

# The Long-Run Effects of Immigration: Evidence Across a Barrier to Refugee Settlement

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# Motivation

What are the long-term economic effects of immigration?

- ▶ Know a lot about short- and medium-run effects
- ▶ Growing literature on long-run effects
- ▶ Challenging question due to the selection of migrants into places

# This Paper

We exploit a large natural experiment to study long-term economic effects of migration on host regions:

- ▶ Between end of WWII and 1947, millions of people were displaced from Central and Eastern Europe to what became West Germany in 1949
  - ▶ One of the largest refugee waves in modern times
- ▶ Discontinuity in the spatial distribution of refugees within Germany
  - ▶ US admitted refugees into their occupation zone while France restricted access
- ▶ Spatial Regression Discontinuity Design

# Main Findings

- ▶ Arrival of refugees resulted in a strong and persistent increase in population density on US side of the 1945-49 occupation zone border
- ▶ Coincides with higher rents, productivity, income, wages, and education today
- ▶ Suggests that arrival of refugees triggered agglomeration economies that build up gradually and range beyond municipality borders
- ▶ Evidence for three mechanisms behind agglomeration effect:
  - ▶ Labor market pooling
  - ▶ Knowledge spillovers
  - ▶ Reduced transportation costs

# Literature

- ▶ **(Long-term) effects of migration:** Peri (2012), Hornung (2014), Sequeira et al. (2020), Peters (2022), Burchardi and Hassan (2013), Burchardi et al. (forthcoming)
- ▶ **Post-WWII population in Germany:** Schumann (2014), Braun et al. (2014, 2021), Wyrwich (2020), Peters (2022), ...
- ▶ **Spatial Regression Discontinuity:** Dell (2010), Dell et al. (2018), Van Patten and Mendez (2022), ...
- ▶ **Agglomeration Forces and Spillovers:** Duranton and Puga (2004), Rosenthal and Strange (2004), Combes and Gobillon (2015), Ahlfeldt et al. (2015), Greenstone et al. (2010), Rosenthal and Strange (2020), Dauth et al. (2022), ...

# Overview

Introduction

Historical Background

Data & Empirical Framework

Results

# Overview

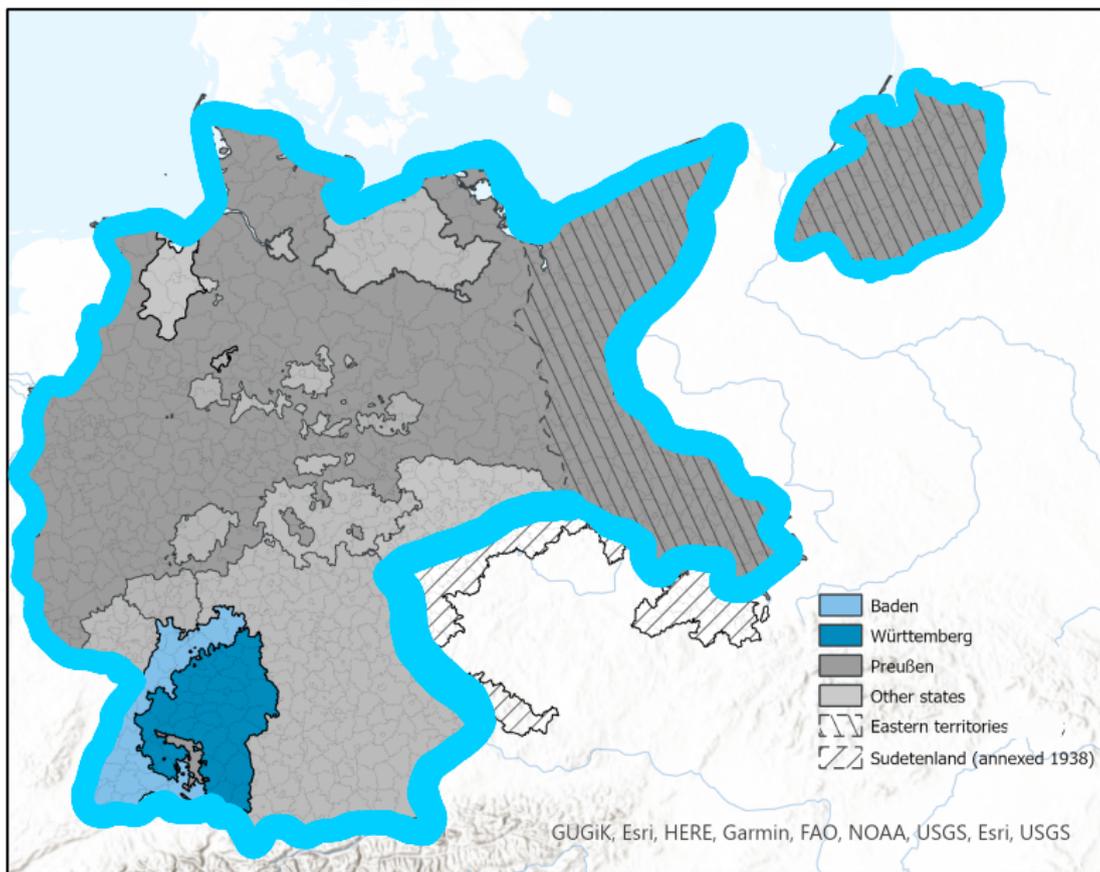
Introduction

Historical Background 

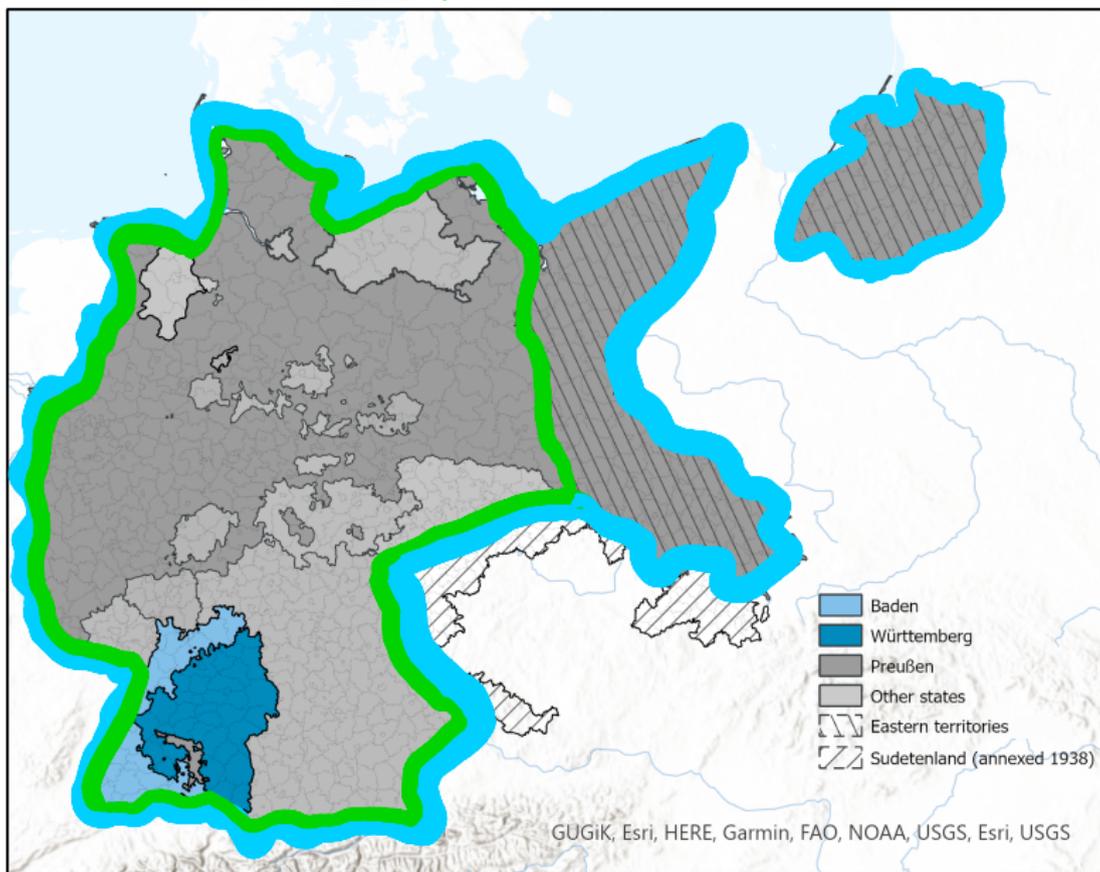
Data & Empirical Framework

Results

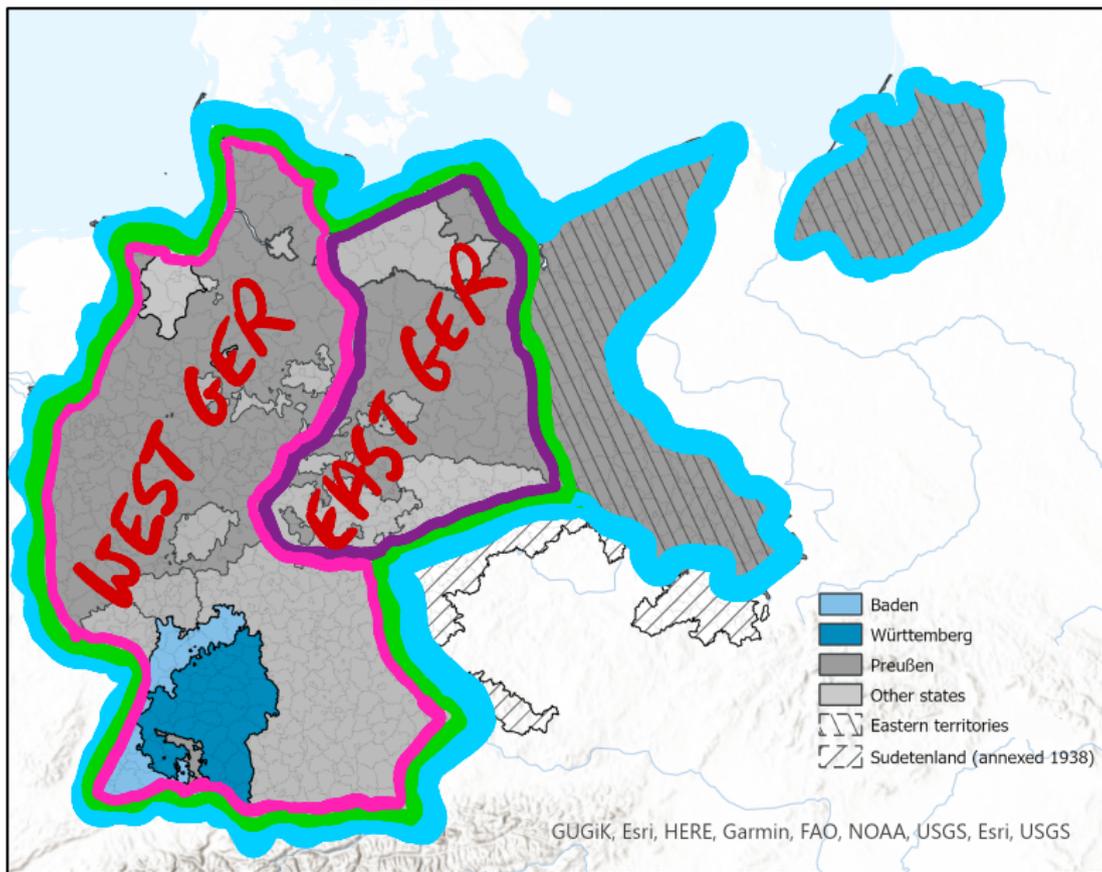
# Germany in 1937



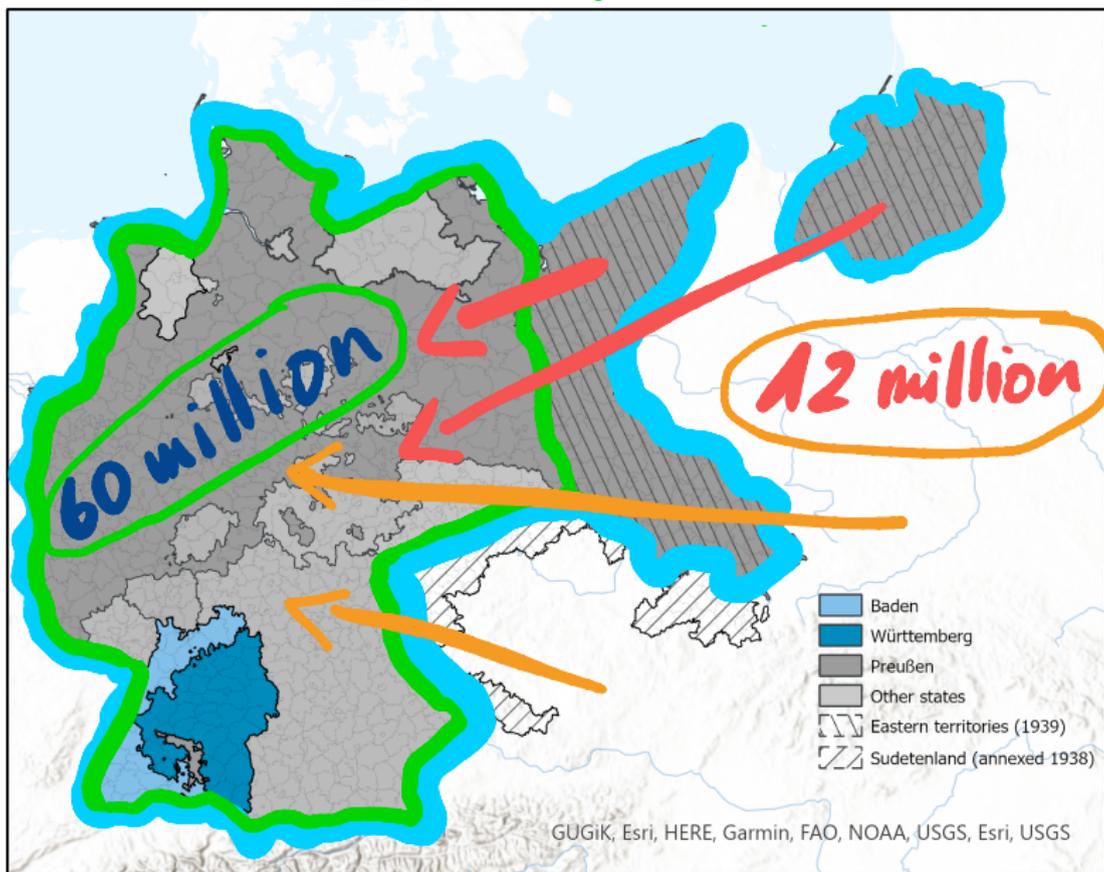
# Germany in 1945 (end of 1939-45 WW2)



