Introduction

This project seeks to explain the political participation of Christian churches (national-level denominational organizations). In many African countries, churches constitute a significant portion of civil society. Since independence, some churches have emerged as critics of government, some have provided moral and ideological support for those in power, and still others have acted as mediators, taken mixed political positions, or abstained from politics altogether.

This portion of my project examines the organizational determinants of church political participation. It looks at over 200 church-government dyads in 14 Sub-Saharan African nations from independence until today.

Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: More hierarchical churches (those that concentrate power in fewer people) are more likely to support governments.

Hypothesis 2: Church leaders with longer tenures in office are more likely to support governments.

Hypothesis 3: Churches with fewer centers of power (leaders or offices not subordinate to other officials within the country) are more likely to support government.

Hypothesis 4: Churches lead by the church's founders or their relatives are more likely to support government.

Results

![Table 1: Regression Results](image)

![Table 2: Multivariate Results](image)

![Table 3: Multivariate Results](image)

Conclusions

- Episcopal churches seem more likely to oppose governments.
- Presbyterian and congregational churches become more likely to be mixed or neutral, though latter may result from data scarcity.
- Longer tenure does not have a consistent effect on church leaders’ politics.
- Churches with fewer centers of power trend toward neutrality.
- Dynastic churches are less likely to oppose government.

Next Steps:
- Adding Political, Ethnic and International Variables.

Thank you for reading!