

# Social Origins of Dictatorships: Elite Networks and Political Transitions in Haiti

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## Abstract

Existing theories of coups against democracy emphasize that elites mount coups when democracy is particularly threatening to their interests. But holding interests constant, some potential plotters may have more influence over whether or not a coup succeeds. We develop a model where coups generate rents for elites and show that the likelihood of elite participation is increasing in their network centrality. We empirically explore the model using an original dataset of Haitian elite networks which we linked to firm-level data. We show that central families were more likely to participate in the 1991 coup against the democratic Aristide government. We then find that the retail prices of staple goods imported by coup participators differentially increase during subsequent periods of non-democracy. Finally, we find that urban children born during democratic reversions are more likely to experience adverse health outcomes. Our results suggest that elite social structure affects development via political institutions.

**JEL Classification:** D7, D85, I13, L12, N46.

**Keywords:** Democracy, Autocracy, Coups, Elites, Social Networks.

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# 1 Introduction

Between 1960 and 2010, 51 countries experienced a total of 71 democratic reversals (Acemoglu et al., 2014). Existing theories suggest that coups occur when democracy threatens the interests of elites who have the power to overthrow it. When the elites control a greater proportion of wealth, or are invested in activities that can be easily taxed, the policy choices of the masses under democracy are more likely to create an economic incentive for these elites to support a coup.

Ultimately, coups take place when a group of elites, whether military commanders, a political faction, or the wealthy, collectively organize to overthrow a government. We argue that within these groups, social networks are important for coordinating activities or spreading information, and that network positions create variation in the amount of influence that individuals have over the behavior of others. Despite the considerable focus on social networks in other areas of collective action, the role of elite social networks in organizing resistance to democracy has so far received little attention.

In this paper we undertake to our knowledge the first investigation of the role of social networks in coups against democracy. We develop a dynamic game theoretic model of coups in the spirit of Acemoglu and Robinson (2001, 2006, 2008) extended to include social networks as modeled by Ballester, Calvó-Armengol and Zenou (2006). There are three types of agents: citizens, elites and a dictator. The economy features a fixed number of industries, each inhabited by a subset of elites. The median voter, a citizen, determines policy in a democracy and prefers competitive markets. Elites, however, prefer entry barriers that allow them to raise prices. To achieve this they can choose to exert effort towards a coup and they are inter-connected via a social network. We assume that elite actions are strategic complements along the network and the incentive to mount a coup is that if democracy falls the dictator who comes to power concedes to some elites the right to levy ‘taxes’ on competitors as barriers to entry to generate rents for themselves.

The model has a number of implications that we take to the data. First, the willingness of an elite agent to contribute to a coup is an increasing function of their network (Bonacich) centrality.

Intuitively, the more central an elite is in the network the more impact his actions have on the actions of others and the more likely it is that he will be a coup participant. Second, the higher the centrality of an elite, the more likely he will be part of the ruling coalition. Third, the model predicts that coup participants should gain economically from the coup and in particular should see their prices rise. Finally, the model predicts that coups hurt citizens through the higher retail prices that result from less competitive markets.

To test these hypotheses we constructed several original Haitian datasets which we describe in detail in Section 5. There were a number of motivations for testing the ideas in Haiti, a case that is archetypical of many politically unstable countries. First, after the 1991 coup against the democratically-elected government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the U.S. Treasury Department published a targeted sanctions list which named individual elites associated with the coup government. This list was created on the basis of rigorous intelligence efforts by the U.S. government to determine who had provided support to the 1991 coup. This gives us a rare list of people who participated in a coup. Second, there are rich genealogical sources for Haiti that allow us to understand the social networks of elite families and map elite family involvement in business and politics back to the 19th century. Moreover, Haiti is sufficiently small that one has some hope of constructing a relatively complete network. Fourth, given our focus, it is advantageous that there is variation in regime type because of frequent coups and transitions. Finally, it is much easier to access data on imports than on domestic production because goods are tracked when they enter the country. Because much of the Haitian elite's wealth stems from imports, and because many Haitian households' consumption baskets, particularly in urban areas, are highly import-dependent, a relatively large portion of the Haitian economy is visible to us.

We use this data in several ways. First we estimate the probability that a particular elite family participated in the 1991 coup. Our data allows us to examine the relationship between centrality and coup participation conditional on economic interests, social characteristics, and past political involvement. Our main results are consistent with the model: the probability that a family participated in the coup is increasing in a range of centrality measures.

Next we turn to the relationship between coup participation and retail prices. We test whether the domestic prices of the goods imported by coup participants went up more than the prices of

goods imported by non-participants in a subsequent period of autocracy. We estimate a dynamic panel data model to estimate the differential effect of this autocratic spell from 2004 to 2006 on the retail prices of products imported by families who participated in the 1991 coup. We find robust evidence that the prices of goods imported by coup participants increased relative to those of non-participants during autocracy.

Finally, we look directly at welfare, in particular child health. We use data on child heights and weights from four waves of the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) to test whether children born in import-dependent urban areas under autocracy have differentially worse nutritional outcomes than rural children who get more of their nutrition from home production. We find robust evidence that urban children born during autocratic reversions are smaller in terms of height and weight both over time and relative to rural children born at the same time. Together, our results suggest that elite network structure is important for non-democratic transitions, and ultimately for welfare and development.

Our paper is related to several other contributions. Our basic theoretical results on the connection between network centrality and coups are applications of ideas first proposed by Ballester, Calvó-Armengol and Zenou (2006) and Galeotti et al. (2010). Our model is also related to other models of coups, in particular Acemoglu, Ticchi and Vindigni (2010) who focus on the military. Although most of the literature on autocratic persistence has focused on institutions (e.g. Gandhi, 2008, and Svobik, 2012), Carter (2014) shows how the president of Congo-Brazzaville manipulated elite social networks to maintain power.

On the empirical side to our knowledge nobody has estimated a micro model of participation in a coup before. Indeed, most of the empirical work on political regime transitions has been very macro (an exception is the pioneering work of Aidt and Franck (2013), who study the extension of voting rights in 19th century Britain). However, several past studies have found evidence that coups have materialistic motivations (Mitra, Thomakos and Ulubaşođlu, 2002; Dube, Kaplan and Naidu, 2011), and that elites benefit economically from restrictions of democracy (Naidu, 2012) and suffer during expansions (Dasgupta and Ziblatt, 2014). Conversely, there is existing evidence that democracy improves the general welfare in terms of health and nutrition (Besley and Kudamatsu, 2006; Blaydes and Kayser, 2011) and that coups lower growth and public goods

provision (Acemoglu et al., 2014, 2015; Meyersson, 2016).

Our research is also related to other research on networks. Our approach to measuring the power of elite agents builds on a rich tradition in sociology, including Padgett and Ansell's (1993) seminal study of the Medici family in medieval Florence (see also Puga and Treffer, 2014). The literature on social movements has also stressed the importance of network structure in understanding the potential for collective action (Zald and McCarthy, 1987, Barkey and van Rossem, 1997). Network analysis has also been used in recent political science research, for example to look at linkages between politicians and clients (Calvo and Murillo, 2013), between legislators (Alemán and Calvo, 2013), and between citizens (Campbell, 2013). The social connections between politicians and firms have also been studied (Fisman, 2001). A recent paper by König et al. (2014) also conducts a political economy extension of Ballester, Calvo-Armengol and Zenou (2006), but the model and empirical context is civil war. Most related to our study, Cruz, Labonne and Querubín (2017) examine the social networks of politicians in the Philippines. To our knowledge these ideas have not been applied to the study of democratic reversions and nobody has estimated a model of the relationship between network position and participation of the kind we analyze here.

## **2 Background on Haiti**

Haiti is underdeveloped and unequal with 65% of its population below the poverty line and a likely underestimated Gini coefficient of 0.6. Much of the wealth derives from international trade, the ownership and control of which has historically been very concentrated. Haiti's dependence on international trade dates back to its pre-independence period as an extractive slave society. Foreign merchants enter in the late 19th century, staying in Haiti as resident aliens to maintain the protection of foreign governments, yet marrying into elite Haitian society to circumvent restrictions on foreign ownership of Haitian property (Plummer, 1988). By the early 1900s, more recent immigrants, particularly those from Syria and Lebanon, owned the major trading houses, as well as transportation and communication systems (Plummer, 1988). According to a reference produced by the U.S. forces during the occupation in the 1910s and 1920s, "The provisional

heart, lungs and stomach of the Republic of Haiti, which means literally, agriculture, commerce and industries, from 1804 to 1915 were largely foreigners: Germans, French, Syrians, Belgians and English, with importance in the order named, who cared very little what became of Haiti so long as they got their ‘bit’” (1919, 23).

The Duvalier dictatorship after 1957 largely preserved this concentrated economic structure. Monopolies were a common reward for economic elites who worked with the government. A long list of industries became monopolies by presidential decree during the 1950s and 1960s: “mineral and petroleum exploration and exploitation, the construction and operation of television stations, the planting and processing of kenaf, sesame, and ramie, the processing of guano, the manufacture of chocolate, a fertilizer industry, the development of casinos and hotels, the construction of a sugar factory, the improvement of the telephone system, etc.” (Rotberg, 1971, 210). By 1985, some 19 families held almost exclusive rights to import many of the most commonly consumed products in Haiti, as detailed in Figure A.1.

Democratization threatened the economic interests of these elites. The 1990 election brought to power Jean-Bertrand Aristide with almost 70% of the vote. Aristide had campaigned on a platform of pro-poor redistribution, and began putting in place policies to give the state a more “interventionist, dirigiste, and even protectionist role in economic development” (Fatton, 2002, 113). During the first period of democracy in 1991, the Aristide regime increased enforcement of tax collection, including import fees and arrears (Hallward, 2010, 33). As a result, the *Direction Générale des Impôts* “registered a historic increase in total revenues” (Dupuy, 2007, 118). It also put into place price controls on products such as rice and wheat (Hallward, 2010; Dupuy, 2007; Farmer, 1994).

The first coup occurred in September 1991 just eight months after Aristide took office, and put into power a military government under Raoul Cedras. The *New York Times* reported that some wealthy Haitians offered as much as \$5,000 apiece to selected soldiers and policemen for their participation in the coup (October 13 1991). Farmer quotes one rich businessman as saying that ““everyone who is anyone is against Aristide... except the people”” (1994, 150). The U.S. government, opposed to Aristide’s policies but nevertheless concerned with the accounts of political violence and streams of migrants pouring out of Haiti, imposed sanctions on the

military junta and its economic backers.

Aristide returned in 1994 and served out the rest of his term to be replaced by the election of René Préval in 1996. Aristide was re-elected in 2001 but ousted by a second coup in 2004. Again, economic elites partnered with armed groups to push Aristide from power. Although much less is known about which specific families participated in this coup, the top private sector backers were largely the same network of individuals. Andy Apaid, who had played a catalyzing role in 1991, is credited with having the most control of any member of the private sector on the gangs and rebels that precipitated Aristide's departure from power. Apaid, along with his brother-in-law Charles Baker (also a sponsor of the 1991 coup), began offering to pay gang leaders in Cité Soleil, a poor suburb of Port-au-Prince, to turn against Aristide. One gang leader who took up the offer was paid \$30,000 and offered a U.S. visa (Hallward, 2010; Podur, 2013). It also appears that Apaid had control over the rebels who advanced on Port-au-Prince in 2004: Colin Powell reportedly called Apaid in late February 2004 after the rebels took control of Cap Haitien and asked him personally to restrain them (Hallward, 2010, 224-225).

Shortly after the 2004 coup, the collection of some taxes paid by elites was suspended (Hallward, 2010, 261; Schuller, 2008). Price controls were lifted, and the price of consumer goods skyrocketed in response, with the price of rice doubling within five months of the February coup (Hallward 2010, 261; *The New York Times* June 1 2004).

