



HISTORY MATTERS: THE LONG-LASTING EFFECTS OF THE PARTITIONS OF POLAND

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HISTORICAL CONTEXT

What?

- The Partitions of Poland: the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth divided between:
 - the Kingdom of Prussia
 - the Russian Empire
 - the Habsburg Monarchy

When?

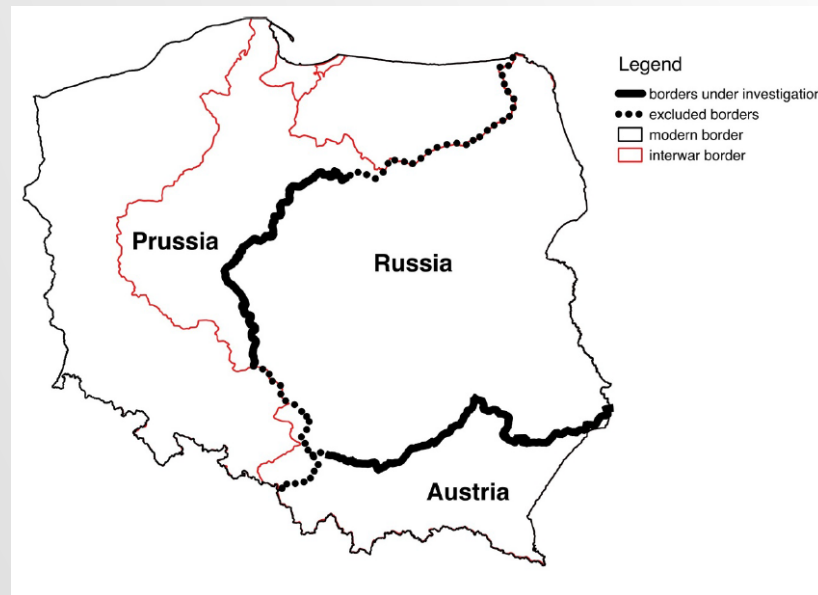
- Territories lost for the first time in 1772
- Independence completely lost in 1795
- Independence fully restored in 1918



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

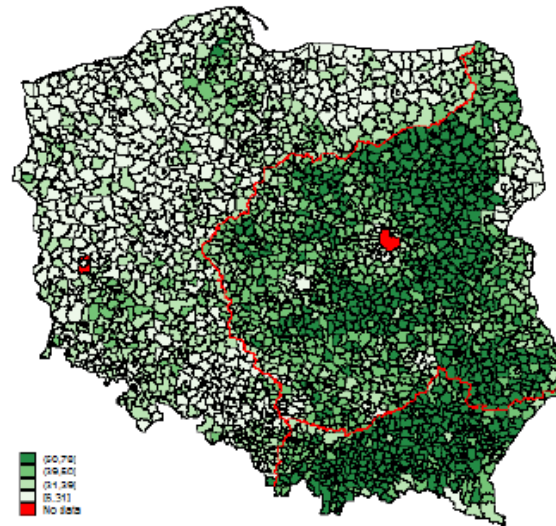
So what?

- The three occupiers vastly influenced:
 - culture and social norms
 - political outcomes
 - economic outcomes
- Significant differences have persisted to the present

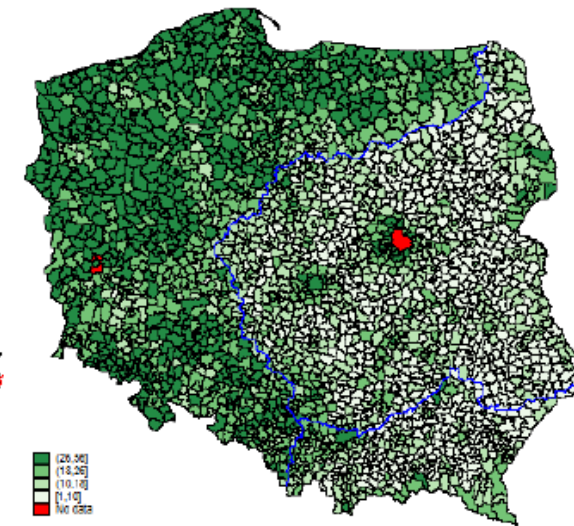


Source: Bukowski (2018)

(b) Andrzej Duda (PiS) 2015



(c) Civic Platform (PO) 2015



Source: Wysokińska (2017)

