

## **Abstracts and Profiles of authors**

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### **The Curse of Mars: Wars, Ruler-Elite Interaction and Regicides in Imperial China**

(221 BC–1911 AD)

Lai Wei

**Abstract:** Mainstream historical sociology studies argue that wars enhance state capacity. Following Mann's analysis of infrastructural power, I contend that wars have a positive effect on the control of the state over society but may have a negative effect on the control of the ruler over the elite. Based on a unique dataset that includes all 294 Chinese emperors, I examine the effects of war on the intensity of the ruler-elite relation and find that emperors who engaged in major wars were under greater threat of being killed or deposed by elites. To explain such a finding, I argue that as a consequence of a ruler's delegation of power to lower-echelon elites for the sake of efficiency, the elites could turn that power against the ruler.

**Keywords:** war, ruler-elite relation, event history analysis, Imperial China

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### **Climate Shocks, Political Institutions, and Nomadic Invasions in Early Modern East Asia**

Weiwen yin

**Abstract:** While a large literature argues that negative climate shocks such as a dramatic drop in temperature or precipitation can trigger conflicts, recent findings suggest that normal weather is more conducive to war. This paper is aimed at developing a more comprehensive theory on the complexity of the nature-conflict nexus by incorporating political institution as a moderating variable. It hypothesizes that, under the impact of negative climate shocks, more institutionalized and centralized societies can mobilize more resources for war, compared to

societies with lower level of centralization. Thus, the former are more likely to resort to mass and well-organized plundering to address the scarcity problem caused by detrimental climate shocks. Meanwhile, centralized groups have little incentive to attack when there is no negative climate shock, as they can extract stable tax revenue through centralized institutions. On the other hand, groups that lack central authority are unable to mobilize and launch a military attack under bad weather. Hence, for the less centralized societies, the probability of initiating a conflict is decreasing in the severity of climate shocks. A comparison between the more centralized Manchurian and the less politically organized Mongols on their conflictual behavior during the early modern period of East Asia (AD 1368-1840) serves as an empirical test for the hypothesis. Examining both within and between country variation, I find that the Manchurian were indeed more likely to raid the settlers' borders when the weather was colder, but such association existed only after they had embraced centralized political institutions. Instead, for the Mongols during the same period, temperature had a positive effect on the likelihood of conflict initiation.

**KeyWords:** Climate Shocks, East Asia, Nomadic Invasion, Political Violence, Weather

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### **The Effect of War on Local Collective Action: Evidence from the Korean War**

Hyunjoo Yang

**Abstract:** Does war have important long-term economic consequences? Existing literature suggests a lack of long-term effects related to the short-term destruction of physical capital and population reduction. Increased ideological and social division as a result of war, on the other hand, may produce persistent economic and social outcomes. I investigate the effect of the 1950-1953 Korean War on cooperation within rural communities in South Korea. Combining census data and unique data on village level collective action, I find that residents of townships that experienced more intense conflicts due to the prolonged presence of the North Korean Army and communist influences during the war were less likely to cooperate 20

years after the war ended. Further, I provide evidence that the reductions in township populations due to the conflict persisted over 40 years. The empirical results suggest that the impacts of the war persisted in the form of increased ideological and social division.

**Keywords:** Political Purges, Social Capital, South Korea

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### **Soviet Collectivization and Within-family Homicides: Evidence from China's Cultural Revolution**

Danli Wang

**Abstract:** We show that Soviet Collectivization was the fundamental cause of universal within-family homicides by studying the county-level degree of Soviet Collectivization and homicides from 1966 to 1976 when the Cultural Revolution reached Guangxi Province in China. Estimation results demonstrate that within-family homicides in a county significantly depended on the degree of Soviet Collectivization in this particular area. That is, counties with severe Soviet Collectivization often co-existed with numerous within-family homicides when the Cultural Revolution hit. We distinguish the causal effect of Soviet Collectivization on within-family homicides by employing the southward cadre of the studied period as an instrument for Soviet Collectivization. Findings confirm the causal relationship between Soviet Collectivization and universal within-family homicides.

