
Part I: **Propositions**

Part I of this book, ‘Propositions’, starts with a discussion on three elite fallacies, before moving on to the core 20 propositions presented over its three chapters. These address elite agency (Chapter 1), elite business models (Chapter 2), and the national elite system (Chapter 3). A cogent theoretical structure emerges to describe the relationship between elites and economic development. The conceptual elements, propositions, and conjectures introduced here suggest a persistent logic that operates at the abstract level in *all* societies.

The propositions in this first part of the book are declarative statements meant to be testable, many with roots in diverse academic fields. Additionally, and throughout this work, conjectures are also advanced (they are compiled in Table A1.3) in the Popperian spirit of having “the definite intention of testing a theory” (1962, p. 46); bold assertions that are imaginatively put forth (see Weick, 1989; McGilchrist, 2019) to falsify the diverse components of this work’s attempt at grand theory (Skinner, 1990). Conjectures support theorizing by addressing narrow questions, while the 20 propositions connect the conceptual elements of this work and provide the foundation for the theoretical integration in Part II.