LITERATURE

Economic literature on the Partitions of Poland

- Grabowski (2019) – “Determinants of Voting Results in Poland in the 2015 Parliamentary Elections”
- Bukowski (2018) – “How History Matters for Student Performance: Lessons from the Partitions of Poland.”
- Backhaus (2018) – “Fading Legacies: Human Capital in the Aftermath of the Partitions of Poland”
- Wysokinska (2017) – “Institutions or Culture? Lessons for Development from Two Natural Experiments of History”
- Grosfeld and Zhuravskaya (2015) – “Cultural vs. Economic Legacies of Empires: Evidence from the Partition of Poland”
- Herbst and Rivkin (2012) – “Divergent Historical Experiences and Inequality in Academic Achievement: The Case of Poland”
- Dzialek (2009) – “Social Capital and Economic Growth in Polish Regions”
- Wolf (2005) – “Endowments vs Market Potential: What Explains the Relocation of Industry After the Polish Reunification?”
- Karbownik and Kula (2009) – “The Efficiency of Local Governments’ Expenditures on Public and Merit Goods”
- Gorzelak and Jałowicki (1998) – “[Economic Performance and Social Mobilization in Municipalities]”

Economic literature on culture and social norms

- Basten and Betz (2013) – “Beyond Work Ethic: Religion, Individual, and Political Preferences”
- Becker and Woessmann (2009) – “Was Weber Wrong? A Human Capital Theory of Protestant Economic History”
- Nunn (2009) – “The Importance of History for Economic Development”
- Alesina and Schuendeln (2005) – “Good bye Lenin (or not?): The Effect of Communism on People's Preferences”

In addition, a lot of historical and sociological studies on the Partitions of Poland

LITERATURE

Economic literature on the Partitions of Poland

- Wolf (2005)
 - The former partition borders continued to bias trade flows even 15 years after their complete removal
- Backhaus (2018)
 - Significant and large (80 pp.) enrollment differences before independence
 - No significant differences in educational attainment, educational infrastructure, or gender access within two decades after independence
- Grosfeld and Zhuravskaya (2015)
 - Cultural outcomes are significant: electoral choices, religious practices, beliefs in democratic ideals
 - Economic outcomes are not significant: average income, industrial production, educational attainment, corruption
- Wysokinska (2017)
 - 10% higher income, 13% higher income tax revenue, and 87% rural income tax revenue from Russia to Prussia
 - 10-17% decrease in the share of rural households Russia to Prussia
- Bukowski (2018)
 - Significantly better performance of students from the Austrian partition on low-stake tests
 - Proposed social norms (attitudes toward school) as channels

LITERATURE

Main issues with the economic literature:

- Methodological errors
 - Data at sub-regional level or higher
 - Comparing entire partitions
 - Using *Partition* as a categorical variable from 0 to 2 (sic!)

Bukowski (2018), Wysokinska (2017), Grosfeld and Zhuravskaya (2015), Backhaus (2018), Wolf (2005) use a relatively sound empirical strategy

- Data at the county or municipality level
 - Discontinuity at cross-border regions
- Scope
 - Post-World-War-I or post-World-War-2 vs. today
 - Differences in political and economic **outcomes vs. the channels** underlying these disparities

RESEARCH QUESTION

- What **economically significant differences in culture and social norms** have resulted from the Partitions of Poland?
 - Differences in **individual economic preferences**
 - Generalized trust
 - Risk-taking
 - Patience
 - Reciprocity
 - Altruism
 - Willingness to work hard
 - Attitudes toward taking loans
 - Attitudes toward schooling
 - Attitudes toward other nations
 - Career choices
 - Differences in **voter preferences for economic policies**
 - Redistribution
 - Tax burden
 - Structure and efficiency of public spending
- Alternative: What differences in socio-economic outcomes among the former partitions of Poland have persisted to the present?

