Replication of "Does Russian Election Interference Damage Support for U.S. Alliances? The Case of Japan"

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Description

- Scholars and practitioners often argue that the United States' identity as a democracy contributes to the effectiveness and endurance of U.S. military alliances. One way to test this claim is to ask: what would happen if citizens of allied countries came to perceive U.S.~democracy as severely flawed or diminished? In the context of now well-documented Russian interference in recent U.S.~elections, we examine whether Russia's election interference and its perceived impact on American democracy damage foreign public opinion about the U.S. The results of our survey experiment fielded in Japan suggest that information about *successful* Russian election interference—i.e., interference that had an impact on the election outcome—reduces foreign citizens' faith in the U.S. as an ally. This pattern most clearly manifests in reduced belief in the U.S. *capacity* to defend Japan. Our study sheds light on the connections between the image of the U.S., both as a trustworthy and effective state, and the foreign public's attitudes toward U.S. alliances, with theoretical and practical implications.

About data

- This replication package includes the files to generate all the results reported in this manuscript and its supplementary materials.

Files included in this package:

- `README.md`
- `REAME.pdf` – generated by `README.md`
- `R.Rproj` (for RStudio)
- renv (folder)
  - Files generated by the `renv` package (version 0.15.5)
  - See https://rstudio.github.io/renv/index.html.
- data (folder)
  - Data used for replication
- documents (folder)
  - The code-book
- figures (folder)
  - All files are generated by the scripts in the `scripts` folder
- scripts (folder)
  - R scripts for complete replication

Remarks:

- If you use RStudio, click `R.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 `R.Rproj`.

Program:

- `R` (version 4.2.1)

Additional programs required:

- `tidyverse` (version 1.3.1)
- `readxl` (version 1.4.0)
- `ggthemes` (version 4.2.4)
- `estimatr` (version 1.0.0)
- `stargazer` (version 5.2.3)
- `cowplot` (version 1.1.1)
- `MASS` (version 7.3-57)

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 October 25, 2022