

# Not Just Guns or Butter, but What Came First—Guns or Butter? Introducing GVAR to International Relations

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## Abstract

Power remains one of the crucial and most studied concepts in International Relations. In recent decades a prevailing notion became present in the literature explaining that the economic power is the most fundamental type of power—a sort of a prerequisite for all other forms of power (military, political, cultural). Yet, such an assumption has never been properly tested. Therefore, to test this assumption, the paper introduces a new time-series method to Political Science—Global Vector Auto-regression. The method enables the researcher to perform big-n and big-t hypotheses tests. In this paper, we test if economic power is a prerequisite for military power. We use four variables from National Material Capabilities from the Correlates of War dataset, where two are used as proxies for measuring economic power, and two are used to measure military power. We run the analysis for two separate time-spends: first from 1871 through 1913, and from 1955 through 2012. Our inquiry suggests that the role of the economy has changed through history. Namely, in 19th century it was the military power that drove (Granger-caused) the economy; yet, since 1955 the roles are reversed. Finally, we identify future research projects how to test also the relations between the remaining two power factors (political and cultural).

**Keywords**— time series; IPE; GVAR; IR

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## I. INTRODUCTION

“Power is the ultimate aphrodisiac,” said Henry Kissinger (Kissinger 1973). Since the dawn of social and political science, power has been a key object of multiple research projects as well as served as a crucial explanation for others (Lasswell and Kaplan 1950). In recent decades a prevailing notion became present in International Relations, which sometimes takes the shape of a latent assumption, and sometimes as an explicit disclaimer, that the economic power is the most fundamental type of power—a sort of a condition for all other forms (Kennedy 1989; Luttwak 1990; Fukuyama 1992; Nau 1995; Kirshner 1997; Gilpin 2001; Brooks 2005; Ikenberry 2011). The argument is neatly summed by Organski, who claimed that economic power is a prerequisite for all other power capabilities, without a strong economy and good growth potential a dominant state stagnates and declines (Organski 1958, 299-306).

However, this claim has never been properly tested. For instance, Mearsheimer (2001, Ch. 3) dedicates a whole chapter in his masterpiece to explain how latent power matters to military power,<sup>1</sup> but he does not test this claim for great power relations, nor for international relations in general. Hence, are we taking this assumption for granted due to its sound causal pathway? Namely, states need good economy to purchase or make weapons<sup>2</sup>. However, if such a claim may be self-evident when it comes to relations between economic and military power, than this is not the case for relations between economic and political, and economic and cultural power.<sup>3</sup>

As such, if the literature offers assumptions about the nature of power and proposes causal relations between power factors,<sup>4</sup> than it should also provide general evidence that those are accurate. Nevertheless, such test is suspiciously missing from the International Relations scholarship. So far, the literature has not offered a general study which would test the assumption that economic power is a prerequisite of all other power factors. Several reasons may contribute to such a situation. First, the problem of measuring power, particularly political and cultural.<sup>5</sup> Second, the lack of appropriate methods of tackling this question. Third, the absence of unified theoretical framework of power that would allow for generalization of such test.

We acknowledge the first issue, but by no means should this limit scientific endeavors. Being aware of vices in databases and variables used to measure a concept should only motivate us to do additional primary research, as well as to reproduce existing studies with different variables from variety of data bases. Furthermore, being cognizant of the problem requires transparency,

not avoidance. Regarding the third point, it is very difficult to imagine that Political Science will ever develop an ultimate definition of power.<sup>6</sup> Still, this skepticism should not discourage us to advance power assessments, as well as limit scientific inquiries that are based on a specific definition. Therefore, this paper tackles the second problem—methodological. Namely, we introduce to Political Science a new time series method—Global Vector Autoregression (GVAR).<sup>7</sup> The latter, among other characteristics, enables a big N and big T analysis.<sup>8</sup> Therefore, it is ideal for testing such an assumption as relations between economic and military power.

As such, in this paper we focus solely on the relations between economic and military power factors. We use GVAR to determine which power factor drives the other—Granger causality (C. W. J. Granger 1969). We hypothesize that pre-World War One, it was military power that generated economic power—greater military, led to greater economic power. Moreover, we also expect in the second hypothesis that after the World War Two the relations would be reverse. Hence, it is the economic power that conditions military power. These two hypotheses derive from structural changes of international relations, such as advancement of technology, which contributes to slower fungibility of military power in modern time.<sup>9</sup> However, fungibility does not mean causality, it only refers to a possibility and the likelihood of that possibility—a resource to be used in more than one issue area.

We operationalize military and economic power using variables from Correlates of War Project, components of National Capability Index (Singer 1987). Namely, the number of military personnel, the amount of military expenditure, the amount of energy consumption, and the production of iron and steel. Furthermore, in GVAR model we also use Bilateral Trade data from the same database that is used as the foreign or structural variable.(Barbieri and O. M. Keshk 2016) Namely, in order to construct a GVAR model, one needs country specific data, as well as global variables, which generates the framework or weights of those country level numbers.<sup>10</sup> Our initial results are ambiguous, where the first hypothesis is confirmed, while the second one is not. This means that military power is the prerequisite for economic power not only in 19th century, but also today. Still, more research is necessary on the subject. Yet, what matters at this point is that the results attest that we should not take any assumption for granted.

Hence, the paper proceeds by first positioning the question of relations between economic and military power in the broader literature on power. Second, we introduce the new method and GVAR model. Then we present our results and finally, elaborate our future research prospects and

proposals regarding this scientific inquiry.

