

**Title of Article:** Ethnic Fractionalization and Institutions in Africa Pre and post colonial review

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**Abstract:** Can institutional development in Africa be explained in terms of Africa's diverse ethno-linguistic divide? And how has ethno linguistic factors affected pre and post colonial institutional development in Africa? According to the Library of Congress Africa currently consists of over 200 tribe. This paper presents a historical review of the impact of ethnic fractionalization on institutional development in Africa. It is a debut to our original paper on trade routes in Africa a pre and post colonial analysis. Few studies have tried to link ethnic fractionalization from pre colonial era to present era to institutional developments in Africa as we try to do in this study. We find that ethnic fractionalization weakened both pre and post colonial institutions in Africa. Empirical findings also show that institutions were shaped by trade and national interests, differences in city states and this had an effect on institutional development on the continent.