Winter Is Coming: Early-life Experiences and Politicians' Decisions

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Data availability statement:

As described in the main text of the paper, the dataset used in this research is constructed based on four sources of data.

First, the biographical information on county leaders is based on the approach of Chen and Kung (2016) by collecting the biographies from the public available résumés of the politicians posted on Baidu Baike (http://baike.baidu.com/).

Second, the county-level fiscal variables are collected from the National Prefecture and County Finance Statistics Compendium each year during 1998-2007, which was complied by the Treasury Department of the Ministry of Finance, and published by the China Finance and Economics Press. The digital version of the data was obtained through the EPS China Data. The access to EPS China Data was provided by Zhongnan University of Economics and Law. We obtained the financial data of counties through the EPS database platform (EPSData) purchased by our university. This database platform requires downloaders to use the account of a faculty member to download within the IP address of the university network.

Step one: open the eps data website: https://www.epsnet.com.cn/index.html#/Index

Step two: Click the "EPS Data Platform" button located in the bottom right corner of the webpage.

Step three: In the top left corner of the newly opened webpage, there is a tab labeled "All Data Categories". Select "Chinese Fiscal and Taxation Database" from the tab, and then choose the year (fiscal by city and county) from the database. Then select the corresponding economic indicators, county, and year from the displayed indicators, regions, and time tabs to obtain the data.

Alternatively, you can purchase the yearbook from 1998 to 2008 and manually organize the financial data of each county recorded in the book.

Third, the famine severity variables are calculated based on the 1% sample of the 1990 China Population Census. These data are published by the National Bureau of Statistics of China and are obtained by the authors through the Experiment and Data Center of Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

Fourth, the other county-level variables are obtained from China County Statistical Yearbooks. These are also published by the National Bureau of Statistics (1998–2007) and are obtained by the authors through the Experiment and Data Center of Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

All of these data are free to access. We have complied all the data and make them public available in the following link:
https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/JPFT03.

Description of the replication package:

- All paths in the do-files should be manually set to where the downloaded data files are stored. A few of the Stata packages should be downloaded and installed with Internet connection. After running the codes, the important corresponding elements in figures and tables will be saved in the Results folder inside the replication package folder.

Stata data files:

- "Data for Replication.dta" includes the county-level observations to replicate Figures 1, 4, and 5 in the main text, Tables 1–4 in the main text, Figure A3 in the Appendix, and Tables A1, B1–B10, and C2–C7 in the Appendix.

- "Data for Replication_b.dta" includes the population for each birth cohort to replicate Figure 2 in the main text. The data are calculated using the 1% sample of the 1990 China Population Census.

- "Data for Replication_c.dta" includes data to replicate Table C1 (panels A and B) and Figure C1 in the Appendix. The county-level variables are from China County Statistical Yearbooks.

- "Data for Replication_d.dta" includes data to replicate panel C of Table C1 in the Appendix. The county-level variables are from China County Statistical Yearbooks.

- "Data for Replication_e.dta" includes data to replicate Figure A1 in the Appendix. The county-level variables are from China County Statistical Yearbooks.

- "Data for Replication_f.dta" includes data to replicate Figure A2 in the Appendix. The province-level measures of the severity of China's Great Famine are obtained from Lin and Yang (2000) and Cao (2005).

Stata do files (Stata/SE 17.0, Windows 64-bit x86-64):

- "Codes for Replication.do" includes the codes to replicate Figures 1, 4, and 5 in the main text, Tables 1–4 in the main text, Figure A3 in the Appendix, and Tables A1, B1–B10, and C2–C7 in the Appendix.
  - It uses the "Data for Replication.dta" data file with **a computation time of about ten minutes**.
  - The code of using the data is in line 4 and the path is set in line 5.
  - The Stata packages of logout, reghdfe, outreg2, and coefplot should be installed before running the codes.
  - The Stata package for ols_spatial_HAC provided by Hsiang (2010) can be

accessed at http://www.globalpolicy.science/code/ and downloaded at https://www.dropbox.com/s/pf2vtvgqhjk7rc8/spatial_HAC.zip?dl=0.

- "Codes for Replication_b.do" includes the codes to replicate Figure 2 in the main text, Figures A1, A2, and C1 in the Appendix, and Table C1 in the Appendix.
  - It uses the data files "Data for Replication_b.dta," "Data for Replication_c.dta," "Data for Replication_d.dta," "Data for Replication_e," and "Data for Replication_f.dta," with **a computation time of about one minute**.
  - The path should be set in line 4.
  - The Stata packages of reghdfe and outreg2 should be installed before running the codes.

GIS shapefile (ArcMap 10.8, Windows 64-bit x86-64):

- "FamineSeverity.shp" in the folder "Figure_3" is used to generate Figure 3 in the main text.
  - It takes about 15 seconds to open the shapefile in ArcMap.
  - The legend and graduated colors need to be adjusted according to "Figure_3.PNG" based on the values of "shrinkrate" in the "Layer Properties" dialog box.

References:

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