## 3 Model

### 3.1 Demographics, Preferences and Production Structure

We develop a simple model to formalize the connection between coup participation and network position. There are three types of agents which play roles in the model, citizens, elites, and a potential dictator all of whom live forever. Let  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{E}$  denote the sets of citizens and elites respectively. There are  $E$  elites in total, so  $|\mathcal{E}| = E$ , where  $|S|$  denotes the cardinality of set  $S$ , and we use  $e \in \mathcal{E}$  to refer to a representative elite. Similarly,  $|\mathcal{C}| = L > E$  to ensure that the median voter in a democracy will be a citizen. Citizen/consumers have a per-period standard

Cobb-Douglas utility function defined over  $M$  different goods:

$$U_i = \prod_{m=1}^M x_{im}^{\alpha_m} \quad (1)$$

where  $x_{im}$  is the consumption of good  $m$  by agent  $i$  and  $\alpha_m$  is the share of income spent on good  $m$  where  $\sum_{m=1}^M \alpha_m = 1$ . Since it does not play an important role in the analysis we let  $\alpha_m = \alpha$  for all  $m$  and thus  $\alpha = 1/M$ . Let  $x_m$  be the aggregate demand for good  $m$ . There are no intertemporal economic linkages and no saving or accumulation. The only economic decision citizens take is to allocate their exogenous income between the different goods. Each agent maximizes this utility function subject to the budget constraint  $\sum_{m=1}^M p_m x_{im} \leq Y$  where  $p_m$  is the price of good  $m$  and  $Y$  is the income of citizen  $i$  in terms of the numeraire which we treat as exogenous and identical for all citizens. Standard arguments imply that the Marshallian demand function for good  $m$  can be written as,  $x_m = Lx_{im} = \frac{LY}{Mp_m}$  since there is mass  $L$  of citizens.

Elites own firms distributed across the different sectors and can also take actions to overthrow democracy and install the potential dictator in power. Let  $\mathcal{E}_m \subseteq \mathcal{E}$  denote the set of elites who are active in sector  $m$ . We assume that each good is produced by a sector and that there are multiple elites in each sector of the economy, but this varies across sectors and is fixed. We assume that each good can be produced with a constant returns to scale technology with fixed marginal cost  $\kappa$ . However, elite producers are also capacity constrained and can produce in total  $q_m$  units of output in a sector  $m$ . For simplicity we assume  $q_m = q$  for all  $m$ . We assume later that for all sectors total elite supply is less than the total demand for that good so we do not have to consider rationing schemes across elites.

In addition to the elite producers in a sector there is also a competitive fringe of firms who have access to the same technology. The equilibrium in each sector without any government intervention therefore will involve elites limit pricing and setting their prices equal to  $\kappa$  and profits are zero for each elite in each sector. However, we allow the government to set a 'tax' of  $\tau_m \geq 1$  which varies across sectors which raises the marginal cost of the fringe producers only, and this allows the elite to increase the prices they can set. We interpret  $\tau_m$  as a generic entry barrier (e.g. privileged access to imports, government regulations) which makes it more costly



for fringe producers to produce good  $m$  thus allowing incumbent elites to raise prices and extract rents. Thus with government intervention the limit price will be  $p_m = \tau_m \kappa \geq \kappa$  and profits of a particular elite member  $e$  who produces in sector  $m$  will be  $p_m q - \kappa q$  or  $(\tau_m - 1) q \kappa \geq 0$ , and clearly profits of elite agent  $e$  in sector  $m$  are increasing in the tax levied on the fringe producers in that sector. The total profits of the elite in sector  $m$  is  $\pi(\tau_m)$  and define  $\pi_e = \sum_{m=1}^M w_{em} \pi(\tau_m)$ , where  $w_{em}$  is the share of total profits in industry  $m$  that accrues to elite  $e$ . Total elite profits will be  $\sum_{e=1}^E \pi_e = \sum_{e=1}^E \sum_{m=1}^M w_{em} \pi(\tau_m)$ .

Though levying taxes creates profits for elites it is costly. Specifically we assume that there is an administrative cost of  $C(\tau_m)$  associated with levying the tax rate  $\tau_m$  in sector  $m$ .  $C$  is a strictly increasing, differentiable and strictly convex function with  $C(0) = 0$ . The total cost of levying the tax vector  $\tau(s) = (\tau_1(s), \tau_2(s), \dots, \tau_M(s))$  would be  $\sum_{m=1}^M C(\tau_m)$ . To simplify we let  $C$  be quadratic so that  $C(\tau_m) = \frac{\tau_m^2}{2}$ .

We can now write the indirect utility of a citizen as a function of the policy vector  $\tau(s)$  which potentially depends on the state, to be defined shortly, which is

$$W^i(\tau(s)) = \prod_{m=1}^M \left( \frac{Y}{M \tau_m(s) \kappa} \right)^{\frac{1}{M}} - \mathbf{1}_D \sum_{m=1}^M C(\tau_m(s)). \quad (2)$$

Here  $\mathbf{1}_D$  is an indicator function such that  $\mathbf{1}_D = 1$  if the political state is democracy and  $\mathbf{1}_D = 0$  otherwise. Hence (2) says that the indirect utility of citizens is made up of a part which is based on their consumption decisions minus an equal share of the administrative costs from taxation in a democracy (we assume below that in a dictatorship that any administrative costs are born by the elites).

All agents aim to maximize the expected present discounted value of utility where future payoffs are discounted by the factor  $\beta \in (0, 1)$ . For consumers their per-period payoff in each period is simply (2). For members of the elite it is profits minus the cost of taking actions to mount a coup which we will discuss below. For the dictator it is exogenous rents from officeholding, denoted  $Z$ . We allow the dictator to incentivize elites into the ‘ruling coalition’, denoted  $\mathcal{R}$ , by giving them the right to decide on taxes if a coup succeeds. This creates an extra incentives for elites to exert effort. We assume that the number of potential positions in this

coalition, denoted  $|\mathcal{R}|$  is fixed (for example the number of ministerial positions or ambassadors' jobs). To model this we assume that the tax vector is chosen to maximize the sum of the payoffs of the members of the ruling coalition.

### 3.2 Political Regimes, Network Structure and Transitions

There are two possible political regimes, denoted by  $D$  and  $N$ , corresponding to democracy and dictatorship (nondemocracy). At any point in time, the “state” of this society will be represented by  $s_t \in \{D, N\}$ , which designates the political regime that applies at that date. In a democracy we will assume that policy is chosen by the median voter, a citizen/consumer, while in a dictatorship it will be chosen by the ruling coalition.

Transitions between democracy and dictatorship and back can occur because the elite can use their ‘de facto power’ to try to overthrow democracy or maintain dictatorship. In particular, suppose that elite  $e \in \mathcal{E}$  spends an amount  $a_e \in [0, 1]$  as a contribution to activities to create or sustain dictatorships. We can interpret this action in different ways, for example it could involve giving the dictator money to bribe the army, or hire paramilitaries directly, both of which have certainly played a role in Haiti. If the elite take actions in this way then their aggregate ‘power’ to place the dictator in power is

$$P^{\mathcal{E}}(a_e, a^{-e}(s)) = \frac{1}{E} \left( a_e + \sum_{e' \neq e} a_{e'} \right) \quad (3)$$

where  $a_e$  is the action choice of elite member  $e$ ,  $a^{-e}(s)$  the vector of actions of elite members other than  $e$  and the notation  $\sum_{e' \neq e} a_{e'}$  means summation over all elite agents except agent  $e$ . The scaling factor  $\frac{1}{E}$  is added simply to make sure we have a well defined probability of a coup below since it guarantees that the sum of the actions is always between 0 and 1. There is a cost associated with action  $a_e$  which is captured by the function  $\chi(a_e)$  which takes the specific form

$$\chi(a_e) = - \sum_{e' \neq e} \omega_{ee'} a_{e'} a_e + \delta \frac{a_e^2}{2} \quad (4)$$

where  $\delta$  is a positive constant which are the same for all agents. (4) has a usual quadratic term in

the own action of elite  $e$ , the term  $\delta \frac{a_e^2}{2}$ , but it also includes an interaction term so that if the action of player  $e$  increases, the marginal cost of exerting effort for player  $e'$  falls if the two agents are connected in the elite social network. This is so if  $\omega_{ee'} \neq 0$  and we shall assume that  $\omega_{ee'} > 0$  for all  $ee'$  which guarantees that the action choices of the elite are strategic complements. The  $E \times E$  matrix whose entries are the individual  $\omega_{ee'}$  is the adjacency matrix which shows the network interactions between the elites. The combination of equation (3) and (4) means that our model is an adaption of the preferences proposed by Ballester, Calvó-Armengol and Zenou (2006) (see also Jackson (2008), Section 9.5.2) to the technology for generating de facto political power. We assume this technology is the same in democracy and non-democracy.<sup>1</sup> The formula in (4) brings out the network interactions between the actions of the different elite members and the formula builds in that these actions are strategic complements. We do not take a strong stand on the source of the complementarity in actions among the elite. Information flows, trust, or altruism could all generate situations where elite actions were strategic complements.

Whether or not a coup succeeds depends on whether the power of the elite is greater than the power of the citizens (as in Acemoglu and Robinson, 2008). Since we assume that the citizens are too numerous to solve the collective action problem this power is not systematically organized but nevertheless in idiosyncratic circumstances the citizens may have some power. We model this as a shock  $\theta$  which is drawn every period from a distribution function  $H$  with density function  $h$  on support  $[0, 1]$ . Thus the power of the citizens is

$$P^c(a(s)) = \theta \tag{5}$$

Denote the probability that there is a dictatorship next period by  $p(a_e, a^{-e}(s))$ . This is the probability that the power of the elite is greater than the power of the citizens, or the probability that  $P^c(a_e, a^{-e}(s)) \geq P^c(a(s))$ , which is simply

$$p(a_e, a^{-e}(s)) = H \left( \frac{1}{E} \left( a_e + \sum_{e' \neq e} a_{e'} \right) \right)$$

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<sup>1</sup>There may be a number of reasons for why the elite's ability to lobby and bribe politicians or use paramilitaries may be more restricted in democracy, Acemoglu and Robinson (2008) allow this technology to differ between democracy and non-democracy.

For simplicity and since we want to maintain a linear quadratic structure of payoffs we assume that  $H$  is uniform with constant unit density. Shortly it will be useful to use the notation  $p(a(s))$  for  $p(a_e, a^{-e}(s))$  with  $a(s)$  referring to the vector of elite action choices in state  $s$ .

### 3.3 Timing of Events

We now explain the timing of events in this basic environment.

At each date  $t$ , society starts with an inherited political state  $s_t \in \{D, N\}$ . Given this, the following sequence of events take place:

1. The dictator chooses which elites to allow into the ruling coalition  $\mathcal{R}$ .
2. Each elite agent  $e \in \mathcal{E}$  simultaneously chooses  $a_e \in [0, 1]$  and  $P^{\mathcal{E}}(a_e, a^{-e}(s))$  is determined according to (3).
3. The random variable  $\theta$  is drawn from the distribution  $H$ , and  $P^{\mathcal{C}}$  is determined according to (5).
4. If  $s_t = D$  and  $P^{\mathcal{E}} \geq P^{\mathcal{C}}$  democracy collapses, the dictator takes power taxes are set by the ruling coalition and  $s_{t+1} = N$ ; if  $P^{\mathcal{E}} < P^{\mathcal{C}}$  the tax vector is chosen by the median voter and  $s_{t+1} = D$ . Taxation and consumption takes place.
5. If  $s_t = N$  and  $P^{\mathcal{E}} \geq P^{\mathcal{C}}$  then dictatorship survives, taxes are set by the ruling coalition and  $s_{t+1} = N$ ; if  $P^{\mathcal{E}} < P^{\mathcal{C}}$  dictatorship collapses, the tax vector is chosen by the median voter and  $s_{t+1} = D$ . Taxation and consumption takes place.
6. The following date,  $t + 1$ , starts with state  $s_{t+1}$ .