# Germany 1949-1990



# Germany in 1945-49 (refugees/repellees)



# Arrival of Refugees



# Germany – 1945-1949 *Allied Occupation Zones*

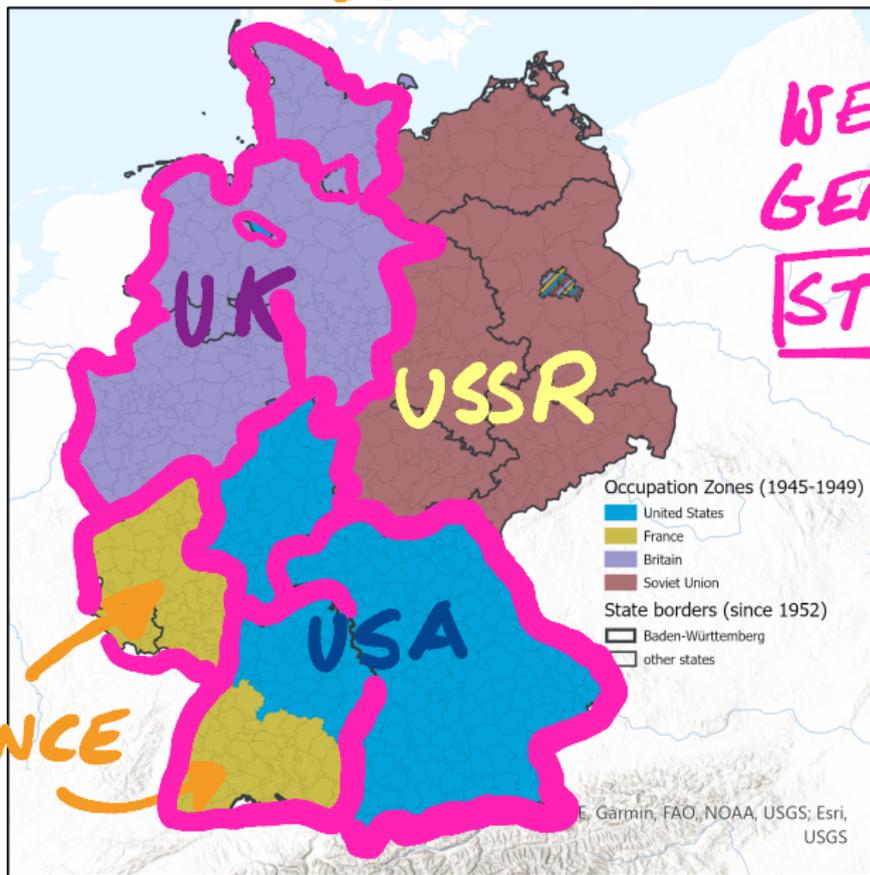


FRANCE

## Border Post – French and US occupation zone



# Germany – 1945-1949 FRENCH Occupation Zone



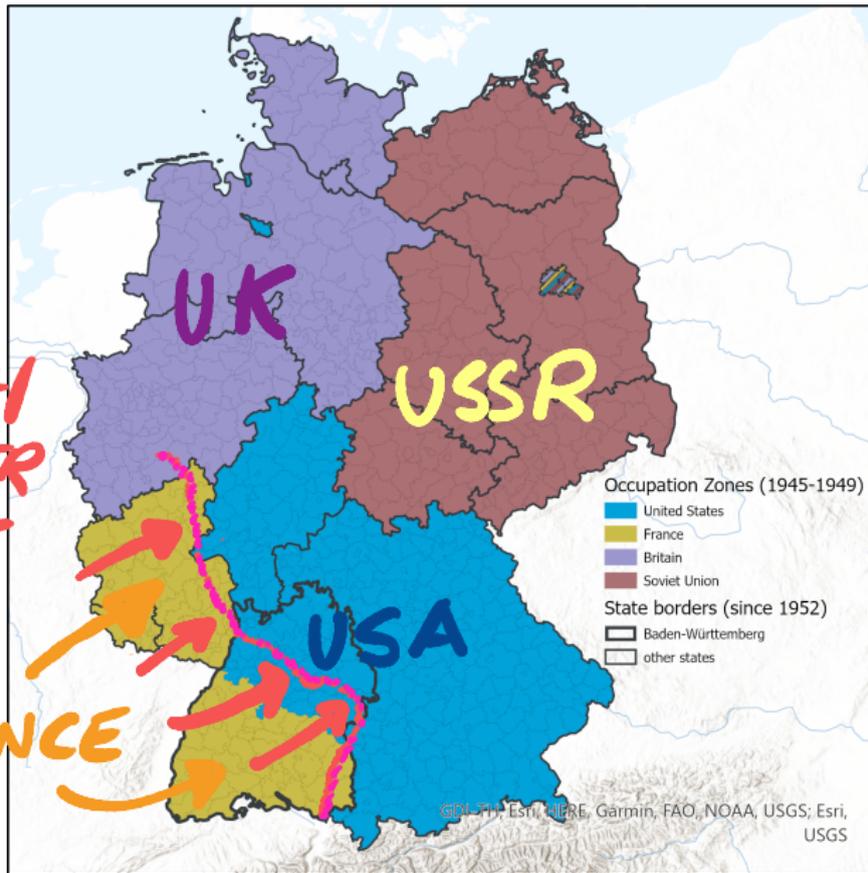
WEST  
GERMAN  
STATES

FRANCE

# Germany – 1945-1949 FRENCH Occupation Zone

SPRING/  
SUMMER  
1945

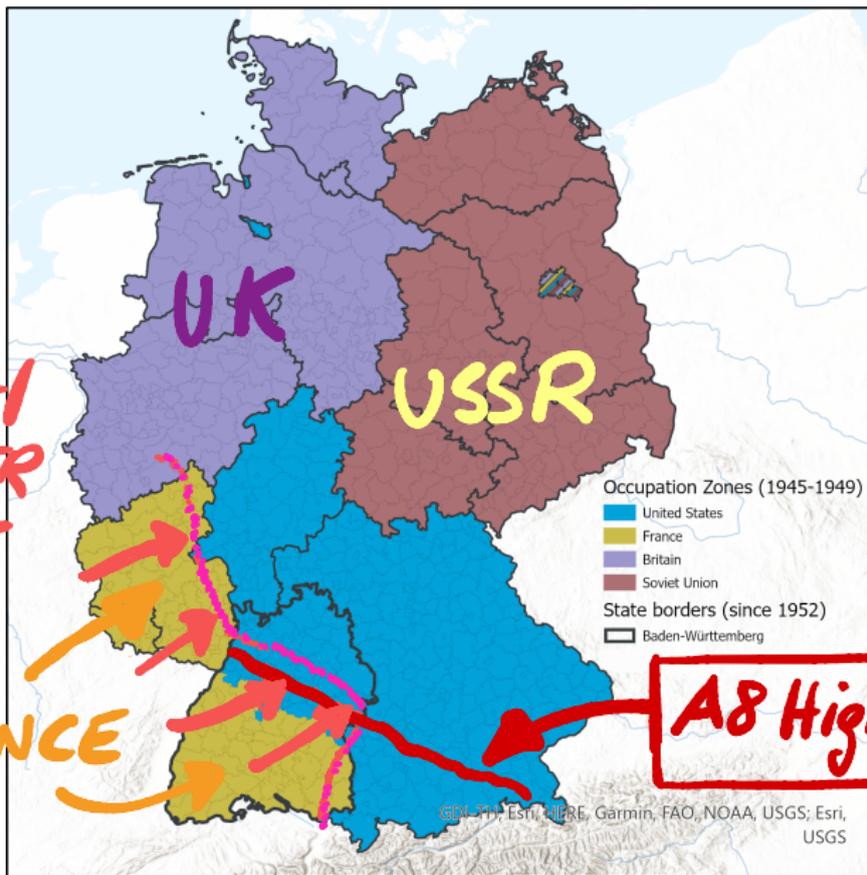
FRANCE



# Germany – 1945-1949 FRENCH Occupation Zone

SPRING/  
SUMMER  
1945

FRANCE



A8 Highway

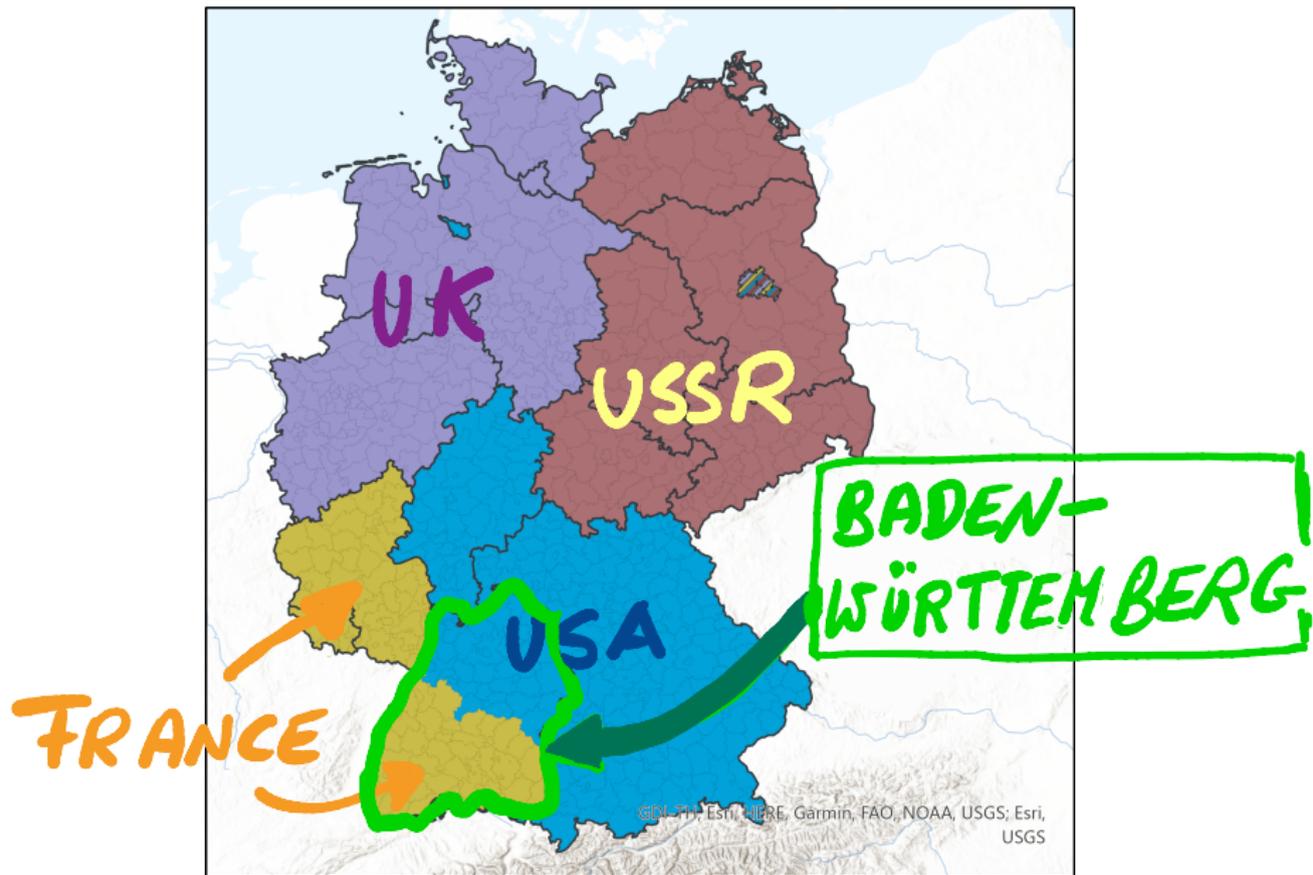


USA

Highway

FRANCE

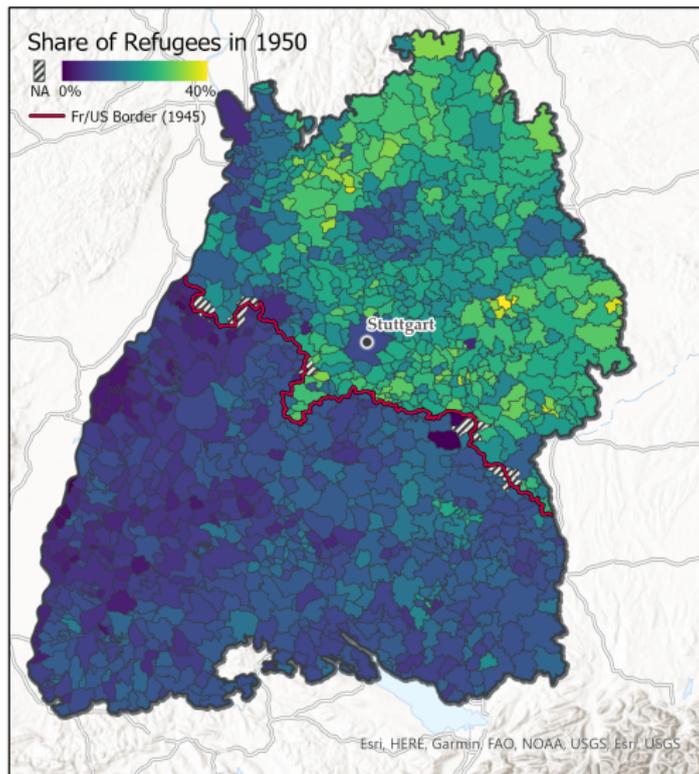
# Germany – 1945-1949 *Allied Occupation Zones*