## II. POWER

The literature offers numerous ways how to think and understand power.<sup>11</sup> For the sake of clarity and being cognizant of the risk of oversimplification, we identify three approaches of conceptualizing power. First are the “dimensions of power”—“power to,” “power over,” “power with.” Second are the faces of power. Third are power factors (economic, military, political, cultural). These three approaches may be distinct, but this does not mean that there are no commonalities, which can serve for new theory developments on power. However, we will leave this question of synthesis for a different paper.

Dimensions of power see power as either agential, structural, or relational (Qin 2018). “Power to” refers to the possession of the resources by a specific actor. Hence, it is linked with capabilities of states, which can be latent or already manifested. Namely, the more of a certain capability a state has, the more powerful it is. This is a straightforward logic; hence politicians and strategists like to operate with it (Deibel 2007). “Power over” refers to influence and control over outcomes or over other actors and their behavior (Hart 1976). As such, it bears a structural element, where the structure of international relations is favorable for certain states. “Power with” sees power residing in relations between A and B and therefore, both can draw from it. Thus, different type of relations lead to different levels of power in those relations. In fact, it is argued that the only way power is found is through the process of determining a consensus of goals and values among diverse interests (Arendt 1970). Deriving from these three dimensions of power Barnett and Duvall have presented their systemic, precise, and general typology of power (Barnett and Duvall 2005).

Another way of classifying power is through the so called “faces of power.” Such a classification developed gradually throughout the decades after the end of the World War Two and resides in the notion that power needs to be understood as a cause. Hence, the “faces of power” look for causal pathways through which power functions. Digeser sums it up: “Under the first face of power the central question is, ‘Who, if anyone, is exercising power?’ Under the second face, ‘What issues have been mobilized off the agenda and by whom?’ Under the radical conception, ‘Whose objective interests are being harmed?’ Under the fourth face of power the critical issue is, ‘What kind of subject is being produced?’ ” (Digeser 1992, 980) Namely, the first face sees power as coercion

behind the decision of making B do what A wants. It stresses direct contact between A and B (Dahl 1957). Yet, Bachrach and Baratz (1962) expanded the causal mechanism of power and identified that power also lies in the ability of A to make B do what A wants it to without with affection. They have called this the ‘Second Face of Power.’ Thus, B may do what A wants not only because A has an authority over B, but it also may be the case that B likes A and wants to please it. However, a ‘third face of power’ further expanded the causal mechanisms of power. It looks at the mechanism of subliminal ideological causes of shaping others’ interest, rules and in international relations (Lukes 1974). Finally, the fourth ‘face of power’ postulates that subjectivity or individuality is not biologically given. Subjects are understood as social constructions, whose formation can be historically described. Thus, power works through the identity construction of A’s and B’s (Digeser 1992).

The third approach of looking at power is to look at a particular domain of state interaction. Subsequently, each domain has its unique sources of power and causal mechanisms how that power functions. As stated, Mann (1986) determined economic, military, political, and ideological power domains.

The present research is related to first and third approach of studying power, hinting therefore, also towards the possibility of a synthesizing approach to conceptualize power. We look at capabilities of states, hence, we understand power as “power to.” Moreover, we are also testing the relations between economic and military power factors. Thus, state capabilities can be either economic, military, political and cultural. In future research we wish to test all those relations, nevertheless, this paper is only focused on testing the economic power prerequisite assumption.

The latter was the biggest constraining factor in our analysis. We had to balance the wish for long time span with the wish for big number of states included. In future iterations, as well as for robustness checks we may consider different time spans, which subsequently would change also the amount of states included—e.g. instead of taking 1955 as one of the starting points, consider 1971 or 1973, when the Bretton Woods International Monetary system collapsed, as well as when a big chunk of de-colonialization had already happened.

Moreover, in the current state of the project, we only look at two variables, one measuring military power (military personnel) and one economic power (iron and steel production). We will be adding two more variables, one for each power factor, in the next iteration—military expenditure and energy consumption. However, the global variable, or the variable that determines the structure

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of international relations, where a state operates in is the bilateral trade between countries. It may not be the best proxy for a structure, but it is the only one in a dyadic format with a time span we can take advantage of. Nevertheless, in the future iterations of the project, particularly for the time after World War II, a different variable may be used.

### III. MODELING “BUTTER AND GUNS” IN A GLOBAL SETTING: PRESENTING THE GVAR METHODOLOGY

To our knowledge, so far GVAR has not been used or introduced in Political Science. Although the method has been widely used in economics, its characteristics are appealing also for Political Science. Three such features come to mind. First, as already stated, GVAR enables a panel time series analysis of a big N and big T dataset. Second, unlike PVAR, it generates results for individual countries, or other units, hence, the particularities and complexities of politics are considered. Finally, it enables to model the effects of agency, structure, as well as their interaction. Still, for all its advantages, GVAR has one important shortcoming. Namely, there must not be any gaps in the data.

