

## Natural Experiments Of History

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**Natural Experiments Of History**  
Natural Experiments of History by Diamond and Robinson is a collection of several essays on comparative studies in history. The topics range from pre-historic societies in the Pacific to French-occupied Germany in the 19th century. All essays are a simplified version of a scientific paper that was published before.

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**Natural Experiments of History eBook: Diamond, Jared ...**

Natural Experiments of History. Book Description: In eight case studies by leading scholars in history, archaeology, business, economics, geography, and political science, the authors showcase the "natural experiment" or "comparative method"—well-known in any science concerned with the past—on the discipline of human history.

**Natural Experiments of History on JSTOR**

One has to devise other methods of observing, describing, and explaining the world. In the historical disciplines, a fruitful approach has been to use natural experiments or the comparative method. This book consists of eight comparative studies drawn from history, archeology, economics, economic history, geography, and political science.

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**Natural Experiments of History - Jared Diamond, James A ...**

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Rather, natural experiments are quasi experiments and must be thought about and analyzed as such. The

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lack of random assignment means multiple threats to causal inference, including attrition, history, testing, regression, instrumentation, and maturation, may influence observed study outcomes. For this reason, natural experiments will never unequivocally determine causation in a given situation.

### **Natural experiment | observational study | Britannica**

Natural Experiments. Experiments look for the effect that manipulated variables (independent variables, or IVs) have on measured variables (dependent variables, or DVs), i.e. causal effects. Natural experiments are studies where the experimenter cannot manipulate the IV, so the DV is simply measured and judged as the effect of an IV. For this reason, participants cannot be randomly allocated to experimental groups as they are already pre-set, making them quasi-experiments.

### **Natural Experiments | Psychology | tutor2u**

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### **Natural Experiments of History | James Robinson**

Prologue: Natural Experiments of History [Jared Diamond and James A. Robinson] 1. Controlled Comparison and Polynesian Cultural Evolution [Patrick V. Kirch] 2. Exploding Wests: Boom and Bust in Nineteenth-Century Settler Societies [James Belich] 3. Politics, Banking, and Economic Development: Evidence from New World Economies [Stephen Haber] 4.

### **Natural Experiments of History – Jared Diamond, James A ...**

Natural Experiments of History Thad Dunning Department of Political Science Yale University [Prepared for publication in Perspectives on Politics] This draft: June 1, 2010 Diamond, Jared, and James Robinson, eds. 2010. Natural Experiments of History. Cambridge, MA: The

### **Dunning Review Natural Experiments of History**

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### **Natural Experiments of History by Jared Diamond**

A natural experiment is an empirical study in which individuals are exposed to the experimental and control conditions that are determined by nature or by other factors outside the control of the investigators. The process governing the exposures arguably resembles random assignment. Thus, natural experiments are observational studies and are not controlled in the traditional sense of a randomized experiment. Natural experiments are most useful when there has been a clearly defined exposure invo

### **Natural experiment - Wikipedia**

A natural experiment is an empirical study in which the experimental conditions (i.e., which units receive which treatment) are determined by nature or by other factors out of the control of the experimenters and yet the treatment assignment process is arguably exogenous.

### **Natural experiment | Psychology Wiki | Fandom**

In eight case studies by leading scholars in history, archaeology, business, economics, geography, and political science, the authors showcase the "natural experiment" or "comparative method"—well-known in any science concerned with the past—on the discipline of human history.

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This book consists of eight comparative studies drawn from history, archeology, economics, economic history, geography, and political science. The studies cover a spectrum of approaches, ranging from a non-quantitative narrative style in the early chapters to quantitative statistical analyses in the later chapters. The studies range from a simple two-way comparison of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, which share the island of Hispaniola, to comparisons of 81 Pacific islands and 233 areas of India. The societies discussed are contemporary ones, literate societies of recent centuries, and non-literate past societies. Geographically, they include the United States, Mexico, Brazil, western Europe, tropical Africa, India, Siberia, Australia, New Zealand, and other Pacific islands.

