism	In-group Favoritism	Strength of Family Ties
Regional Controls			
Government Effectiveness (1996)	-0.52***	-0.77***	-0.38***
Log(GDP 1996)	-0.49***	-0.80***	-0.40***
Human Development Index (1995)	-0.51***	-0.89***	-0.46***
% Household budget on food	0.42***	0.64***	0.28*
Regional + Non-zoonotic pathogen stress Controls			
Government Effectiveness (1996)	-0.52***	-0.76***	-0.36***
Log(GDP 1996)	-0.46***	-0.81***	-0.36***
Human Development Index (1995)	-0.47**	-0.88***	-0.42***
% Household budget on food	0.39***	0.62***	0.24*
Regional + Religion Controls			
Government Effectiveness (1996)	-0.29*	-0.63***	-0.11
Log(GDP 1996)	-0.26*	-0.67***	-0.13
Human Development Index (1995)	-0.35*	-0.73***	-0.23
% Household budget on food	0.26*	0.51***	0.07
p < 0.05, ** p < 0.005, *** p < 0.001			

WITHIN REGION ANALYSIS

To examine associations within the major world regions, we conducted regressions for each region predicting each of the 8 measures of in-group favoritism with the following two predictors—effectiveness of government institutions and non-zoonotic pathogen stress. To avoid small sample sizes, we focused on the 17 samples where there were more than 10 countries within a region which had data on a specific measure of in-group favoritism. All eight measures had sufficiently large samples from Europe and Central Asia. Three measures had sufficiently large samples for East Asia and for Latin America and the Caribbean. Two measures had sufficiently large samples for sub-Saharan Africa, and one measure had a sufficiently large sample for Middle East and North Africa. South Asia never had sufficiently large samples.

Among these 17 samples, GE significantly increased in-group favoritism in 12 (8 of 8 in Europe and Central Asia, 2 of 3 East Asia, and 2 of 3 in Latin American and Caribbean). Notably, PS significantly increased in-group favoritism in only 1 sample.

EFFECT OF 3 IN-GROUP PREFERENCE MEASURES ON ECONOMIC GROWTH, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX, AND GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVENESS

Supplementary Table 6. Standardized coefficients of 13-year change in GDP per capita and quality of public services by three major in-group favoritism measures. Adjusting for region and religion

Variables	Collectivism	Ingroup Favoritism	Strength of Family Ties
GDP ₂₀₀₉ /GDP ₁₉₉₆	0.25*	0.26**	-0.04
HDI ₂₀₁₀ - HDI ₁₉₉₅	-0.10	0.21*	-0.07
PublicService ₂₀₀₉ - PublicService ₁₉₉₆	0.14	0.15	-0.13
* p < 0.05, ** p < 0.005, *** p < 0.001			

INSTRUMENTAL VARIABLE ANALYSIS

Following work in economics [17], we deploy the mortality rates of early settlers in European colonies (1600-1875) as an instrumental variable which is expected to affect contemporary government effectiveness (see below). Acemoglu et al. provide ample historical evidence that Europeans avoided settling in places with high mortality for Europeans, such as in the Belgian Congo, and instead set up extractive systems in these places. In situations of low mortality, on the other hand, colonizers settled in larger numbers and brought with them institutions, such as

respect of private property, checks and balances in government, and equality of opportunity, which in turn fostered greater government effectiveness that persisted even after independence. These measures of settler mortality allow us to identify that portion of the variance in government institutions that is due to early (exogenously caused) settlement patterns. We can then use these predicted values—now unbiased by omitted variables and confounding—to predict our cultural variables and identify a causal relationship. This analysis shows an effect indistinguishable from that observed in the standard regression analysis, which indicates that the standard analysis is unlikely to suffer from the omitted variables biases and confounding that would otherwise jeopardize causal inference.

Using settler mortality as an instrumental variable, we fit a two-stage OLS regression. At level one, settler mortality predicts modern government effectiveness. At level two, the component of government effectiveness predicted by early settler mortality (the predicted value) is used to predict modern in-group favoritism. We include pathogen stress in both regressions to control for any potential confounding due to pathogens in the environment causing both early settler mortality and modern in-group preference (See Table 6.S). Settler mortality was significantly associated with government effectiveness ($\rho = -0.54, p < 0.001$) and non-zoonotic pathogen stress ($\rho = 0.49, p < 0.001$).

We use the “robustness check” data series for settler mortality (Acemoglu et al. 2005). We report all results for the sub-samples for which settler mortality is available.

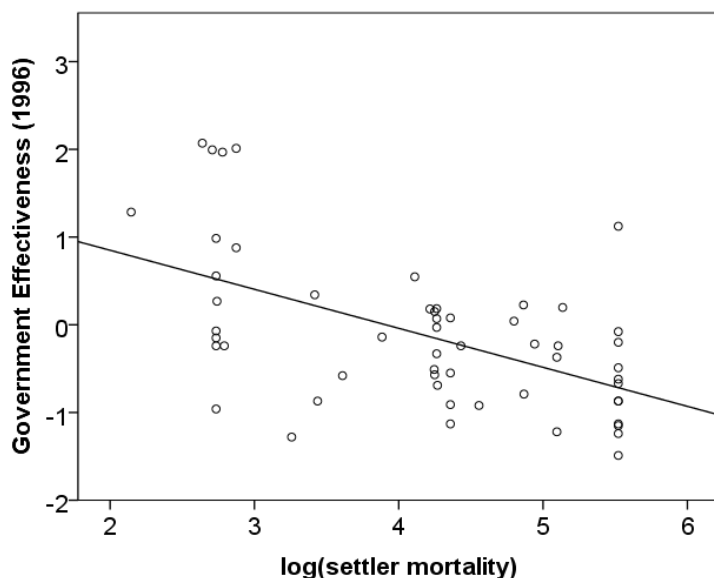
Note that since we are using only former European colonies in this analysis, our sample size is smaller.

A Durbin-Wu-Hausman test assesses whether the estimate from an OLS regression is different from the estimate from instrumental variable regressions. For In-group favoritism and strength of family ties, the estimates from each procedure are not statistically different. Since estimates from instrumental variable (IV) regressions are less efficient than those from OLS regressions, and since there is no difference between the OLS and IV estimates, the OLS regression estimates are preferred. Note, however, that for all three of our dependent measures the IV coefficient estimates are larger in magnitude than the OLS coefficients, and for Collectivism, they are significantly larger in magnitude.