## 4 Analysis of the Model

We now analyze the model described in the previous section. As is common in this literature Acemoglu and Robinson (2008), we focus on the pure strategy Markov Perfect Equilibria (MPE). An MPE will consist of decisions by the median voter  $\tau(D)$  about whether or not set positive

taxes; decisions by the ruling coalition  $\tau(N)$  on what taxes to set; and contribution functions  $\{a_e(s)\}_{e \in \mathcal{E}}$  for each elite agent (potentially as a function of the political state). The focus on MPE is natural in this context as a way of modeling the potential collective action problem among the elite.<sup>2</sup>

The MPE can be characterized by backward induction within the stage game at some arbitrary date  $t$ , given the state  $s \in \{D, N\}$ . Let  $V^i(s)$  for  $s \in \{D, N\}$  be the value function of a player of type  $i$  in state  $s$ . Since all citizens are the same we use the generic notation  $c$  for citizens,  $e$ , for elite and  $d$  for dictator.

We can now write down the optimization problem of a representative citizen in democracy

$$\begin{aligned} & V^c(D | a(D), a(N), \tau(N)) & (6) \\ = & \max_{\tau(D) \geq 1} \{p(a(D))(W^c(\tau(N)) + \beta V^c(N | a(D), a(N), \tau(N))) \\ & + (1 - p(a(D)))(W^c(\tau(D)) + \beta V^c(D | a(D), a(N), \tau(N)))\}, \end{aligned}$$

Here  $V^c(D | a(D), a(N), \tau(N))$  defines the expected present discounted value of the citizen in a democracy when elite agents choose actions  $a(D)$  and  $a(N)$  in democracy and dictatorship, respectively, and when the elite ruling coalition choose action  $\tau(N)$ . The probability a coup succeeds and democracy collapses is  $p(a(D))$ . In this event we assume, as mentioned above, that the policy is chosen collectively by the ruling coalition which gives an indirect utility to the citizens of  $W^c(\tau(N))$ . A citizen then gets the continuation value  $V^c(N | a(D), a(N), \tau(N))$  which is discounted back to the present. With probability  $1 - p(a(D))$  the coup fails, the median voter receives the payoff  $W^c(\tau(D))$  corresponding to the policy chosen  $\tau(D)$  (recall we defined this net of administrative costs) and the value  $V^c(D | a(D), a(N), \tau(N))$  recurs since democracy survives.

Applying backward induction within the stage game it is clear that in democracy (i.e. if the coup fails) the median voter will set  $\tau(D) = 1$ . Taxes create administrative costs and lower

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<sup>2</sup>It is worth emphasizing here that the timing of the game and the restriction to Markov strategies rules out in a simple way the median voter trying to set (or promise) positive taxes in order to avoid a coup. There are different ways this can be modelled. For example, in Acemoglu and Robinson (2001) such promises may not be credible with Markov strategies when the opportunity to mount a coup is transitory.

consumer welfare so it cannot be optimal in an MPE to set a tax rate greater than one. In non-democracy, however, the ruling elite will have an incentive to set  $\tau(N) > 1$  since higher taxes generates higher prices and profits.

We can now analyze the decision of the elites about how much effort to allocate to overthrowing democracy. A member of the elite  $e$  faces the problem

$$\begin{aligned}
& V^e(D | a^{-e}(D), a^{-e}(N), \tau(D), \tau(N)) \\
= & \max_{a_e(D) \in [0,1]} \left\{ -\chi(a_e) + p(a_e, a^{-e}(D)) \times \right. \\
& \left[ \sum_{m=1}^M w_{em} (\tau_m(N) - 1) q\kappa - \mathbf{1}_{e \in \mathcal{R}} \frac{\tau(N)^2}{2|\mathcal{R}|} \right. \\
& \left. \left. + \beta V^e(N | a^{-e}(D), a^{-e}(N), \tau(D), \tau(N)) \right] \right. \\
& \left. + (1 - p(a_e, a^{-e}(D))) \beta V^e(D | a^{-e}(D), a^{-e}(N), \tau(D), \tau(N)) \right\}
\end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

where  $\tau(D) = 1$  and  $\tau_m(N)$  for  $m = 1, \dots, M$  and  $\mathbf{1}_{e \in \mathcal{R}}$  is an indicator function which is equal to 1 if elite member  $e$  is part of the ruling coalition and thus has to bear deadweight costs of taxation.

Here  $V^e(D | a^{-e}(D), a^{-e}(N), \tau(D), \tau(N))$  is the value of an elite in sector  $m$  when all other elites take the actions  $a^{-e}(D)$  and  $a^{-e}(N)$  in democracy and dictatorship and when the median voter chooses the policy vector  $\tau(D)$  and the elite chooses the policy vector  $\tau(N)$ . This notation allows for non-symmetric action choices since as we shall see elite agents will make different decisions depending on their network position (see Acemoglu and Robinson, 2006b, for a treatment of non-symmetric equilibria in a related model). If a coup takes place then the ruling coalition chooses the tax vector as above and a dictatorship is created. The payoff to every elite member  $e$  is  $\sum_{m=1}^M w_{em} (\tau_m(N) - 1) q\kappa$  which is the sum across all sectors of the economy in which that elite member is active, taking into account the tax set in those different sectors. Finally, if a coup does not take place then the elite will get a flow payoff of zero and the value  $V^e(D | a^{-e}(D), a^{-e}(N), \tau(D), \tau(N))$  recurs.

At the last stage the members of the ruling coalition choose the tax vector to maximize the

total surplus of the ruling coalition, or

$$\max_{\tau(N)} \sum_{e \in \mathcal{R}} \sum_{m=1}^M w_{em} (\tau_m(N) - 1) q\kappa - \frac{\tau(N)^2}{2|\mathcal{R}|}$$

with a representative first-order condition

$$\sum_{e \in \mathcal{R}} w_{em} q\kappa - \frac{\tau_m(N)}{|\mathcal{R}|} = 0 \quad (8)$$

Now it follows from this that if you take two industries  $m$  and  $i$  that

$$\frac{\tau_m(N)}{\tau_i(N)} = \frac{\sum_{e \in \mathcal{R}} w_{em}}{\sum_{e \in \mathcal{R}} w_{ei}}$$

so that  $\tau_m(N) > \tau_i(N)$  if the industry share of elites in the coup coalition is bigger. This inequality implies that after a successful coup the prices of goods in sectors in which the elites in the ruling coalition have a larger share will be relatively higher.

Now with the post-coup tax vector determined (noting that (8) is a recursive system of  $m$  equations in  $m$  unknowns) we move backward to the decision by elites about whether or not to allocate effort to mounting a coup. Consider the optimal action choice of the elite in the two states of the world. From (7) we have the first order condition for elite agent  $e$

$$\sum_{e' \neq e} \omega_{e'e} a_{e'} - \delta a_e + \frac{1}{E} \left[ \sum_{m=1}^M w_{em} (\tau_m(N) - 1) q\kappa - \mathbf{1}_{e \in \mathcal{R}} \frac{\tau(N)^2}{2|\mathcal{R}|} + \beta \Delta V^e(N) \right] = 0 \quad (9)$$

with an interior solution (we return to the conditions that guarantee this). Here  $\Delta V^e(N) \equiv V^e(N | a^{-e}(D), a^{-e}(N), \tau(D), \tau(N)) - V^e(D | a^{-e}(D), a^{-e}(N), \tau(D), \tau(N))$ .

As the Appendix shows, the decision problem for an elite in a dictatorship is identical in the sense that the ‘prize’ is the same in both states and the cost function is the same. Moreover, as we establish shortly the set of elites in the ruling coalition in a dictatorship is identical to that in a democracy. This implies that for elite agent  $e$ ,  $a_e(N) = a_e(D)$ . Nevertheless, since elite agents differ in their network positions this does not imply that their action choices will be the same, hence  $a_e(s) \neq a_{e'}(s)$  for some elite agent  $e' \neq e$ . However, it does imply that  $p(a(N)) = p(a(D))$

which greatly simplifies the analysis. Indeed, using this observation we have that  $\Delta V^e(N) = 0$ .

Now we can write (9) for all elite agents as a matrix equation where elite agents are ordered from 1 to  $E$

$$a = \Pi + \frac{1}{\delta} \omega a$$

where  $a = (a_1, \dots, a_E)$  is a column vector of action choices by the elites (which is not state dependent as discussed above),  $\Pi$  is the (weighted) elite net profit vector defined as:

$$\Pi \equiv \frac{1}{\delta E} \left( \sum_{m=1}^M w_{1m} (\tau_m(N) - 1) q \mathbf{\kappa} - \mathbf{1}_{e \in \mathcal{R}} \frac{\tau(N)^2}{2|\mathcal{R}|}, \dots, \sum_{m=1}^M w_{Em} (\tau_m(N) - 1) q \mathbf{\kappa} - \mathbf{1}_{e \in \mathcal{R}} \frac{\tau(N)^2}{2|\mathcal{R}|} \right) \quad (10)$$

and recall that  $\omega$  is the adjacency matrix. We can write the solution to 9 in matrix notation as

$$a = \left( \mathbf{I} - \frac{1}{\delta} \omega \right)^{-1} \Pi \quad (11)$$

where  $\mathbf{I}$  is the identity matrix. It is worthwhile noting for future reference that,

$$a_e = \frac{1}{\delta E} \sum_{f=1}^E \Omega_{ef} \left[ \sum_{m=1}^M w_{em} (\tau_m(N) - 1) q \mathbf{\kappa} - \mathbf{1}_{e \in \mathcal{R}} \frac{\tau(N)^2}{2|\mathcal{R}|} \right] \quad (12)$$

where  $\Omega_{ef}$  are the cells of the matrix  $(\mathbf{I} - \frac{1}{\delta} \omega)^{-1}$ . Note that because of the network structure the optimal choice of  $a_e$  depends on the tax rate set in a particular sector not just via own profits, but also through the profits of elite agents who are connected to  $e$  in the adjacency matrix.

As Ballester, Calvó-Armengol and Zenou (2006) show (Theorem 1 and Remark 1) this implies that the action choice of agent  $e$  can be written as their weighted Bonacich centrality with weights given by profits  $\left( \sum_{m=1}^M w_{1m} (\tau_m(N) - 1) q \mathbf{\kappa} - \mathbf{1}_{e \in \mathcal{R}} \frac{\tau(N)^2}{2|\mathcal{R}|}, \dots, \sum_{m=1}^M w_{Em} (\tau_m(N) - 1) q \mathbf{\kappa} - \mathbf{1}_{e \in \mathcal{R}} \frac{\tau(N)^2}{2|\mathcal{R}|} \right) / \delta E$  and decay factor  $1/\delta$ . For convenience write (12) as  $a(\tau_m)$ .

From this the first result, which is a direct consequence of Ballester, Calvó-Armengol and Zenou (2006) Theorem 1, follows

**Proposition 1:** The equilibrium action of elite agent  $e$  is increasing in his weighted Bonacich



centrality.

A related result which we can also examine empirically was provided by Galeotti, Goyal, Jackson, Vega-Redondo and Yariv (2010):

**Proposition 2:** The equilibrium action of elite agent  $e$  is non-decreasing in his degree.

Where the degree of a player is simply the numbers of nodes to which he is linked directly.

Applying backward induction again we move to the initial decision of the dictator about which elite agents to allow into the ruling coalition. The dictator chooses which elites to admit into the coalition  $\mathcal{R}$  by maximizing

$$\frac{1}{E} \left( \sum_{f=1}^E \sum_e \Omega_{fe} w_{em} (\tau_m(N) - 1) q \kappa - \mathbf{1}_{e \in \mathcal{R}} \frac{\tau(N)^2}{2|\mathcal{R}|} \right) \cdot Z \quad (13)$$

where the tax rate depends on who will be let into the coalition. Since the elite bear the cost of taxation it is immediate that the dictator simply wants to maximize the probability that a coup happens. This implies he wants to maximize  $\sum_{e=1}^E a_e$ . From the above solution for the elite effort this sum is maximized when the elite admitted into the ruling coalition are the  $|\mathcal{R}|$  members of the elite who have the largest weighted Bonacich centralities. The timing of the game is important for this result: elite decisions about actions are taken after dictator decisions about who is in the coalition, so elites cannot promise higher effort in order to affect being included in the ruling coalition. This leads to one of the most important results we can test in the paper

**Proposition 3:** The greater the Bonacich centrality of an elite, the greater the probability that they will be included in the ruling coalition after a successful coup.

