Replication of "Natural Experiments of the Rally 'Round the Flag Effects Using Worldwide Surveys"

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Description

- The "rally 'round the flag" effect—a short-term boost in a political leader's popularity during an interstate political dispute—was first proposed by Mueller (1970) more than half a century ago. However, there is no scholarly consensus on its empirical validity and the circumstances under which the effect becomes most prominent. In this paper, based on a natural experimental design, we analyze large-scale worldwide surveys of 34,118 responses and causally identify the effects of 46 militarized interstate disputes (MIDs) on the approval ratings of political leaders in 27 countries. We find that MIDs, on average, *decrease* public support for national leaders. However, the public backlash could be *attenuated* depending on theoretically relevant contexts. Our finding implies that political leaders cannot rely on MIDs for public support *increases*, as they are generally penalized for such decisions.

About data

- `replication_data.RDS`, the main data file, is compiled based on the original GWP (Gallup World Polls, version: April 27, 2022) data.
- The original GWP file is not included in this replication package due to the copyright protection.
- The script in the `build\scripts` folder (i.e., `make_replication_data.R`) would work only if the original GWP data file in Stata (`The_Gallup_042722.dta`) were saved in the `build\data\GWP` folder.

Files included in this package:

- `README.md`
- `REAME.pdf` – generated by `README.md`
- `seo-horiuchi.Rproj` (for RStudio)
- `master.R` – a master file that sources all other scripts.
- renv (folder)
  - Files generated by the `renv` package (version 0.17.2)
  - See https://rstudio.github.io/renv/index.html.
- `renv.lock`
  - A file generated by the `renv` package (version 0.17.2)
- analyze/data (folder)
  - A replication data file, generated by the script in the `build\scripts` folder
- analyze/figures (folder)
  - All files are generated by the scripts
- analyze/functions (folder)
  - Functions used in the scripts
- analyze/output (folder)
  - All files are generated by the scripts

- analyze/scripts
  - R scripts for complete replication
- build (folder)
  - Files necessary to make a replication data

Remarks:

- If you use RStudio, click `seo-horiuchi.Rproj` to launch RStudio and set the working directory automatically.
- If you do not use RStudio, manually set the working directory, which is the folder that includes `seo-horiuchi.Rproj`.

Program:

- R (version 4.2.3)

Additional programs required:

- `tidyverse` (version 2.0.0)
- `countrycode` (version 1.4.0)
- `haven` (version 2.5.2)
- `estimatr` (version 1.0.0)
- `ggthemes` (version 4.2.4)
- `ggstance` (version 0.3.6)
- `lme4` (version 1.1-32)
- `modelsummary` (version 1.3.0)

Process of replication:

- If you use RStudio, install `renv` (a package to create reproducible environments). Then, type `renv::restore()` to restore a project's dependencies from a lockfile.
- If you do not use RStudio, install the packages manually.
- Then, run the scripts sequentially.

Most recent date of successful replication April 3, 2023