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

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#### Abstract

Power remains a crucial concept in international relations. In recent decades a prevailing notion became present in the literature explaining that economic power is a prerequisite for all other forms of power (military, political and cultural). Yet, such an assumption has never been properly tested. To test this assumption, the paper introduces a new time-series method to political science—Global Vector Auto-regression (GVAR). While the method is widely used in economics, it has not been employed in political science. The method should be appealing to scholars in political science since it enables big-N and big-T hypotheses tests. We also present Granger-causality tests within the context of GVAR and test if economic power is a prerequisite for military power. Our results suggest 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.

Keywords— time series; IPE; GVAR; IR

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### Power: Assumed but Untested

"Power is the ultimate aphrodisiac"

Kissinger (1973)

Since the dawn of social and political science, *power* has been a key concept of multiple research projects (Lasswell and Kaplan 1950). In recent decades a prevailing notion became present in international relations, which sometimes takes the shape of a latent assumption (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 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 to explain how latent power matters to military power, 1. Yet his explanation remains untested.

We believe that if the literature offers assumptions about the nature of power while proposing causal mechanisms between power factors—military, economic, political and cultural (Mann 1986)—then it should also provide empirical evidence about those. We focus one of these assumptions, particularly, that economic power is a *prerequisite* of all other power factors.

This paper contributes to the literature by introducing Global Vector Autoregression (GVAR) methods to international relations. While panel-data methods handle well numerous panels (countries) within relatively short timespan, and time-series methods do the same but for longer timespan but for small panels (usually just one), GVAR perform statistically well with both big N and long T. In particularly, we show how Granger-causality tests (C. W. J. Granger 1969) within the framework of GVAR methods should shed some light on the power prerequisite assumption. In this paper we focus solely on the (Granger) causal relation between economic and military powers. We hypothesize that pre-WWI it was military power that Granger-caused economic power—greater military led to greater economic power. Conversely, we expect that post WWII economic power Granger-caused military power.

The paper proceeds as follows. First, section I discusses the concept of power by particularly focusing on the relationship between economic and military power. In section II we present actual time-series data on economic and military power for the maximum possible number of available

assumed? yet, we are using proxies. I think we should change optics here. That's not the problem we're tackling. What we try to do is to examine the "origins" of power.

panels. The section also shows Granger-causality tests within the GVAR framework. We also show some simulations. Finally in section V we propose future research avenues regarding this scientific did we?

### I. Conceptualizing Power

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### II. Introducing the GVAR Methodology

GVAR was introduced in M. Pesaran, Schuermann, and S. M. 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" (Mauro and Pesaran 2013, 1). The main feature of GVAR is that it "take[s] into account the various interlinkages in the global economy in the context of a truly multicountry setting" (H. Pesaran, Schuermann, and S. Weiner 2004, 139) by incorporating a large number of panels ("big N") for long time-spans ("big T") which are weighted by exogenous factors such as bilateral trade.

While GVAR has been widely used in economics (Favero 2013; Mauro, Filippo, and Pesaran 2013; Chudik and Pesaran 2016; Eickmeier and Ng 2015) its characteristics are also appealing for political scientists. Yet, to our knowledge, the GVAR method has not been used or introduced in political science so far. We do so in this paper and test relations between economic and military power in a truly global setting. In the rest of the paper we rephrase the famous dilemma about whether governments should allocate resources to finance "guns" (military power) or "butter" (economic power or economic development in general).

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,

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

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,

$$\mathbf{x}_{it} = \alpha_i + \mathbf{\Phi}_i \mathbf{x}_{i,t-p} + \mathbf{\Lambda}_{1i} \mathbf{W}_{x,t} + \mathbf{\Lambda}_{2i} \mathbf{W}_{x,t-p} + \mathbf{u}_{it}$$
 (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. Typically, the choice of the lag orders of every GVAR system is selected according to the Akaike information criterion (Mauro and Pesaran 2013, 19).