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#### I. GVAR: Country-specific Equations and Granger-causality Tests

Global vector auto-regressive models (GVAR) are a special category of vector auto-regressive models (VAR). Following Box-Steffensmeier et al. (2014, 164), define a VAR model as follows,

$$\mathbf{x}_{it} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}_i + \boldsymbol{\Phi}_i \mathbf{x}_{i,t-p} + \mathbf{u}_{it} \quad (1)$$

where  $\mathbf{x}_{it}$  is a  $k_i \times 1$  vector of endogenous variables which are lagged  $p$  times on the right-hand side, and where  $E(\mathbf{u}_{it}) = 0$ . Now, following Mauro and Pesaran (2013, 14), define a GVAR model with  $p$  lags for country  $i$  as follows,

$$\mathbf{x}_{it} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}_i + \boldsymbol{\Phi}_i \mathbf{x}_{i,t-p} + \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{1i} \mathbf{W}_t + \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{2i} \mathbf{W}_{t-p} + \mathbf{u}_{it} \quad (2)$$

where  $\mathbf{x}_{it}$  is a  $k_i \times 1$  vector of domestic (i.e. endogenous) variables,  $\mathbf{W}_t$  is a  $k_i \times 1$  vector of weakly-exogenous foreign variables, and  $\mathbf{u}_{it}$  is a serially uncorrelated and cross-sectionally weakly dependent process. As it becomes apparent, the inclusion of foreign variables  $\mathbf{W}_t$  in Equation 2

is one of the main characteristics of the GVAR approach, and the main difference with the VAR equation described in [Equation 1](#). In simple, the Global vector autoregressive GVAR model in [Equation 2](#) explains  $\mathbf{x}_{i,t}$  as a function of past values  $\mathbf{x}_{i,t-p}$  lagged  $p$  times, at the same time that it weights these dynamics by weakly-exogenous foreign variables  $\mathbf{W}_{t-p}$  (weights which are captured by parameters  $\mathbf{\Lambda}_{ni}$ ).

Since we are substantively interested in whether “guns” *cause* “butter” or the other way around, in this paper we estimate country-specific bivariate Granger-causality tests within the GVAR framework.<sup>12</sup> The Granger-causality method was introduced in C. Granger (1969) and it seeks to investigate if some variable  $X$  Granger-causes another variable  $Y$ , or the other way around. A variable  $X$  is said to Granger-cause  $Y$  if predictions of  $Y$  based on lagged values of  $Y$  and lagged values of  $X$  perform better than explaining  $Y$  just with its own past values. Since Granger-causality tests are usually estimated by fitting VAR equations ([Equation 1](#)) we now derive the Granger-causality test within the GVAR framework. The substantive advantage of GVAR Granger-causality tests over regular Granger-causality tests is that estimates are weighted by the global economy, situating the domestic dynamics within the global context. More formally, we estimate the following GVAR Granger-causality system for every country  $i$  with  $p$  lags as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}_{it} &= \alpha_i + \Phi_{1i}\mathbf{y}_{i,t-p} + \Phi_{2i}\mathbf{x}_{i,t-p} + \Lambda_{1i}\mathbf{W}_t + \Lambda_{2i}\mathbf{W}_{t-p} + \Lambda_{3i}\mathbf{W}_t + \Lambda_{4i}\mathbf{W}_{t-p} + \mathbf{u}_{it} \\ \mathbf{y}_{it} &= \alpha_i + \Phi_{1i}\mathbf{x}_{i,t-p} + \Phi_{2i}\mathbf{y}_{i,t-p} + \Lambda_{1i}\mathbf{W}_t + \Lambda_{2i}\mathbf{W}_{t-p} + \Lambda_{3i}\mathbf{W}_t + \Lambda_{4i}\mathbf{W}_{t-p} + \mathbf{u}_{it} \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

In our case, the vector  $\mathbf{x}_{it}$  contains country-year levels of “military personnel,” while vector  $\mathbf{y}_{it}$  contains country-year levels of “iron and steel production.” Both variables were systematized by the Correlates of War Project, particularly, the National Material Capabilities dataset (Singer, Bremer, and Stuckey 1972).<sup>13</sup> The dataset covers all countries in the world between 1816-2012.

We have truncated this time period into two parts, each related to a specific hypothesis. Namely, the first period is between 1871 and 1913. The time spread is rather obvious—unification of Germany and the beginning of World War I. The Zeitgeist of that period is neatly summed up in the infamous Bismarck’s “Blood and Iron” speech **Bismarck2020**:

Germany is not looking to Prussia’s liberalism, but to its power; Bavaria, Württemberg, Baden may indulge liberalism, and yet no one will assign them Prussia’s role; Prussia

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has to coalesce and concentrate its power for the opportune moment, which has already been missed several times; Prussia's borders according to the Vienna Treaties are not favorable for a healthy, vital state; it is not by speeches and majority resolutions that the great questions of the time are decided—that was the big mistake of 1848 and 1849—but by iron and blood.

As history has shown, by iron he did not mean economy, but military power. Therefore, our hypotheses are:

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**Hypothesis 1.** *Between 1871 and 1913 military power Granger causes economic power.*

In the future versions of the paper we may include only the very few numbers of states, whose data goes all the way back to 1816. Furthermore, we also may take advantage of imputing some data points for some states in order to enhance the number of states also in this period—for both versions 1816-1913 and 1871-1913.

liked is referring to Granger, no “prerequisite”

Figure 1 portrays the values of the two variables used in our model by country between 1871 and 1913. The second period of our analysis takes place between 1955 and 2012. The beginning of this framework was generated based on the balance between the competing objective of time length and amount of states included in our model. As stated earlier, here we have opted more in favor of greater time span, whereas in the future iterations and as a sort of robustness checks, we will also use a different starting points, such as: 1971 (Nixon Shock) or 1973 (the end of Bretton Woods System), 1946 (the end of World War II), 1991 (the end of Cold War), and 1980 (oil crisis). Moreover, we will also consider imputation in all these formats.