Natural Experiments in History grew, in a way, out of co-editor Jared Diamond's book *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*. In the earlier book, he spent a chapter looking at the Polynesian expansion as a near-perfect natural experiment in which a single ancestral Polynesian culture migrated to hundreds of islands in the Pacific Ocean, each with its own different geographic features. Because the culture that settled the islands was the same, any differences that developed between separate island societies could be largely attributed to the geography of the individual islands. At the conclusion of *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, Diamond noted that there were many other such natural experiments in history, just waiting to be studied, and he called for historians to pick up where he left off and see what else could be learned. Of course, scholars have been using such natural experiments for a long time, especially in other disciplines like archaeology and anthropology, but they have not been as popular in historical scholarship. With *Natural Experiments of History* the editors and authors hope to illustrate how natural experiments can be used to bring the rigours of the hard sciences to historical scholarship, both in descriptive and statistics-based studies.

The first comprehensive guide to natural experiments, providing an ideal introduction for scholars and students.

Why do most people never have sex with close relatives? And why do they disapprove of other people doing so? *Incest Avoidance and Incest Taboos* investigates our human inclination to avoid incest and the powerful taboo against incest found in all societies. Both subjects stir strong feelings and vigorous arguments within and beyond academic circles. With great clarity, Wolf lays out the modern assumptions about both, concluding that all previous approaches lack precision and balance on insecure evidence. Researchers he calls "constitutionalists" explain human incest avoidance by biologically-based natural aversion, but fail to explain incest taboos as cultural universals. By contrast, "conventionalists" ignore the evolutionary roots of avoidance and assume that incest avoidant behavior is guided solely by cultural taboos. Both theories are incomplete. Wolf tests his own theory with three natural experiments: bint'amm (cousin) marriage in Morocco, the rarity of marriage within Israeli kibbutz peer groups, and "minor marriages" (in which baby girls were raised by their future mother-in-law to marry an adoptive "brother") in China and Taiwan. These cross-cultural comparisons complete his original and intellectually rich theory of incest, one that marries biology and culture by accounting for both avoidance and taboo.

This systematic assessment of seven prominent initiatives is the first to evaluate the effectiveness of ecosystem-based management at protecting the environment. Scholars, scientists, and policymakers have hailed ecosystem-based management (EBM) as a remedy for the perceived shortcomings of the centralized, top-down, expert-driven environmental regulatory framework established in the United States in the late 1960s and early 1970s. EBM entails collaborative, landscape-scale planning and flexible, adaptive implementation. But although scholars have analyzed aspects of EBM for more than a decade, until now there has been no systematic empirical study of the overall approach. In *Natural Experiments*, Judith Layzer provides a detailed assessment of whether EBM delivers in practice the environmental benefits it promises in theory. She does this by examining four nationally known EBM initiatives (the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Program in Austin, Texas, the San Diego Multiple Species Program, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, and the California Bay-Delta Program) and three comparison cases that used more conventional regulatory approaches (Arizona's Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan and efforts to restore Florida's Kissimmee River and California's Mono Basin). Layzer concludes that projects that set goals based on stakeholder collaboration, rather than through conventional politics, are less likely to result in environmental improvement, largely because the pursuit of consensus drives planners to avoid controversy and minimize short-term costs. Layzer's resolutely practical focus cuts through the ideological and theoretical arguments for and against EBM to identify strategies that hold genuine promise for restoring the ecological resilience of our landscapes.

The analysis of historical natural experiments has profoundly impacted economics research across fields. In this chapter we trace the development and increasing application of the methodology, both from the perspective of economic historians and from the perspective of economists in other subdisciplines. We argue that the historical natural experiment represents a methodological bridge between economic history and other fields: historians are able to use the cutting edge identification strategies emphasized by applied microeconomists; economists across subfields are able to scour history for useful identifying variation; development and growth economists are able to trace the historical roots of contemporary

outcomes, and to identify the ultimate causes of economic growth. Differences in fields suggest differences in scholars' aims of studying historical natural experiments. We propose a taxonomy of three primary motives that reflect priorities in different fields: historians aim to understand causal processes within specific settings. Economists across fields aim to identify "clean" historical events (in whatever context) to test hypotheses of theoretical interest or estimate causal parameters. And, growth and development economists aim to identify past variation that can be causally linked to contemporary outcomes of interest. We summarize important contributions made by research in each category. Finally, we close with a brief discussion of challenges facing each category of work.

Specially selected from The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics 2nd edition, each article within this compendium covers the fundamental themes within the discipline and is written by a leading practitioner in the field. A handy reference tool.

Introduction -- Thrifty science: economy and experiment -- Making a home for experiment -- Shifty science: how to make use of things -- The power of lasting: maintenance and cleaning -- The broken world: repairs and recycling -- Secondhand science -- Auctions and the dismantling of science -- The palatial laboratory: economy and experiment -- Conclusion

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