Deck the Halls With Seasonal Depression

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- Increased Military spending is associated with a decrease in coups (Powell, 2012; Wright et al., 2015).
- Most people say dictators are buying off the military (Powell, 2012).
- But dictators may be able to use money to install "counterweights (Böhmelt & Pilster, 2015; De Bruin, 2018, 2021)."
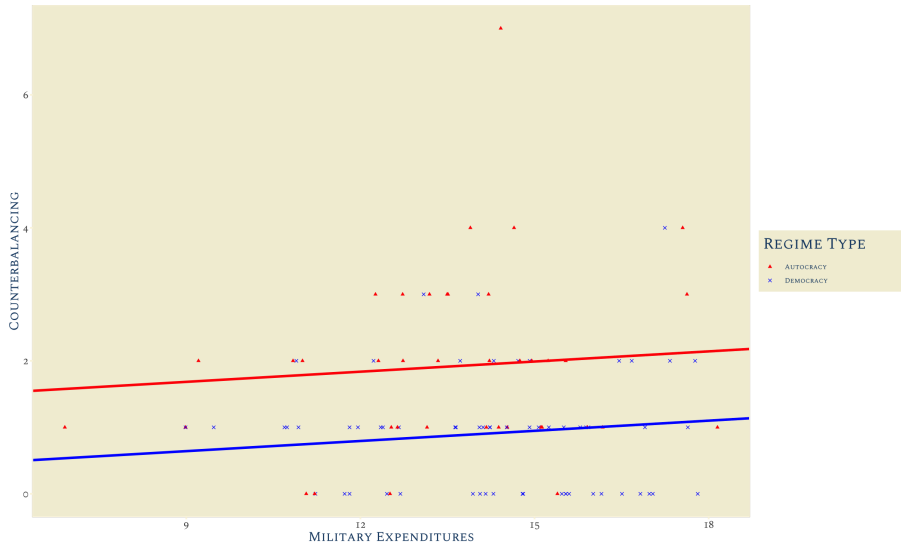
- Hence, the research question is: How are military expenditures associated with counterbalancing?

- H_A : Increases in military spending are associated with an increase in counterbalancing.

- De Bruin (2021): "Mapping coercive institutions: The State Security Forces dataset, 1960–2010."
  - Y: The number of counterbalancing organizations.
  - X_2: Binary variable indicating democracy or not.
- Correlates of War Dataset: "NMC: National Military Capabilities"
  - X_1: Military expenditures logged.

$$Y_{CB} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot X_{ME} + \beta_2 \cdot X_{DEM} + \epsilon$$

	Dependent variable:
	Counterbalancing
Logged Military Expenditures	0.051
	(0.051)
Democracy (base = autocracy)	−1.042***
	(0.231)
Constant	1.225*
	(0.709)
Observations	100
R^2	0.174
Adjusted R^2	0.157
Residual Std. Error	1.113 (df = 97)
F Statistic	10.224*** (df = 2; 97)
Note:	*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

- There are a lot of variables I do not account for, so I probably have omitted variable bias.
- What if the relationship violates the linear relationship assumption?
- It's observational and a single year; thus, it's not drawn in i.i.d.
- In the future, we should examine the specific ways security and military forces can be armed and how this impacts coups.

References

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