Reviewer’s report


Version: 1 Date: 13 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Chenoa Allen

Reviewer's report:

I thank the authors for thoroughly addressing my concerns and comments. I find the added clarification regarding theory and methods very helpful. Supplementary Table 2 (showing ratification dates for countries categorized by income and democratization) is a particularly nice addition. I believe the article is now suitable for publication.

I would only add one point of clarification: I see variation in timing of ratification across countries as an advantage of the analysis the authors have already completed. e.g., the fact that high-income non-democratic countries ratified between 1981-2009 helps rule out the possibility that the observed effects aren't actually due to some discrete regional/worldwide event that happened in the same year as ratification. (This variation in treatment timing doesn't help deal with confounding by conditions that change gradually over time, but it does mean you're not actually picking up effects of something like the dissolution of the Soviet Union.) It is up to the authors whether they want to point this out as an advantage of their analysis, but I wanted to note it since this review will accompany the article if the article is accepted.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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Yes
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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I am able to assess the statistics

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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