REVIEW ESSAY: Reappraising the Legacy of Colonialism: The Value of an Island Sample A Response to Bertram James Feyrer Dartmouth College Hanover, NH USA HYPERLINK "mailto:james.feyrer@dartmouth.edu" james.feyrer@dartmouth.edu & Bruce Sacerdote Dartmouth College Hanover, NH & National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc. (NBER) Cambridge MA USA HYPERLINK "mailto:bruce.sacerdote@dartmouth.edu" bruce.sacerdote@dartmouth.edu

Abstract In this brief article, we respond to Geoff Bertram's overview of the current state of research into the legacy of colonial institutions. We make the general case for islands as a useful unit of observation in thinking about cross country income differences. The nature of island exploration and settlement provides a unique natural experiment that is not available in a mainland sample of countries. However, we feel that the results provide useful insights to the general literature about the relationship between colonialism and income. We also respond to Bertram's criticisms of our data and sample selection. In many cases, problems he identifies have been addressed in the most recent version of our work. Keywords: islands, colonialism, sailing ships, wind, income Copyright © 2007 Institute of Island Studies, University of Prince Edward Island, Canada.