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. As explained by others "[t]hrough 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."

We detail in section III that to construct  $\mathbf{W}_t$  we employ bilateral trade—but the particular choice of exogenous variable depends on the empirical application. 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  $\mathbf{\Lambda}_{ni}$ ).

Granger-causality tests Since we are substantively interested in weather "guns" (Granger) cause "butter" or the other way around, in this paper we estimate country-specific bivariate Granger-causality tests within the GVAR framework.<sup>3</sup> The Granger-causality method was introduced by C. Granger (1969) and 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 via VAR equations (Equation 1) we now derive the Granger-causality test within the GVAR framework. The substantive advantage of GVAR Granger-causality test over regular Granger-causality test is that estimates are weighted by the global economy ( $\mathbf{W}_t$  in Equation 2), situating the domestic dynamics within the global context. More formally, we estimate a GVAR Granger-causality system for every country i with p lags as shown in Equation 3:

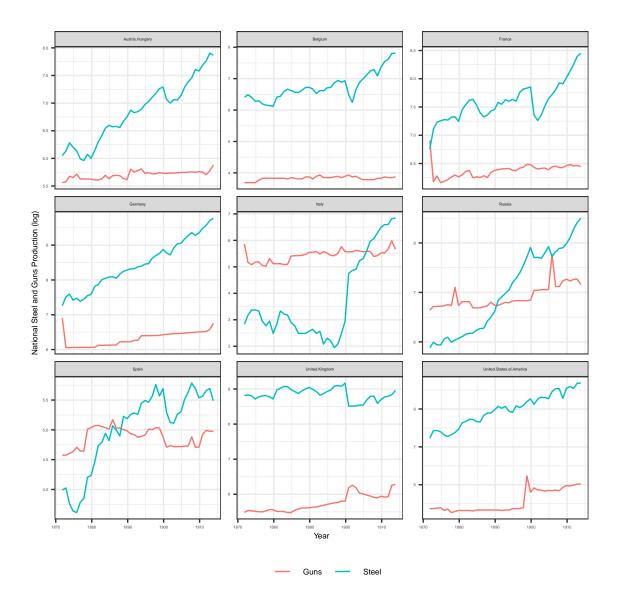


Figure 1: National Steel and Guns Production (log), 1871-1913.

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

$$\mathbf{x}_{it} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}_i + \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{1i} \mathbf{y}_{i,t-p} + \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{2i} \mathbf{x}_{i,t-p} + \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{1i} \mathbf{W}_{x,t} + \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{2i} \mathbf{W}_{x,t-p} + \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{3i} \mathbf{W}_{y,t} + \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{4i} \mathbf{W}_{y,t-p} + \mathbf{u}_{it}$$

$$\mathbf{y}_{it} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}_i + \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{1i} \mathbf{x}_{i,t-p} + \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{2i} \mathbf{y}_{i,t-p} + \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{1i} \mathbf{W}_{y,t} + \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{2i} \mathbf{W}_{y,t-p} + \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{3i} \mathbf{W}_{x,t} + \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{4i} \mathbf{W}_{x,t-p} + \mathbf{u}_{it}$$
(3)

where the only added complexity is the introduction of a second variable (y), but the lag and weight structure remains the same as in Equation 2.

### III. Data: The Art of Possible

We operationalize military and economic power using variables from the Correlates of War Project, particularly, the National Material Capabilities dataset (Singer, Bremer, and Stuckey 1972).<sup>4</sup> The dataset covers all countries in the world between 1816-2012. Since we are interested in analyzing the longest T and the widest N possible, using the COW dataset seemed the most obvious choice. To proxy military power we use the "military personnel" variable and to proxy economic power we use the "iron and steel production" variable. Let military power be  $\mathbf{x}_{it}$  and economic power be  $\mathbf{y}_{it}$  in Equation 3.

justify both, but mostly steel

In order to maximize the extension of the dataset, it was necessary to split it in two. Since wars typically not only redraw country borders but also end, merge or split countries, the most efficient way of having the least missing data possible was partitioning the dataset in two. The first period goes between 1871 and 1913 (Figure 1). The second period goes between 1955 and 2012 (Figure 2).