**Key Words:** Soviet Collectivization, economic ties uniting family members, within-family homicides, southward cadres

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## **Institutional Discrimination and Assimilation: Evidence from the Chinese Exclusion Act**

Shuo Chen, Bin Xie

**Abstract:** This study examines the impact of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 on the economic assimilation of Chinese immigrants. The federal legislation to prohibit the entry of Chinese immigrants created a discriminatory domestic environment that likely set barriers for assimilation. Using IPUM micro-samples of US censuses, we find that Chinese immigrants had an assimilation rate significantly lower than other immigrants in years under the Chinese Exclusion Act. We also find that Chinese immigrants had lower human capital and chose more isolated occupations during the Exclusion period.

**Keywords:** Chinese Exclusion Act, assimilation, immigrants

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## **Women's Suffrage and Political Polarization**

Liu Zhang

**Abstract:** The dynamics of political polarization in the US have been extensively discussed in recent years. Despite the emerging literature that attributes the recent increase in polarization to the concurrent change in some socio-economic factors, the forces that could potentially bring it down are not well understood. This paper documents an unobserved fact that links women's suffrage in the US to the drop in polarization in the early 20th century. Using a state-level bi-annual panel data from 1870 to 1940, I find that women's suffrage resulted in the decline of polarization. On average, polarization in states that granted women the voting rights was about 15.7% lower. The result is robust to a variety of checks. By including individual fixed effects, I find that around two-thirds of the overall effects come from incumbent politicians changing their behavior in response to suffrage laws. Furthermore, I investigate the heterogeneous effects in parties and chambers. The observed convergence between the two parties was primarily driven by the Democrats acting "more Republican", and the effect was larger for House Representatives than Senators.

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**Bring Down the Gentry: The Abolition of Exam, Local Governance and Anti-Gentry  
Rebellions, 1902-1911**

Yu Hao, Zheng-Cheng Liu, Li-an Zhou

**Abstract:** This paper tests the impact of abolition of civil service exam in 1905 on local governance in rural China. Before the abolition, lower exam title holders (lower gentry) provided public services at local level, on their path towards obtaining higher status and holding official positions. The abolition of exam provided wouldbe public agents greater incentive to obtain modern education in urban area, but wiped off the long run return prospect from providing services in rural area, deteriorating both the incentive and selection of the public agents. We use the number of Juren, provincial exam passers, divided by the number of lowest exam quota to measure lower gentry's long-run return prospect. We find, using a DID strategy, that one standard deviation increase in this ratio is associated with 0.11 more incidents of anti-gentry uprisings (nearly half of the average level) after the abolition of exam. This impact gets greater as "local autonomy campaign" was spread over the country in 1909. This paper highlights the importance of long-run incentives in improving the behaviors of public agents and selecting high-quality ones. It also contributes to the literature discussing the impacts of abolition of exam on social stability and deep driving forces of Chinese revolution in the 20th century.

**Key words:** return prospect; political incentive; political selection; local governance; civil service exam.

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## **Elite or the State: Public Goods Provision in China's Grain Market in the Eighteenth Century**

Cong Liu, Se Yan

**Abstract:** Government and local elites shape a society together. Few studies have quantitatively evaluated their contributions in eighteenth-century China. This paper documents and compares the function of the government and local elites in stabilizing grain prices. Narrative evidence suggests that, while the government provided public goods including the ever-normal granary system, the elites also participated in multiple ways, including leading water project constructions, contributing grain, and providing social relief. However, few studies have quantitatively compared the importance of these two players. We construct a prefecture-level panel data from 1742 to 1795 to examine the effect of the official granary system versus local elites. Preliminary results show that the effects differed across the country. While the government played a dominant role in the north, the elites effectively reduced price fluctuations in the Lower Yangzi.

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## **The Early History of the Financial Capitalism in Shanghai - International Competition and Market Capture in the World Periphery, Late 19th Century to Early 20th Century**

Jiajia Liu

**Abstract:** This research concerns a historical investigation in the birth and development of the Shanghai stock exchange as a symbol of China's encounter with financial capitalism. This topic owns its uniqueness to be studied in that the early history of the financial capitalism in Shanghai represents more the account of an imported capitalism rather than a reaction to an indigenous demand. The nature and complexity of the Shanghai's mercantile and financial networks with the foreign settlers have been widely known, however, limitedly studied. Through both qualitative and quantitative methods, this research concretely looks at the ways in which the production of price information and capital flows came to be organized in these

early days in Shanghai.