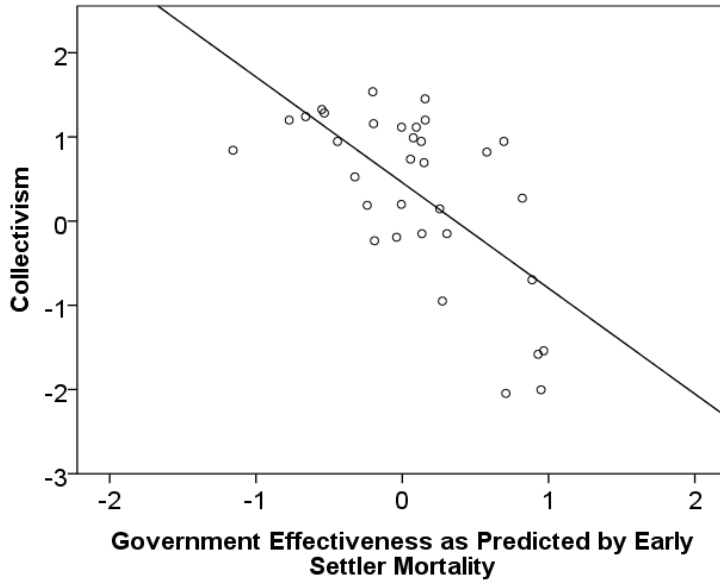
Supplementary Table 7. Comparison of estimated effect of quality of government services on in-group preferences using OLS and instrumental variable estimation (on colonial sub-sample).			
Variables	Collectivism (n=33)	Ingroup Favoritism (n=52)	Strength of Family Ties (n=27)
Panel A: Two Stage Least Squares			
Government Effectiveness	-1.95* (1.10)	-0.89* (0.37)	-0.89* (0.42)
Non-zoonotic Pathogens	-0.28 (0.35)	-0.06 (0.11)	-0.10 (0.15)
Panel B: First-Stage for Government Effectiveness			
Non-zoonotic Pathogens	-0.25 (0.07)***	-0.20 (0.06)***	-0.20 (0.09)*
Log(settler mortality)	-0.22 (0.13)	-0.28 (0.10)**	-0.38 (0.16)*
R ²	0.42	0.42	0.54
Panel C: Ordinary Least Squares Regression			
Government Effectiveness	-0.49* (0.20)	-0.78*** (0.14)	-0.41* (0.17)
Non-zoonotic Pathogens	0.15 (0.10)	-0.02 (0.06)	0.06 (0.08)
Durbin-Wu-Hausman Test (p-value)	0.02	0.75	0.17
* p < 0.05, ** p < 0.005, *** p < 0.001. 1-sided tests			

Supplementary Figure 1 plots log(early settler mortality) versus government effectiveness in 1996. Figures 2.S, 3.S. and 4.S. plots settler-mortality-predicted government effectiveness against each of the three in-group preference measures.

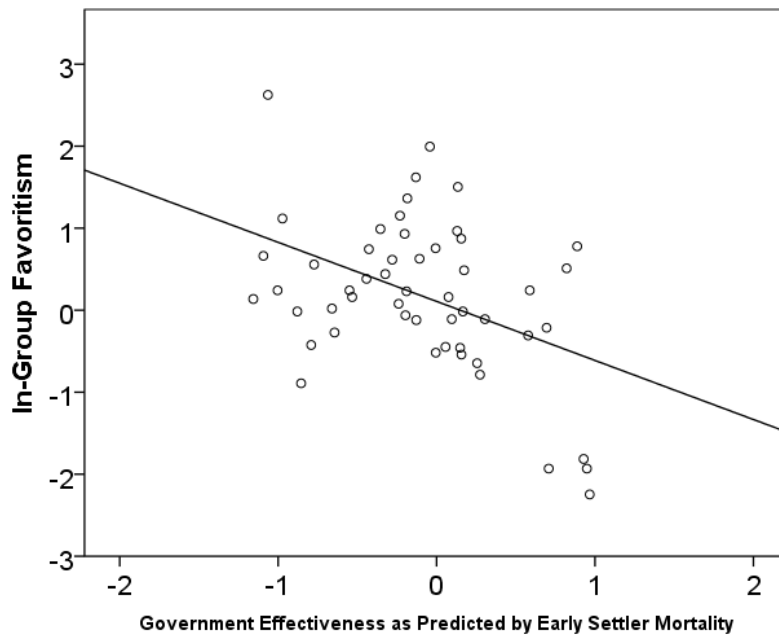
Supplementary Figure 1. Government effectiveness (1996) against log(settler mortality).



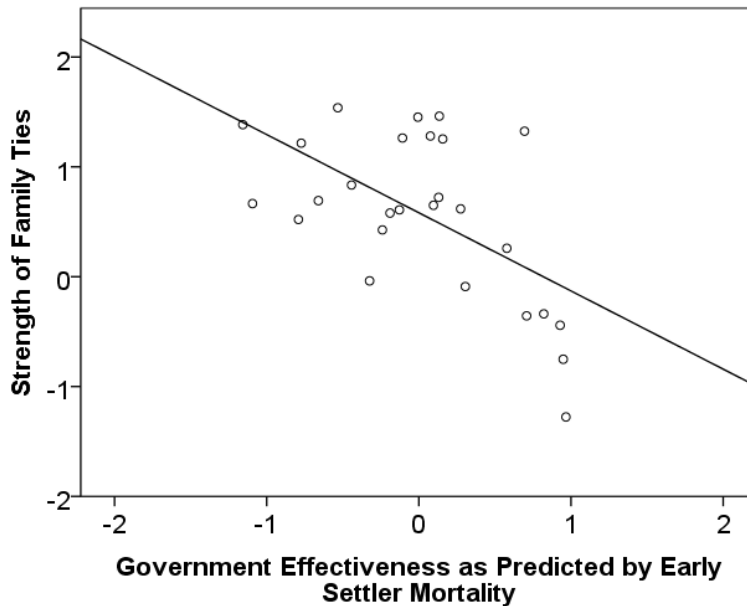
Supplementary Figure 2. Collectivism by Government Effectiveness (as predicted by early settler mortality). Collectivism standardized to mean = 0 and standard deviation = 1.



Supplementary Figure 3. In-group Favoritism by Government Effectiveness (as predicted by early settler mortality). In-group favoritism standardized to mean = 0 and standard deviation = 1.



Supplementary Figure 4. Strength of Family Ties by Government Effectiveness (as predicted by early settler mortality). Strength of Family Ties standardized to mean = 0 and standard deviation = 1.



FULL MODELS FOR ALL 8 IN-GROUP PREFERENCES

Table 8.S. presents the full model (with regional and religion dummies) for all 8 in-group preferences considered in the main text and the supplementary materials. Table 9.S. presents the adjusted R^2 for the base world region model, and the increase in adjusted R^2 from adding Government Effectiveness and Pathogen Stress to Model as well as Dominant Religion.

For the simpler model (excluding religion dummies, but keeping regional dummies, non-zoonotic pathogen stress and government effectiveness controls), all eight measures are significantly associated with government effectiveness and none of the eight measures are significantly associated with pathogen stress. We also examined the same model as in 8.S., but including historical pathogen stress instead of contemporary non-zoonotic pathogen stress as a predictor. The relationship with historical pathogen stress was only significant for one of the eight outcome measures (F&T's strength of family ties, $p = 0.013$).