There remain a couple of technical issues to address. Recall that we required that  $a_e \in [0, 1]$  and assumed that the elite's first-order condition was interior. From (12) it is clear that  $a_e \geq 0$  with a strict inequality if the elite has any network connection, and the same formula shows that a sufficient condition to guarantee that  $a_e \leq 1$  is that  $\kappa$  is sufficiently small. Finally, we need to make sure that elites are not demand constrained. Since the competitive price is lower than

the post-coup prices it suffices to assume that elites are not demand constrained at the prices determined by (8) which implies that the following inequality holds

$$q^2 \kappa^2 M |\mathcal{R}| \max_m \left\{ \sum_{e \in \mathcal{R}} w_{em} \right\} \leq LY \quad (14)$$

where  $\max_m \{ \sum_{e \in \mathcal{R}} w_{em} \}$  is the largest market share that the ruling coalition has.

We are now in a position to sum up the nature of pure strategy MPE of this game.

**Proposition 4:** Assume (14) holds. There is a unique MPE in the game specified where in each period elite agents choose the vector  $a$  which satisfies (12). In this equilibrium in democracy there is a coup with probability  $p(a)$  and if the coup fails  $\tau(D) = 1$ . If the coup succeeds then the coup participants set the tariff vector  $\tau(N)$  which satisfies (8) and dictatorship is created. In a dictatorship the regime survives with the same probability  $p(a)$  and the coup participants again set  $\tau(N)$ . With probability  $1 - p(a)$  democratization occurs and citizens set  $\tau(D) = 1$ .

Obviously there are other types of equilibria in this model. Our intention here is only to show that this equilibria can occur for an open set of parameter values. Several testable predictions emerge. First, the higher is an elite agent's Bonacich centrality, the greater effort they put into making a coup happen. This happens for two reasons. First, an agent with higher centrality will be able to have a greater impact on the outcome of the coup. Elite agents with high centrality can influence more elite agents aside from themselves to take actions to make a coup happen. Second, high centrality agents will be precisely those chosen by the dictator to be part of the ruling coalition and this gives them decision rights over taxes and allows them to create rents in precisely the sectors in which they have more investments. This creates a greater incentive for them to exert effort. Thus our model predicts that agents with greater Bonacich centrality would be more likely to be seen to take part in such a coup if this was observable (to be in the ruling coalition). Second, the model predicts that elites who are in the ruling coalition should be rewarded by higher prices for the goods they produce. Since most elites are diversified, the Haitian one included, the model predicts that the greater a particular market is dominated by

elites which took part in the coup, the higher prices should rise after a coup takes place (this is immediate from (8)). Finally, given this increase in prices, the consumption and welfare of citizens falls after a coup and in a dictatorship if it persists (relative to democracy).

## 5 Data

To test the predictions of our model we constructed a dataset that brings together information on families, firms, and products from more than 15 different sources. In the process, we draw on genealogical data going back to the mid-19th century, contemporary firm-level data, and information on ownership of hundreds of businesses. We describe the data assembly process in detail in Appendix A, and in this section detail the construction of the two most distinctive variables: the coup participation list and the network centrality measure, both of which vary at the family level.

We first draw in data on participation in the 1991 coup. This information comes from the U.S. Treasury Department's targeted sanctions list, which named individual official and unofficial leaders in the coup government in power during the early 1990s. The U.S. had sanctions against Haiti from 1991 until the restoration of democracy in 1994 based on an executive order by President Bush in 1991 and populated with specific individuals by the Office of Foreign Assets Control based on intelligence. Participation in coups is an illicit activity that most participants prefer to hide, and the existence of this list is one of the reasons that we chose to test this general theory of elite resistance to democracy in Haiti.

The sequence of events in the 1990s suggests that this list represents the U.S. government's best information on which elites were instrumental to installing and supporting the coup government.<sup>3</sup> Being added to the sanctions list meant that an individual's U.S.-based assets were frozen, they were barred entry into the U.S., and they were unable to trade with U.S. partners. From this list, we create a measure of coup participation that indicates whether one or more members of a

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<sup>3</sup>The text of the Executive Order establishing the sanctions list defines it to target those within the regime, who provided support to the regime, or who obstructed efforts to negotiate a settlement. One Haitian academic suggested to us that the criteria for inclusion on the list were a) public statements from those individuals; b) open affiliation with the coup leaders; c) open support to the anti-Aristide rebels; and d) human rights reports that documented their involvements.

family were identified as coup participators by the U.S. government.

For the second coup in 2004 we do not have a similar list but the historical literature suggests that the main instigators and supporters of the coup were the same, and that many were connected by kinship and social ties. We therefore use the same list of elites when we examine the consequences of the second coup and subsequent autocratic period.

Our data on the social structure is taken from the *Association Généalogique d'Haïti*, a nonprofit effort to collect genealogical data from Haitian and American archives and the personal records of Haitian families run by a business leader in Haiti.<sup>4</sup> We use the Collective Genealogy of Haitian Families, which includes information on more than 64000 individual members of Haitian families beginning in the 17th century. We restrict this data to cohorts born between 1850 and 1975 to ensure that our measure of the social network is relevant, and also show robustness to earlier cohorts. We collapse the genealogical data into a network of marriage links between families.

An important variable in our model is  $\Pi^e$ , the profits of an elite family  $e$  under dictatorship. As an imperfect proxy, we use the sum of values of imports across products  $p$  and across businesses  $j$ , with the latter divided by the number of owners  $n_{own_j}$ .  $\pi_e = \sum_p \sum_j \frac{value_{ejp}}{n_{own_j}}$ .<sup>5</sup> We examine robustness to different versions of this measure, but given lack of information about shares of ownership or even costs of importing, this is the closest that can be done with available data.

We calculate several network statistics implied by our theory, varying the weight placed on close versus distant ties: degree, Bonacich centrality, and eigenvector centrality.<sup>6</sup> The most general expression of the centrality measures that we use is the weighted Bonacich centrality, corresponding to expression (12) above:

$$B\left(\frac{1}{\delta}, \Pi, \omega\right) = \left(\mathbf{I} - \frac{1}{\delta} \omega\right)^{-1} \Pi$$

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<sup>4</sup>Accessible at <http://www.agh.qc.ca/>.

<sup>5</sup>We use data from 2009 and 2011 to construct this measure. As one check of whether these values are stable over time, we check whether the value and volume of a type of good imported by a specific family in 2009 and 2011 are correlated. For the products that we use in our analyses, the correlations are 0.51 to 0.56.

<sup>6</sup>For another discussion of these related measures, see Banerjee et al. (2016) or Jackson (2008).

where  $\omega$  is the adjacency matrix,  $\frac{1}{\delta}$  is a parameter that determines the emphasis put on close versus distant nodes, and  $\Pi$  is defined as above. We use a version of the adjacency matrix where links between families are weighted by the size of each family such that a link between a large family with another large family with many potential marriages contributes less to the family's centrality than a link with a small family. This takes into account the value of the marriage ties to each family.  $g$  is the number of paths of length  $k$  that link nodes  $e$  and  $m$ , multiplied by  $\frac{1}{size_e \times size_m}$  where  $size_e$  is the number of individuals in family  $e$  and  $size_m$  is the number of individuals in family  $m$ . Bonacich (1987) suggests that  $\delta$  take the value in the range  $(0, \lambda)$ , where  $\lambda$  is the largest eigenvalue of the adjacency matrix  $\omega$ , in a network with complementarities. To determine the appropriate weighting parameter  $\frac{1}{\delta}$ , we estimate the relationship between centrality in the network of coup participators and participation in the coup (see Appendix C.1 for a discussion and the results). Our primary measure of network centrality is the Bonacich centrality where  $\frac{1}{\delta} = 0.2$ , but we also show as a robustness check that our results hold when we parameterize the Bonacich centrality with values in the range  $\frac{1}{\delta} = [\frac{9}{10\lambda}, \frac{1}{10\lambda}]$  as well as the degree where  $\frac{1}{\delta} = 0$ .

## 6 Results

### 6.1 Who participates in coups?

In this section we test our model's prediction that central elites will be more likely to participate in non-democratic regime change. We estimate the following specification:

$$Coup_i = \beta Centrality_i + \eta FamilySize_i + Social_i' \theta + Economic_i' \gamma + \varepsilon_i$$

where  $Coup_i$  is an indicator variable for whether a family participated in the 1991 coup against the democratically elected Aristide government.  $Centrality_i$  is a measure of a family's centrality in the historical marriage network.  $Social_i$  is a vector of social characteristics of each family including historical military and political service as well as whether the family immigrated to Haiti after independence, and whether they immigrated from the Middle East. We also control for the size of the family during the period of our network data.  $Economic_i$  is a

vector of characteristics that define the economic interest of a family in having a coup, including a measure of the value of a family's trade and the average share of Haitian consumption that the family's imports represent, as well as a number of other product-level characteristics that may make importers more vulnerable to predation or taxation.

We use two separate datasets at the family level for this analysis: one that includes all elites, meaning any family that appears in our records of historical political or military service or in one of our business ownership databases, and one that covers only importers. The data on political and military service is taken from Supplice (2001), and immigration histories are coded from Supplice (2009). Consumption share is calculated from Jensen, Johnson and Stampley's (1990) data on household consumption, and the value of trade is from AGEMAR. The product measures cover five characteristics, described in the data appendix, that have been found in other contexts to affect the vulnerability of economic actors to government predation and taxation. They include divisibility, bulkiness (de la Sierra, 2017), time sensitivity (Hummels, 2007), reference price (Rauch, 1999), and complexity (Hausmann et al., 2013). When families import more than one product, these characteristics are aggregated up to the family level weighted by the value of the family's import portfolio that each product comprises.

Finally, it is important to note that our sample sizes change for some of the variables due to missingness. In particular, some families listed as political, military, or business elites did not show up in the genealogical database. For political elites, 77% of families could be matched to the genealogical data, but for business and military elites the figure is slightly lower at 71%.

This specification may suffer from omitted variables bias. In Appendix A.2, we examine the correlates of centrality, and reassuringly find that obvious determinants of coup participation, such as military or political elite status, are uncorrelated with family centrality conditional on covariates. Nonetheless we control for many possible observable determinants of centrality, as well as network neighborhood fixed effects to take into account the fact that families may cluster based on unobserved factors. In addition, estimating models with network statistics as independent variables is challenging due to the presence of obvious spillover effects. Any exogenous change to the network shared by family  $i$  and  $j$  will change both families' centrality scores. The results should be interpreted with these limitations in mind.

Table 1 shows the results of regressions of coup participation on a combination of social and economic characteristics. Columns 1-4 show the results using data from our all elite sample, while Columns 5-10 use the importer sample. Columns 1 and 5 show the bivariate relationship between coup participation and centrality. Columns 2 and 6 add a control for the number of members in each family, and Columns 3-4 and 7-10 add four other social characteristics, namely whether a family has any historical military and political service, whether a family migrated to Haiti post-independence, and whether they migrated from the Middle East. Columns 7-10 include our two most important measures of economic interest: the value of a families' trade and our proxy for demand inelasticity. Columns 9-10 include the five product characteristics. Finally, Columns 4 and 10 include fixed effects indicating the community within the social network to which each family belongs. Models are estimated using OLS with robust standard errors.

[Table 1 about here.]

