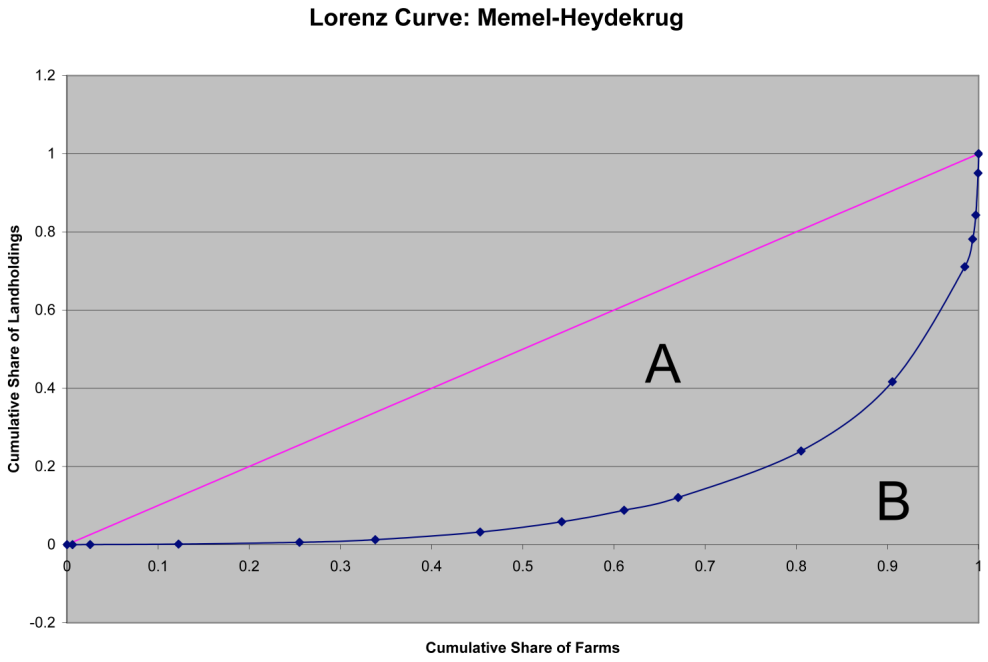
Documentation for :

Daniel Ziblatt "Landholding Inequality in Germany, at the Reichstag Constituency Level, and Prussian Chamber of Deputies Constituency Level, 1895"

This dataset uses the agricultural census of 1898 to reconstruct inequality (using a land gini coefficient) in the size of agricultural units at two different levels of analysis: the Reichstag constituency level, and the Prussian Chamber of Deputes' constituency level.

Using census data from the Imperial Statistical Office collected in the 1890s on the size and number of farms at the provincial level (1,004 provinces), I aggregated these data to correspond with the electoral constituencies in order to assess the degree to which land was inequitably or equitably distributed. To this end, I first constructed a Lorenz curve of the distribution of land in each electoral constituency with the aim of giving each constituency a single score measuring level of landholding inequality. In essence, this plots the cumulative share of *number of farms* on the horizontal axis against the cumulative share of *area of landholdings* on the vertical axis. Figure 3 below shows the Lorenz curve for one sample district, Memel-Heydekrug, found in Prussia.



For each constituency I calculated landholding inequality using the following method: The larger Area A relative to Area B, the greater the inequality of landholdings. The most common expression of such inequality is through a Gini coefficient, simply the area of A divided by the total area of A and B. The larger the coefficient, the greater the inequality.

The original data source for this original dataset comes from an agricultural census conducted at the Kreis level of over 5 million agricultural units:

Kaiserliches Statistisches Amt. 1898. *Statistik des Deutschen Reichs*. Bd. 112. Berlin: Verlag des Königlich Preussichen Statistischen Bureaus, pp. 351-413 [Table 9]

For Germany's 1,004 Kreise, the census reports the number of farms in each size category determined by the Census. These data are used to calculate a gini coefficient in agricultural units for electoral constituencies at two levels of analysis.

* First, after aggregating Kreis units into Reichstag electoral constituencies, a single land gini coefficient score is calculated for each of the 397 federal parliamentary constituencies (397 units).

* Second, using Thomas Kühne *Handbuch der Wahlen zum Preussischen Abgeordnetenhaus*, 1867–1918 (Düsseldorf: Droste, 1994) as a guide to aggregating Kreise to electoral constituencies, a land gini coefficient score is assigned to each of the 276 Prussian Chamber of Deputies electoral constituencies, as of 1912 (n=276). For a fuller discussion see, Daniel Ziblatt, "Does Landholding Inequality Block Democratization? A Test of the Bread and Democracy Thesis and the Case of Prussia" *World Politics* (2008), p. 626.