Supplementary Table 8. Full regressions for each of 8 In-group preference measures by Non-zoonotic Pathogen stress and government effectiveness (with regional and religion controls) : collectivism (Coll), ingroup favoritism (In), Strength of Family Ties (FT), Cultural Embeddedness (EM), familism (FA), nepotism (NP), compatriotism (CO), particularism (PA).

	Coll N = 72	In N = 120	FT N= 71	EM N=71	FA N=57	NP N=117	CO N=76	PA N=43
Government Effectiveness	-0.31*	-0.63***	-0.08	-0.59***	-0.62***	-0.70***	-0.39*	-0.34
Pathogen Stress	-0.06	-0.01	0.13	-0.12	-0.02	-0.09	-0.06	-0.02
Religion								
Catholic	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Protestant	-0.27**	-0.33***	-0.33*	0.02	-0.58***	-0.22**	-0.37*	-0.19
Islam	0.09	-0.08	0.30*	0.07	-0.29*	0.11	-0.43*	-0.07
Eastern	-0.03	-0.08	-0.08	-0.04	-0.25	0.01	-0.22	-0.17
Orthodox	0.14	0.06	0.08	0.03	-0.02	0.14*	-0.07	0.13
Jewish	0.02	-0.09	--	-0.11	-0.22*	-0.01	-0.39*	--
Region								
Europe/Central Asia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Africa	0.21*	0.10	0.42***	0.45***	0.05	0.03	0.21	-0.00
East Asia	0.50***	0.17	0.26*	0.48***	0.35*	0.01	0.35*	0.59*
South Asia	0.17	-0.02	0.13	0.19*	0.10	-0.08	0.17	0.41*
Latin America	0.49***	0.05	0.23	0.11	-0.24	0.12	-0.03	0.20
Middle East/N. Africa	-0.00	0.18*	0.20	0.29**	0.22*	0.05	0.48***	--
Adjusted R ²	0.72	0.64	0.63	0.76	0.73	0.71	0.34	0.59
ΔR ²	0.03	0.22	0.00	0.16	0.22	0.30	0.06	0.01

p < 0.05, ** p < 0.005, *** p < 0.001.

ΔR² = Change in Adjusted R² from adding Government Effectiveness and Pathogen Stress to Model with Regional and Religion dummies.

Supplementary Table 9. Change in Adjusted R² by adding Government Effectiveness (GE) and Religion dummies to world region base models								
	Coll N = 72	In N = 120	FT N= 71	EM N=71	FA N=57	NP N=117	CO N=76	PA N=43
Based Region Model R ²	0.49	0.09	0.40	0.47	0.16	0.05	0.14	0.42
GE over Region ΔR ²	+0.18	+0.49	+0.12	+0.29	+0.43	+0.61	+0.13	+0.18
GE over Region & Religion ΔR ²	+0.07	+0.23	+0.00	+0.16	+0.13	+0.30	+0.07	+0.02
Religion over GE & Region ΔR ²	+0.05	+0.07	+0.11	+0.00	+0.15	+0.05	+0.08	+0.00

TESTS OF PROPOSED INTERACTIONS

An earlier reviewer of the paper proposed testing for specific interactions—between pathogen stress and government effectiveness and between government effectiveness and a measure of temperature variability [1]. Here we show the results of those tests, none of which were significant

Supplementary Table 10. Interaction of Government Effectiveness and Non-zoonotic pathogen stress (adjusted for regional controls, standardized beta coefficients):			
	Collectivism	In-group Favoritism	Strength of Family Ties
Government Effectiveness	-0.49***	-0.72***	-0.24
Pathogen Stress	0.01	0.09	0.21
Government Effectiveness*Pathogen Stress	0.04	0.05	0.13
p < 0.05, ** p < 0.005, *** p < 0.001.			

Supplementary Table 11. Interaction of Government Effectiveness and Temperature Variability (see Van der Vliert 2011) (adjusted for regional controls, standardized beta coefficients):			
	Collectivism	In-group Favoritism	Strength of Family Ties
Government Effectiveness	-0.46***	-0.73***	-0.41***
Temp Range	0.00	-0.04	-0.59***
Government Effectiveness*Temp Range	-0.11	-0.08	0.00
p < 0.05, ** p < 0.005, *** p < 0.001.			

ASSESSING CONFOUNDING BY HISTORICAL PATHOGEN STRESS

It is possible that the association between institutions and in-group favoritism are confounded by historical pathogens. We address those two concerns here. First, it is possible that historical pathogen stress is an underlying confounder which independently inhibited modern-day institutions and fostered modern tendencies to in-group investment. When we adjust for historical pathogen stress, the relationship between institutions and in-group investment remains significant and maintains a similar strength for in-group favoritism and reduced strength for the other two measures. These findings suggest that this first alternative hypothesis cannot account (at least fully) for the observed effects.

The second hypothesis is that settler mortality led to settlement patterns which independently: (1) inhibited specific institutions and (2) led to inter-group division and hence in-group investment. This is easily checked by estimating the effect of institutions on in-group investment after controlling for early settler mortality. When we adjust for early settler mortality the relationship between institutions and in-group investment remains significant for the measures of collectivism and in-group favoritism. These findings suggest this alternative hypothesis is implausible.

Supplementary Table 12. Standardized beta for effect of Government effectiveness on 3 measures of in-group favoritism			
	Collectivism	In-group Favoritism	Strength of Family Ties
No control	-0.68***	-0.74***	-0.52***
Controlling historical pathogens	-0.50***	-0.66***	-0.20*
Controlling early settler mortality	-0.43*	-0.67***	-0.40
p < 0.05, ** p < 0.005, *** p < 0.001.			

MEDIATION ANALYSIS: GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVENESS AS A MEDIATOR OF THE EFFECT OF HISTORICAL PATHOGENS ON

To assess the plausibility of the hypothesis that historical pathogens have an effect on contemporary levels of in-group favoritism through the effect of institutions, we conducted a mediation analysis. Historical pathogen prevalence is associated with government effectiveness even after adjusting for regional dummies (standardized beta = -0.51, $p < 0.001$). To test for mediation of the relationship between historical pathogens and current in-group favoritism by government effectiveness, we conducted a bootstrap mediation test [18] for each of the eight measures of in-group favoritism.

Contemporary government effectiveness significantly mediated the effect of historical pathogen prevalence on seven of the eight in-group preferences ($p < 0.05$), with the effect on compatriotism marginally significant ($p < 0.10$).

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ⁱ Data accessed from <http://info.World Bank.org/governance/wgi/index.asp> on November 1, 2011.

ⁱⁱ Data accessed from <http://www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-fs/fs-data/ess-fadata/en/> on November 1, 2011.