data are already cited

Nevertheless, we suspect that the nature of relations between economic and military power would be reversed in this period. This is not due to the technological advancement of the military, but rather due to the changed nature of the economy. The latter became finance driven, which is detached from the real economy. Namely, exponential growth of trade, Foreign Direct Investments, and monetary transactions altogether all attribute to the growth of monetary velocity, the creation of international banking consortia—by 1971 90% of 50 world's biggest banks had become a part of broader and larger conglomerates, and “by the end of 1970s financial flow size dwarfed trade flows by 25:1 and they were much more volatile,” therefore, today 99% of all financial transactions are short term-speculative transactions. All this contributes to the fact that the economy is not only adjacent to the strategic interactions of states, but in fact has become its own domain of power

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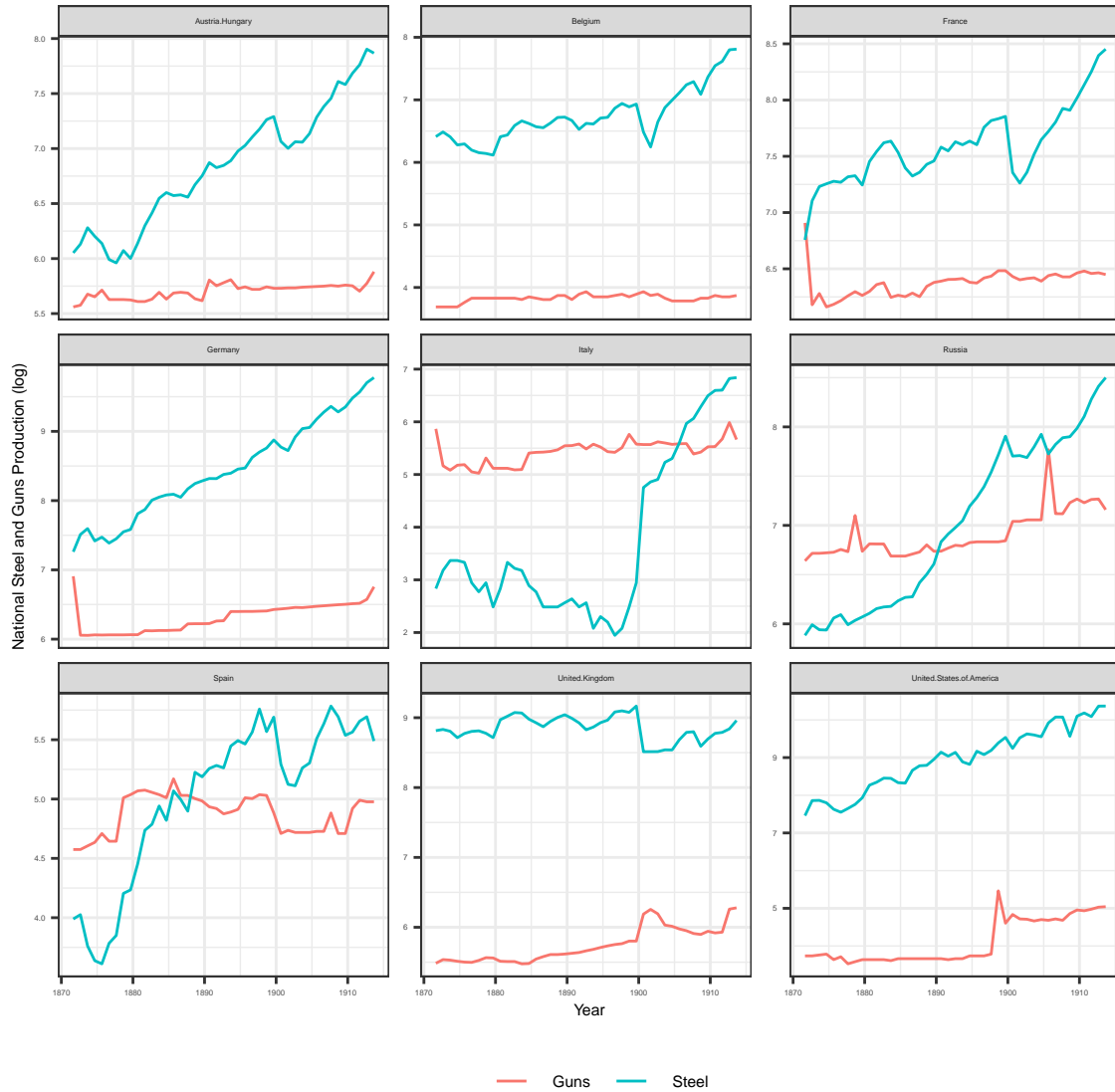
relations among states. Subsequently, we hypothesize:

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**Hypothesis 2.** *Between 1955 and 2012 economic power Granger causes military power.*

Figure 3 displays the values of the two variables used in our model by country from 1955 and 2012.

i'd rather keep the description of Fig 1 (explain logs, etc)