We believe that while GVAR methods offer interesting properties for political scientists and for international relations scholars in particular, there is the inevitable issue of missingness: not all countries remain observed, especially during long periods of times. The biggest concern is that the ones that do remain observed are systematically different from the ones that do not. For instance, it is reasonable to expect that countries that cease to exist were weaker economically, politically and militarily. We believe these issues, while inconvenient, do not threat our statistical inference with selection bias. This paper does not address country survival. In fact, it seeks to shed light on military and economic dynamics of all countries who actually survive for the longest timespan possible. Finally, missing data is not a new problem in applied research. There are several ways to cope with this issue, for instance, multiple imputation. However we leave possible solutions for

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future research.

Moving forward, there is a considerable gap between 1913 and 1955. At the risk of sounding repetitive, it is worth emphasizing that a country needs to remain available for the *whole* time. Even if just one year is missing then that particular country cannot be considered. While we believe this limitation is an important one, balanced panels are not just a GVAR requirement but rather a general statistical need in most TS-PD models. We encourage analysts to deal with this issue by also finding substantive reasons for splitting the data, as we do next.

While the need for splitting the dataset in two was empirical, the decision was complemented with both theoretical and historical reasons. The hope is to take theoretical advantage of an empirical problem. The first timespan seeks to capture the international dynamics of the German unification and the beginning of World War I. The second time span corresponds to the post World Ward II international scenario. In order to maximize our analytical leverage respect to the partitioned dataset, we conform the next two working hypotheses:

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

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

The main added value of GVAR methods is the inclusion of a foreign or global variable which acts as a weight W in Equation 2 and Equation 3. The idea is to account for shock transmissions across economies. In this application we have opted for dyadic trade data. This variable was constructed by the same project but in the Trade dataset (Barbieri, Keshk, and Pollins 2009; Barbieri and Keshk 2016).

Foreign variables are by definition exogenous. However, in many applications, especially in political science and international relations, there might be economic or military superpowers so influential to other countries that cannot be considered exogenous. More on the contrary, it should be quite natural to find that some economies based on asymmetric inter-dependence or post-colonial influence are highly correlated with the economy of the hegemon. For instance, di Mauro and Smith run separate GVAR analyses on the United States (Mauro and Pesaran 2013, 236). We encounter similar non-exogeneity issues with China, Russia and the United States for the 1955-2012 period. Due to multicollinearity and matrix non-invertibility issues, the GVAR models analyzed in this paper were mathematically impossible to perform having China, Russia and the United States along with the rest of the economies. For these reasons these three economic and military superpowers

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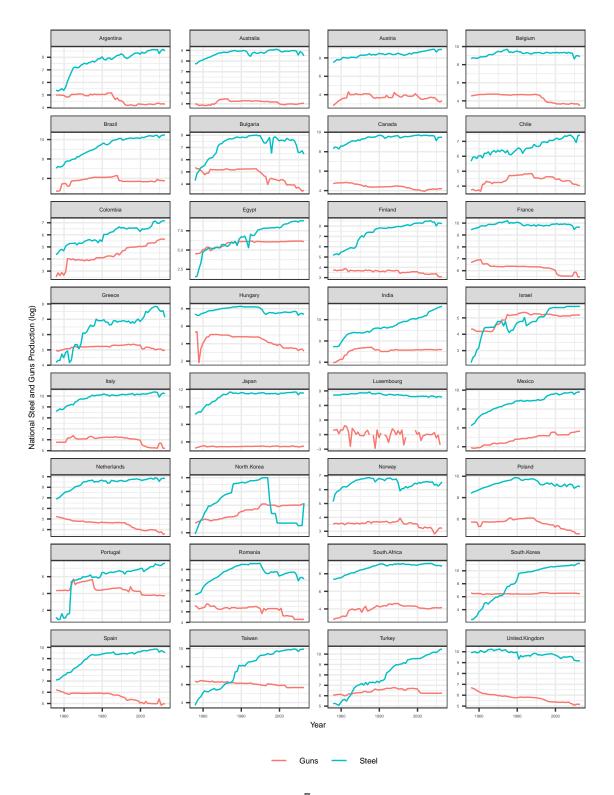