DERIVATION AND DESCRIPTION OF VARIABLES

IN-GROUP PREFERENCES

Our eight measures of in-group preferences vary in terms of their emphasis on: (1) kin relationships (family members and friends and compatriots), (2) size of in-group (friends and family vs. compatriots), (3) the nature of observation (reports of others' behaviors vs. report of own behaviors and preferences), and (4) the social tradeoff involved (investment in self, in out-group members, in following a norm, or no specific tradeoff). Here we describe the source and derivation of these variables.

The three measures used in the Main text

10 *Van der Vliert's In-Group Favoritism.* Van der Vliert developed a scale of in-group favoritism from three highly correlated international assessments of: (1) familism, (2) nepotism, and (3) compatriotism [1] (Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.89$). Familism is preferential concern for and investment in one's closest relatives (parents, children and siblings) and is assessed from middle managers in each of 60 countries about how parents and children respect each other and live together [2]. Nepotism is favoring relatives over non-relatives in the allocation of resources, and was measured from a multi-country survey of business executives from nationally representative samples of firms about the degree to which senior management positions are chosen based either on superior qualifications or on one's kin relationship [3]. Compatriotism is favoring members of the one's own nationality over others, and was derived from questions in the World Values Survey (1999-2002 wave) about whether employers should give priority to compatriots [4]. Further explanation of these scale components is provided under "Alternative Measures" below.

25 *Collectivism.* Collectivism is the tendency to care about the consequences of one's behavior for in-group members and to be willing to sacrifice personal interests for collective gains [5,6]. One of the most commonly used measures of collectivism at the national level is reported by Hofstede (2001) who assessed work attitudes from over 100,000 IBM employees worldwide. From these data Hofstede estimated collectivism scores for 68 specific geopolitical regions included in our analyses. Hofstede's measure correlates strongly with an alternative measure constructed by Suh et al. ($\rho = 0.91$), and Suh's score was used to calculate a comparable collectivism score for Nepal, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, and Egypt which were not reported in Hofstede [7]($\text{Hofstede} = -9.537 + \text{Suh} * 10.749$). We use an inverse of Hofstede's score (100 - individualism), so that a higher score indicates greater collectivism.

35 *Fincher and Thornhill's Strength of Family Ties.* In order to compare our results with recent findings by Fincher and Thornhill about the pathogen stress hypothesis, we use the measure of in-group preference—strength of family ties—they use in a recent publication. Fincher and Thornhill (2012) derived this measure as the sum of five items in the 1981-2007 pooled dataset of the World Values Survey about the value placed on immediate

40 family. The items included statements about the importance of: (1) family in one's life, (2)
loving and respecting parents despite their faults, (3) doing one's best for one's children
even at expense of one's own well-being, and (4) making one's parents proud. The last
item asked if people lived with their parents (Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.86$).

45 **Five Alternative measures**

Familism. Family investment is preferential investment in one's closest relatives (parents,
children and siblings). This is the first component of Van der Vliert's measure of ingroup
favoritism (see above). This measure is based on data from House et al. (2004) and derived
50 by Van de Vliert (2011). Between 1994 and 1997, House et al. sampled middle managers (n
 $= 17,370$) from domestic organizations in each of 60 countries in the target industries of
food processing, financial services, and telecommunications [2]. Participants answered
four questions about interactions with family members as observed in their society (1 =
strongly disagree, 7 = *strongly agree*). These were: "In this society, children take pride in the
55 individual accomplishments of their parents", "In this society, parents take pride in the
individual accomplishments of their children", "In this society, aging parents generally live
at home with their children", "In this society, children generally live at home with their
parents until they get married". The internal consistency of these four items was good
(Cronbach's $\alpha = .77$), and reported estimates are response bias corrected [2]. A higher
60 score indicates greater familism.

Nepotism. Nepotism is the favoring of relatives over non-relatives in the allocation of
resources. This is the second component of Van der Vliert's measure of ingroup favoritism
(see above). Data were used from a multi-country survey of business executives from
65 nationally representative samples of firms [3]. Executives responded to a 7-point likert
scale, "Senior management positions in your country are: (1) held by professional
managers chosen based on superior qualifications, ..., (7) usually held by relatives." Here
we use standardized values provided by Van de Vliert (2011).

70 *Compatriotism.* Compatriotism is favoring members of the one's own nationality over
others. This is the third component of Van der Vliert's measure of ingroup favoritism (see
above), and is derived from data for nationally representative subsamples of adults from
73 countries from the 1999-2002 wave of the World Values Survey [4]. Professional
interviewers substituted their own nationality for "British" when asking: "Do you agree or
75 not agree with the following statement? When jobs are scarce, employers should give
priority to [British] people over immigrants" (3-point response scale: agree, disagree, or
neither). We use the variable reported by Van de Vliert (2011), which is a standardized
score based on the percentage of individuals in a country who agreed with the statement.

80 *Schwartz's Cultural Embeddedness.* Based on a reviewer's earlier suggestion, we included
Schwartz's dimension of cultural embeddedness as an alternative measure of in-group
preference. This dimension captures the relationship between the individual and the

group, and involves an emphasis on maintenance of the status quo, propriety, and restraint of actions or inclinations that might disrupt group solidarity or the traditional order [8].

85 *Particularism*. Particularism is the preference for helping kith and kin over following
universally applicable rules of fairness [9]. In several publications, Trompenaars and
Hampden-Turner describe the responses of multi-national corporate managers to the
passenger's dilemma, whereby one must make the choice between telling the truth under
oath and helping a friend [10-12]. The variable reported by Trompenaars and Hampden-
90 Turner is the probability that a respondent from a country stated either: (1) that the friend
has a definite right to expect the respondent to lie for him or (2) that the respondent would
lie under oath. As data was updated in successive publications, more recent publications
take precedence over earlier publications. This measure of particularism correlates
moderately with other measures collected by Trompenaars and Hampden, including the
95 willingness to give a friend insider information from one's corporation ($\rho = 0.66$, 1993, n
=35 countries), the willingness to lie about a friend's medical exam to improve his
insurance premium ($\rho = 0.51$, 1998, $n = 28$), and the willingness to lie about a friend's
restaurant in a published review ($\rho = 0.65, 0.69$, 1993, 1998, $n = 32$, $n = 30$).

INSTITUTIONS AND MATERIAL SECURITY

100 The key variable used for our analyses in the main text was the World Bank measure of
government effectiveness as a measure of quality of government services. In the
supplementary materials below we also examine related measures that assess: (1) material
resources available per capita (GDP per capita), (2) general material security, and (3) food
security.

105 *Quality of Government Services (1996)*: To assess quality of government services, we used
the World Bank's measure of government effectiveness which indexes the quality of public
and civil services in a country, including roads, schools, hospitals, and courtsⁱ.

110 *Material Resources:* To assess material resources, we used log(GDP per capita) (World Bank 1996 measure, gross domestic product per capita purchasing power parity in 2005 dollars).