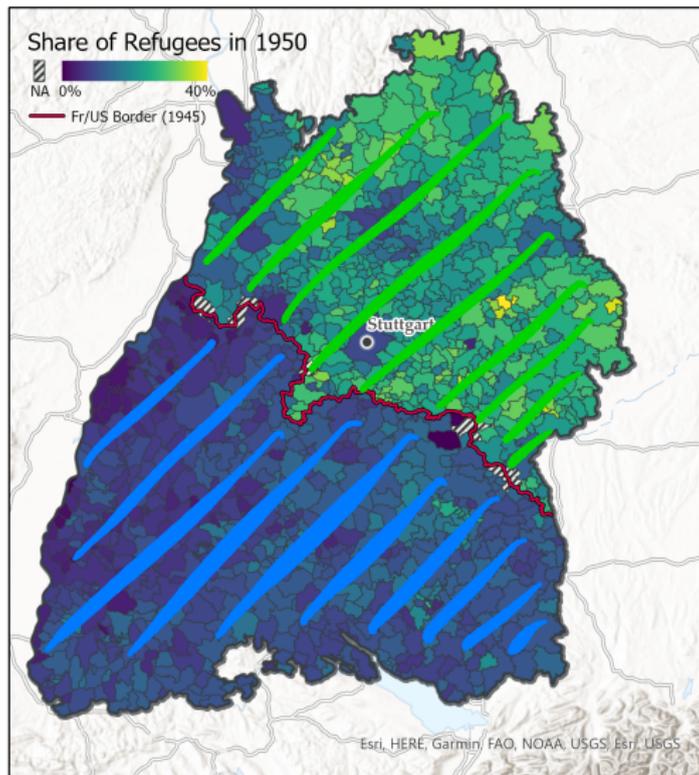
# No Refugees in French Occupation Zone

- ▶ The French occupation zone did not let refugees in (Staatssekretariat für das französisch besetzte Gebiet Württembergs und Hohenzollerns 1946)
- ▶ Reasons given:
  - ▶ did not participate in Potsdam conference on distribution of refugees
  - ▶ cannot deal with administrative and economic burden of refugees given situation in France
- ▶ Result is that the state of Baden-Württemberg today consists of a region which allowed refugees in after WWII (former US occupation zone) and one that did not (former French occupation zone)

# Baden-Württemberg – Share of Expellees in 1950 Census



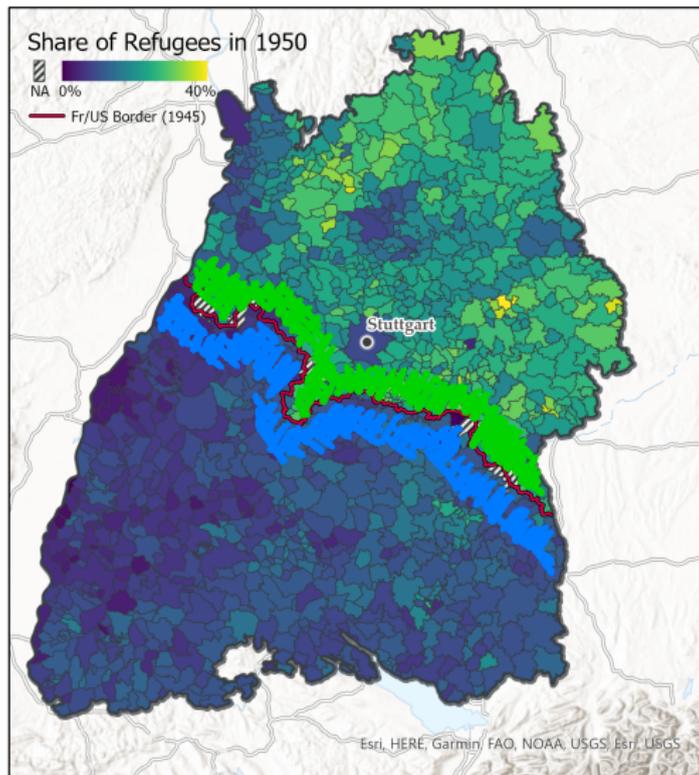
# Baden-Württemberg – Share of Expellees in 1950 Census



pop share  
refugees

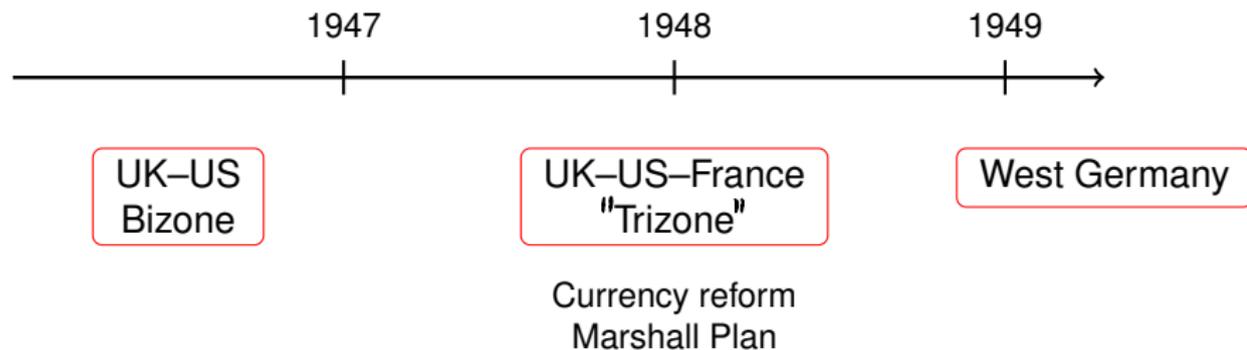
+12 pp

# Baden-Württemberg – Share of Expellees in 1950 Census



pop share  
refugees  
+12 pp

# Occupation Zones in Post-WW2 Germany (1945-49)



① Economic Effects at  
Border Today

② Explanations :

→ Agglomeration Effects

→ A8 Highway

→ US Policies / Institutions  
1945-49

# Overview

Introduction

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Data & Empirical Framework



Results

# Data

- ▶ Historical Census Data from 1871 to 1970/71
- ▶ Modern data on productivity, income, education at municipality level from German Statistical Offices
- ▶ Firm-level data from manufacturing survey (AFiD data)
- ▶ Property-level data on rents and house characteristics (Census 1987 and ImmobilienScout24 2008-16)
- ▶ Individual-level data on health, education, norms, and attitudes from German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP)
- ▶ School-level data on language acquisition from Statistical Office Baden-Wuerttemberg
- ▶ Lists of war-time destruction, industry dismantling, military bases, food rations, ...
- ▶ Geo-located patents since 1871 (PatentCity Database), digitized historical road maps

# Spatial Regression Discontinuity Design

$$y_m = \alpha + \gamma \underline{USZoneLocation}_m + f(\text{geographic location}_m) + \sum_i^S seg_m^i + X'_m \beta + \epsilon_m \quad (1)$$

*0 or 1* 

- ▶ baseline specification: municipalities within 15km of the border
- ▶ local linear RD polynomial in latitude and longitude with weights proportional to inverse distance to the border
- ▶  $X_m$  includes polynomials in distance to Stuttgart and highway exit
- ▶ Conley (1999) standard errors to account for spatial error correlation structure

## Exposure to US Zone

- ▶ Treatment effects might range beyond the municipality
- ▶ Include a measure of exposure to the US Zone (and hence, the arrival of refugees)

$$y_m = \alpha + \gamma \text{USZoneLocation}_m + \delta \text{USZoneExposure}_m + f(\text{geographic location}_m) + \sum_i^S \text{seg}_m^i + X'_m \beta + \epsilon_m \quad (2)$$

*Note: Handwritten orange arrow points to the  $\delta$  coefficient, with the handwritten text  $[0,1]$  next to it.*

- ▶  $\text{USZoneExposure}_m$ : share of 1939 population in US zone within 10km radius around center of  $m$