Figure 2: National Steel and Guns Production (log), 1955-2012.

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

were analyzed separately.

Moving forward, the weight variable  $\mathbf{W}$  is a square matrix which has all  $\mathbf{K}$  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. In addition to that,  $\mathbf{W}$  contains  $\mathbf{T}$  sub-matrices, one sub-matrix per every year t. Each sub-matrix t has 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  $\mathbf{K}$  country-specific Granger regressions described in Equation 3. Every k system is weighted by the other  $\mathbf{K} - 1$  sub-matrices of dyadic trade. 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.<sup>6</sup>

### IV. RESULTS: GVAR GRANGER-CAUSALITY TESTS

The GVAR method handles a large number of panels. Thus we considered that showing a table containing all the  $\mathbf{K} \times 2$  f-tests (one f-test per each country-specific Granger-causality relationship as in Equation 3) would not communicate our results effectively. We think that in this application it is more informative getting a general sense of the possible causal mechanisms among all countries rather than analyzing each Granger equation individually. Hence in Figure 3 we show country-specific p-values of all Granger-causality f-tests obtained when fitting Equation 3.<sup>7</sup> Figure 3 is organized in panels. Columns represent the time period and rows represent the Granger-causality relationship as

shown in Equation 3. The figure conveys in colors the statistical significances of every country-specific f-test. In gray are shown the p-values that are larger than .1.

From a substantive point of view, Figure 3 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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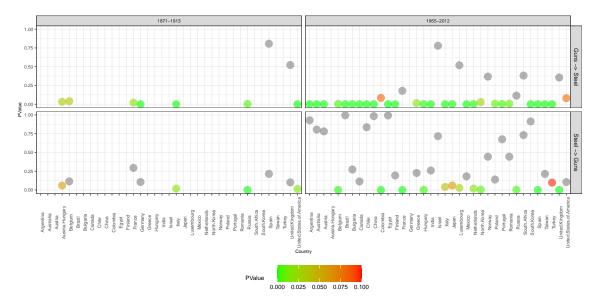


Figure 3: P-Values of the Country-specific Granger-causality F-Tests, 1871-2012.

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 porcentage changes to 38% and to 33% for the hegemonic countries during the 1955-2012 period.

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.8

### 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 Gobal Granger Causality Tests of the World Political Economy, 1871-1913

	Granger Relationship	F-Test	P-Value	$\mathbf{DF}$	Adjusted R-sq	$\mathbf{Lags}$
Austria-Hungary	$\mathrm{butter} \to \mathrm{guns}$	2.16	0.06	8,31	0.192	1
	$guns \rightarrow butter$	2.48	0.03	8,31	0.233	1
Belgium	$\mathrm{butter} \to \mathrm{guns}$	1.781	0.11	16,19	0.263	5
	$guns \rightarrow butter$	2.339	0.04	16,19	0.38	9
France	$\mathrm{butter} \to \mathrm{guns}$	1.27	0.29	8,31	0.052	1
	$guns \rightarrow butter$	2.72	0.02	8,31	0.261	1
Germany	$\mathrm{butter} \to \mathrm{guns}$	1.844	0.11	8,31	0.148	1
	$guns \rightarrow butter$	7.891	0	8,31	0.586	
T4 - 1	$\mathrm{butter} \to \mathrm{guns}$	2.777	0.02	16,19	0.448	5
Italy	$guns \rightarrow butter$	6.801	0	16,19	0.726	
Russia	$\mathrm{butter} \to \mathrm{guns}$	8.725	0	16,19	0.779	5
	$guns \rightarrow butter$	3.595	0	16,19	0.543	9
Spain	$\mathrm{butter} \to \mathrm{guns}$	1.454	0.21	8,31	0.085	1
	$guns \rightarrow butter$	0.554	0.81	8,31	-0.101	1
United Kingdom	$\mathrm{butter} \to \mathrm{guns}$	1.85	0.1	16,19	0.28	5
	$guns \rightarrow butter$	0.966	0.52	16,19	-0.016	9
United States	$\mathrm{butter} \to \mathrm{guns}$	2.942	0.01	8,31	0.285	1
	$guns \rightarrow butter$	8.608	0	8,31	0.609	1