115 *Material Security:* We used the United Nations human development index (HDI), which Norris and Inglehart have used previously as a measure of “existential security” grounded in social and economic development [13,14]. This measure includes indices of health, and thus is directly measuring both the quality of institutions and pathogen stress. For this reason, we do not use this as the primary measure for analyses.

120 *Food Insecurity:* Food insecurity was assessed using country-level data for proportion of total household consumption expenditure devoted to food.ⁱⁱ The larger share of overall household consumption devoted to food, the more sensitive household budgets are to changing food prices and the more prone they are to food insecurity.

PREDOMINANT RELIGION

125 We use world religious tradition with a plurality of adherents in a country as determined by Inglehart and Norris (2004). The categories included Muslim, Jewish, Christian-Catholic, Christian-Orthodox, and Christian-Protestant, and Eastern (which included a combination of Hindu, Buddhist, Shinto and Confucian traditions). Eastern religions were aggregated into a single category as no single religion was sufficiently numerous in the sample to permit further stratification. When Inglehart and Norris did not specify the world religion, we assessed the world religion having a plurality of adherents in the country [15]. We use Catholic as the reference category in regressions.

130

WORLD REGION

135 To adjust for potential confounding effects of shared social, political, and cultural history, we use world regions defined by the World Bank, including sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East and North Africa, East Asia, South Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe and Central Asia. The World Bank does not classify upper income countries. We classified upper income countries based on shared cultural heritage--Japan as East Asia, continental European countries, U.K., U.S., Canada, New Zealand and Australia under Europe/Central Asia. We use Europe and Central Asia as the reference category in regressions.

Supplementary Table 1. Descriptives for key variables

Variables	N	Mean (SD)
Key Ingroup Measures		
Van der Vliert Ingroup Favoritism	121	0.14 (0.86)
Hofstede Collectivism	72	57.5 (23.7)
F & T Strength of Family Ties	71	0.03 (3.91)
Alternative Ingroup Measures		
Schwartz Cultural Embeddedness	71	10.3 (5.3)
Familism	57	0.00 (1.00)
Nepotism	118	0.01 (1.00)
Compatriotism	76	0.01 (1.00)
Particularism	43	27.9 (17.6)
Institutions and Material Security		
Quality of Public Services	128	0.16 (1.00)
Human Development Index	122	0.72 (0.20)
GDP per capita (PPP in 1000 USD)	123	10.89 (11.13)
% of household budget on food	113	0.40 (0.17)
Pathogen Stress		
Non-Zoonotic Pathogen Prevalence	128	0.14 (1.93)
Zoonotic Pathogen Prevalence	128	0.46 (0.88)
Historical pathogen prevalence	128	0.08 (0.63)

Supplementary Table 2. Bivariate correlations between institutions, material security, and pathogen stress measures. Sample sizes in parentheses. GE = government effectiveness.

Variable	GE	Log(GDP)	HDI	FS	NZPS	ZPS
Log(GDP)	0.78 (123)					
Human Development Index (HDI)	0.70 (122)	0.93 (119)				
Food Insecurity (FS)	-0.75 (112)	-0.76 (109)	-0.70 (107)			
Non-zoonotic Pathogen Stress (NZPS)	-0.50 (128)	-0.64 (123)	-0.66 (122)	0.28** (112)		
Zoonotic Pathogen Stress (ZPS)	-0.19 (128)*	-0.22 (123)*	-0.16 (122)	0.06 (112)	0.52 (128)	
Historical Pathogen Prevalence (HPP)	-0.54 (127)	-0.63 (122)	-0.62 (122)	0.37 (112)	0.79 (127)	0.36 (127)

Significant at 0.001 level unless otherwise noted. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.005$. *Non-significant* results (> 0.05 level) are in bold italics.

Supplementary Table 3. Bivariate correlations between in-group preferences. Sample sizes in parentheses.

Variable	Collect	IN	FA	NP	CO	PA	EM
Ingroup (IN)	0.70 (70)						
Familism (FA)	0.74 (49)	0.93 (57)					
Nepotism (NP)	0.66 (69)	0.87 (118)	0.69 (56)				
Compatriotism (CO)	0.59 (58)	0.85 (76)	0.82 (42)	0.44 (74)			
Particularism (PA)	0.80 (42)	0.70 (41)	0.75 (35)	0.60 (41)	0.58 (38)		
Embeddedness (EM)	0.61 (56)	0.67 (70)	0.65 (46)	0.58 (69)	0.61 (59)	0.62 (40)	
Family Ties	0.65 (52)	0.56 (70)	0.70 (39)	0.50 (68)	0.42 (67)	0.49 (32)	0.74 (52)

Significant at 0.001 level unless otherwise noted.

ROBUSTNESS CHECKS

REDUNDANT MEASURES

F&T use two measures of in-group favoritism—strength of family ties and assortative sociality. The second measure is a composite of the strength of family ties measure and a measure based on religiosity. The first and second measure are highly correlated ($\rho > 0.95$) so we focus on the direct measure of family ties [16]. However, results do not change if the second measure is used. F&T also use two measures of contemporary pathogen stress—non-zoonotic pathogen stress and combined pathogen stress. These are also highly correlated ($\rho > 0.95$), and for clarity we use the more direct measure. Again results do not change if combined pathogen stress is used [16].

SENSITIVITY OF EFFECTS TO DIFFERENT CONTROL SETS

In Tables 4.S. and 5.S. we examine how the effect sizes and p-values change for key relationships when controlling for: (1) World Region, (2) World Region + measures for the alternative hypothesis, (3) World Region + Dominant religion. After regional controls only one pathogen stress variable, historical pathogen prevalence, remains. After control for government effectiveness of world religion, that measure only remains significantly associated with one measure of in-group investment

Supplementary Table 4. Relationship of 3 major in-group preferences with alternative measures of pathogen stress using three sets of controls

	Collectivism	In-group Favoritism	Strength of Family Ties
Regional control			
Non-zoonotic Pathogen Stress	0.26	0.41*	0.32
Zoonotic Pathogen Stress	0.01	0.10	-0.03
Historical Pathogen Prevalence	0.31*	0.51***	0.60***
Regional + Government Effectiveness Controls			
Non-zoonotic Pathogen Stress	-0.01	0.05	0.14
Zoonotic Pathogen Stress	-0.14	0.00	-0.05
Historical Pathogen Prevalence	0.06	0.17	0.46***
Regional and Religion Control			
Non-zoonotic Pathogen Stress	0.04	0.18	0.15
Zoonotic Pathogen Stress	-0.10	0.04	-0.04
Historical Pathogen Prevalence	0.02	0.20	0.36*

p < 0.05, ** p < 0.005, *** p < 0.001

We apply the same approach to alternative measures of government effectiveness or material security/insecurity. All measures remain significantly associated with all measures of in-group investment with regional controls or control for non-zoonotic parasite stress. When controlling for religion these measures remain significantly associated with two of the three in-group investment measures.