**Figure 1: National Steel and Guns Production (log), 1871-1913.**

**Note:** Variables are “*milper*” and “*irst*.” Both were obtained from Singer, Bremer, and Stuckey (1972).

When it comes to the foreign or global variable that determines the structure of international relations in our model, we have opted for dyadic trade data, which is available also for the period in 19th century. This variable was constructed by the same project but in the Trade dataset (Barbieri, Keshk, and Pollins 2009; Barbieri and O. Keshk 2016)<sup>14</sup> and was used to construct the weight matrix  $\mathbf{W}$ . The matrix is a square matrix which has all  $K$  countries in both its columns and rows with zeros as diagonal elements. The matrix represents bilateral trade among two countries measured by the *flow1* and the *flow2* variables. The former measures imports from a country (*importer1*) to another country (*importer2*), and the latter measures the reverse dyad, i.e. imports from *importer2* to *importer1*. More formally,  $\mathbf{W}$  contains  $t$  sub-matrices (one sub-matrix per year) with dimensions  $k \times k$  for a total of  $\mathbf{K}$  countries such that,

$$\mathbf{W}_t = \begin{bmatrix} & \mathbf{i}_1 & \mathbf{i}_2 & \mathbf{i}_3 & \dots & \mathbf{i}_K \\ \mathbf{i}_1 & 0 & f_{21} & f_{31} & \dots & i_{K1} \\ \mathbf{i}_2 & f_{12} & 0 & f_{32} & \dots & i_{K2} \\ \mathbf{i}_3 & f_{13} & f_{23} & 0 & \dots & i_{K3} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{i}_K & f_{1K} & f_{2K} & f_{3K} & \dots & i_{KK} \end{bmatrix}$$

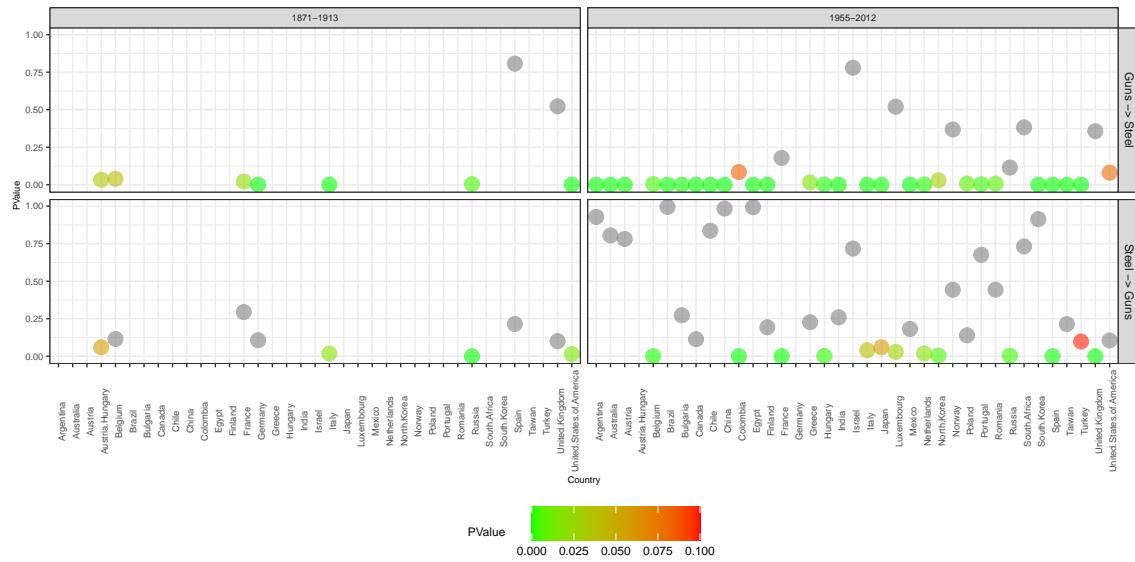
Every  $W_t$  matrix weights all  $K$  country-specific Granger regressions described in Equation 3. Every  $K$  system is weighted by the other  $K - 1$  countries. And as Equation 3 shows, the GVAR methodology also considers  $p$  lags of the  $\mathbf{W}$  matrix. Following the literature on Granger-causality tests we focus our attention model-specific f-tests (one per country) which tests if all variables in the model are jointly significant. Then null is that there is no Granger causality.

#### IV. RESULTS

Figure 2 shows country-specific p-values of the Granger-causality f-tests obtained when fitting Equation 3 (detailed results shown in Table A1, Table A2 and Table A3).

The plot shows that during the 1871 – 1913 period, in 44% of the countries economic power Granger-caused military power. Yet, interestingly, this percentage drops to 38% and 33% for the great power during the 1955 – 2012 period. On the other hand, in the same second period in 46% of the countries military power Granger-caused economic power.

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**Figure 2: P-Values of the Country-specific Granger-causality F-Tests, 1871-2012.**

**Note:** Plot shows country-specific  $p$ -values of the Granger-causality  $f$ -tests obtained when fitting Equation 3 (detailed results shown in Table A1, Table A2 and Table A3). The plot shows that during the 1871-1913 period, in 44% of the countries, steel Granger-caused guns. This percentage changes to 38% and to 33% for the hegemonic countries during the 1955-2012 period.