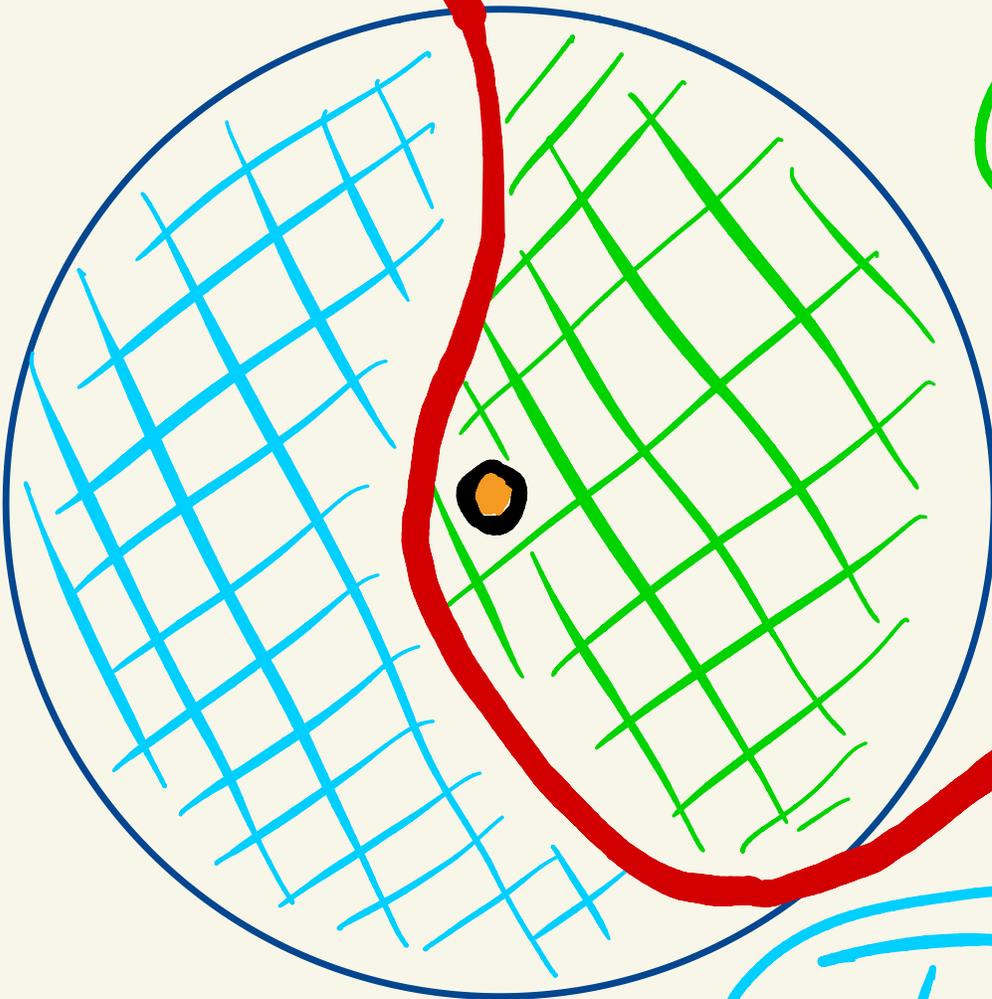
BORDER BETWEEN OCCUPATION ZONES

US EXPOSURE

1939 POP  $\square$

=

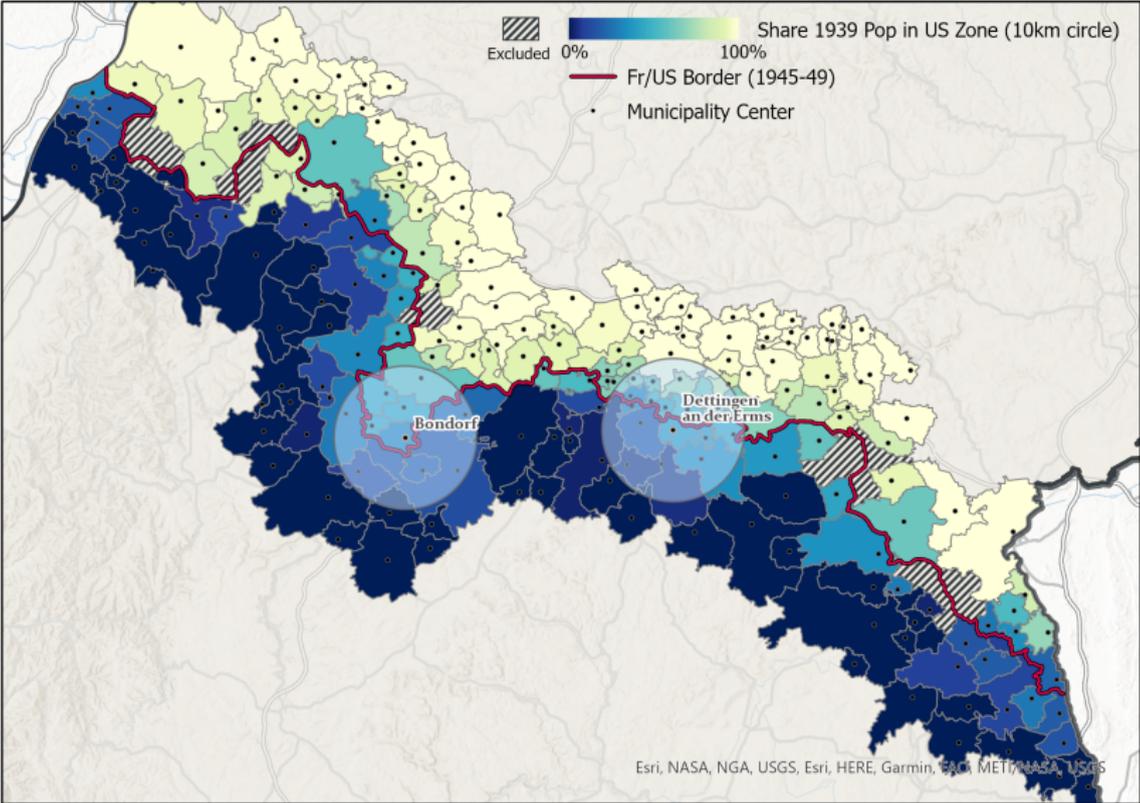
1939 POP  $\square$  + 1939 POP  $\square$



USA

FRANCE

# Exposure to US Zone - Map



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Refugees & Population 

Economic Characteristics before WWII

Long-term Economic Outcomes

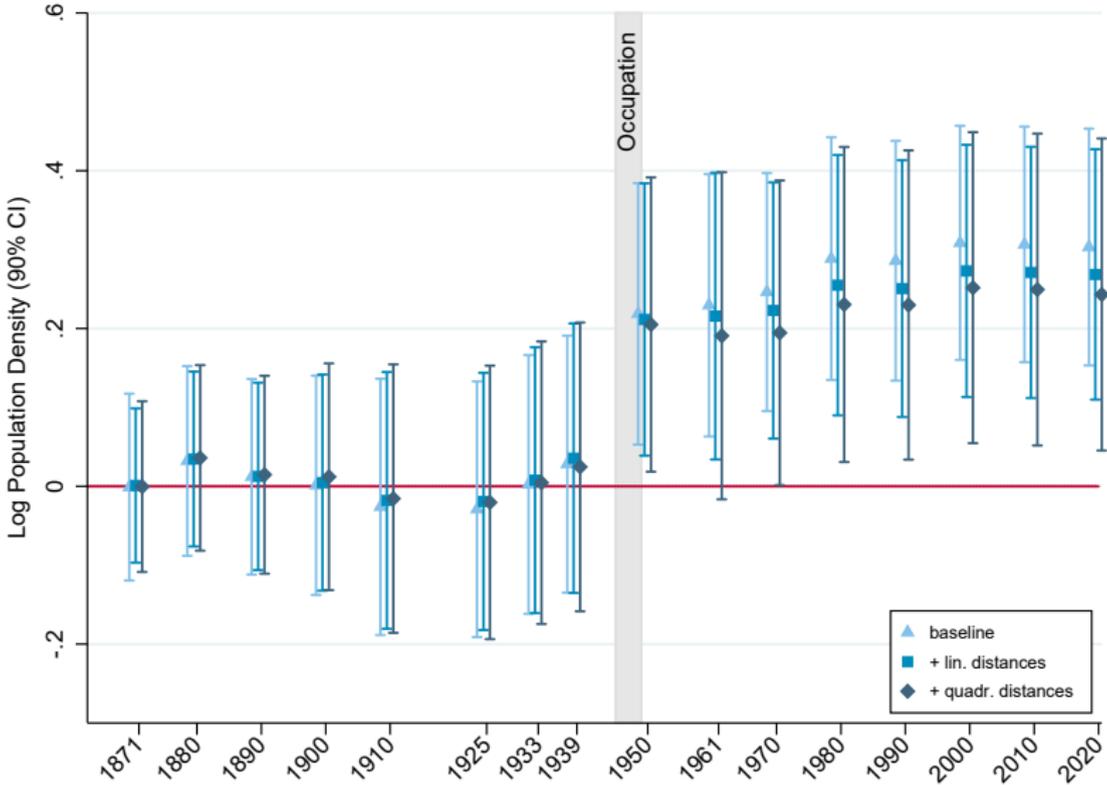
Agglomeration Mechanisms

Alternative Mechanisms

# More Refugees on former US side in 1950

|   | (1)                 | (2)                 | (3)                     | (4)                 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
|   | Refugees / Pop      |                     | Refugees / non-Refugees |                     |
| US Zone                                 | 0.126***<br>(0.009) | 0.122***<br>(0.012) | 0.180***<br>(0.013)     | 0.177***<br>(0.020) |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km radius) |                     | 0.013<br>(0.025)    |                         | 0.012<br>(0.038)    |
| Municipalities                          | 216                 | 216                 | 216                     | 216                 |

# Population Density Shock is Strong and Persistent



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Results

Refugees & Population



Economic Characteristics before WWII

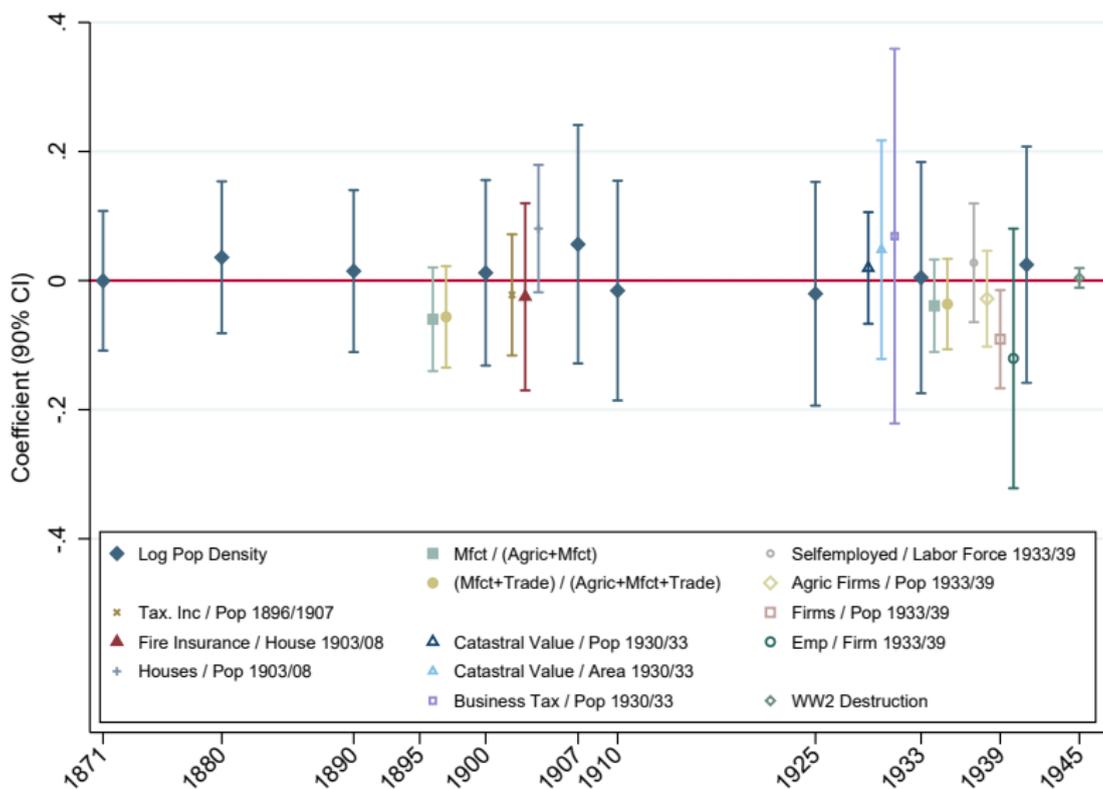


Long-term Economic Outcomes

Agglomeration Mechanisms

Alternative Mechanisms

# No Differences in pre-WWII Economic Characteristics



# Overview

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Results

Refugees & Population ✓

Economic Characteristics before WWII ✓

Long-term Economic Outcomes ←

Agglomeration Mechanisms

Alternative Mechanisms

# Long-term outcomes: Productivity and Wages

|  | (1)                       | (2)                | (3)                            | (4)                 |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Panel A: Aggregate Productivity</b>                                       |                           |                    |                                |                     |
|  | 2007-2018                 |                    |                                |                     |
| US Zone  | 0.130**<br>(0.057)        | 0.053<br>(0.065)   |                                |                     |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km circle)                                      |                           | 0.270*<br>(0.148)  |                                |                     |
| Municipalities   | 219                       | 219                |                                |                     |
| <b>Panel B: Hourly wages and value added in manufacturing establishments</b> |                           |                    |                                |                     |
|  | Hourly Wages<br>1995-2012 |                    | Value Added / hr.<br>1995-2012 |                     |
| US Zone  | 0.076**<br>(0.034)        | 0.045<br>(0.037)   | 0.074<br>(0.052)               | -0.006<br>(0.064)   |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km radius)                                      |                           | 0.105**<br>(0.054) |                                | 0.267***<br>(0.098) |
| Observations   | 3,415                     | 3,415              | 3,402                          | 3,402               |

Bandwidth

Standard Errors

RD Polynomial

One-dimensional RD

Boundary Segments

Radius

Placebo: Highways

Placebo: Bavaria

# Long-term outcomes: Rents and Income

|   | (1)                 | (2)                 | (3)                 | (4)                 | (5)               | (6)               |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Panel C: Rents</b>                   |                     |                     |                     |                     |                   |                   |
|   | 2008-16             |                     | 1987                |                     | 1970              |                   |
| US Zone                                 | 0.120***<br>(0.026) | 0.011<br>(0.027)    | 0.080***<br>(0.015) | 0.011<br>(0.026)    | 0.061*<br>(0.033) | 0.030<br>(0.036)  |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km circle) |                     | 0.232***<br>(0.057) |                     | 0.155***<br>(0.042) |                   | 0.109*<br>(0.063) |
| Observations                            | 314,765             | 314,765             | 255,969             | 255,969             | 213               | 213               |
| <b>Panel D: Income per capita</b>       |                     |                     |                     |                     |                   |                   |
|   | 2007-2017           |                     | 1980                |                     |                   |                   |
| US Zone                                 | 0.015<br>(0.018)    | -0.022<br>(0.023)   | -0.000<br>(0.032)   | -0.048<br>(0.032)   |                   |                   |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km circle) |                     | 0.131***<br>(0.044) |                     | 0.170***<br>(0.054) |                   |                   |
| Municipalities                          | 219                 | 219                 | 219                 | 219                 |                   |                   |

Bandwidth

Standard Errors

RD Polynomial

One-dimensional RD

Boundary Segments

Radius

Placebo: Highways

Placebo: Bavaria

# Long-term outcomes: Education

|   | (1)                | (2)                 | (3)               | (4)                 | (5)               | (6)               |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Panel E: University Education</b>    |                    |                     |                   |                     |                   |                   |
|   | 1999-2020          |                     | 1989-1998         |                     | 1970              |                   |
| US Zone                                 | 0.013**<br>(0.006) | -0.001<br>(0.006)   | 0.006*<br>(0.004) | -0.004<br>(0.004)   | -0.008<br>(0.007) | -0.014<br>(0.009) |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km circle) |                    | 0.049***<br>(0.012) |                   | 0.036***<br>(0.008) |                   | 0.020<br>(0.015)  |
| Municipalities                          | 219                | 219                 | 219               | 219                 | 219               | 219               |

Placebo: Highways

Placebo: Bavaria

## Long-term effects: Taking stock

- ▶ Arrival of refugees has raised population density on the former US side above population density on the former French side
- ▶ Despite higher rents this effect persists until today
- ▶ Well-understood explanation for coincidence of higher rents and higher population: Agglomeration Economies
  - ▶ input sharing, labor-market matching, and knowledge spillovers can translate greater density into higher productivity and wages (e.g., Duranton and Puga 2004)
  - ▶ higher productivity and wages, in turn, sustain greater density despite higher rents
- ▶ Consistent with this explanation we find higher productivity, wages, and income
- ▶ We now proceed to document the presence of the different agglomeration mechanisms