RESEARCH QUESTION

Potential contributions;

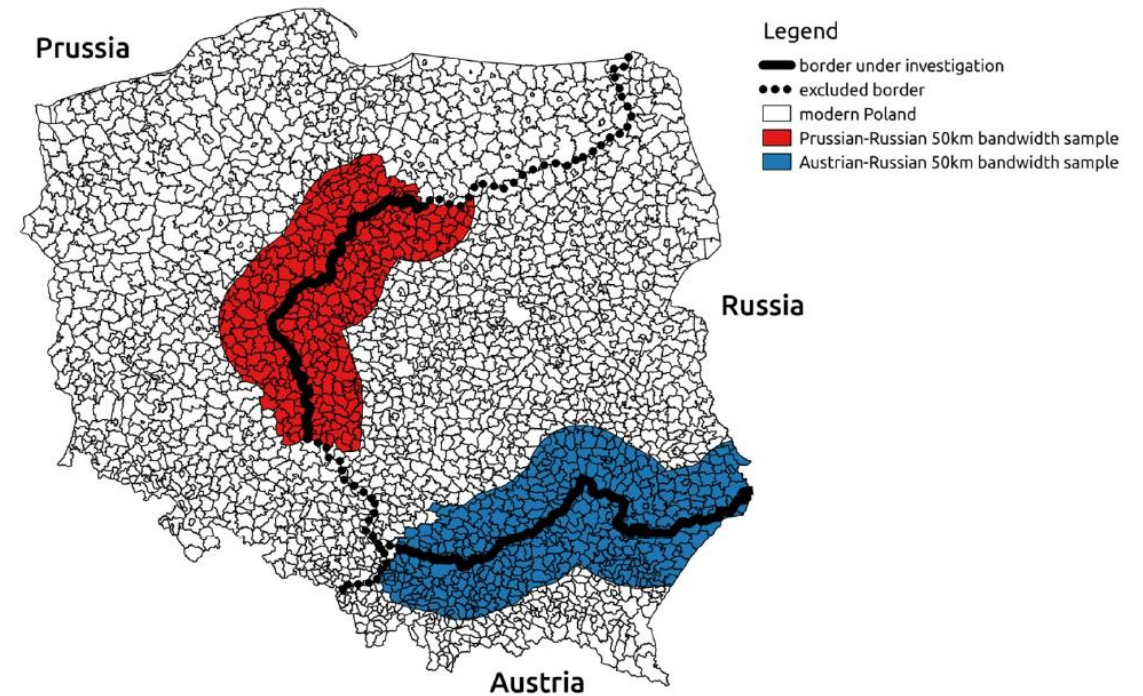
- Find new **outcomes**
- Find new **channels**
- Verify results from previous literature
- Add to the institutions vs. culture debate
- Explain why history matters for economic development
- Create a publicly available dataset

DATA

Run a **survey** in the cross-border territories

Why it would be so cool:

- First survey targeted at the cross-border territories
- Answer new questions
- Get more statistical power to verify previous results
 - Larger number of observations
 - Include ancestry questions



Source: Bukowski (2018)

DATA

Run a survey in the cross-border territories

Design:

- Stratification
 - What aspects of the demographic structure to preserve?
 - Most importantly, gender, age, rural/urban
 - Ethnically and religiously homogenous (96.9% of Polish ethnicity; 2% of specified religious minorities)
 - Subpopulation sizes
 - Preferably $N = 1,000$ per partition (4,000 total)
- Choice of questions
 - Number
 - Preferably around 15
 - Criticality
 - Focus on economic preferences
 - Verify the interpretation of the results of previous papers
 - Also include happiness, religiosity, and other values questions
 - Comparability
 - Global Preferences Survey
 - World Values Survey
 - Other sources used in previous papers

Key logistics: dealing with time and cost

DATA

Collect publicly available data and request restricted data

- Request microdata from the Central Statistical Office (Household Budget Survey, Labor Force Survey, or EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions), county level (?)
- Google Mobility Trends, county level
- Social Diagnosis Survey, county level
- Study of Human Capital in Poland, municipality level
- Annual reports by municipalities

Create and publish a comprehensive dataset

- All municipalities, all years
- Lots of important variables
- Economist-friendly format: a .dta file rather than tables in a PDF

Issues: low number of observations, few variables of interest to the main research question

METHODS

Spatial Regression Discontinuity Design

Causality – not a large issue

- Borders were exogenous
- Borders did not overlap with other historical borders

Channels – a potential issue

- Complex cultural and institutional treatment

Statistical significance

- Depends on data availability
- Estimates
 - At the county-level have a weak power
 - At municipality-level are reasonable
 - At the individual-level from a survey would be excellent
- Bandwidth Choice: 50 km

Control variables

- Religiosity
- Income
- Occupation
- Longitude and latitude