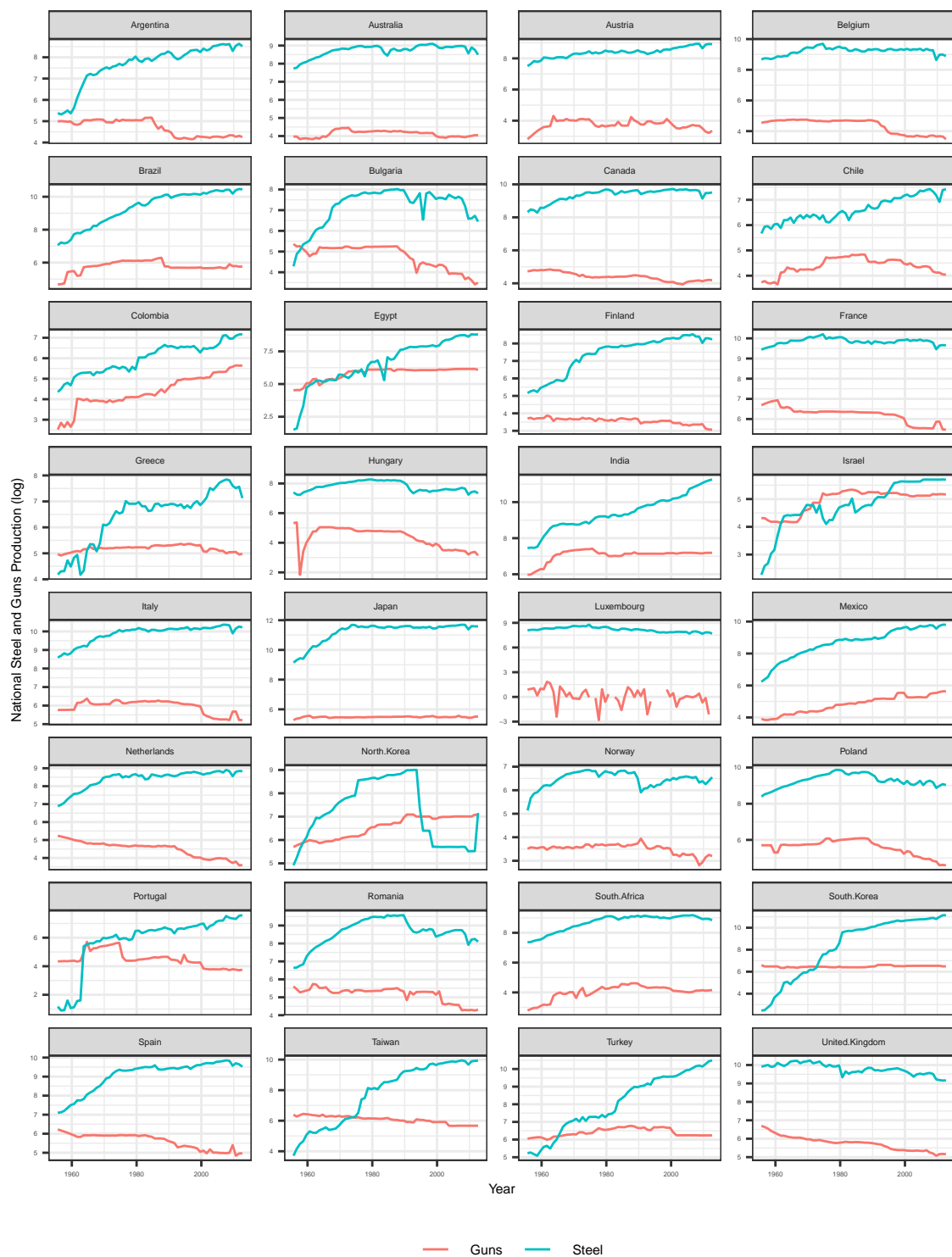


Figure 3: National Steel and Guns Production<sup>12</sup> (log), 1955-2012.

Note: Variables are “*milper*” and “*irst*.” Both were obtained from Singer, Bremer, and Stuckey (1972).

Hence, we have failed to reject 1, which was expected. However, our results have rejected 2, which was not. Therefore, the results speak in favor of persistent dominance of the military power among the power factors.

As such, military power has passed the most likely and the most difficult case test. Namely, the first period presents itself as the most likely case for the military power be the prerequisite for the economic power. Furthermore, the second period can be labeled as the most difficult case for the military power. And conversely for the economic power. Its dominance was rejected by both the least likely and the most likely case. Where the second period presents the most likely case and the first one the most difficult case.

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## V. DISCUSSION

The present research project makes two contributions to the broader International Relations literature. First, we test the general assumption that the economic power is the prerequisite for all other power factors. Second, we introduce to Political Science a new time series method—GVAR.

Our preliminary results indicate that the assumption of economic power dominance, which is so often and with ease made by scholars, is at least dubious, and flawed at best. In fact, the military power Granger-causes economic power in both periods—19th and 20th century.

However, future iterations of this project are necessary to be fully confident in such a result and conclusion. First, we need to enhance our model to also include military expenditures and energy consumption. Second, robustness checks using different time frames and imputation needs to be performed as well. Third, a comparison of results using GVAR with PVAR method would be beneficial. Namely, the amount of countries whose data is available for 19th century would still be classified as a small N. Thus, PVAR would also be appropriate method to be used for this period with small N. Consequently, we would expect that for 19th century conclusions from PVAR and GVAR would be the same, whereas for 20th century the conclusions would differ due to the big N in that period.