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Refugees & Population



Economic Characteristics before WWII



Long-term Economic Outcomes



Agglomeration Mechanisms



Alternative Mechanisms

# Input Sharing

- ▶ Denser populated areas could benefit from lower transportation costs and use of common public goods
- ▶ We find evidence that municipalities become better connected
- ▶ There are also gains to a larger variety of goods

|                               | (1)   | (2)                 | (3)                             | (4)                | (5)  | (6)                 |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|--|---------------------|
| <b>Panel A: Shared Inputs</b> |   |                     |                                 |                    |  |                     |
|                               | Road Distance to nearest highway exit in km |                     |                                 |                    |  |                     |
|                               | Δ % 1940-2015                               |                     | 1940                            |                    | 2015                                       |                     |
| US Zone Location              | -0.054*<br>(0.030)                          | -0.011<br>(0.034)   | -0.58<br>(0.507)                | -1.14*<br>(0.395)  | -1.55***<br>(0.534)                        | -1.52***<br>(0.289) |
| US Zone Exposure (10km)       |   | -0.151**<br>(0.066) |                                 | 1.99*<br>(1.812)   |  | -0.115<br>(1.118)   |
| Observations                  | 217   | 217                 | 217                             | 217                | 218  | 218                 |
|                               | Land Use                                    |                     | Intermediate Input Use          |                    |  |                     |
|                               | Transport Infrastructure<br>1980-2021       |                     | Intermediate Goods /<br>Revenue |                    | (Intermediate Goods<br>+ Energy) / Revenue |                     |
| US Zone Location              | 0.008**<br>(0.003)                          | 0.003<br>(0.004)    | 0.034**<br>(0.014)              | 0.040**<br>(0.016) | 0.035**<br>(0.014)                         | 0.041***<br>(0.016) |
| US Zone Exposure (10km)       |   | 0.019**<br>(0.010)  |                                 | -0.021<br>(0.262)  |  | -0.020<br>(0.026)   |
| Observations                  | 5,856                                       | 5,856               | 3,866                           | 3,866              | 3,866                                      | 3,866               |

# Labor Market Matching

- ▶ Thicker labor markets could lead to better matches of workers and firms
- ▶ Dauth et al. (2022) find more positive assortative matching (PAM) in denser local markets (measured by the correlation between AKM worker and firm fixed effects within a local market)

|                                       | (1)                                       | (2)                | (3)                                    | (4)                | (5)                            | (6)                  |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Panel B: Labor Market Matching</b> |   |                    |  |                    |                                |                      |
|                                       | Positive Assortative Matching (1985-2014) |                    | Size of LLM (1985-2014) Log Employment |                    | Commuters to other zone (2021) |                      |
| US Zone Location                      | 0.0452**<br>(0.0227)                      | 0.0414<br>(0.0290) | 1.78***<br>(0.375)                     | 1.46***<br>(0.375) | -0.102***<br>(0.031)           | -0.111***<br>(0.042) |
| US Zone Exposure (10km)               |   | 0.0134<br>(0.0560) |  | 1.13**<br>(0.457)  |                                | 0.033<br>(0.051)     |
| Observations                          | 1070                                      | 1070               | 1070                                   | 1070               | 217                            | 217                  |

# Labor Market Matching

|                                    | (1)                   | (2)                   | (3)                   | (4)                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Panel A: Municipality Level</b> |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|                                    | Dauth et al. (2022)   | + our controls        | + US Dummy            | IV                    |
| Pop Dens                           | 0.0421***<br>(0.0072) | 0.0609***<br>(0.0171) | 0.0563***<br>(0.0172) | 0.1490**<br>(0.0572)  |
| US Zone Location                   |                       |                       | 0.0281<br>(0.0220)    |                       |
| Observations                       | 1075                  | 1070                  | 1070                  | 1070                  |
| First Stage F-Stat                 |                       |                       |                       | 51.46                 |
| <b>Panel B: LLM Level</b>          |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|                                    | Dauth et al. (2022)   |                       |                       | IV                    |
| Pop Dens                           | 0.0525***<br>(0.0191) |                       | 0.0150<br>(0.0361)    | 0.0802***<br>(0.0166) |
| US Zone Exposure<br>of LLM         |                       | 0.0716***<br>(0.0271) | 0.0583<br>(0.0495)    |                       |
| Observations                       | 55                    | 55                    | 55                    | 55                    |
| First Stage F-Stat                 |                       |                       |                       | 74.67                 |

# Knowledge Spillovers

- ▶ Proxy knowledge by patenting activity
- ▶ Use PatentCity Database that covers all registered patents since 1871

|                         | (1)                             | (2)                | (3)               | (4)               | (5)               | (6)                |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Panel C: Patents</b> |                                 |                    |                   |                   |                   |                    |
|                         | Log Patents                     |                    |                   |                   |                   |                    |
|                         | 1980-2019                       |                    | 1950-1979         |                   | 1871-1939         |                    |
| US Zone Location        | 0.053<br>(0.220)                | -0.247<br>(0.273)  | 0.022<br>(0.287)  | 0.029<br>(0.361)  | -0.067<br>(0.208) | 0.320<br>(0.274)   |
| US Zone Exposure (10km) |                                 | 0.946*<br>(0.522)  |                   | -0.205<br>(0.648) |                   | -1.150*<br>(0.669) |
| Observations            | 809                             | 809                | 479               | 479               | 397               | 397                |
|                         | Log Patents per Capita          |                    |                   |                   |                   |                    |
|                         | 1980-2019                       |                    | 1950-1979         |                   | 1871-1939         |                    |
| US Zone Location        | -0.039<br>(0.119)               | -0.224<br>(0.151)  | 0.040<br>(0.219)  | 0.291<br>(0.321)  | -0.063<br>(0.155) | 0.077<br>(0.201)   |
| US Zone Exposure (10km) |                                 | 0.584**<br>(0.273) |                   | -0.747<br>(0.504) |                   | -0.422<br>(0.401)  |
| Observations            | 809                             | 809                | 479               | 479               | 397               | 397                |
|                         | Patents per Capita Above Median |                    |                   |                   |                   |                    |
|                         | 1980-2019                       |                    | 1950-1979         |                   | 1871-1939         |                    |
| US Zone Location        | 0.022<br>(0.058)                | -0.080<br>(0.082)  | -0.040<br>(0.082) | -0.002<br>(0.099) | -0.051<br>(0.051) | -0.026<br>(0.064)  |
| US Zone Exposure (10km) |                                 | 0.334**<br>(0.151) |                   | -0.122<br>(0.180) |                   | -0.080<br>(0.119)  |
| Observations            | 856                             | 856                | 642               | 642               | 1498              | 1498               |

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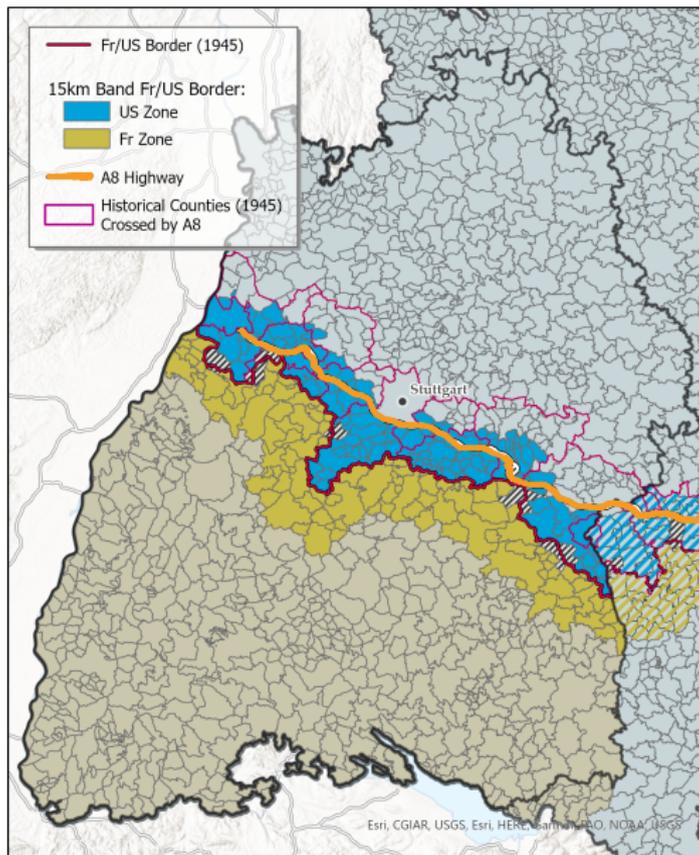
Data & Empirical Framework

Results

- Refugees & Population ✓
- Economic Characteristics before WWII ✓
- Long-term Economic Outcomes ✓
- Agglomeration Mechanisms ✓
- Alternative Mechanisms ←

**A** Highway **B** Other Policies **C** Other

# Border Region and Highway A8

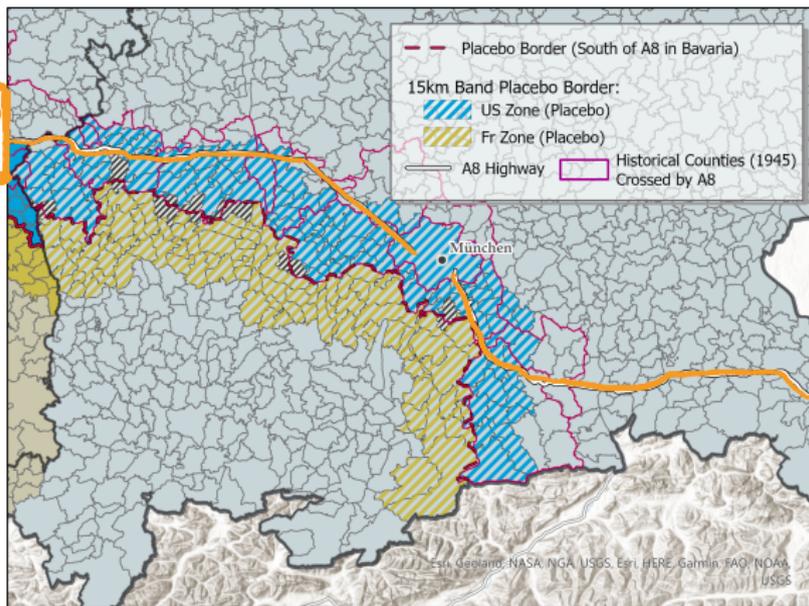


Highway A8

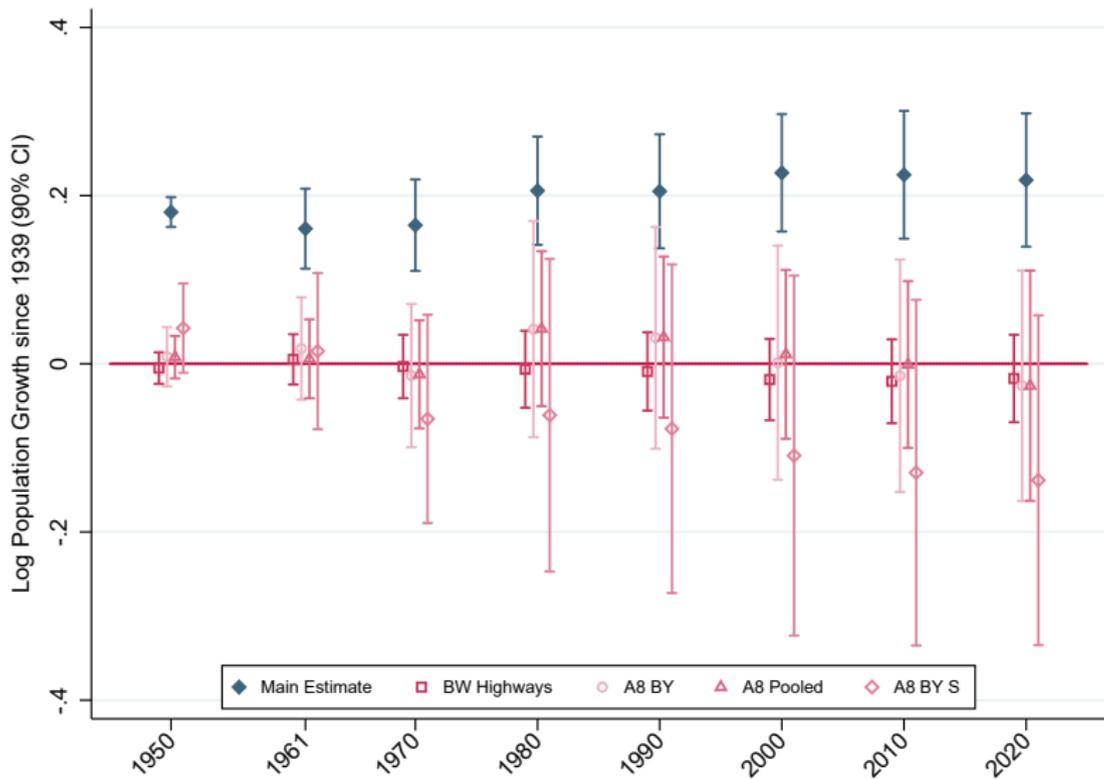


# Placebo Region and Highway A8

Highway A8

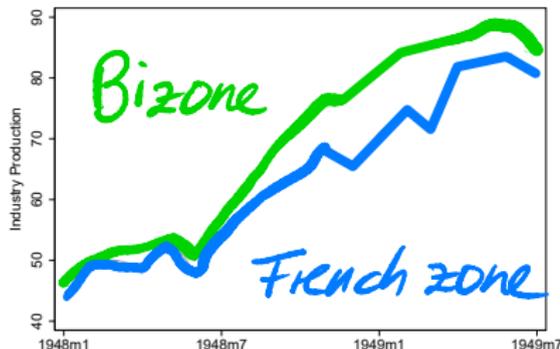


# No Differences in Population Growth at Placebo Borders

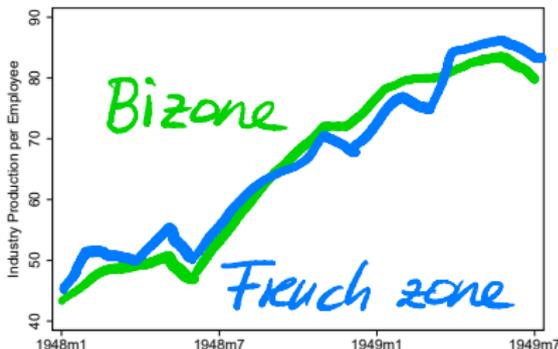


# Alternative Mechanisms: UK+US Policies

US. French Policies



Industry Production (1936=100)