Supplementary Table 5. Relationship of 3 major in-group preferences with alternative measures of institutions and material security using three sets of controls			
	Collectivism	In-group Favoritism	Strength of Family Ties
Regional Controls			
Government Effectiveness (1996)	-0.52***	-0.77***	-0.38***
Log(GDP 1996)	-0.49***	-0.80***	-0.40***
Human Development Index (1995)	-0.51***	-0.89***	-0.46***
% Household budget on food	0.42***	0.64***	0.28*
Regional + Non-zoonotic pathogen stress Controls			
Government Effectiveness (1996)	-0.52***	-0.76***	-0.36***
Log(GDP 1996)	-0.46***	-0.81***	-0.36***
Human Development Index (1995)	-0.47**	-0.88***	-0.42***
% Household budget on food	0.39***	0.62***	0.24*
Regional + Religion Controls			
Government Effectiveness (1996)	-0.29*	-0.63***	-0.11
Log(GDP 1996)	-0.26*	-0.67***	-0.13
Human Development Index (1995)	-0.35*	-0.73***	-0.23
% Household budget on food	0.26*	0.51***	0.07
p < 0.05, ** p < 0.005, *** p < 0.001			

WITHIN REGION ANALYSIS

To examine associations within the major world regions, we conducted regressions for each region predicting each of the 8 measures of in-group favoritism with the following two predictors—effectiveness of government institutions and non-zoonotic pathogen stress. To avoid small sample sizes, we focused on the 17 samples where there were more than 10 countries within a region which had data on a specific measure of in-group favoritism. All eight measures had sufficiently large samples from Europe and Central Asia. Three measures had sufficiently large samples for East Asia and for Latin America and the Caribbean. Two measures had sufficiently large samples for sub-Saharan Africa, and one measure had a sufficiently large sample for Middle East and North Africa. South Asia never had sufficiently large samples.

Among these 17 samples, GE significantly increased in-group favoritism in 12 (8 of 8 in Europe and Central Asia, 2 of 3 East Asia, and 2 of 3 in Latin American and Caribbean). Notably, PS significantly increased in-group favoritism in only 1 sample.

EFFECT OF 3 IN-GROUP PREFERENCE MEASURES ON ECONOMIC GROWTH, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX, AND GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVENESS

Supplementary Table 6. Standardized coefficients of 13-year change in GDP per capita and quality of public services by three major in-group favoritism measures. Adjusting for region and religion

Variables	Collectivism	Ingroup Favoritism	Strength of Family Ties
GDP ₂₀₀₉ /GDP ₁₉₉₆	0.25*	0.26**	-0.04
HDI ₂₀₁₀ - HDI ₁₉₉₅	-0.10	0.21*	-0.07
PublicService ₂₀₀₉ - PublicService ₁₉₉₆	0.14	0.15	-0.13
* p < 0.05, ** p < 0.005, *** p < 0.001			

INSTRUMENTAL VARIABLE ANALYSIS

Following work in economics [17], we deploy the mortality rates of early settlers in European colonies (1600-1875) as an instrumental variable which is expected to affect contemporary government effectiveness (see below). Acemoglu et al. provide ample historical evidence that Europeans avoided settling in places with high mortality for Europeans, such as in the Belgian Congo, and instead set up extractive systems in these places. In situations of low mortality, on the other hand, colonizers settled in larger numbers and brought with them institutions, such as

respect of private property, checks and balances in government, and equality of opportunity, which in turn fostered greater government effectiveness that persisted even after independence. These measures of settler mortality allow us to identify that portion of the variance in government institutions that is due to early (exogenously caused) settlement patterns. We can then use these predicted values—now unbiased by omitted variables and confounding—to predict our cultural variables and identify a causal relationship. This analysis shows an effect indistinguishable from that observed in the standard regression analysis, which indicates that the standard analysis is unlikely to suffer from the omitted variables biases and confounding that would otherwise jeopardize causal inference.

Using settler mortality as an instrumental variable, we fit a two-stage OLS regression. At level one, settler mortality predicts modern government effectiveness. At level two, the component of government effectiveness predicted by early settler mortality (the predicted value) is used to predict modern in-group favoritism. We include pathogen stress in both regressions to control for any potential confounding due to pathogens in the environment causing both early settler mortality and modern in-group preference (See Table 6.S). Settler mortality was significantly associated with government effectiveness ($\rho = -0.54, p < 0.001$) and non-zoonotic pathogen stress ($\rho = 0.49, p < 0.001$).

We use the “robustness check” data series for settler mortality (Acemoglu et al. 2005). We report all results for the sub-samples for which settler mortality is available.

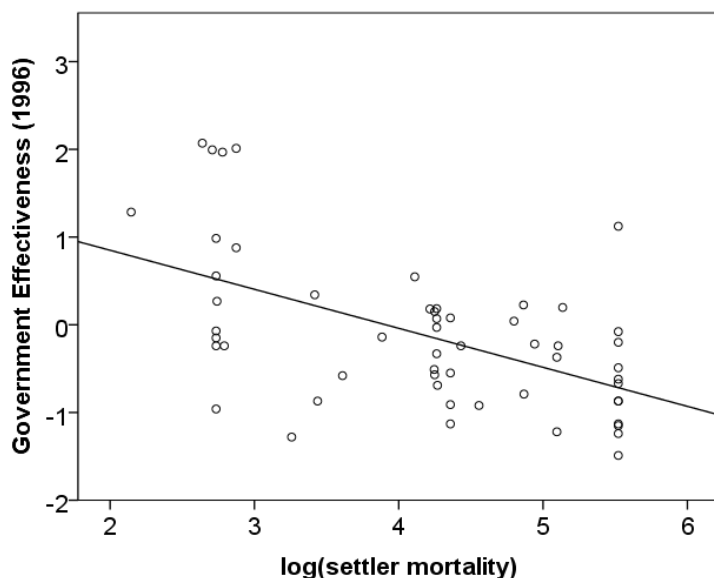
Note that since we are using only former European colonies in this analysis, our sample size is smaller.

A Durbin-Wu-Hausman test assesses whether the estimate from an OLS regression is different from the estimate from instrumental variable regressions. For In-group favoritism and strength of family ties, the estimates from each procedure are not statistically different. Since estimates from instrumental variable (IV) regressions are less efficient than those from OLS regressions, and since there is no difference between the OLS and IV estimates, the OLS regression estimates are preferred. Note, however, that for all three of our dependent measures the IV coefficient estimates are larger in magnitude than the OLS coefficients, and for Collectivism, they are significantly larger in magnitude.