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## VI. APPENDIX

### I. Appendix

**Table A1:** *Bivariate Goba Granger Causality Tests of the World Political Economy, 1871-1913*

	Granger Relationship	F-Test	P-Value	DF	Adjusted R-sq	Lags
Austria-Hungary	butter $\rightarrow$ guns	2.16	0.06	8,31	0.192	1
	guns $\rightarrow$ butter	2.48	0.03	8,31	0.233	
Belgium	butter $\rightarrow$ guns	1.781	0.11	16,19	0.263	5
	guns $\rightarrow$ butter	2.339	0.04	16,19	0.38	
France	butter $\rightarrow$ guns	1.27	0.29	8,31	0.052	1
	guns $\rightarrow$ butter	2.72	0.02	8,31	0.261	
Germany	butter $\rightarrow$ guns	1.844	0.11	8,31	0.148	1
	guns $\rightarrow$ butter	7.891	0	8,31	0.586	
Italy	butter $\rightarrow$ guns	2.777	0.02	16,19	0.448	5
	guns $\rightarrow$ butter	6.801	0	16,19	0.726	
Russia	butter $\rightarrow$ guns	8.725	0	16,19	0.779	5
	guns $\rightarrow$ butter	3.595	0	16,19	0.543	
Spain	butter $\rightarrow$ guns	1.454	0.21	8,31	0.085	1
	guns $\rightarrow$ butter	0.554	0.81	8,31	-0.101	
United Kingdom	butter $\rightarrow$ guns	1.85	0.1	16,19	0.28	5
	guns $\rightarrow$ butter	0.966	0.52	16,19	-0.016	
United States	butter $\rightarrow$ guns	2.942	0.01	8,31	0.285	1
	guns $\rightarrow$ butter	8.608	0	8,31	0.609	

Table shows country-specific Granger-causality F-tests. Last column shows number of domestic lags used per every country-specific Granger model. Number of lags for endogenous variables = 2. Number of lags for foreign variables = 2. Max number of lags for estimating the country-specific VAR model = 5. Information criteria for optimal lag length = AIC. Deterministic variables: Trend and constant.

**Table A2:** *Bivariate Goba Granger Causality Tests of the World Political Economy, 1955-2012 (A)*

	Granger Relationship	F-Test	P-Value	DF	Adjusted R-sq	Lags
Argentina	butter → guns	0.422	0.93	10,44	-0.12	1
	guns → butter	7.765	0	10,44	0.556	
Australia	butter → guns	0.629	0.8	12,41	-0.092	2
	guns → butter	5.618	0	12,41	0.511	
Austria	butter → guns	0.656	0.78	12,41	-0.084	2
	guns → butter	7.305	0	12,41	0.588	
Belgium	butter → guns	3.842	0	12,41	0.392	2
	guns → butter	3.001	0	12,41	0.312	
Brazil	butter → guns	0.237	0.99	12,41	-0.209	2
	guns → butter	9.498	0	12,41	0.658	
Bulgaria	butter → guns	1.269	0.27	12,41	0.057	2
	guns → butter	4.286	0	12,41	0.427	
Canada	butter → guns	1.69	0.11	10,44	0.113	1
	guns → butter	5.055	0	10,44	0.429	
Chile	butter → guns	0.561	0.84	10,44	-0.088	1
	guns → butter	7.313	0	10,44	0.539	
Colombia	butter → guns	4.855	0	18,32	0.581	5
	guns → butter	1.737	0.08	18,32	0.21	
Egypt	butter → guns	0.219	0.99	10,44	-0.169	1
	guns → butter	5.471	0	10,44	0.453	
Finland	butter → guns	1.428	0.19	12,41	0.088	2
	guns → butter	5.041	0	12,41	0.478	
France	butter → guns	8.235	0	16,35	0.694	4
	guns → butter	1.442	0.18	16,35	0.122	
Greece	butter → guns	1.344	0.23	18,32	0.11	5
	guns → butter	2.39	0.02	18,32	0.334	
Hungary	butter → guns	3.363	0	12,41	0.349	2
	guns → butter	3.711	0	12,41	0.38	
India	butter → guns	1.287	0.26	14,38	0.072	3
	guns → butter	6.048	0	14,38	0.576	
Israel	butter → guns	0.702	0.72	10,44	-0.058	1
	guns → butter	0.63	0.78	10,44	-0.073	
Italy	butter → guns	2.151	0.04	10,44	0.176	1
	guns → butter	11.365	0	10,44	0.657	
Japan	butter → guns	1.876	0.06	16,35	0.216	4
	guns → butter	4.079	0	16,35	0.491	
Luxembourg	butter → guns	2.296	0.03	10,44	0.194	1
	guns → butter	0.925	0.52	10,44	-0.014	
Mexico	butter → guns	1.436	0.18	16,35	0.12	4
	guns → butter	8.525	0	16,35	0.702	
Netherlands	butter → guns	2.483	0.02	10,44	0.216	1
	guns → butter	3.73	0	10,44	0.336	
North Korea	butter → guns	2.875	0	18,32	0.403	5
	guns → butter	2.143	0.03	18,32	0.292	
Norway	butter → guns	1.02	0.44	10,44	0.004	1
	guns → butter	1.122	0.37	10,44	0.022	
Poland	butter → guns	1.57	0.14	12,41	0.114	2
	guns → butter	2.745	0.01	12,41	0.283	
Portugal	butter → guns	0.749	0.68	10,44	-0.049	1
	guns → butter	3.265	0	10,44	0.296	
Romania	butter → guns	1.019	0.44	10,44	0.004	1
	guns → butter	2.878	0.01	10,44	0.258	
South Africa	butter → guns	0.686	0.73	10,44	-0.062	1
	guns → butter	1.102	0.38	10,44	0.019	
South Korea	butter → guns	0.448	0.91	10,44	-0.114	1
	guns → butter	9.019	0	10,44	0.598	
Spain	butter → guns	4.66	0	10,44	0.404	1
	guns → butter	4.92	0	10,44	0.421	
Taiwan	butter → guns	1.382	0.21	12,41	0.08	2
	guns → butter	5.667	0	12,41	0.514	
Turkey	butter → guns	1.696	0.1	14,38	0.158	3
	guns → butter	25.426	0	14,38	0.868	
United Kingdom	butter → guns	9.085	0	10,44	0.6	1
	guns → butter	1.139	0.36	10,44	0.025	

Table shows country-specific Granger-causality F-tests. Last column shows number of domestic lags used per every country-specific Granger model. Number of lags for endogenous variables = 3. Number of lags for foreign variables = 3. Max number of lags for estimating the country-specific VAR model = 5. Information criteria for optimal lag length = AIC. Deterministic variables: Trend.

