Title: Why do authoritarian regimes provide welfare?

This paper attempts to clarify why and how do the authoritarian regimes design social policies to promote the welfare of its citizens. Although few of the research investigates the possible authoritarian welfare state, the beginning of the welfare from the state traces back to the end of the 19th century. The initial concept of modern welfare originated in Germany in the 1880s. Social policies for welfare are the coordinated outcomes of political and economic nexus. It is essential for autocrats whether and how to provide welfare since it might be costly with given limited resources. Previous literature argues that autocrats are more likely to be autonomous than the democratic leaders in terms of decision-making. However, the autocrats might not solely exist. I argue that the social policies in authoritarian regimes are driven by the interests of autocrats to make stable ruling coalitions. Furthermore, the ways to design the social policies are divergent depending on which groups the autocrats should cooperate.

Keywords: Authoritarian regimes, social policies, welfare, ruling-coalition

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