**Keywords:** Shanghai stock exchange, capitalism, early history

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## **The Origins of Financial Development: How the TseTse Fly Continues to Influence Modern Finance**

Jiafu A, Wenxuan Hou

**Abstract:** We assess how the TseTse fly, a unique feature of African ecology that transmitted a parasite lethal to livestock and had enduring effects on human subsistence strategies, continues to influence modern financial systems. After showing that the suitability index of TseTse fly helps account for overall financial development, household access to credit, and firm access to finance, we evaluate three potential mechanisms linking the TseTse fly to modern finance—ethnic fragmentation, precolonial centralization, and trade. We discover that the TseTse fly is strongly, positively related to ethnic fragmentation and negatively related to precolonial centralization. We find limited evidence on the trade channel.

**Keywords:** Ethnic Fragmentation; Financial Development; Precolonial Centralization; TseTse Fly; Social Cohesion

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## **Childbirth Transformation and New Style Midwifery in Beijing, 1926 – 1937**

Minghui Li

**Abstract:** This paper proposes a comparative historical analysis of the childbirth transformation in Beijing city and its rural neighborhood in China between 1926 and

1937. It aims to contribute to the growing historiography about western medicine's impacts on Chinese childbirth practices in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. By looking at the qualitative and quantitative sources, this paper seeks to find out how the new style midwifery originally from the west was introduced and adapted to the Chinese context, and how it influenced birth attendants and mortality in both urban and rural communities.

The western hygienic midwifery was first introduced in China in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and had caught great attention of Chinese elites in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century because of its capability of saving mothers and infants from risks in childbirth. In the 1920s, the Republican government incorporated the hygienic midwifery into official policies, stimulating a midwifery transformation that aimed for reducing maternal and infant mortality rates. Considering the spatial and temporal variations, this paper will mainly concentrate on Beijing's first health district and its rural neighbor, Qinghe district. The time period ranges from 1926 when the new style midwifery was formally implemented in the first health district, to 1937 when the Second Sino-Japanese war broke out.

Particularly, this paper will examine 1) the process of implementing new style midwifery, regulating and training new and traditional midwives; 2) the influence on the participation of different birth attendants; and 3) effects on maternal and infant mortality rates in urban and rural communities. It tries to argue that the implementation and relevant effects differed from urban to rural areas because of the economic, social and cultural variances.

**Key words:** Childbirth; midwifery; maternal and infant mortality; Beijing.

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## **The Strength of Clan and Peasant Revolt in Qing Dynasty: Evidence from Anhui Province**

Wenbing Wu

**Abstract:** The research question in this paper is how strength of clan affect the peasant

uprising. It is motivated by the debate about the role of clan in local governance. Researchers generally believed that clan can strengthen the government power and slow down the dynasty disintegration because clan is beneficial to local autonomy and act as the "intermediary" of government. In order to solve this puzzle using empirical analysis, I construct a county level panel data in Qing Dynasty to evaluate the effect of clan on peasant revolt. The empirical result shows that clan has a mitigating effect when there were weather shocks.

**Keywords:** clan, peasant revolt

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### **Party Building and Land Reform in 1950-52**

Wuyue You, Ningning Ma

**Abstract:** A distinct manifestation of the excessive radicalism in Communist Party of China (CPC)'s land reform from late 1940s to early 1950s was the misclassification of "exploitative" classes. In this paper, we focus on the land reform in "newly liberated areas" in early 1950s, and find that the share of classified landlords in population was actually not correlated with the landownership before the reform. We propose that the political incentives of party building played an important role in the enemy classification. Empirically, the landlords share classified was significantly lower in the areas that CCP had more powerful bases before 1950. However, in places where CCP had weak bases initially, it had to set up its absolute authority through the land reform. By classifying a larger part of landlords, it broke down the traditional attachment relationship more thoroughly and made those "exploited" classes rely on CCP to a greater extent. We also find that the counties with higher share of population classified as landlords would experience a higher increase in the population density of newly developed CCP members after the land reform.