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 Gobal Granger Causality Tests of the World Political Economy, 1955-2012 (A)

	Granger Relationship	F-Test	P-Value	DF	Adjusted R-sq	Lags
Argentina	$\mathrm{butter} \to \mathrm{guns}$	0.422	0.93	10,44	-0.12	1
Argentina	$guns \rightarrow butter$	7.765	0	10,44	0.556	1
Australia	$butter \rightarrow guns$	0.629	0.8	12,41	-0.092	2
	guns → butter	5.618	0 70	12,41	0.511	
Austria	$butter \rightarrow guns$ $guns \rightarrow butter$	0.656 $7.305$	0.78 0	12,41 12,41	-0.084 0.588	2
	butter → guns	3.842	0	12,41	0.392	
Belgium	guns → butter	3.001	0	12,41	0.312	2
	$butter \rightarrow guns$	0.237	0.99	12,41	-0.209	
Brazil	$guns \rightarrow butter$	9.498	0	12,41	0.658	2
Bulgaria	$butter \rightarrow guns$	1.269	0.27	12,41	0.057	2
Duigaria	$guns \rightarrow butter$	4.286	0	12,41	0.427	
Canada	$butter \rightarrow guns$	1.69	0.11	10,44	0.113	1
Cullada	$guns \rightarrow butter$	5.055	0	10,44	0.429	•
Chile	$butter \rightarrow guns$	0.561	0.84	10,44	-0.088	1
	guns → butter	7.313	0	10,44	0.539	
Colombia	butter → guns	4.855		18,32	0.581	5
	guns → butter	1.737 0.219	0.08	18,32	-0.169	
Egypt	$butter \rightarrow guns$ $guns \rightarrow butter$	5.471	0.99	10,44	0.453	1
	butter → guns	1.428	0.19	12,41	0.455	
Finland	guns → butter	5.041	0.15	12,41	0.478	2
	$butter \rightarrow guns$	8.235	0	16.35	0.694	
France	$guns \rightarrow butter$	1.442	0.18	16,35	0.122	4
C	$butter \rightarrow guns$	1.344	0.23	18,32	0.11	5
Greece	$guns \rightarrow butter$	2.39	0.02	18,32	0.334	9
Hungary	$butter \rightarrow guns$	3.363	0	12,41	0.349	2
Trungary	$guns \rightarrow butter$	3.711	0	12,41	0.38	
India	$butter \rightarrow guns$	1.287	0.26	14,38	0.072	3
	$guns \rightarrow butter$	6.048	0	14,38	0.576	, i
Israel	butter → guns	0.702	0.72	10,44	-0.058	1
	$guns \rightarrow butter$ $butter \rightarrow guns$	0.63 2.151	0.78	10,44	-0.073 0.176	
Italy	guns → butter	11.365	0.04	10,44	0.657	1
	butter → guns	1.876	0.06	16,35	0.216	
Japan	guns → butter	4.079	0	16,35	0.491	4
- ·	$butter \rightarrow guns$	2.296	0.03	10,44	0.194	
Luxembourg	$guns \rightarrow butter$	0.925	0.52	10,44	-0.014	1
Mexico	$butter \rightarrow guns$	1.436	0.18	16,35	0.12	4
Mexico	$guns \rightarrow butter$	8.525	0	16,35	0.702	4
Netherlands	$butter \rightarrow guns$	2.483	0.02	10,44	0.216	1
	$guns \rightarrow butter$	3.73	0	10,44	0.336	
North Korea	$butter \rightarrow guns$	2.875	0	18,32	0.403	5
	guns → butter	2.143	0.03	18,32	0.292	
Norway	$butter \rightarrow guns$ $guns \rightarrow butter$	$\frac{1.02}{1.122}$	0.44 $0.37$	10,44 $10,44$	0.004 0.022	1
	butter → guns	1.57	0.14	12,41	0.114	
Poland	guns → butter	2.745	0.01	12,41	0.283	2
	$butter \rightarrow guns$	0.749	0.68	10,44	-0.049	
Portugal	guns → butter	3.265	0	10,44	0.296	1
Romania	$butter \rightarrow guns$	1.019	0.44	10,44	0.004	1
пошаша	$guns \rightarrow butter$	2.878	0.01	10,44	0.258	1
South Africa	$butter \rightarrow guns$	0.686	0.73	10,44	-0.062	1
South Times	$guns \rightarrow butter$	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	$butter \rightarrow guns$ $guns \rightarrow butter$	4.66 4.92	0	10,44 10,44	0.404 0.421	1
	butter → guns	1.382	0.21	12,41	0.421	<u> </u>
Taiwan	guns → butter	5.667	0.21	12,41	0.514	2
	butter → guns	1.696	0.1	14,38	0.158	-
Turkey	guns → butter	25.426	0	14,38	0.868	3
United Visuals	$butter \rightarrow guns$	9.085	0	10,44	0.6	1
United Kingdom	$guns \rightarrow butter$	1.139	0.36	10,44	0.025	1
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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 Gobal Granger Causality Tests of the World Political Economy, 1955-2012 (B)

