

# Human Rights for Sale? A Study on the Uyghur Issue and Chinese Concessional Aid

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## Motivations

- Background on Uyghur internment
- The PRC's economic prowess
- “Dangling carrots in countries’ faces”
- Joint statements criticizing/defending the PRC's actions
- Case studies
  - Qatar
  - Turkey

## Question and Theory

- **Theory:** Higher receipt of concessional aid yields a higher likelihood for support for the donor country
- **Question:** Is there a correlation between the amount of concessional aid a country receives and their proclivity to defend the PRC government regarding the current Uyghur reeducation issue?

## Hypotheses

- As countries receive more concessional aid from the PRC, the more likely they are to defend China's internment of the Uyghur population in their Xinjiang province.
- As the percentage of Chinese concessional aid over GDP increases, countries are more likely to defend China's internment of the Uyghur population in their Xinjiang province.

## Schools of Thought

- Confusion regarding aid
  - Concessional vs. Investment
- Concessional aid and the “One-China” Policy
- Share of GDP predicts influence
- Flaws with existing research
  - Emphasis on UNGA voting coincidence
  - Focus on trade rather than aid

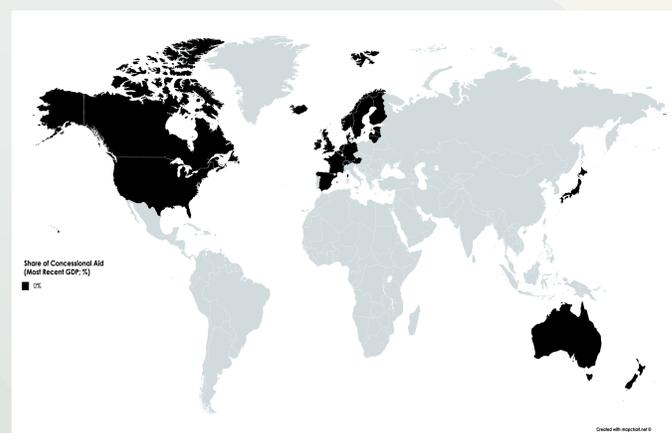
## Methodology

- IV
  - Sum of raw concessional aid
  - Share of concessional over GDP (2014)
  - Share of concessional over GDP (Most Recent)
- DV
  - Signing onto Letter B (Defensive)
- Creation of original dataset consisting of:
  - William & Mary *Global Chinese Official Finance* dataset
- GDP (World Bank)
- Regime types (CIA)
- Target period: 2004-2014, N = 174
- Linear Probability Model, OLS regressions
- Controls for regime type
  - (Excluded) Democracies
  - Semi-Democracies
  - Authoritarian
  - In-Transition

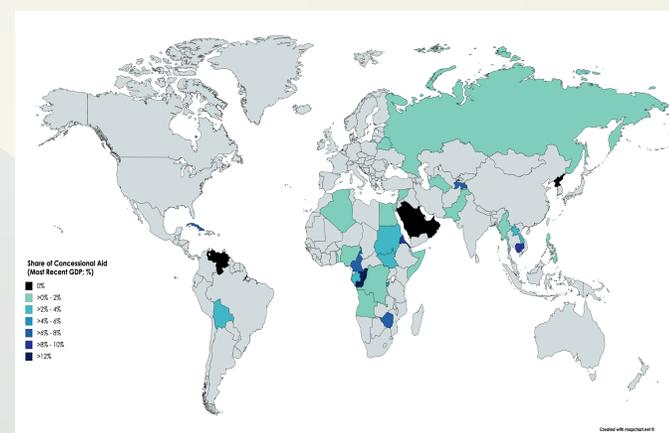
## Conclusions

- Failure to reject the null hypothesis
- Relationship significant until regime type is controlled for
- Criticism of the PRC appears more predictable
- Regime alignment is a potentially better predictor for solidarity
- Limitations of this project
  - Model does not account for Letter B defectors
  - Focus on concessional aid
  - Lack of variation for Letter A
  - Lack of potential markers for “support”
  - Possible reverse-causation and endogeneity
- Future research needed on:
  - Regime-influenced solidarity
  - Better markers for “influence”
  - The Uyghur issue itself

## Letter A (Critical) Signatories



## Letter B (Defensive) Signatories



## Results

Results (Letter B), All Countries			
	Dependent variable:		
	(1)	'Letter B (Defensive)'	
		(2)	(3)
Concessional Aid	0.009*** (0.003)		
Share of GDP up to 2014 (%)		0.006** (0.003)	
Share of GDP up to Most Recent Year (%)			0.007** (0.003)
Constant	0.087* (0.052)	0.266*** (0.047)	0.278*** (0.047)
Observations	174	169	173
R2	0.041	0.025	0.028
Adjusted R2	0.035	0.019	0.023
Residual Std. Error	0.395	0.389	0.394
F Statistic	7.282**	4.323**	4.981**

Note: \*p<0.1; \*\*p<0.05; \*\*\*p<0.01

Results (Letter B), All Countries, Controlling for Regime Type			
	Dependent variable:		
	(1)	'Letter B (Defensive)'	
		(2)	(3)
Concessional Aid	0.004 (0.004)		
Share of GDP up to 2014 (%)		0.002 (0.003)	
Share of GDP up to Most Recent Year (%)			0.002 (0.003)
Non-Democracies	0.255*** (0.062)	0.242*** (0.061)	0.257*** (0.061)
Constant	0.017 (0.052)	0.083 (0.065)	0.086 (0.064)
Observations	174	169	173
R2	0.127	0.109	0.120
Adjusted R2	0.116	0.098	0.109
Residual Std. Error	0.378	0.373	0.376
F Statistic	12.400***	10.120***	11.570***

Note: \*p<0.1; \*\*p<0.05; \*\*\*p<0.01

## References

- Dreher, A., Fuchs, A., Parks, B.C., Strange, A. M., & Tierney, M. J. (2017). *Aid, China, and Growth: Evidence from a New Global Development Finance Dataset*. AidData Working Paper #46. Williamsburg, VA: AidData.
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