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## **State Formation and Bureaucratization in Pre-Imperial China**

Y. Joy Chen

**Abstract:** The birth of a centralized bureaucracy, which formed the organizational basis of the Chinese Empire, took place during the Eastern Zhou Period (770-222 B.C.). The causes of China's transition from a collection of decentralized patrimonial states to one unified bureaucratic empire have long attracted scholarly interest. In this study, I first use hand-collected data to show that, at the early stage of state and bureaucratic development in pre-imperial China, there had been 1) an increase over time in the political activity of members of the lower social strata; 2) an expansion in trade and commerce; 3) concentration of political power among a few clans and an increase in the downward mobility of aristocrats; 4) an improvement in productivity. Based on empirical and historical accounts, I develop a model in which the interaction between the growth of the aristocratic population and improvement in productivity triggers the emergence of class of educated commoners, the availability of whom for administrative appointment facilitates state formation and bureaucratization in certain cases. Faced with external military threat, military centralization fails to happen when the ruler is forced to rely on his administrators to finance armies, or when his administrator has strong bargaining power. On the other hand, bureaucratization transpires when defense need is relatively low and the administrator has a weak bargaining position, or when military spending becomes a burden for the administrator such that the ruler is forced to increase his extractive capacity to meet defense needs. I discuss those results in the relevant historical context.

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**Measuring China's Performance in the World Economy: A Benchmark  
Comparison between the Economies of China and the UK in the Early Twentieth  
Century**

Ye Ma, Herman de Jong, and Yi Xu<sup>1</sup>

**Abstract:** This paper provides the first estimates of purchasing power parity (PPP) converters from the production side between China and the UK for the early 1910s. It gives a new starting point to evaluate the economic development in pre-modern China during early industrialization since the late nineteenth century. The estimated PPPs for manufacturing industries provide relative levels of producer prices in China, necessary for the calculation of comparative output and labor productivity. These producer prices are calculated by the authors from an official Chinese industrial census. The 1910s estimate will also be used to obtain a better understanding of the industrial development during the first four decades of the twentieth century.

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**Revolution Rides on Railroads: Transportation Network and Diffusion of  
Demonstrations during The March First Movement in Colonial Korea, 1919**

Duol Kim

**Abstract:** The March First Movement in 1919 was the massive protest towards national independence in colonial Korea. I explored the role of railroad networks on the diffusion of demonstration and found that regions with railroad stations started demonstrations earlier, had more gatherings, attracted more participants, and encouraged more vehement protests that resulted in larger number of arrests. The Japanese colonial government had built railroads to exploit benefits from Korea, but this had brought a rather ironical result, that is, spreading and strengthening protests to their colonial rule.

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## **The Long-Run Effects of the Slave Trade on the Political Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa**

Zhicheng Xu, Yu Zhang, Shahriar Kibriya

**Abstract:** Although the determinants of armed conflict in Africa have been extensively studied, it remains important to explore the historical roots of the contemporary political violence. This study attempts to investigate the long-run effects of the slave trade during 1400-1900 on the contemporary violence in sub-Saharan Africa. By using a geo-coded disaggregated dataset and exploiting within-country variation in slave trade intensity, we document a robust causal relationship between slave exports from a region and the contemporary conflict. Adding into the climate-conflict literature, we find that the effect of weather shock on the conflict risk is substantially amplified by the exposure to slave trade. We then carefully discuss the potential deeper channels underlying the relationship, suggesting that the exposure to slave trade mainly affects the ethnic conflict and riots by resulting in intergroup mistrust, local institution deterioration, and a weaker sense of national identity.

**Keywords:** political violence, ethnicity, slave trade, sub-Saharan Africa

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## **Lucky To Have A Sister: An Empirical Investigation of the Family Public Good Problem in the Qing Dynasty, China**

Feng Ding, Jinchuan Shi

**Abstract:** This paper empirically explores the potential public good problem associated with the ancient Chinese concept of family. We first document a positive relationship between unmarried sister and brother outcomes. Our argument is that an unmarried sister represents an altruistic family public good provider, and a self-interested brother has an incentive to exploit his sister for unpaid housework and caregiving; therefore, a significant positive correlation

was observed between unmarried sister and brother outcomes. We then consider the reverse causality and test various heterogeneous effects. To further support our argument, we provide additional evidence by documenting the effects of being unmarried or married and being the younger or older brother. We argue that married and older brothers were also family public good providers whereas others were not. The empirical results confirm our argument.

**Keywords:** Family public good, Unmarried sister, Fertility behavior, Human capital, Chinese family

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