Per Worker (1936=100)

Data from Ritschl (1985)



# Everything Else



- ▶ Former US zone exports more
- ▶ Former US zone exports more outside Europe
- ▶ More firm headquarters in the former US zone
- ▶ Larger establishments in the former US zone
- ▶ Larger firms in the former US zone
- ▶ Former US zone residents work more hours
- ▶ Former US zone is less unionized
- ▶ Residents of former US zone are less risk-averse or have more liberal values
- ▶ Greater affinity to Anglosphere in former US zone
- ▶ Former US zone kept Allied military bases longer
- ▶ Second-generation refugees are better educated
- ▶ Negative health effects in former French zone



# Conclusion

- ▶ Strong spatial discontinuity in inflow of refugees at the former border between the 1945-49 French and US occupation zones
- ▶ Despite common policies, laws, and institutions since 1949 still strong differences at this border today
- ▶ Coincides with higher income, productivity, rents, wages, and education
- ▶ Proposed channel: Agglomeration economies that
  - ▶ operate via input sharing, labor market matching, and knowledge spillovers
  - ▶ range beyond municipalities
  - ▶ built up gradually

# Pre-WWII Characteristics of Refugees and the Local Population in the US Zone in South-West Germany

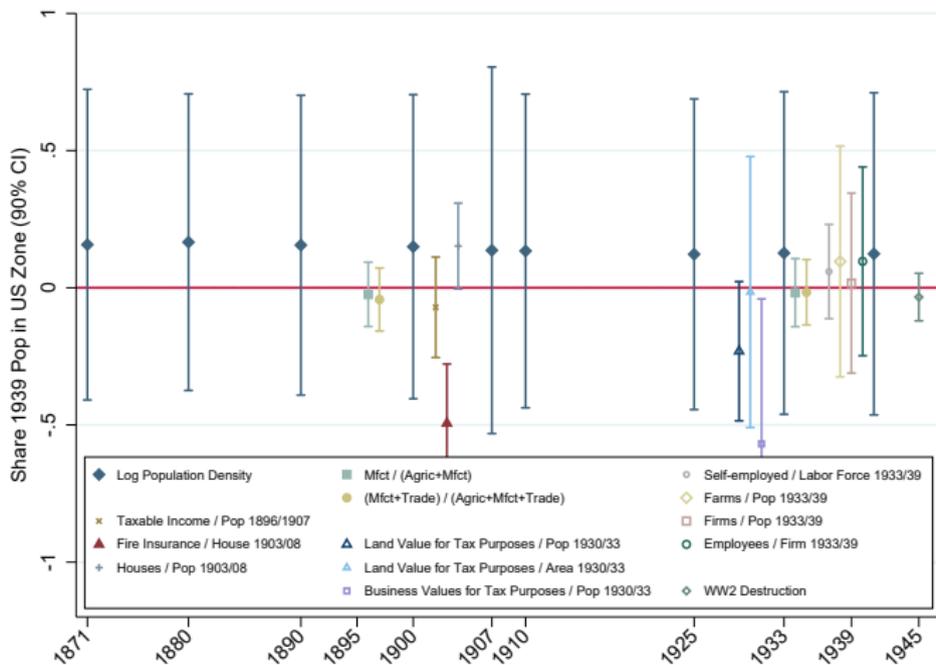
|   | Refugees | Locals | Difference |
|---|----------|--------|------------|
| <b>Education</b>                            |          |        |            |
| Years of education                          | 8.4      | 8.6    | -0.2       |
| No elementary school degree                 | 3.9      | 2.1    | 1.8        |
| Elementary school degree                    | 61.3     | 57.4   | 3.9        |
| Vocational school degree                    | 15.3     | 20.0   | -4.7       |
| Comprehensive school degree                 | 13.6     | 13.6   | 0.0        |
| High school degree                          | 3.1      | 3.2    | -0.1       |
| University degree                           | 2.4      | 3.0    | -0.6       |
| <b>Employment and Occupational Status</b>   |          |        |            |
| Employed                                    | 66.2     | 65.8   | 0.3        |
| Self-employed farmers                       | 7.9      | 4.7    | 3.1        |
| Self-employed                               | 5.4      | 5.3    | 0.1        |
| Family members working in family businesses | 9.2      | 7.0    | 2.2        |
| Civil servants                              | 4.1      | 4.8    | -0.7       |
| White-collar workers                        | 10.1     | 13.7   | -3.6       |
| Unskilled blue-collar workers               | 17.8     | 17.8   | 0.1        |
| Skilled blue-collar workers                 | 11.1     | 10.7   | -0.4       |
| Foremen                                     | 1.0      | 1.5    | -0.5       |
| Unemployed                                  | 0.1      | 0.1    | 0.0        |
| Out of labor force                          | 27.0     | 26.6   | 0.4        |

*Notes:* The table reproduces the data in Grosser (2006) for refugees and the local population in the former US occupation zone in Baden-Württemberg. The original source is the supplementary micro census in 1971 (*Mikrozensus Zusatzerhebung "Berufliche und soziale Umschichtungen der Bevölkerung"*). Education refers to the highest educational degree in 1971 for individuals born before 1930. Employment and occupational status in 1939 is retrospective information for individuals born before 1920. The sample consists of individuals who lived in the 1945-1949 US occupation zone in 1971 and therefore also captures relocation after the initial arrival of refugees.

# Adjustments: Municipality Level

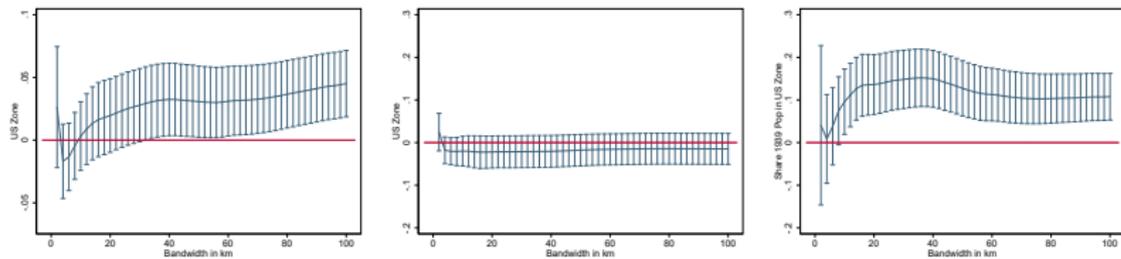
|                                     | (1)                  | (2)                        | (3)                      |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Panel C: Population</b>          |                      |                            |                          |
|                                     | Gain<br>1949-1950    | Annual Growth<br>1950-1960 | Refugees<br>from SZ 1960 |
| US Zone                             | -0.048***<br>(0.008) | -0.002<br>(0.003)          | -0.001<br>(0.004)        |
| Municipalities                      | 215                  | 217                        | 216                      |
| <b>Panel D: Manufacturing Share</b> |                      |                            |                          |
|                                     | Annual Growth        |                            |                          |
|                                     | 1933/39-1950         | 1950-1960                  | 1960-1970                |
| US Zone                             | 0.005***<br>(0.001)  | -0.003***<br>(0.001)       | 0.002<br>(0.002)         |
| Municipalities                      | 216                  | 216                        | 216                      |

# No Differences in pre-WWII Economic Characteristics (Model 2)

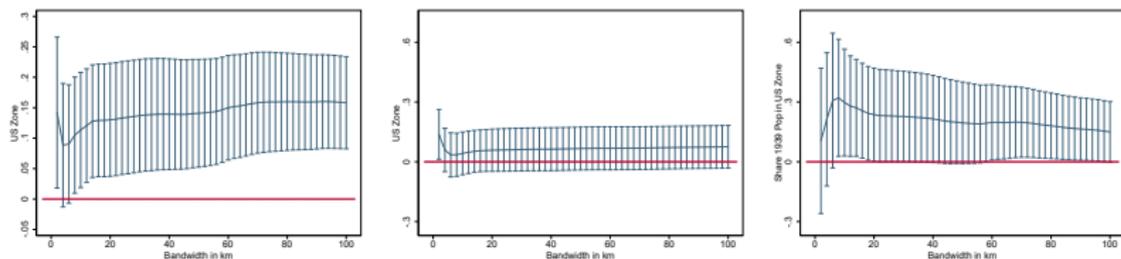


# Robustness: Bandwidth

(a) Income per capita (2007-2017)



(b) Aggregate Productivity (2006-2018)



# Robustness: Standard Errors

|   | (1)                | (2)                 | (3)                | (4)                 |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Income per capita</b>                |                    |                     |                    |                     |
|   | Conley 10km        |                     | Conley 50km        |                     |
| US Zone                                 | 0.015<br>(0.018)   | -0.022<br>(0.024)   | 0.015<br>(0.018)   | -0.022<br>(0.023)   |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km circle) |                    | 0.131***<br>(0.045) |                    | 0.131***<br>(0.043) |
| N                                       | 1,510              | 1,510               | 1,510              | 1,510               |
| <b>Aggregate Productivity</b>           |                    |                     |                    |                     |
|   | Conley 10km        |                     | Conley 50km        |                     |
| US Zone                                 | 0.129**<br>(0.057) | 0.054<br>(0.064)    | 0.129**<br>(0.056) | 0.054<br>(0.064)    |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km circle) |                    | 0.265*<br>(0.146)   |                    | 0.265*<br>(0.146)   |
| N                                       | 2,773              | 2,773               | 2,773              | 2,773               |

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# Robustness: RD Polynomial

|   | (1)                | (2)                 | (3)                | (4)                 |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Income per capita</b>                |                    |                     |                    |                     |
|   |                    | Quadratic           |                    | Cubic               |
| US Zone                                 | 0.017<br>(0.018)   | -0.020<br>(0.023)   | -0.004<br>(0.018)  | -0.032<br>(0.021)   |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km circle) |                    | 0.130***<br>(0.044) |                    | 0.116***<br>(0.043) |
| N                                       | 1,510              | 1,510               | 1,510              | 1,510               |
| <b>Aggregate Productivity</b>           |                    |                     |                    |                     |
|   |                    | Quadratic           |                    | Cubic               |
| US Zone                                 | 0.128**<br>(0.057) | 0.051<br>(0.065)    | 0.138**<br>(0.064) | 0.057<br>(0.067)    |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km circle) |                    | 0.267*<br>(0.146)   |                    | 0.336**<br>(0.156)  |
| N                                       | 2,773              | 2,773               | 2,773              | 2,773               |

back

# Robustness: One-dimensional RD

|   | (1)               | (2)                | (3)               | (4)                |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Income per capita</b>                |                   |                    |                   |                    |
|   | Linear            |                    | Quadratic         |                    |
| US Zone                                 | -0.023<br>(0.020) | -0.035<br>(0.022)  | -0.042<br>(0.034) | -0.033<br>(0.034)  |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km circle) |                   | 0.102*<br>(0.056)  |                   | 0.102*<br>(0.059)  |
| N                                       | 1,510             | 1,510              | 1,510             | 1,510              |
| <b>Aggregate Productivity</b>           |                   |                    |                   |                    |
|   | Linear            |                    | Quadratic         |                    |
| US Zone                                 | 0.134*<br>(0.073) | 0.095<br>(0.073)   | 0.102<br>(0.107)  | 0.137<br>(0.107)   |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km circle) |                   | 0.353**<br>(0.174) |                   | 0.378**<br>(0.183) |
| N                                       | 2,773             | 2,773              | 2,773             | 2,773              |

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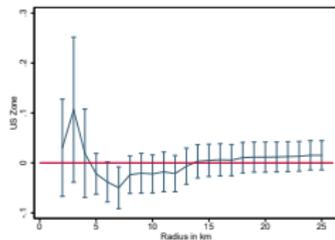
# Robustness: Boundary Segments

|   | (1)                | (2)                 | (3)                 | (4)                   |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Income per capita</b>                |                    |                     |                     |                       |
|   |                    | 10                  |                     | 50                    |
| US Zone                                 | 0.011<br>(0.018)   | -0.023<br>(0.023)   | -0.006<br>(0.014)   | -0.050****<br>(0.016) |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km circle) |                    | 0.122***<br>(0.047) |                     | 0.168***<br>(0.036)   |
| N                                       | 1,510              | 1,510               | 1,510               | 1,510                 |
| <b>Aggregate Productivity</b>           |                    |                     |                     |                       |
|   |                    | 10                  |                     | 50                    |
| US Zone                                 | 0.137**<br>(0.057) | 0.064<br>(0.067)    | 0.169***<br>(0.055) | 0.052<br>(0.062)      |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km circle) |                    | 0.257*<br>(0.145)   |                     | 0.446***<br>(0.142)   |
| N                                       | 2,773              | 2,773               | 2,773               | 2,773                 |