Table 1 is consistent with the theoretical result that central families are more likely to participate in coups. This result is robust to the inclusion of a wide range of economic measures that one would expect would make a family more interested in installing an autocratic regime. While measures of immigrant, political and military elite status are likely endogenous to the network position of elites, the centrality coefficient remains significant with all the social controls in the importer-only sample, but falls in magnitude and loses significance with these added in Column 3 in the all-elite sample when we include all of the social controls together with family size.

Furthermore, the results are robust to the inclusion of fixed effects that indicate the community that each family is part of. We include these fixed effects in the specifications in Columns 4 and 10 to control in a coarse way for endogenous network formation, as there may be groups of families that intermarry due to some unobservable similarities (such as charisma or wealth). While there are many methods for calculating communities in networks, we use a walktrap algorithm (Pons and Latapy, 2006), which groups vertices of the network based on the number of length-3 random walks that connect them. These improve the  $R^2$  considerably but do not alter the coefficient on centrality. The fact that centrality predicts coup participation even within

these tightly intermarried clusters suggest it is in fact centrality of individual families, not broad unobserved family characteristics, that are driving our results.

Substantively, we find that a one standard deviation increase in centrality is associated with an 8-21 percentage point change in the probability of participating in the coup. This is roughly double the effect of being a military family. The estimates in Column 10 imply that an elite family at the average level of the control variables has a 46% probability of participation in the coup at the mean level of centrality, increasing to 60% with a one standard deviation increase in centrality.

Last, we find that a wide range of product characteristics that should predict vulnerability of business elites to government predation and taxation have little explanatory power. Even our measures of demand inelasticity or the value of trade are not significantly related to coup participation.

Overall, this analysis provides fairly robust evidence that network centrality is related to coup participation conditional on a family's other characteristics.

We also test whether the relationship between centrality and coup participation is robust to a range of other measures of network centrality. As discussed in Section 5, our preferred measure of centrality is a case of Bonacich centrality where the  $\frac{1}{\delta}$  parameter that sets the weight of close over distant ties is equal to 0.2, which we chose based on our estimation of the relationship between coup degree and coup participation in Appendix C.1. In Figure 1, we recalculate each family's centrality allowing this  $\delta$  parameter to approach the largest eigenvalue in the adjacency matrix by multiplying this  $\frac{1}{\delta}$  by a constant in the range of  $[0.9, 0.1]$ . This puts increasing weight on close over distant connections. We also show robustness to  $\frac{1}{\delta} = 0$ , which equals the degree. The models estimated for this graph do not include controls and so are similar to Columns 1 and 5 in Table 1. Figure 1 plots the coefficient on centrality. All estimates are well within the confidence intervals of our original estimate.

[Figure 1 about here.]

Second, we test whether the relationship is robust to constructions of centrality based on versions of the network further back in history. The results are similar in magnitude and



significance if we cut off the network at cohorts born before 1950 and 1925. These results are presented in Appendix C.2.

Our third check tests whether our results are robust to down-weighting data that appears to be of lower quality. As a measure of data quality we calculate the “reachability” within each last-name dynasty, meaning the probability that there is a path between individuals with the same last name. Results in Appendix C.3 show that estimates remain similar in magnitude and are robustly significant if we weight observations by this measure of data quality.

## 6.2 Elite benefits of coup participation

In this section we estimate the differential increase in prices that coup participants enjoy during periods of autocracy. This analysis explores the implication of our model that coup participants will enjoy rents from less competitive markets during autocratic regimes. We use a difference-in-difference design that controls for time-invariant product characteristics and compares changes in prices for coup-participants and non-participants during periods of autocracy. We also include lagged measures of our dependent variable measuring prices to control for dynamic responses of prices to regime type over time. We estimate variants of the following specification:

$$\log(p_{it}) = \sum_{k=1}^4 \rho_k \log(p_{it-k}) + \theta \text{Coup}_i \times \text{Autocracy}_t + X_{it}'\beta + \mu_t + \psi_i + \varepsilon_{it}$$

where  $p_{it}$  measures retail prices during period  $t$  for product  $i$ . We control for all time-varying common shocks with a time fixed effect  $\mu_t$  and we also add a product fixed effect  $\psi_i$  to control for time invariant product differences.  $X_{it}'$  is a vector of time-varying product-specific controls, including the interaction of  $\text{Coup}_i$  and  $\text{Quake}_t$ , an indicator for the month after the January 2010 earthquake, and the world supply price for each product. We also control for factors that affect profits in addition to retail and supply prices: the number of firms importing each product and the inelasticity of demand, which we proxy for with the share each product represents of household consumption.

All prices are measured as levels in the log price indexed to August 2004. The retail prices used in this analysis are inputs into the consumer price index collected by the *Institut Haïtien de*

*Statistiques et Information* and cover 18 of the most commonly consumed products in Haiti. The data on supply prices comes from the U.S. Census Bureau data on international trade between the U.S. and the rest of the world.  $Coup_i$  is a continuous measure of the proportion of the market for a product that is controlled by families who participated in the 1991 coup. All data from families are aggregated to the product level with the weighted mean described in Appendix A. Appendix Table A.4 shows summary statistics for our product-level data.

We estimate this model using OLS with standard errors clustered by product. We have a small number number of clusters, and so we report wild bootstrap clustered standard errors in square brackets below the clustered standard errors (Cameron, Gelbach and Miller, 2008). While we have both fixed effects and lagged dependent variables as controls, we also have a long panel of 145 months, so Nickell bias is unlikely to be large (Nickell, 1981). Nonetheless Appendix D.1 shows robustness to GMM estimators as well as different assumptions on a fixed autocorrelation parameter in OLS.

Column 1 in Table 2 estimates the effect of the interaction of  $Coup_i \times Autocracy_i$  with product and month fixed effects. We also estimate the differential increase of being a coup participator during the month after the January 2010 earthquake, when government capacity was diminished and markets were disrupted. Column 2 adds one lagged measure of our dependent variable in levels to control for dynamic trends in prices. Column 3 adds three additional lags of the dependent variable. Column 4 adds the world supply price as a control. Column 5 adds the interaction of two other product-specific characteristics (the number of firms per product and our proxy for demand inelasticity) and a dummy for being in an autocratic period. We also include an interaction of the product fixed effects and the number of conflict events in the GDELT data (Leetaru and Schrodt, 2013) in order to control for the fact that some products' prices may increase during periods of instability. In Column 6, we add the interaction of centrality and being in an autocratic or post-earthquake period. Columns 7 and 8 change the dependent variable to the supply price of each good imported into Haiti and the supply price of each good globally as placebos to check that supply prices of goods being imported are not changing differentially for coup participators.

[Table 2 about here.]

Columns 1-6 in Table 2 show that retail prices of goods imported by coup participators rise significantly during periods of autocracy. During autocratic periods, a product that is imported by only coup participators grows by about 1.8% per month faster than products imported by no coup participators. Accounting for the price dynamics, this translates to a 33% increase in the price of the good. Appendix Table D.3 shows this relationship is robust to including lagged measures of the retail price, the supply price of each good, time-variant measures of product characteristics, the interaction of product dummies and the number of conflict events, and the interaction of centrality and autocracy.<sup>7</sup>

Substantively, this means that moving from the sample mean of 60% coup participation by one standard deviation to 80% is associated with a 0.51% increase in short-run prices, increasing to 6.3% taking price dynamics into account. Taking as our benchmark product rice, which cost on average 0.25 USD per pound at contemporary exchange rates in the pre-coup period, and a coup participation rate of 88%, our estimates imply that the transition to dictatorship increased the price of rice by 34%. Given that many of the other staple goods like corn meal, sugar, and chicken also have high levels of coup participation, price increases of this magnitude would have had a large impact on the budgets of the average household.

There is no evidence that the supply price of goods imported into Haiti or of goods globally is changing differentially for coup participators during autocratic periods. Adding the global supply price as a control variable in Columns 3-6 does not change the coefficient on coup participation interacted with autocracy.

One concern is that the results in our analysis may be driven by one particularly influential product. To address this, we test whether the coefficient on  $Coup_i \times Autocracy_t$  is also robust to dropping each product in turn. Figure 2 plots the coefficients on  $Coup_i \times Autocracy_t$  with 90 and 95% confidence intervals. These regressions also include all the controls in Column 5 of Table 2. The legend indicates which product is excluded. The magnitude of the effect remains similar across these product subsets.

[Figure 2 about here.]

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<sup>7</sup>The interaction  $Centrality \times Autocracy$  is positively and significantly associated with prices, conditional on  $Coup \times Autocracy$ . One interpretation of this result is that the binary measure of coup participation that we have access to is not picking up the full variation of contributions to the coup that are rewarded by the dictator.

As a second check, we conduct a placebo exercise where we arbitrarily move the 26-month window of autocracy 48 months before and after the true onset of autocracy. When we move the window of autocracy forward by one month, it includes the one month prior to the coup and the first 25 months of the actual autocratic period. If we see that there are many time periods where, by chance, we find a significant interaction between coup participation and this placebo autocratic period, our results would be less credible. In this figure we present the specification in Column 1 of Table 2. Figure 3 plot the coefficients from this placebo analysis. The dark line indicates the magnitude of the estimated coefficient on  $Coup_i \times Autocracy_t$ , while the shaded area marks 90% confidence intervals.

[Figure 3 about here.]

Figure 3 shows that the only windows of time where we would conclude that coup participators increase their prices more than non-participators is the true autocratic period or a window that begins four months before and mostly consists of the true autocratic period. In addition, a failed coup attempt in December 2001 had no effect on the prices of coup participators' products. This placebo test suggests that it is unlikely that our results are obtained by chance.

### 6.3 Impact of autocracy on child health

In this section we test the implication of our model that citizen welfare should decline during autocracy. While the price increase evidence presented above is suggestive of welfare losses, it is possible that the CPI prices are inaccurate or easy substitutes are available. We use a difference-in-difference design to estimate the effect of autocracy on urban vs. rural children. Urban children are more likely to be affected by increases in the prices of products like rice and maize because they are more dependent on imported products than rural children, who get a larger portion of their calories from home production.

To test this hypothesis, we estimate the following specification:

$$h_{it} = \theta Urban_i \times Autocracy_t + \gamma \times Urban_i + X_{it}'\beta + \mu_t + \varepsilon_{it}$$

where  $Urban_i \times Autocracy_t$  represents the interaction between being born in an urban area and during an autocratic period.  $X'$  includes an indicator for whether a child is female, one for being born in an urban area, and first and second degree age polynomials.  $\mu_t$  is a birth-month fixed effect controlling for all time shocks that might affect the heights and weights of an entire cohort of children.

This empirical strategy is likely an underestimate of the true impact of autocracy on the health and welfare of children in Haiti. Our theory in fact predicts that the general welfare in Haiti should decline in both urban and rural areas. Many of our high-coup products, including edible oil, kerosene, cigarettes, and cola, are consumed in rural areas but are rarely home produced, suggesting that increases in import prices should also affect rural households. Nevertheless, we choose this difference-in-difference specification because it enables us to control for some shocks to children's health that occur during autocracy throughout the country, such as declines in social services or political violence. We also show a specification estimating the time-series effect of the coup on the entire child population, replacing the time fixed-effects with flexible functions.

The data in this section covers children born across Haiti between the beginning of the first democratic period in 1991 and 2012 and is taken from the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) conducted in 1995, 2000, 2006, and 2012. The measures of height and weight are taken by the DHS enumerator. We use the standardized weight- and height-for-age Z-scores ( $\times 100$ ), which are calculated based on global reference data. These Z-scores are recommended for measuring nutritional status of children under 5 by the WHO (De Onis and Lobstein, 2010). Children who fall two standard deviations below the global reference point are considered wasted or stunted.

Appendix Table A.5 shows the summary statistics for this data. The average weight- and height-for-age Z-scores of children born during democracy are 0.90 and 1.02 standard deviations below the global reference, respectively, while during autocracy they are 1.03 and 1.12 standard deviations below the reference.

