Currency Wars in Retreat How Global Value Chains Affect Exchange Rate Politics

Prof. Weldzius

Villanova University

Slides Updated: 2025-04-23

• Exchange rate undervaluation worked for decades

- Exchange rate undervaluation worked for decades
 - Japan (1970-1985)

- Exchange rate undervaluation worked for decades
 - Japan (1970-1985)
 - Germany (pre-EMU)

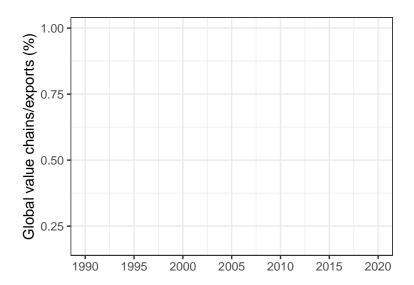
- Exchange rate undervaluation worked for decades
 - Japan (1970-1985)
 - Germany (pre-EMU)
 - China (1995-2005)

- Exchange rate undervaluation worked for decades
 - Japan (1970-1985)
 - Germany (pre-EMU)
 - China (1995-2005)
 - Taiwan, South Korea, Israel, Sweden, etc.

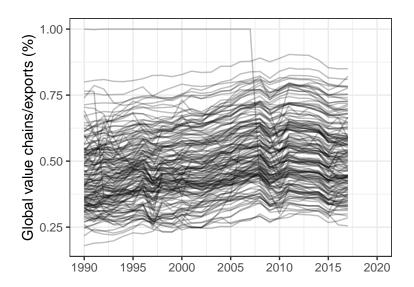
- Exchange rate undervaluation worked for decades
 - Japan (1970-1985)
 - Germany (pre-EMU)
 - China (1995-2005)
 - Taiwan, South Korea, Israel, Sweden, etc.
- By 2018, this practice has stopped; why?

- Exchange rate undervaluation worked for decades
 - Japan (1970-1985)
 - Germany (pre-EMU)
 - China (1995-2005)
 - Taiwan, South Korea, Israel, Sweden, etc.
- By 2018, this practice has stopped; why?
- Argument: global value chains undercut the benefits of this strategy

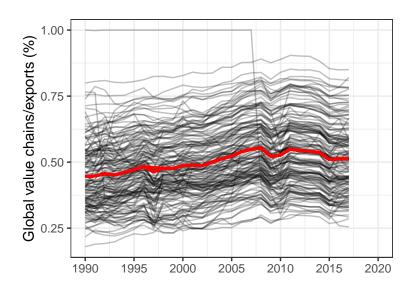
Global Value Chains over time



Global Value Chains over time



Global Value Chains over time



What do I expect?

• Hypothesis 1: the more dependent on trade, the more likely a country is to devalue their exchange rate

What do I expect?

- Hypothesis 1: the more dependent on trade, the more likely a country is to devalue their exchange rate
- Hypothesis 2: the more dependent on trade, conditional on your global value chain dependence, the less likely to devalue

What do I expect?

- Hypothesis 1: the more dependent on trade, the more likely a country is to devalue their exchange rate
- Hypothesis 2: the more dependent on trade, conditional on your global value chain dependence, the less likely to devalue

devaluation_{it} =
$$\alpha_{it} + \beta_1$$
(export dependence)_{it} + β_2 (GVC dependence)_{it} + β_3 (export dependence)_{it} × (GVC dependence)_{it} + ϵ_{it}

- i indicates country
- t indicates year

Does GVC dependence impact exchange rate policy?

	Model 1	Model 2
Exports/GDP	0.264***	-0.133
	(0.076)	(0.226)
GVC/Exports		-0.616
		(0.439)
(Exp/GDP)x(GVC/Exp)		-0.522**
		(0.254)
Observations	3,742	3,244
Adjusted R ²	0.706	0.702
Note:	*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01	

 The data supports my hypotheses: export dependence does lead to currency undervaluation, but this relationship is moderated by global value chain dependence

- The data supports my hypotheses: export dependence does lead to currency undervaluation, but this relationship is moderated by global value chain dependence
- Next steps:

- The data supports my hypotheses: export dependence does lead to currency undervaluation, but this relationship is moderated by global value chain dependence
- Next steps:
 - What control variables should I include?

- The data supports my hypotheses: export dependence does lead to currency undervaluation, but this relationship is moderated by global value chain dependence
- Next steps:
 - What control variables should I include?
 - ② I used a linear model, but could there be a non-linear relationship?

Appendix 1