	Granger Relationship	F-Test	P-Value	$\mathbf{DF}$	Adjusted R-sq	Lags
China	$\mathrm{butter} \to \mathrm{guns}$	0.252	0.98	9,45	-0.142	2
Cillia	$\mathrm{guns} \to \mathrm{butter}$	83.191	0	9,45	0.932	
Russia	$\mathrm{butter} \to \mathrm{guns}$	3.663	0	7,48	0.253	1
Russia	$\mathrm{guns} \to \mathrm{butter}$	1.775	0.11	7,48	0.09	1
United States	$\mathrm{butter} \to \mathrm{guns}$	1.821	0.1	7,48	0.095	1
Officed States	$\mathrm{guns} \to \mathrm{butter}$	1.961	0.08	7,48	0.109	1

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 power, whereas Elster (1976, 245-70, 249) is even more assertive arguing that power is the most important single idea in political theory.
  - 2. International Monetary Fund (2016, 17).
- 3. We acknowledge that without proper experimentation and randomization there cannot be proper causation. Consequently, and following the Granger methodology, we employ a rather lose definition of "causation" and explore if lagged values of a variable *forecast* another variable.
  - 4. Version 5.0.
  - 5. Version 4.0.
- 6. All GVAR Granger-causality tests were done using the GVARX R package, version 1.3 and implemented by Tsung-wu (2020). The package performs estimations and inferences of Global Vector Autoregression models based on H. Pesaran, Schuermann, and S. Weiner (2004) and Dees et al. (2007).
- 7. We owe this point to Tsung-wu Ho. Country-specific results are shown in the Appendix section, particularly Table A1, Table A2 and Table A3.
  - 8. On most and least likely case research design see Levy (2008).