**Table A3:** *Bivariate Goba Granger Causality Tests of the World Political Economy, 1955-2012 (B)*

	<b>Granger Relationship</b>	<b>F-Test</b>	<b>P-Value</b>	<b>DF</b>	<b>Adjusted R-sq</b>	<b>Lags</b>
China	butter → guns	0.252	0.98	9,45	-0.142	2
	guns → butter	83.191	0	9,45	0.932	
Russia	butter → guns	3.663	0	7,48	0.253	1
	guns → butter	1.775	0.11	7,48	0.09	
United States	butter → guns	1.821	0.1	7,48	0.095	1
	guns → butter	1.961	0.08	7,48	0.109	

Table shows country-specific Granger-causality F-tests. Last column shows number of domestic lags used per every country-specific Granger model. Number of lags for endogenous variables = 2. Number of lags for foreign variables = 2. Max number of lags for estimating the country-specific VAR model = 5. Information criteria for optimal lag length = AIC. Deterministic variables: NA.

## NOTES

1. They described it as perhaps the most fundamental in the whole Political Science; whereas Elster (1976, 245-70, 249) is even more assertive arguing that power is the most important single idea in Political Theory.

2. Some studies have posed a similar research questions—generally touching upon the relations between the economy and military or strategy, e.g.: Baldwin (1985), Beckley (2010), and Copeland (2014). Moreover, Power Transition literature defined economic growth and development as a primary source of international change, and Gross Domestic Product has been identified as the parsimonious indicator of satisfaction with the status quo, see for example Organski and Kugler (1980), Lemke and Werner (1996), and Soysa, Indra, and Park (1997). However, these are inquiries about the change in the international system, not of power *per se*. International Political Economy also posed ontologically different questions and has not offered a comprehensive research on power. It is primarily interested in the political decision to prefer economic benefits or security, as if these two issues would be mutually exclusive—the question of “Power or plenty,” for instance Viner (1948), Katzenstein (1977), Gowa (1994), Hafner-Burton and Montgomery (2008), Findlay and O’rourke (2009), and Cohen (2017). For an insightful analysis on false exclusivity of the economic and security interests, see Norrlof and Wohlforth (2016).

3. We decided to use the term culture, and not ideological, as it is often referred to in the literature (e.g. Mann (1986)). Although we agree with Mann regarding the concept and what it implies, we think the name carries a negative connotation, relating mostly to Marxist traditions where it has been identified with false consciousness. Nevertheless, the ideational dimension of power should not be understood as something negative. Identity is also something positive. Thus, to avoid any prejudgments, we talk about cultural, which is neutral in its connotation, not ideology.

4. Military, economic, political, and cultural power factors (Mann 1986).

5. On this issue see Hohn (2014).

6. There is no lack of definitions and conceptualizations of power, which have been hotly debated for



decades. See: Russel (1938), Simon (1953), Hunter (1953), March (1955), Mills (1956), French and Raven (1959), Bachrach and Baratz (1962), Lukes (1974), Oppenheim (1976), Stokman, Ziegler, and Scott (1985), Digeser (1992), and Scott (1994).

7. GVAR was introduced in 2004, see Pesaran, Schuermann, and Weiner (2004). It “was developed in the aftermath of the 1997 Asian financial crisis to quantify the effects of macroeconomic developments on the losses of major financial institutions. It was clear then that all major banks are exposed to risk from adverse global or regional shocks, but quantifying these effects required a coherent and simple-to-simulate global macroeconomic model. The GVAR approach provides a useful and practical way of building such a model, and, although developed originally as a tool for credit risk analysis, it soon became apparent that it has numerous other applications Chudik and Pesaran (2016).”

8. This was so far not possible to perform. PVAR allowed for small N and big T, and Arellano-Bond linear dynamic panel-data estimation is used for big N and small T. On particularities of GVAR and how they relate to other time series methods see Mauro, Filippo, and Pesaran (2013), Bouvet, Brady, and King (2013), Canova and Ciccarelli (2013), Schnucker (2017), and Alzuabi, Caglayan, and Mouratidis (2020).

9. On the debate on fungibility of power see Art (1996, 1999) and Baldwin (1999).

10. “Through the use of foreign variables, the GVAR is able to account for bilateral inter-relationships amongst countries, and therefore control for spillovers on the basis of cross-country exposure. Additionally, the use of foreign variables allows the GVAR to scale up in a coherent manner and include a larger number of variables than possible in a VAR. Unlike a PVAR model, a GVAR also maintains the capability of giving country-level estimates ” (International Monetary Fund 2016).

11. A good overview is Baldwin (2016).

12. We acknowledge that without proper experimentation and randomization there cannot be proper causation. Consequently, and following the Granger methodology, we employ a rather loose definition of “causation” and explore if lagged values of a variable *forecast* another variable.

13. Version 5.0.

14. Version 4.0.