

Gordon Does Growth



“A good deal of Tullock's work uses simple models to demonstrate that the world is more complex than may have previously been appreciated.”

~Roger Congleton, Public Choice, 2004

The calculus of consent

JM Buchanan, G **Tullock** - 1962 - [civiljusticenj.org](#)

In large political units the institutional manifestation of the active promotion of economic interest is the pressure group. The reason for the very existence of such groups lies in their ability to promote and to further, through the political-choice process, the particular ...

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The welfare costs of tariffs, monopolies, and theft

G **Tullock** - [Economic Inquiry](#), 1967 - [Wiley Online Library](#)

In recent years a considerable number of studies have been published that purport to measure the welfare costs of monopolies and tariffs.'The results have uniformly shown very small costs for practices that economists normally deplore. This led Mundell to comment in ...

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Efficient rent seeking

G **Tullock** - [Efficient Rent-Seeking](#), 2001 - [Springer](#)

Abstract MOST of the papers in this volume* implicitly or explicitly assume that rent-seeking activity discounts the entire rent to be derived. Unfortunately, this is not necessarily true; the reality is much more complicated. The problem here is that the average cost and marginal ...

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Toward a theory of the rent-seeking society

JM Buchanan, RD Tollison, G **Tullock** - 1980 - [Texas A & M Univ Pr](#)

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The politics of bureaucracy

G **Tullock** - 1965 - [Public Affairs Pr](#)

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An empirical analysis of cross-national economic growth, 1951–1980

KB Grier, G **Tullock** - [Journal of Monetary economics](#), 1989 - [Elsevier](#)

Abstract Using pooled cross-section/time-series data on 113 countries, we investigate empirical regularities in post-war economic growth. We find that coefficient values vary widely across identifiable groups of countries, with evidence supporting the convergence ...

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Polluters' profits and political response: Direct controls versus taxes

JM Buchanan, G **Tullock** - [The American Economic Review](#), 1975 - [JSTOR](#)

Economists of divergent political persuasions agree on the superior efficacy of penalty taxes as instruments for controlling significant external diseconomies which involve the interaction of many parties. However, political leaders and bureaucratic administrators, charged with ...

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Toward a mathematics of politics

G **Tullock** - 1967 - [University of Michigan Press](#)

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The social dilemma: The economics of war and revolution

G **Tullock** - 1974 - [University publications](#)

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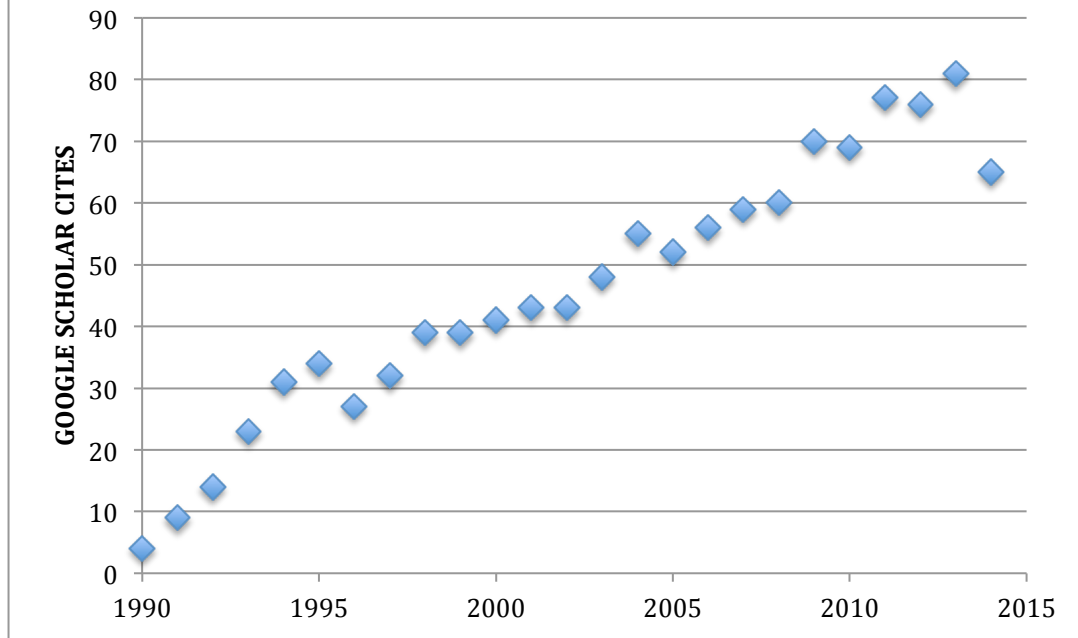
Problems of majority voting

G **Tullock** - [The Journal of Political Economy](#), 1959 - [JSTOR](#)

deal of thought to problems of governmental policy and, in particular, to the question of proper allocation of resources between the public and private sectors.'On the other hand, little attention has been given to the actual process of decision-making or to the type of ...

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CITATIONS TO GRIER & TULLOCK



Cited in:

American Economic Review,
Quarterly Journal of Economics,
Review of Economics & Statistics,
Journal of Monetary Economics,
Journal of International Economics,
Journal of Development Economics,
Journal of Public Economics,
Journal of Econometrics,
NBER Macroeconomics Annual,
Handbook of Macroeconomics,
Handbook of Economic Growth

Grier & Tullock: an academic odd couple

Gordon for whatever reason had purchased the Penn World Tables on magnetic tape (remember this was 1987) and wanted to show that government was bad for growth.

I studied growth theory in grad school for two weeks until it was revealed that none of the models we would study dealt with determining the growth rate of an economy.

However, I did know how to read and clean data from magnetic tapes.

You might think Gordon, with his button down shirts and tweed jackets was the neat, fussy one and I with my shoulder length hair and mis-matched Chuck Taylors was the slob.

But Gordon just wanted to send the paper out. If it didn't publish well he said he would publish it in Public Choice. I kept re-writing, running more tests and models, adding in more footnotes about growth theory. He would get pretty crabby and impatient.

There was really only one disagreement between us in the whole process. I wanted to put in a disclaimer that our results were not causal, and Gordon decidedly wanted to say they were causal.

The published version of the paper contains this passage toward the end of the introduction:

“We do not present or test a comprehensive theory of secular economic growth. The econometric results reported below cannot be interpreted as structural estimates of a well-defined model. Rather, we are investigating empirical regularities in these data, with emphasis on the stability of coefficients over time and across countries.”

I accomplished this coup by volunteering to pay the submission fee and be the corresponding author (the fee was \$100), and Gordon gleefully accepted, perhaps not realizing that this gave me the de-facto final edit

Why has the paper done relatively well?

1. Probably the first use of panel data to study growth in 5 year averages.

2. Clearly shows the heterogeneity of coefficients around the world. No single unified model.

3. Inflation hurts growth (its volatility in the rich world, its level in the developing world).

4. Institutions matter (government and civil liberties) but effects are geographically heterogeneous.

5. We showed a positive correlation between the volatility of growth and the average level of growth.