Table 3 presents our estimates of the impact of autocracy on children's heights and weights. Columns 1-4 use the weight Z-score as the dependent variable. In Column 1 and 5, we include a

linear time trend based on month of birth, while in Columns 2-4 and 6-8 we include dummies for each month of birth and control for two age terms. All columns also include as a control variable the interaction of being born in an urban area and the number of conflict events except those organized by the Haitian elite in the GDELT data to control for the level of political violence (Leetaru and Schrodt, 2013). Columns 5-8 use the same set of independent variables as Columns 1-4, but use as the dependent variable the height Z-score of Haitian children. Columns 1-2, 4-6, and 8 use data from the beginning of the series in 1991 through 2012, while Columns 3 and 7 restrict the data to the 2001-2012 period where we have data on retail prices. Columns 4 and 8 eliminate children under the age of six months who spent only a small number of months living under autocracy.

[Table 3 about here.]

Table 3 shows that being born in urban areas during autocracy is associated with a decline in the weight-and height-for-age Z-scores of children under five. The impact of autocracy on height in Columns 5-8 is substantively large and robust. In the full 1991-2012 sample with birthdate fixed effects, urban children during autocracy are 0.14 standard deviations shorter than their rural peers. This effect is even stronger in the 2001-2012 sample in Column 7 and stronger still when we restrict the sample to children over the age of six months in Column 8.

Substantively, this negative effect on height is quite large. The negative effect of autocracy on the heights of urban children is 8-14% of the difference in heights between Haitian children and the global reference mean.

The impact of  $Urban_i \times Autocracy_t$  on weight is less robust, but in the full sample it has a similar magnitude and significance on weight-for-age Z-scores as on height-for-age. In Column 2 children born in urban areas during autocracy are 0.12 standard deviations shorter than their rural peers, and this effect grows to 0.14 standard deviations shorter when we exclude children under six months old in Column 4. In the post-2001 sample, however, there is no significant effect of autocracy on the weight-for-age Z-scores of children under 5.

Columns 1 and 5 use a birthdate time trend rather than birthdate fixed effects to allow us to estimate the effect of autocracy on all children in addition to the interaction  $Urban_i \times Autocracy_t$ .

In both Columns 1 and 5, we see that autocracy has a substantively large and significant negative effect on children's nutritional status. Children born during periods of autocracy are more than 0.25 standard deviations lighter than peers born during democracy and 0.23 standard deviations shorter. In both cases, this effect is stronger for urban children. Thus, while we draw identification from the differential impact of autocracy on urban compared to rural children, it is important to note that autocracy also negatively affects the nutritional indicators of rural children. Given the strong correlations between early childhood stunting and later educational outcomes (Grantham-McGregor et al., 2007), this result implies that the transition to autocracy, and associated increase in import prices, had a persistent effect on human capital formation.

We also tested for an impact of autocracy on infant and under-five mortality. Our dependent variable is a measure of the percentage of children by birth cohort that died during each month. While autocracy has a positive and significant effect on infant mortality, there is no significant difference between urban and rural areas.

## **Conclusion**

In this paper we have developed and empirically explored a novel theory of the role of elite social networks in coups against democracy. We developed a model of coups based on actions taken by elites and derived four basic sets of results which we examined in the data. First, the amount of effort that an elite member puts into making a coup happen is positively related to the network centrality and network degree of such an agent. Second, this means that the higher the centrality of an elite, the more valuable they are to a potential dictator and the more he will wish to incentivize them by ceding decision rights over policy after a successful coup. Third, coup participants should gain material rewards, which in our specific context implies differential increases in the prices of the goods they import. Finally, coups should have negative effects on social welfare. Using a variety of data sources we found support for all of these hypotheses in Haiti. Together, this evidence points toward elite social structure as an important explanatory factor in the persistence of predatory, autocratic institutions and under-development.

More broadly, our results have implications for democratization and democratic consolida-

tion. While previous theories have focused on reforming institutions or redistributing assets as mechanisms for consolidating democracy, our results suggest that transforming elite networks during democracy may be an important component of reducing the likelihood of future coups. Indeed, elite social capital may have to decay for democratic capital to accumulate. Stepping back from Haiti, our results suggest that the density of elite networks may be an important factor in explaining the relative incidence of coups and whether or not democracy is consolidated.



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# Appendix (Not For Publication)

## A Data Construction Appendix

In this Appendix we provide an overview of how we constructed these datasets and describe the source and construction of each variable. The core of our dataset is a linkage between families, the firms they own, and the products that they import into Haiti. To this base, we draw in additional information on the political and social histories of Haitian families, as well as the characteristics of products. Figure A.2 provides an overview of our data structure.

[Figure A.1 about here.]

[Figure A.2 about here.]

We first link families to firms (link a in Figure A.2) with three databases of contemporary firm ownership. The first, a commercial dataset called Orbis produced by the Bureau van Dijk corporation, has information on 626 unique families that own 345 Haitian corporations; however, the majority of these are not importing firms.<sup>8</sup> The second is a database of Haitian firms assembled by a nonprofit organization called Haiti Building Markets after the 2010 earthquake to encourage aid agencies to buy goods and services from local firms.<sup>9</sup> This data includes information on more than 3,400 firms owned by 1,951 unique families. Third, we draw on information in an online database of firms registered with the Haitian Ministry of Commerce and Industry.<sup>10</sup> In a few cases, when a firm did not appear in any of these databases but is a major importer of a staple good in Haiti, we also use public information on the web or the knowledge of experts on Haiti's import sector. We conducted this additional research for all of the firms that import one of the 18 products on which we have consumer price data, if the owners were not identified in one of the three existing databases. From these four sources, we constructed a table of which families owned each firm that appears in our data.

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<sup>8</sup>Accessed through a Columbia University Library portal at <https://orbis.bvdinfo.com/version-2014812/home.serv?product=orbisneo>.

<sup>9</sup>Accessed at [http://haiti.buildingmarkets.org/en\\_af/supplier-search](http://haiti.buildingmarkets.org/en_af/supplier-search).

<sup>10</sup>Accessed at <http://registre.mci.gouv.ht/>.

The second key link in our data is from firms to products (link b in Figure A.2). To make this link, we use data on shipping patterns by firm in 2009 and 2011 provided by AGEMAR, a Haitian shipping firm that collects and sells data from the port authority. We exclude the year of 2010 because the catastrophic earthquake that hit Port-au-Prince in January 2010 dramatically changed shipping patterns by shocking demand, changing the most common suppliers of many goods (in particular, causing an influx of goods imported by NGOs), and destroying the primary Haitian port. We also exclude the bottom 10% of firms importing each product to ease the matching process and to exclude tiny or one-off shipments of goods. Using the 2009 and 2011 data, we construct a measure of the portion of trade in each good that is controlled by specific firms. Each of our products is ultimately identified by a four-digit Harmonized System (HS) code.

In later robustness checks in Appendix D.3 we test whether our results are robust to down-weighting data for products that have lower levels of consistency in shipments between 2009 and 2011.

Linking the two datasets involves merging by firm name. To accurately match firms across multiple sources, we use a combination of approximate string matching and manual identification of alternative spellings. We first strip out some words and standardize spelling, including accents on French words, and common terms.<sup>11</sup> We also eliminate NGOs using a combination of key word search (ex. firm names that include “foundation”) and manual identification (ex. large, well-known NGOs such as “World Vision”). Next we strip out individuals only shipping items for personal use, marked by a special tariff code. After this first round of processing, we implement an approximate string matching algorithm across all the firm names with more than eight letters to match firms with a generalized Levenshtein edit distance of two or lower. Last, we identify a number of alternative spellings manually.

From this base, we merge in additional data at the level of the family and product. Our unit of analysis for the family data is the last name, which we take to represent a family dynasty. Our data on the social structure is taken from the *Association Généalogique d’Haïti*, a nonprofit

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<sup>11</sup>For example, “shpg” becomes “shipping”, and words like “S.A.”, the abbreviation of “société anonyme”, a type of Haitian corporation, are stripped.

effort to collect genealogical data from Haitian and American archives and the personal records of Haitian families run by a business leader in Haiti.<sup>12</sup> We use the Collective Genealogy of Haitian Families, which includes information on more than 64000 individual members of Haitian families beginning in the 17th century. We restrict this data to cohorts born between 1850 and 1975 to ensure that our measure of the social network is relevant, and also show robustness to earlier cohorts. We collapse the genealogical data into a network of marriage links between families.

We also draw in data on the history of political and military service of each family, as well as the date and country of immigration for families that immigrated to Haiti after independence in 1804, using data collected by Daniel Supplice. This researcher and politician published a *Dictionnaire biographique des personnalités politiques de la République d’Haïti* that includes dictionary entries for all known individuals who held political office in Haiti, from executives to citizens who served single terms in constituent assemblies or were rewarded with titles of nobility during the 19th century. We coded all of the entries of Supplice (2001) and then restricted this data to individuals who served prior to the end of the Duvalier regime in 1986 in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch.<sup>13</sup> From this, we created binary variables for whether any member of a family served in any of the three main branches of government, and whether any member of a family held a commanding role in the military between 1804 and 1986. Political histories are linked to our other family-level data by last name (link d in Figure A.2).

Immigration histories are coded from another of Supplice’s books and also linked by last name (link e in Figure A.2) (Supplice, 2009). This 750-page tome notes the date of naturalization and country of origin of foreign immigrants who took Haitian nationality after independence. We coded it to create an indicator variable noting whether a family immigrated to Haiti from a foreign country post-independence, and whether they immigrated from a Middle Eastern country including Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, or Egypt. Haitians reclaiming Haitian nationality after marriages to foreigners or being stripped of their nationality are not coded as immigrants.

In addition to this family-level data, we also use data at the level of the product. Product

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<sup>12</sup> Accessible at <http://www.agh.qc.ca/>.

<sup>13</sup> We excluded the categories of nobility, constituent assembly, party leadership, and “other”, which often denoted voluntary or unofficial positions.

information is linked to our product data by four-digit HS Code or six-digit Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes. We use the HS-SIC crosswalk developed by Pierce and Schott (2009) as a base for merging information by SIC and HS codes (Pierce and Schott, 2009). For data that does not include HS or SIC codes, we match text product descriptions based on a combination of an exact match to a key word, approximate string matching among the possible matches, and hand matching the most common products by volume and value.

Our primary source of price data comes from the *Institut Haïtien des Statistiques et Information* (IHSI), the Haitian statistical bureau. IHSI publishes a monthly price bulletin that includes individual prices of around 20 of the top goods in the Haitian consumption basket that go into the consumer price index. We link the text descriptions of these products to 4-digit HS Codes with the help of the Office of the *Direction des Statistiques* in the *Administration Generale des Douanes*, or Haitian customs bureau. We exclude goods like public transportation fees, water provisions, and manufactured textiles that are typically not imported. This data ultimately includes monthly consumer prices of 18 goods from 2001 to 2012.

We also include product-level data on trade flows from two primary sources: first, information by product on the volume of trade between Haiti and the rest of the world collected by the Haitian shipping firm AGEMAR. As mentioned above, this data is used to link products to specific Haitian firms. Second, we draw in information on goods traded between the U.S. and Haiti from the international trade database maintained by the U.S. Census Bureau. We use this information on trade flows to construct measures of supply prices of goods traded between the U.S. and Haiti, and the U.S. and the rest of the world. Our measures are indexed to August 2004 and standardized to ease interpretation.