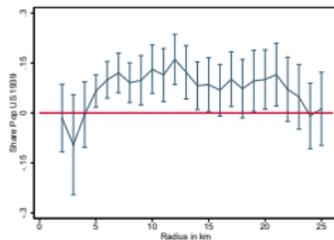
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# Robustness: Radius

## (a) Income per capita

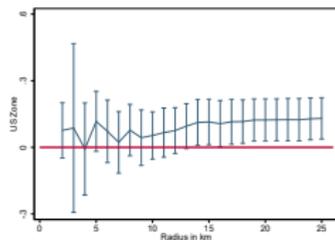


US Zone

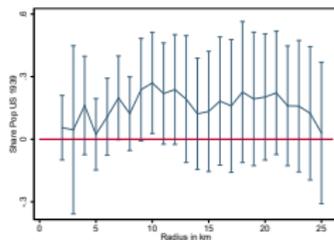


Share US Pop 1939

## (b) Aggregate Productivity



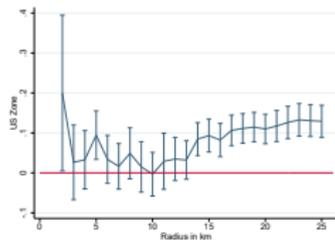
US Zone



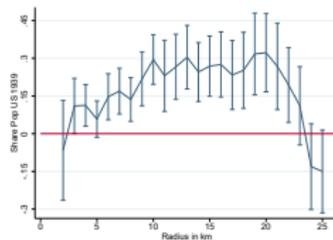
Share US Pop 1939

# Robustness: Radius

## (a) Rents

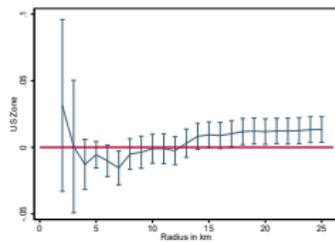


US Zone

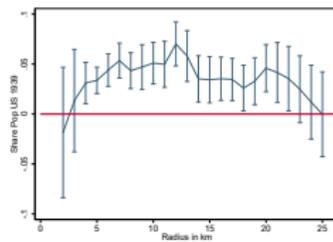


Share US Pop 1939

## (b) Education



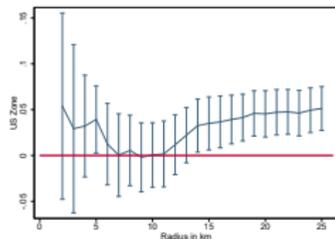
US Zone



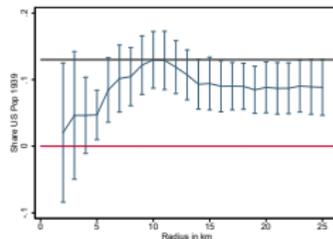
Share US Pop 1939

# Robustness: Radius

## (a) Simulation: Municipality Data

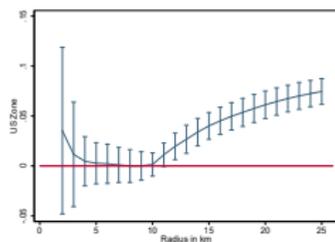


US Zone

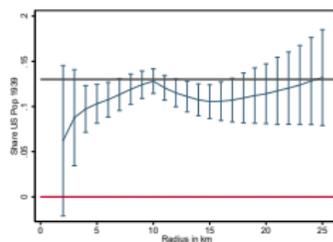


Share US Pop 1939

## (b) Simulation: Synthetic Data



US Zone



Share US Pop 1939

# Placebo: Highways pooled

|   | (1)               | (2)               | (3)               | (4)               |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Income per capita</b>                |                   |                   |                   |                   |
|   |                   | BW Highways       | A8 pooled         |                   |
| US Zone                                 | 0.022<br>(0.022)  | 0.011<br>(0.040)  | -0.003<br>(0.020) | 0.012<br>(0.022)  |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km radius) |                   | 0.019<br>(0.047)  |                   | -0.041<br>(0.037) |
| Observations                            | 7,759             | 7,759             | 4,785             | 4,785             |
| <b>Aggregate Productivity</b>           |                   |                   |                   |                   |
|   |                   | BW Highways       |                   |                   |
| US Zone                                 | -0.079<br>(0.053) | 0.049<br>(0.115)  |                   |                   |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km radius) |                   | -0.199<br>(0.142) |                   |                   |
| Observations                            | 13,801            | 13,801            |                   |                   |

Note: Our measure of aggregate productivity is not available on the municipality level for Bavaria. [back](#)

# Placebo: Highways Bavaria

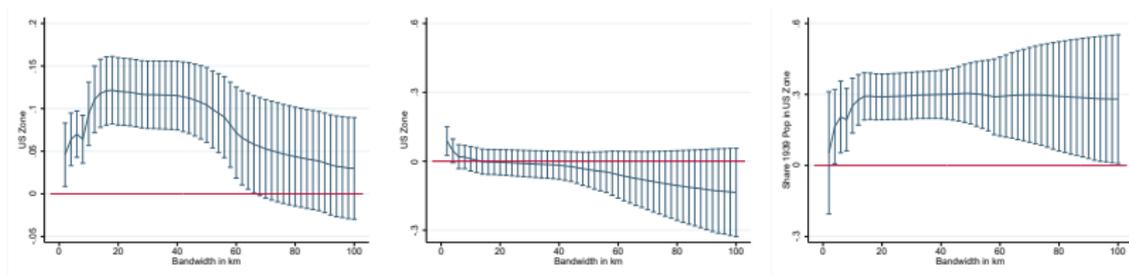
|   | (1)               | (2)               | (3)              | (4)               |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Income per capita</b>                |                   |                   |                  |                   |
|   |                   | A8 BY             | A8 BY South      |                   |
| US Zone                                 | -0.016<br>(0.029) | -0.024<br>(0.029) | 0.023<br>(0.050) | -0.010<br>(0.043) |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km radius) |                   | 0.023<br>(0.053)  |                  | 0.119<br>(0.093)  |
| Observations                            | 3,226             | 3,226             | 1,443            | 1,443             |

Note: Our measure of aggregate productivity is not available on the municipality level for Bavaria.

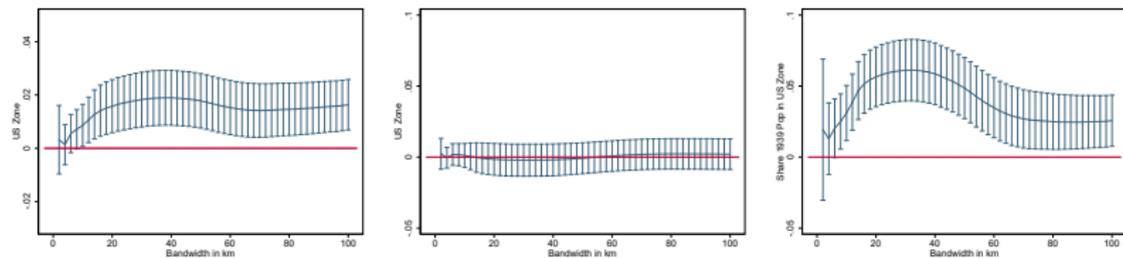
[back](#)

# Robustness: Bandwidth

(a) Rents Immoscout (2008-2016)



(b) Share University (1999-2020)



# Robustness: Standard Errors

|   | (1)                 | (2)                 | (3)                 | (4)                 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Rents Immoscout</b>                  |                     |                     |                     |                     |
|   | Conley 10km         |                     | Conley 50km         |                     |
| US Zone                                 | 0.120***<br>(0.025) | 0.011<br>(0.027)    | 0.120***<br>(0.027) | 0.011<br>(0.027)    |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km circle) |                     | 0.232***<br>(0.057) |                     | 0.232***<br>(0.058) |
| N                                       | 314,765             | 314,765             | 314,765             | 314,765             |
| <b>Share University</b>                 |                     |                     |                     |                     |
|   | Conley 10km         |                     | Conley 50km         |                     |
| US Zone                                 | 0.013**<br>(0.006)  | -0.001<br>(0.006)   | 0.013**<br>(0.006)  | -0.001<br>(0.006)   |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km circle) |                     | 0.049***<br>(0.013) |                     | 0.049***<br>(0.012) |
| N                                       | 4,786               | 4,786               | 4,786               | 4,786               |

back

# Robustness: RD Polynomial

|   | (1)                 | (2)                 | (3)                 | (4)                 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Rents Immoscout</b>                  |                     |                     |                     |                     |
|   | Quadratic           |                     | Cubic               |                     |
| US Zone                                 | 0.107***<br>(0.022) | 0.010<br>(0.027)    | 0.065***<br>(0.020) | 0.010<br>(0.023)    |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km circle) |                     | 0.212***<br>(0.054) |                     | 0.212***<br>(0.050) |
| N                                       | 314,765             | 314,765             | 314,765             | 314,765             |
| <b>Share University</b>                 |                     |                     |                     |                     |
|   | Quadratic           |                     | Cubic               |                     |
| US Zone                                 | 0.015***<br>(0.006) | 0.001<br>(0.007)    | 0.003<br>(0.006)    | -0.005<br>(0.006)   |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km circle) |                     | 0.048***<br>(0.013) |                     | 0.032**<br>(0.014)  |
| N                                       | 4,786               | 4,786               | 4,786               | 4,786               |

back

# Robustness: One-dimensional RD

|   | (1)              | (2)                 | (3)               | (4)                 |
|---|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Rents Immoscout</b>                  |                  |                     |                   |                     |
|   | Linear           |                     | Quadratic         |                     |
| US Zone                                 | 0.058<br>(0.039) | -0.012<br>(0.031)   | 0.103*<br>(0.060) | 0.069<br>(0.045)    |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km circle) |                  | 0.274***<br>(0.074) |                   | 0.298***<br>(0.070) |
| N                                       | 314,765          | 314,765             | 314,765           | 314,765             |
| <b>Share University</b>                 |                  |                     |                   |                     |
|   | Linear           |                     | Quadratic         |                     |
| US Zone                                 | 0.000<br>(0.007) | -0.004<br>(0.007)   | -0.012<br>(0.011) | -0.009<br>(0.011)   |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km circle) |                  | 0.038***<br>(0.014) |                   | 0.037**<br>(0.014)  |
| N                                       | 4,786            | 4,786               | 4,786             | 4,786               |

back

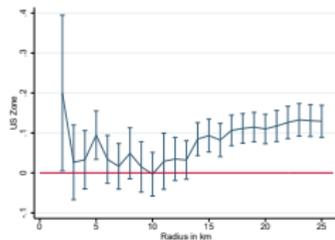
# Robustness: Boundary Segments

|   | (1)                 | (2)                 | (3)                 | (4)                 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Rents Immoscout</b>                  |                     |                     |                     |                     |
|   |                     | 10                  |                     | 50                  |
| US Zone                                 | 0.108***<br>(0.024) | -0.016<br>(0.030)   | 0.061***<br>(0.019) | 0.001<br>(0.019)    |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km circle) |                     | 0.262***<br>(0.057) |                     | 0.148***<br>(0.046) |
| N                                       | 314,765             | 314,765             | 314,765             | 314,765             |
| <b>Share University</b>                 |                     |                     |                     |                     |
|   |                     | 10                  |                     | 50                  |
| US Zone                                 | 0.014**<br>(0.006)  | 0.003<br>(0.006)    | 0.003<br>(0.006)    | -0.004<br>(0.005)   |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km circle) |                     | 0.039***<br>(0.014) |                     | 0.028**<br>(0.013)  |
| N                                       | 4,786               | 4,786               | 4,786               | 4,786               |

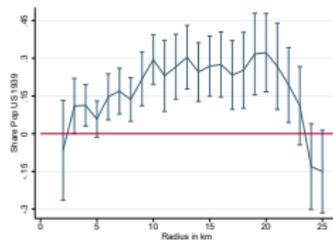
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# Robustness: Radius

## (a) Rents

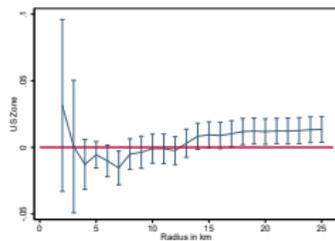


US Zone

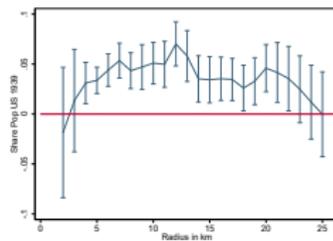


Share US Pop 1939

## (b) Education



US Zone



Share US Pop 1939

# Placebo: Highways pooled

|   | (1)               | (2)               | (3)              | (4)               |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Income per capita</b>                |                   |                   |                  |                   |
|   | BW Highways       |                   | A8 pooled        |                   |
| US Zone                                 | 0.008<br>(0.007)  | 0.008<br>(0.008)  | 0.002<br>(0.005) | 0.000<br>(0.006)  |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km radius) |                   | 0.001<br>(0.014)  |                  | 0.005<br>(0.010)  |
| Observations                            | 3,568             | 3,568             | 2,061            | 2,061             |
| <b>Aggregate Productivity</b>           |                   |                   |                  |                   |
|   | BW Highways       |                   | A8 pooled        |                   |
| US Zone                                 | -0.016<br>(0.044) | 0.047<br>(0.038)  | 0.012<br>(0.023) | 0.015<br>(0.022)  |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km radius) |                   | -0.086<br>(0.086) |                  | -0.010<br>(0.023) |
| Observations                            | 1,150,461         | 1,150,461         | 1,608,070        | 1,608,070         |

back

# Placebo: Highways Bavaria

|   | (1)               | (2)                | (3)                | (4)                 |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Rents Immoscout</b>                  |                   |                    |                    |                     |
|   | A8 BY             |                    | A8 BY South        |                     |
| US Zone                                 | 0.016<br>(0.033)  | 0.004<br>(0.029)   | 0.012<br>(0.026)   | -0.008<br>(0.024)   |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km radius) |                   | 0.042<br>(0.034)   |                    | 0.074<br>(0.055)    |
| Observations                            | 1,125,004         | 1,125,004          | 554,498            | 554,498             |
| <b>Share University</b>                 |                   |                    |                    |                     |
|   | A8 BY             |                    | A8 BY South        |                     |
| US Zone                                 | -0.006<br>(0.007) | -0.014*<br>(0.007) | -0.017*<br>(0.010) | -0.024**<br>(0.010) |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km radius) |                   | 0.021<br>(0.014)   |                    | 0.027<br>(0.023)    |
| Observations                            | 1,389             | 1,389              | 621                | 621                 |