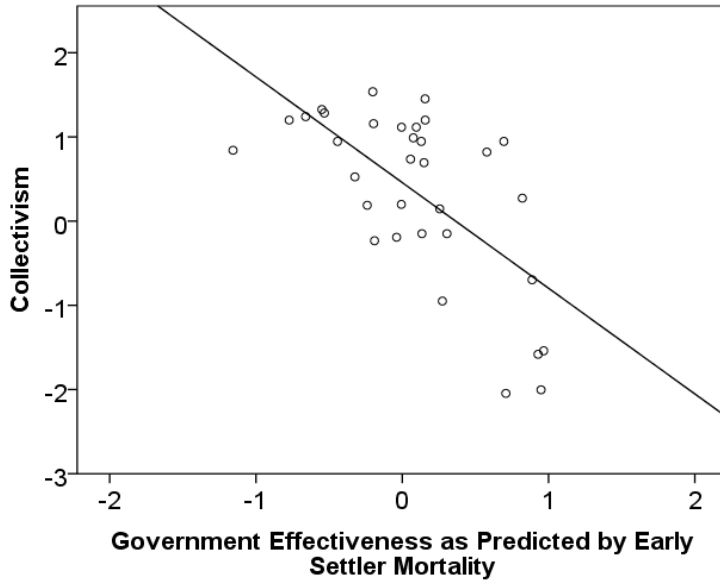
Supplementary Table 7. Comparison of estimated effect of quality of government services on in-group preferences using OLS and instrumental variable estimation (on colonial sub-sample).			
Variables	Collectivism (n=33)	Ingroup Favoritism (n=52)	Strength of Family Ties (n=27)
Panel A: Two Stage Least Squares			
Government Effectiveness	-1.95* (1.10)	-0.89* (0.37)	-0.89* (0.42)
Non-zoonotic Pathogens	-0.28 (0.35)	-0.06 (0.11)	-0.10 (0.15)
Panel B: First-Stage for Government Effectiveness			
Non-zoonotic Pathogens	-0.25 (0.07)***	-0.20 (0.06)***	-0.20 (0.09)*
Log(settler mortality)	-0.22 (0.13)	-0.28 (0.10)**	-0.38 (0.16)*
R ²	0.42	0.42	0.54
Panel C: Ordinary Least Squares Regression			
Government Effectiveness	-0.49* (0.20)	-0.78*** (0.14)	-0.41* (0.17)
Non-zoonotic Pathogens	0.15 (0.10)	-0.02 (0.06)	0.06 (0.08)
Durbin-Wu-Hausman Test (p-value)	0.02	0.75	0.17
* p < 0.05, ** p < 0.005, *** p < 0.001. 1-sided tests			

Supplementary Figure 1 plots log(early settler mortality) versus government effectiveness in 1996. Figures 2.S, 3.S. and 4.S. plots settler-mortality-predicted government effectiveness against each of the three in-group preference measures.

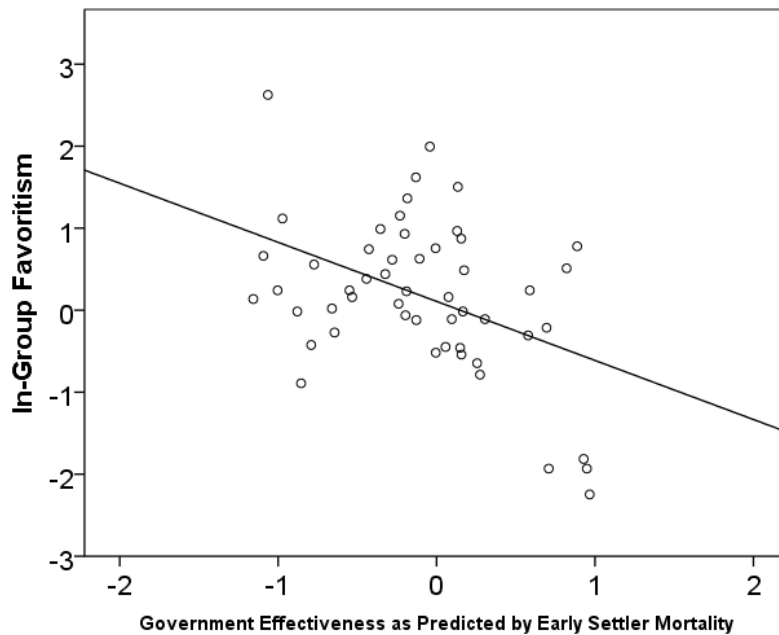
Supplementary Figure 1. Government effectiveness (1996) against log(settler mortality).



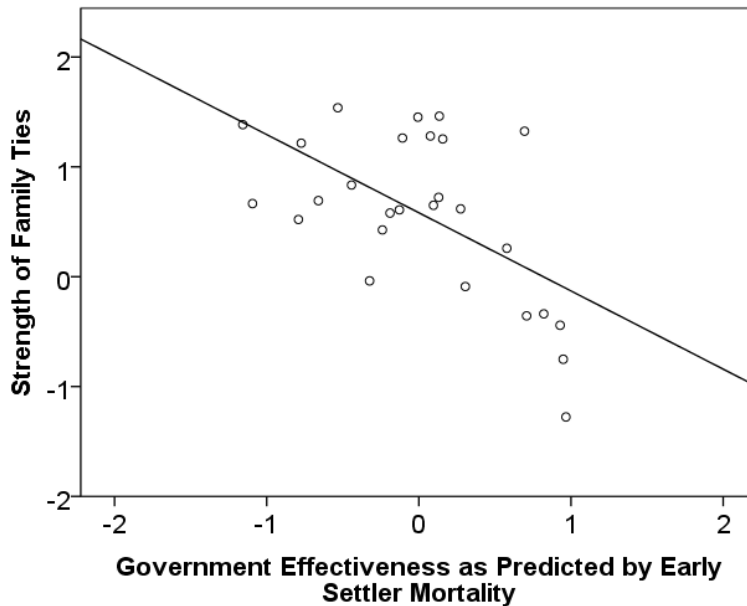
Supplementary Figure 2. Collectivism by Government Effectiveness (as predicted by early settler mortality). Collectivism standardized to mean = 0 and standard deviation = 1.



Supplementary Figure 3. In-group Favoritism by Government Effectiveness (as predicted by early settler mortality). In-group favoritism standardized to mean = 0 and standard deviation = 1.



Supplementary Figure 4. Strength of Family Ties by Government Effectiveness (as predicted by early settler mortality). Strength of Family Ties standardized to mean = 0 and standard deviation = 1.



FULL MODELS FOR ALL 8 IN-GROUP PREFERENCES

Table 8.S. presents the full model (with regional and religion dummies) for all 8 in-group preferences considered in the main text and the supplementary materials. Table 9.S. presents the adjusted R^2 for the base world region model, and the increase in adjusted R^2 from adding Government Effectiveness and Pathogen Stress to Model as well as Dominant Religion.

For the simpler model (excluding religion dummies, but keeping regional dummies, non-zoonotic pathogen stress and government effectiveness controls), all eight measures are significantly associated with government effectiveness and none of the eight measures are significantly associated with pathogen stress. We also examined the same model as in 8.S., but including historical pathogen stress instead of contemporary non-zoonotic pathogen stress as a predictor. The relationship with historical pathogen stress was only significant for one of the eight outcome measures (F&T's strength of family ties, $p = 0.013$).