We also draw in information on product characteristics that may shape the incentives of firm owners to put a sympathetic autocrat in power. First, we proxy for the inelasticity of demand, which affects the extent to which monopolists could increase their profits by raising prices, using the share of the average Haitian's consumption that goods make up. Under constant elasticity of substitution preferences, consumption share and demand elasticity are inversely related. We measure consumption share using household expenditure data collected by Jensen, Johnson and Stampley (1990). Other research has shown that elite resistance to democracy is shaped in part



by the ease with which a democratic government can tax and redistribute assets (Acemoglu and Robinson, 2006). We draw from this insight, plus the literature on corruption, to identify characteristics that might make certain imported goods easier for the government to effectively tax. First, we use data from PIERS to construct measures of the bulkiness and divisibility of each product to test the prediction that products that are harder to move or easier to divide should be easier to informally tax. Divisibility is measured as units per twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU), while bulkiness is measured as value per TEU to test the prediction that bulkier products, which may be easier to identify and tax, should be associated with more resistance to democracy. Second, we merge our products with existing product-level datasets of product complexity from (Hausmann et al., 2013), time sensitivity from (Hummels, 2007), and scope for quality differentiation from Rauch (1999). These measures will be used as controls for the differential vulnerability to tariffs based on specific-skills, high discount rates, and custom agent discretion.

From this linkage, we construct two primary datasets: family-level and product-level. In our family data, we aggregate the product characteristics up to the level of the family (for families who are involved in importing more than one product) by calculating a weighted sum based on the value of a family's trade in each product. This weighted sum takes into account the price and volume of the trade by each firm that the family owns as well as the number of other owners. Thus, our measure of product-level data by family is determined by:

$$x_i = \frac{\sum_{j=1} \sum_{k=1} \frac{value_{jk}}{nown_j} x_k}{\sum_{j=1} \sum_{k=1} \frac{value_{jk}}{nown_j}}$$

where  $i$  represents each unique family in our family-level dataset,  $j$  represents each business that they own, and  $k$  represents each product that they import. In this formula  $x_k$  is the value of the product characteristic such as divisibility for each product  $k$  and  $x_i$  is the average product characteristic for each family.

For our product-level data, we aggregate family-level characteristics up to the level of the firm using a similar weighted measure that takes into account the share of trade in each product

that is owned by a particular family. Again, this takes into account the share of imports controlled by a firm and the number of families that own each firm. In this way, we calculate measures of the proportion of firm owners who participated in the 1991 coup and the average network centrality by product.

$$x_k = \frac{\sum_{j=1} \sum_{i=1} \frac{value_{ij}}{nown_j} x_i}{\sum_{j=1} \sum_{i=1} \frac{value_{ij}}{nown_j}}$$

where  $i$  again represents each family,  $j$  each firm, and  $k$  each product. In this case, because values are calculated using a monthly, product-level price, using the value or weight of each good results in the same product-level average. Ultimately the product-level values take into account the share of imports controlled by each firm and the share of each firm controlled by a particular family.

Last, for our analysis of the impact of autocracy on the general welfare, we use data on child health outcomes from the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) conducted in Haiti in 1995, 2000, 2006, and 2012. This data covers all children under five whose anthropometric data on height and weight was measured during the DHS from the onset of democracy in 1991 through 2012. This information is not linked to the rest of our data.

## A.1 Summary Statistics

### Family data summary statistics

Tables A.1 and A.2 show the means and standard deviations of the variables in our family datasets for all elites and our importer subsample, respectively. In the all elite sample, we include any family that has ever held political office or a high military rank, or that shows up in our business ownership data. In the importer subsample, we include only families that can be matched to companies that show up in our imports data.

[Table A.1 about here.]

In the all elite sample, coup participators are slightly more likely to be every type of elite:

business, political, and military. They are more likely to be immigrants and they are more likely to be immigrants from the Middle East. They are more central in the marriage network, and have a higher degree. They also tend to have larger families and slightly lower quality genealogical data.

[Table A.2 about here.]

The importer sample exhibits similar patterns. Coup participators are more likely to be immigrants, both from the Middle East and in general. They are more likely to have past political and military elites in their families. Their weighted Bonacich centrality and degree is higher, and they have larger families and lower reachability.

Table A.2 also shows summary statistics on product characteristics of coup participators vs. non-participators. Their average market share is similar to that of non-participators, but the total value of trade of participators in our 2009 and 2011 trade data is higher: \$19.05 million for coup participators and \$13.42 million for non-participators.<sup>14</sup> There are no meaningful differences across any product characteristics.

## **A.2 Determinants of Centrality**

Table A.3 examines the correlates of centrality. We regress family centrality on a variety of covariates to examine possible sources of endogeneity. As per our model, we use a measure of centrality in which nodes are weighted by the value of their business interests, and we also weight edges by family size to take into account the fact that larger families have more opportunities to form marriage ties. Within the sample of all elite families in Columns 1 and 2, centrality is correlated with being from a family that immigrated to Haiti during the 20th century, and even more so if that family immigrated from the Middle East. Business elites are also more central. In the importer only sample in Columns 3-6, in addition to a family's immigration history, the value of their contemporary imports is positively related to centrality, as are some product characteristics. Specifically, central families are more likely to import products that

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<sup>14</sup>The value of trade is calculated using prices from the U.S. Census Bureau and quantities from the AGEMAR data.

are more time sensitive, less bulky, and less divisible. Importantly, characteristics that might independently predict coup participation, such as being a military or political elite, seem to be uncorrelated with centrality. Nonetheless, we will control for all covariates in our specifications

[Table A.3 about here.]

### **Product data summary statistics**

[Table A.4 about here.]

### **DHS data summary statistics**

[Table A.5 about here.]

Table A.5 shows that children born during autocracy and democracy are roughly equally urban and female. Children born during autocracy are on average younger at the time of the DHS survey. This is a function of the timing of the DHS, as children are weighed and measured by DHS enumerators at four different points in time in our panel, making it important to control carefully for age in our specification. Last, children born during autocracy are shorter and lighter than their democratic peers. Our measure of the weight-for-age and height-for-age Z-scores are multiplied by 100, so a value of -100 means that a child is one standard deviation below the global reference mean.

## B Model Appendix

To complete the development of the model in the text we now present the value functions for the players when the political state is a dictatorship. Let's now consider the payoffs to citizens first.

$$\begin{aligned}
 & V^c(N | a(N), a(D), \tau(D)) \\
 = & \max_{\tau(N) \geq 1} \{p(a(N))(W^c(\tau(N)) + \beta V^c(N | a(N), a(D), \tau(D))) \\
 & + (1 - p(a(N)))(W^c(\tau(D)) + \beta V^c(D | a(N), a(D), \tau(D)))\},
 \end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

We can now write the value function for a member of the elite as

$$\begin{aligned}
 & V^e(N | a^{-e}(D), a^{-e}(N), \tau(D), \tau(N)) \\
 = & \max_{a_e(N) \in [0,1]} \left\{ -\chi(a_e) + p(a_e, a^{-e}(N)) \times \right. \\
 & \left[ \sum_{m=1}^M w_{em} (\tau_m(N) - 1) q_m \kappa - \mathbf{1}_{e \in \mathcal{E}} \frac{\tau(N)^2}{2|\mathcal{E}|} \right. \\
 & \left. \left. + \beta V^e(N | a^{-e}(D), a^{-e}(N), \tau(D), \tau(N)) \right] \right. \\
 & \left. + (1 - p(a_e, a^{-e}(N))) \beta V^e(D | a^{-e}(D), a^{-e}(N), \tau(D), \tau(N)) \right\}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

The important point about (16) is that the decision problem facing members of the elite who are trying to gain control over the tax rate and preserve dictatorship is identical to that they face when they are trying to overthrow democracy in the first place. This implies that the optimal action vectors are the same because the costs and the 'prize' is the same.

## **C Robustness checks: Coup participation**

### **C.1 Methodology to determine weighting parameter**

To determine the appropriate weighting parameter, we regress coup participation on the number of connections that a family has to coup participators. The coefficient on this measure of coup degree is the appropriate weighting parameter  $\frac{1}{8}$  to calculate Bonacich centrality in the entire network. Table C.1 shows the results of this analysis.

[Table C.1 about here.]

### **C.2 Robustness to alternative periods of the network data**

In this section we test whether our results are robust to stricter temporal cutoffs. One source of concern in our analysis is that reverse causality could be driving our results if families that participate in the coup are more likely to marry into each other post-coup. Using older versions of the network data that are more likely to temporally predate the coup mitigates against the risk of such reverse causality. The specifications presented in each column of Table C.2 have the same controls as the corresponding specifications in Table 1. Panel A of Table C.2 presents the results from the main table. Panel B presents results using a version of the network that is truncated at cohorts born in 1950, and Panel C truncates the network at cohorts born in 1925.

[Table C.2 about here.]

### **C.3 Robustness to weighting by measures of data quality**

One source of noise in our data comes from misattribution of families with the same last name to family dynasties. We have interpreted all individuals with the same last name as members of the same dynasty. However, in some cases common names can be shared across families. In the following table we weight the degree to which individuals with the same last name can reach each other in the sub-graph consisting of only that last name.

To examine robustness to the possibility that last names are not capturing family dynasties, we calculate an additional statistic using the subgraph of individuals that share a last name as a measure of data quality, which we call reachability. Reachability is the probability that an individual with a certain last name is connected through some path of marriage or parentage to another individual with the same last name. We calculate this probability for each node in a last-name subgraph and then take the average across all nodes in the subgraph to get a family reachability. Reachability is a good measure of the quality of our network data because it picks up two types of measurement error in the social network: first, if there are two separate family dynasties in Haiti that share the same last name but are not actually connected by kinship. Second, if we are missing marriage links between some individuals due to missing data.

A dynasty with reachability of less than one could be due to our misattribution of two families with the same last name to the same dynasty, or it could be due to missing links in our network data. In either case, it introduces measurement error. Figures C.1a and C.1b show examples of dynasties with high and low measures of reachability. These two figures use data from actual families in our database that have the same number of individual members but differ in their reachability. The size of the nodes shows the cohort of each individual, with smaller nodes indicating earlier family members. Links represent parent-child relationships.

Figures C.1c and C.1d show the distribution of reachability in our sample of all elites and our importer sample.

[Figure C.1 about here.]

We deal with this measurement error by testing whether our coefficients are robust to least squares regression weighted by the quality of the network data, as measured by each family's reachability score. Table C.3 shows the results of this analysis. In this table, we use the standardized weighted Bonacich centrality with  $\frac{1}{8} = 0.2$  as our independent variable of interest and an adjacency matrix that takes into account the size of each family.

[Table C.3 about here.]

Table C.3 shows that the relationship between centrality and coup participation is similar in magnitude and more significant once we take variation in data quality into account.

## C.4 Robustness to varying weights in centrality calculation

We also assess the robustness of our results to various ways of calculating centrality. As discussed in Section 6.1, our main results are based on a measure of centrality that is calculated using weights for both the nodes and the edges. Our theory implies that an agent's action should be increasing in his Bonacich centrality, where nodes are weighted by the profits that the agent would make during autocracy. To take into account the fact that the probability of a link between two families is also a function of the number of members in each family, we down-weight large families by also weighting the network edges by the inverse of the product of each family's size,  $\frac{1}{size_e * size_m^{\frac{1}{2}}}$ . In this section we recreate our analysis of the determinants of coup participation in Table 1 using various alternative node and edge weights to calculate centrality. Table C.4 presents the coefficients on the centrality measure from regressions that also include all of the controls from the corresponding specifications in Table 1.

[Table C.4 about here.]

The coefficients presented here are on the measure of centrality calculated by varying the node and edge weights. The first results presented are our original results, with node weight based on the value of a families trade calculated using prices in 2002 and edge weights based on the inverse of the product of the sizes of the connected families. The second row of results present the coefficient on centrality calculated with no node or edge weights. The third and fourth row vary the node weights by calculating the value of a family's trade using the average prices between 2002 and 2012, or during the autocratic period from March 2004 to January 2006, respectively. The final set of results replace the edge weights based on the product of the two family sizes with the inverse sum.

Table C.4 shows that the results on centrality are quite similar in magnitude, and in most cases remain significant, when we vary the node and edge weights used to calculate centrality.