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# Placebo: Highways pooled

|   | (1)                | (2)               | (3)              | (4)               |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Value added / hr.</b>                |                    |                   |                  |                   |
|   | <b>BW highways</b> |                   | <b>A8 Pooled</b> |                   |
| US Zone                                 | -0.004<br>(0.035)  | 0.032<br>(0.070)  | 0.011<br>(0.039) | -0.020<br>(0.055) |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km radius) |                    | -0.050<br>(0.093) |                  | 0.077<br>(0.077)  |
| Observations                            | 16,064             | 16,064            | 8,896            | 8,896             |
| <b>Wages / hr.</b>                      |                    |                   |                  |                   |
|   | <b>BW highways</b> |                   | <b>A8 Pooled</b> |                   |
| US Zone                                 | 0.015<br>(0.026)   | -0.006<br>(0.059) | 0.043<br>(0.026) | 0.024<br>(0.045)  |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km radius) |                    | 0.030<br>(0.071)  |                  | 0.047<br>(0.072)  |
| Observations                            | 16,218             | 16,218            | 9,036            | 9,036             |

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# Placebo: Highways Bavaria

|   | (1)              | (2)               | (3)               | (4)                 |
|---|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Value added / hr.</b>                |                  |                   |                   |                     |
|   | A8 BY            |                   | A8 BY South       |                     |
| US Zone                                 | 0.015<br>(0.068) | 0.013<br>(0.089)  | 0.068<br>(0.084)  | 0.045<br>(0.106)    |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km radius) |                  | 0.008<br>(0.154)  |                   | 0.086<br>(0.222)    |
| Observations                            | 4,537            | 4,537             | 2,160             | 2,160               |
| <b>Wages / hr.</b>                      |                  |                   |                   |                     |
|   | A8 BY            |                   | A8 BY South       |                     |
| US Zone                                 | 0.067<br>(0.049) | 0.089<br>(0.073)  | 0.106*<br>(0.058) | 0.087<br>(0.075)    |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km radius) |                  | -0.074<br>(0.126) |                   | 0.074<br>((0.142) ) |
| Observations                            | 4,640            | 4,640             | 2,211             | 2,211               |

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# Alternative Mechanisms: Industry Dismantling and Military Bases

|   | (1)                             | (2)                     | (3)                     | (4)               |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
|   | Share Dismantled Establishments |                         | Military Base Indicator |                   |
| US Zone                                 | -0.0011**<br>(0.00058)          | -0.0014***<br>(0.00054) | 0.005<br>(0.023)        | 0.046<br>(0.033)  |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km circle) |                                 | 0.0010<br>(0.00078)     |                         | -0.143<br>(0.094) |
| Observations                            | 218                             | 218                     | 218                     | 218               |

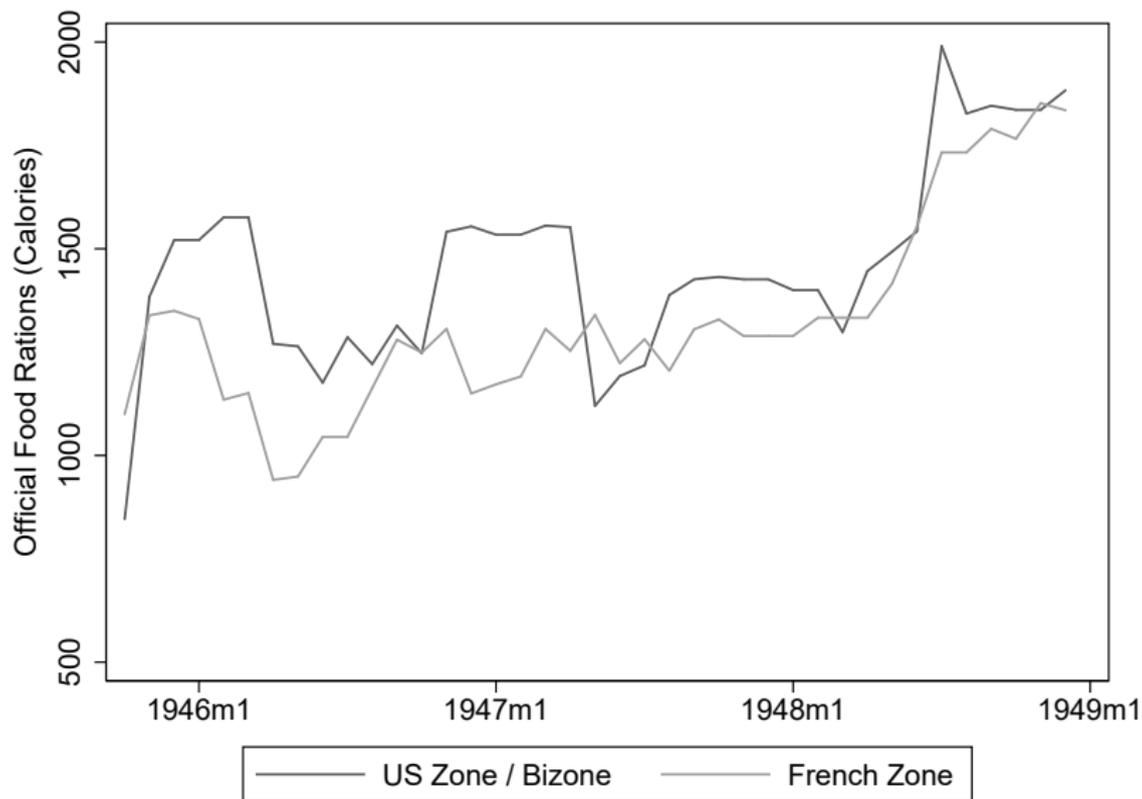
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# Alternative Mechanisms: Controlling for Dismantling

|   | (1)                    | (2)                 | (3)                | (4)                 |
|---|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
|   | Aggregate Productivity |                     | Income per capita  |                     |
| US Zone                                 | 0.128**<br>(0.058)     | 0.050<br>(0.063)    | 0.014<br>(0.018)   | -0.024<br>(0.022)   |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km circle) |                        | 0.268*<br>(0.144)   |                    | 0.133***<br>(0.043) |
| N                                       | 2,773                  | 2,773               | 1,510              | 1,510               |
|   | Rents Immoscout        |                     | Share University   |                     |
| US Zone                                 | 0.135***<br>(0.022)    | 0.025<br>(0.027)    | 0.013**<br>(0.006) | -0.002<br>(0.006)   |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km circle) |                        | 0.186***<br>(0.046) |                    | 0.051***<br>(0.012) |
| N                                       | 314,765                | 314,765             | 4,786              | 4,786               |

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## Alternative Mechanisms: Food rations



# Alternative Mechanisms: Health

|                             | (1)               | (2)               | (3)               | (4)                |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Health</b>               |                   |                   |                   |                    |
|                             | Body<br>Height    | Body<br>Weight    | Mental<br>Health  | Physical<br>Health |
| Occupation Period           | -0.000<br>(0.004) | 0.009<br>(0.021)  | 0.027<br>(0.014)  | 0.006<br>(0.016)   |
| US Zone                     | 0.000<br>(0.004)  | 0.005<br>(0.019)  | -0.002<br>(0.014) | -0.009<br>(0.016)  |
| US Zone × Occupation Period | 0.006<br>(0.008)  | -0.012<br>(0.038) | 0.001<br>(0.022)  | 0.046<br>(0.032)   |
| Demographic controls        | Y                 | Y                 | Y                 | Y                  |
| Years of Education          | Y                 | Y                 |                   |                    |
| Log Income                  |                   |                   | Y                 | Y                  |
| Years Unemployed            |                   |                   | Y                 | Y                  |
| Observations                | 1,098             | 1,090             | 1,818             | 1,818              |

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# Alternative Mechanisms: Education

|                             | (1)                   | (2)                      | (3)                |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Education</b>            |                       |                          |                    |
|                             | Years of<br>Education | Unemployment<br>Duration | Log<br>Income      |
| Occupation Period           | 0.006<br>(0.013)      | 0.048<br>(0.175)         | 0.290<br>(0.239)   |
| US Zone                     | -0.005<br>(0.014)     | 0.256<br>(0.139)         | 0.662**<br>(0.226) |
| US Zone × Occupation Period | 0.034<br>(0.020)      | -0.161<br>(0.233)        | -0.359<br>(0.442)  |
| Demographic controls        | Y                     | Y                        | Y                  |
| Years of Education          |                       | Y                        | Y                  |
| Log Income                  | Y                     |                          |                    |
| Years Unemployed            | Y                     |                          |                    |
| Observations                | 3,815                 | 2,094                    | 2,093              |

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# Alternative Mechanisms: Language Preferences

|   | (1)                               | (2)               | (3)                      | (4)               |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
|   | English as first foreign language |                   | English as intense class |                   |
| US Zone                                 | -0.006<br>(0.006)                 | 0.001<br>(0.005)  | -0.006<br>(0.016)        | -0.006<br>(0.022) |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km radius) |                                   | -0.016<br>(0.015) |                          | 0.000<br>(0.028)  |
| Observations                            | 218                               | 218               | 218                      | 218               |

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# Alternative Mechanisms: Norms and Attitudes

|         | (1)                     | (2)                      | (3)               | (4)                 |
|---------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
|         | Interest in<br>Politics | Leaning<br>towards Party | Union<br>in Estab | Risk<br>Preferences |
| US Zone | 0.036<br>(0.023)        | -0.037<br>(0.024)        | -0.049<br>(0.044) | -0.002<br>(0.131)   |

The most important objective for politicians is

|         | Peace and<br>Order | More Citizen<br>Influence | Price<br>Stability | Free<br>Speech    |
|---------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| US Zone | 0.024<br>(0.038)   | 0.002<br>(0.034)          | 0.024<br>(0.087)   | -0.008<br>(0.091) |

All regressions control for gender, age, partner in the household, work experience, unemployment, years of education, income, and immigrant status.

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# Alternative Mechanisms: Exogenous Geography

|   | (1)                 | (2)                  | (3)               | (4)               |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|   | Elevation           |                      | Ruggedness        |                   |
| US Zone                                 | -0.125**<br>(0.052) | -0.129***<br>(0.042) | -0.276<br>(0.197) | -0.204<br>(0.196) |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km radius) |                     | 0.014<br>(0.141)     |                   | -0.252<br>(0.290) |
| Observations                            | 218                 | 218                  | 218               | 218               |

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# Alternative Mechanisms: Trade

|   | (1)               | (2)                                | (3)                             | (4)                |
|---|-------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>International Revenue</b>            |                   |                                    |                                 |                    |
|   |                   | <u>Internat. Revenue / Revenue</u> | <u>non-EU Revenue / Revenue</u> |                    |
| US Zone                                 | -.0125<br>(.0208) | -.0155<br>(.0239)                  | -.00603<br>(.0147)              | -.00354<br>(.0153) |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km radius) |                   | .01<br>(.0318)                     |                                 | -.00808<br>(.021)  |
| Observations                            | 3,840             | 3,840                              | 1,468                           | 1,468              |
| <b>Exports and Working Hours</b>        |                   |                                    |                                 |                    |
|   |                   | <u>Exporter</u>                    | <u>hr. / Worker</u>             |                    |
| US Zone                                 | .0162<br>(.0222)  | .00507<br>(.0246)                  | -.0533**<br>(.025)              | -.0421<br>(.0257)  |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km radius) |                   | .0369<br>(.0475)                   |                                 | -.0376<br>(.036)   |
| Observations                            | 3,884             | 3,884                              | 3,415                           | 3,415              |

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# Alternative Mechanisms: Firm Size and Headquarters

|   | (1)  | (2)               | (3)                             | (4)               |
|---|--|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
|   | <u>Log(Emp Betriebe / Emp Unternehmen)</u> |                   | <u>Headquarter in same muni</u> |                   |
| US Zone                                 | 0.056<br>(0.064)                           | 0.077<br>(0.069)  | 0.025<br>(0.103)                | -0.031<br>(0.130) |
| Share 1939 Pop in US Zone (10km radius) |  | -0.075<br>(0.103) |                                 | 0.162<br>(0.187)  |
| Observations                            | 218  | 218               | 6,119                           | 6,119             |

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