Supplementary Table 8. Full regressions for each of 8 In-group preference measures by Non-zoonotic Pathogen stress and government effectiveness (with regional and religion controls) : collectivism (Coll), ingroup favoritism (In), Strength of Family Ties (FT), Cultural Embeddedness (EM), familism (FA), nepotism (NP), compatriotism (CO), particularism (PA).

	Coll N = 72	In N = 120	FT N= 71	EM N=71	FA N=57	NP N=117	CO N=76	PA N=43
Government Effectiveness	-0.31*	-0.63***	-0.08	-0.59***	-0.62***	-0.70***	-0.39*	-0.34
Pathogen Stress	-0.06	-0.01	0.13	-0.12	-0.02	-0.09	-0.06	-0.02
Religion								
Catholic	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Protestant	-0.27**	-0.33***	-0.33*	0.02	-0.58***	-0.22**	-0.37*	-0.19
Islam	0.09	-0.08	0.30*	0.07	-0.29*	0.11	-0.43*	-0.07
Eastern	-0.03	-0.08	-0.08	-0.04	-0.25	0.01	-0.22	-0.17
Orthodox	0.14	0.06	0.08	0.03	-0.02	0.14*	-0.07	0.13
Jewish	0.02	-0.09	--	-0.11	-0.22*	-0.01	-0.39*	--
Region								
Europe/Central Asia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Africa	0.21*	0.10	0.42***	0.45***	0.05	0.03	0.21	-0.00
East Asia	0.50***	0.17	0.26*	0.48***	0.35*	0.01	0.35*	0.59*
South Asia	0.17	-0.02	0.13	0.19*	0.10	-0.08	0.17	0.41*
Latin America	0.49***	0.05	0.23	0.11	-0.24	0.12	-0.03	0.20
Middle East/N. Africa	-0.00	0.18*	0.20	0.29**	0.22*	0.05	0.48***	--
Adjusted R ²	0.72	0.64	0.63	0.76	0.73	0.71	0.34	0.59
ΔR ²	0.03	0.22	0.00	0.16	0.22	0.30	0.06	0.01

p < 0.05, ** p < 0.005, *** p < 0.001.

ΔR² = Change in Adjusted R² from adding Government Effectiveness and Pathogen Stress to Model with Regional and Religion dummies.

Supplementary Table 9. Change in Adjusted R² by adding Government Effectiveness (GE) and Religion dummies to world region base models								
	Coll N = 72	In N = 120	FT N= 71	EM N=71	FA N=57	NP N=117	CO N=76	PA N=43
Based Region Model R ²	0.49	0.09	0.40	0.47	0.16	0.05	0.14	0.42
GE over Region ΔR^2	+0.18	+0.49	+0.12	+0.29	+0.43	+0.61	+0.13	+0.18
GE over Region & Religion ΔR^2	+0.07	+0.23	+0.00	+0.16	+0.13	+0.30	+0.07	+0.02
Religion over GE & Region ΔR^2	+0.05	+0.07	+0.11	+0.00	+0.15	+0.05	+0.08	+0.00

TESTS OF PROPOSED INTERACTIONS

An earlier reviewer of the paper proposed testing for specific interactions—between pathogen stress and government effectiveness and between government effectiveness and a measure of temperature variability [1]. Here we show the results of those tests, none of which were significant

Supplementary Table 10. Interaction of Government Effectiveness and Non-zoonotic pathogen stress (adjusted for regional controls, standardized beta coefficients):			
	Collectivism	In-group Favoritism	Strength of Family Ties
Government Effectiveness	-0.49***	-0.72***	-0.24
Pathogen Stress	0.01	0.09	0.21
Government Effectiveness*Pathogen Stress	0.04	0.05	0.13
p < 0.05, ** p < 0.005, *** p < 0.001.			

Supplementary Table 11. Interaction of Government Effectiveness and Temperature Variability (see Van der Vliert 2011) (adjusted for regional controls, standardized beta coefficients):			
	Collectivism	In-group Favoritism	Strength of Family Ties
Government Effectiveness	-0.46***	-0.73***	-0.41***
Temp Range	0.00	-0.04	-0.59***
Government Effectiveness*Temp Range	-0.11	-0.08	0.00
p < 0.05, ** p < 0.005, *** p < 0.001.			

ASSESSING CONFOUNDING BY HISTORICAL PATHOGEN STRESS

It is possible that the association between institutions and in-group favoritism are confounded by historical pathogens. We address those two concerns here. First, it is possible that historical pathogen stress is an underlying confounder which independently inhibited modern-day institutions and fostered modern tendencies to in-group investment. When we adjust for historical pathogen stress, the relationship between institutions and in-group investment remains significant and maintains a similar strength for in-group favoritism and reduced strength for the other two measures. These findings suggest that this first alternative hypothesis cannot account (at least fully) for the observed effects.

The second hypothesis is that settler mortality led to settlement patterns which independently: (1) inhibited specific institutions and (2) led to inter-group division and hence in-group investment. This is easily checked by estimating the effect of institutions on in-group investment after controlling for early settler mortality. When we adjust for early settler mortality the relationship between institutions and in-group investment remains significant for the measures of collectivism and in-group favoritism. These findings suggest this alternative hypothesis is implausible.

Supplementary Table 12. Standardized beta for effect of Government effectiveness on 3 measures of in-group favoritism			
	Collectivism	In-group Favoritism	Strength of Family Ties
No control	-0.68***	-0.74***	-0.52***
Controlling historical pathogens	-0.50***	-0.66***	-0.20*
Controlling early settler mortality	-0.43*	-0.67***	-0.40
p < 0.05, ** p < 0.005, *** p < 0.001.			

MEDIATION ANALYSIS: GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVENESS AS A MEDIATOR OF THE EFFECT OF HISTORICAL PATHOGENS ON

To assess the plausibility of the hypothesis that historical pathogens have an effect on contemporary levels of in-group favoritism through the effect of institutions, we conducted a mediation analysis. Historical pathogen prevalence is associated with government effectiveness even after adjusting for regional dummies (standardized beta = -0.51, $p < 0.001$). To test for mediation of the relationship between historical pathogens and current in-group favoritism by government effectiveness, we conducted a bootstrap mediation test [18] for each of the eight measures of in-group favoritism.

Contemporary government effectiveness significantly mediated the effect of historical pathogen prevalence on seven of the eight in-group preferences ($p < 0.05$), with the effect on compatriotism marginally significant ($p < 0.10$).

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ⁱ Data accessed from <http://info.World Bank.org/governance/wgi/index.asp> on November 1, 2011.

ⁱⁱ Data accessed from <http://www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-fs/fs-data/ess-fadata/en/> on November 1, 2011.