## D Robustness Checks: Prices

### D.1 Serial Correlation

Our preferred specification includes four lags of the dependent variable. These lags are necessary to take into account dynamic processes in prices, but under some circumstances they can also raise difficulties in estimation. In this section we discuss these potential estimation problems and present the results of empirical tests of our additional assumptions.

One concern when estimating models with both fixed effects and lagged dependent variables is Nickell bias (Nickell, 1981; Alvarez and Arellano, 2003). However, this bias decreases as the number of time periods in a model go up: Judson and Owen (1999) show using simulations that this bias is around 1% when  $T = 30$ , so in our case with around 140 time periods it will be negligible. An alternative is to use the standard GMM estimators that are consistent in the presence of a lagged dependent variable, but these become biased for large  $T$  as they will run into the “many instruments” problem, as the instruments increase with  $T^2$ , leading to a worst case of 19600 instruments with only 2250 observations. This can be overcome by restricting the number of moments used in the estimation which we do in Table D.2. Again results are consistent than our main OLS specification.

Models with lagged dependent variables can also be biased if the lagged dependent variable is a unit root. In these cases, the sampling distributions of the coefficients are not normal. To test for whether our time series has a unit root, we test for whether the linear combination of the lags is equal to one. The lags in columns 2-5 of Table 2 add up to 0.96 (with only one lag), 0.946, 0.945, and 0.944, respectively. The coefficients from tests of whether the linear combination of the coefficients on the lagged dependent variables equal one are all significant at the 1% level, which means that we can reject the null hypothesis that there is a unit root in all four of the specifications in Columns 2-5 of Table 2.

Last, we test whether our coefficient of interest is robust to assuming autocorrelation parameters between 0.9 and 1. Assuming an autocorrelation coefficient eliminates the threat of bias that exists in the specifications where we estimate both the autocorrelation and our coefficient of interest. In Table D.1 we test whether our preferred specification of Column 5 in Table 2 is

robust to autocorrelation coefficients in this range of parameters around our estimated getting increasingly close to 1.

[Table D.1 about here.]

Table D.1 shows that the estimate of the coefficient of interest on  $Coup_i \times Autocracy_t$  remains statistically significant up to an imposed autocorrelation of 1 (equivalent using the price growth rates as the dependent variable). This is well above our estimated autocorrelation of around 0.945. At an imposed autocorrelation of 0.95, our estimated coefficient of 0.016 is statistically indistinguishable from the result of 0.015 reported in Column 5 of our main Table 2.

[Table D.2 about here.]

## **D.2 Robustness to inclusion of product controls**

Table D.3 tests whether the price regressions shown above are robust to including the interactions of product characteristics and autocracy.

[Table D.3 about here.]

Table D.3 shows that the effect of coup participation during autocratic periods is robust to including three of five product characteristics, in addition to the product-level measures of Consumption Share and Number of Firms, interacted with Autocracy. There are no robust relationships between the product characteristics and prices during autocracy.

## **D.3 Robustness to weights for data quality**

We also run a test to estimate the sensitivity of our results to non-random missingness in our data. There are three kinds of missingness that we are most worried about. First, there is non-random missingness in our data on which firms import which products. Specifically, for each product we have data on the firm that imports around 90% of the volume of trade. Missingness is concentrated in products that are imported in bulk such as sugar, kerosene, rice, and edible oil.

Second, there is non-random missingness in the extent to which we could identify the families that own each firm. For our CPI products, we are able to identify on average 64-65% of the importing families by quantity, weight or value of imports. Generally, we are less able to identify the owners of firms that import less, so missingness tends to be higher for products with lower market concentration such as sandals, furniture, and beauty care. Though this means that we have non-random measurement error it also suggests that we are able to identify a higher proportion of large and influential importers, who we find are the most likely to participate in coups. Last, we may have measurement error in the extent to which our data from 2009 and 2011 represents shipping historical shipping patterns in Haiti, which we were unable to obtain. As a measure of this potential error, we calculate the volume of shipments by shipper in 2009 that also occurred in 2011.

We use a series of regressions in which we weight observations by these measures of data quality to test the sensitivity of our results to these data limitations. Table D.4 shows the results of an analysis of the relationship between prices during autocracy and coup participation using weights based on our measures of data quality. Each of these weights is a measure that varies between 0 and 1 and is calculated at the product level.

[Table D.4 about here.]

Table D.4 shows that our results are generally stronger when we weight the data by measures of our confidence in its quality. Column 1 presents the results from our preferred specification in our original table of results, Table 2, without any weights. Column 2 presents this same specification estimated using weighted OLS with the proportion of the volume of trade in each product where we identified the family as the weight. The coefficient in this specification is slightly smaller in magnitude but more significance than in the original specification. Column 3 presents the results using the proportion of firms that we were able to identify in each product as the weight. The coefficient on  $\text{Coup} \times \text{Autocracy}$  is slightly smaller than in Column 1 but still significant at the 5% level. In Column 4 we use a weighted specification where the weights are the proportion of firm-product trade in 2009 that is also imported in 2011. In this specification, the coefficient increases in magnitude to 0.023 and gains in significance. In the last column,

we use a “combined weight” that is the product of the three weights in columns 2-4. Again, the coefficient on Coup  $\times$  Autocracy is larger in magnitude once we take our measures of data quality into account and significant at the 5% level.

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# Tables

Table 1: Coup Participation

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>									
	Coup									
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
Centrality	0.213*** (0.055)	0.188*** (0.054)	0.098 (0.064)	0.077 (0.069)	0.193*** (0.059)	0.172*** (0.058)	0.199*** (0.065)	0.130* (0.072)	0.139* (0.072)	0.138* (0.076)
Family Size		0.057*** (0.013)	0.045*** (0.014)	0.052*** (0.015)		0.082*** (0.021)	0.082*** (0.021)	0.072*** (0.026)	0.068*** (0.026)	0.066** (0.030)
Political Elite			0.059 (0.044)	0.038 (0.051)				0.052 (0.084)	0.051 (0.085)	0.042 (0.095)
Military Elite			0.117*** (0.037)	0.106*** (0.041)				0.066 (0.101)	0.075 (0.104)	0.058 (0.110)
Business Elite			0.050 (0.043)	0.048 (0.048)						
Middle Eastern			0.248*** (0.095)	0.298*** (0.105)				0.168 (0.120)	0.172 (0.124)	0.217 (0.141)
Immigrant			0.057 (0.059)	0.051 (0.065)				0.078 (0.098)	0.087 (0.099)	0.083 (0.108)
Value							-0.020 (0.030)	-0.021 (0.030)	-0.004 (0.036)	-0.011 (0.040)
Consumption Share							0.026 (0.052)	0.024 (0.046)	0.019 (0.050)	0.012 (0.053)
All Inputs							-0.015 (0.139)	0.012 (0.143)	0.173 (0.183)	0.175 (0.212)
Product Chars.									✓	✓
Community FE				72						22
Sample		All elite				Importers				
Observations	716	716	716	716	217	217	217	217	217	217
R <sup>2</sup>	0.017	0.042	0.075	0.152	0.034	0.087	0.092	0.125	0.142	0.205

Robust standard errors in parentheses.

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

Table 2: Prices of goods imported by coup participators during autocratic periods

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>							
	Haiti retail price						Haiti supply price	World supply price
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Coup × Autocracy	0.188** (0.073) [0.067]	0.022*** (0.006) [0.006]	0.021*** (0.005) [0.005]	0.021*** (0.006) [0.005]	0.018** (0.007) [0.006]	0.023*** (0.008) [0.007]	0.190 (0.332) [0.314]	0.066 (0.066) [0.063]
Coup × Quake	0.102 (0.150)	0.074 (0.047)	0.072 (0.047)	0.072 (0.047)	0.069* (0.041)	0.069 (0.045)	0.717*** (0.270)	-0.218 (0.157)
Centrality × Autocracy						0.001** (0.0003)		
Centrality × Quake						0.00005 (0.002)		
World Supply Price				0.001 (0.004)	-0.0003 (0.004)	-0.0003 (0.004)		
Number Firms × Autocracy					-0.003 (0.002)	-0.002 (0.002)		
Consumption Share × Autocracy					-0.0005 (0.001)	-0.0004 (0.0005)		
Month FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Product FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Number of Lagged DVs		1	4	4	4	4	4	4
Product × Conflict Events					✓	✓		
Observations	2,538	2,448	2,250	2,214	2,214	2,214	1,938	2,304
Clusters	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
Breusch-Godfrey test (p-value)	<0.001	<0.001	0.82	0.86	0.7	0.666	0.159	<0.001
Joint Signif. of Lags (p-value)		<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
Unit Root (p-value)		<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001

Standard errors clustered at the product level in parentheses. Cameron, Gelbach and Miller's (2008) wild bootstrap clusters in square brackets below the main coefficient of interest to account for the small number of clusters.

\* significant at  $p < .10$ ; \*\*  $p < .05$ ; \*\*\*  $p < .01$

Table 3: Impact of autocracy on child welfare

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>							
	Weight				Height			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Urban × Autocracy	-12.78*	-11.96***	-5.88	-14.41***	-13.90*	-12.08***	-13.92**	-16.08***
	(7.62)	(4.45)	(7.32)	(4.77)	(7.42)	(4.66)	(6.63)	(5.11)
Urban × Quake	-9.44	-12.21	-6.79	-14.94*	-14.76	-14.47*	-10.27	-17.48**
	(10.20)	(7.85)	(8.09)	(7.99)	(11.84)	(7.94)	(8.48)	(8.07)
Urban × Conflict (Log)	-5.22	-3.91*	-10.96***	-3.20	-10.33***	-9.61***	-14.95***	-9.24***
	(3.52)	(2.08)	(3.94)	(2.11)	(3.41)	(2.17)	(3.44)	(2.20)
Urban	53.58***	49.09***	79.05***	49.70***	83.89***	80.35***	102.90***	81.75***
	(12.54)	(7.60)	(15.86)	(7.63)	(12.68)	(8.15)	(13.97)	(8.19)
Autocracy	-25.33***				-24.77***			
	(5.91)				(5.30)			
Quake	-9.02				-13.70			
	(6.45)				(8.90)			
Conflict (Log)	0.97	-52.95**	-52.82	2.28	4.01*	24.98	-34.37	138.38**
	(2.57)	(24.31)	(75.99)	(56.98)	(2.39)	(25.91)	(81.50)	(57.39)
Female	6.51***	6.30***	4.08	5.41**	12.71***	12.51***	9.88***	12.38***
	(2.08)	(2.03)	(3.05)	(2.16)	(2.23)	(2.26)	(3.34)	(2.40)
Age	-7.40***	-9.45***	-5.11***	-6.90***	-6.26***	-8.03***	-4.08**	-7.78***
	(0.41)	(1.22)	(1.80)	(1.65)	(0.38)	(1.31)	(1.92)	(1.70)
Age <sup>2</sup>	0.10***	0.10***	0.04	0.07***	0.08***	0.08***	0.02	0.08***
	(0.01)	(0.02)	(0.03)	(0.02)	(0.01)	(0.02)	(0.03)	(0.03)
Birth Linear Trend	✓				✓			
Birth Month FE		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Observations	14,122	14,122	6,888	12,612	14,122	14,122	6,888	12,612
R <sup>2</sup>	0.11	0.15	0.14	0.08	0.10	0.13	0.12	0.10
Mean Dep. Var	-92.8	-92.8	-86.9	-106	-104.4	-104.4	-96	-114.6
Clusters	482	482	256	438	482	482	256	438
Sample	1991+	1991+	2001+	6 month+	1991+	1991+	2001+	6 month+

Standard errors clustered at the birth month-area (urban vs. rural) level in parentheses

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



Table A.1: Summary Statistics: Family-level data - All elite sample

		Coup			Non-coup		
		N	Mean	St. Dev.	N	Mean	St. Dev.
Social	Political elite	212	0.71	0.45	828	0.62	0.49
	Military elite	212	0.42	0.49	828	0.29	0.45
	Business elite	212	0.43	0.50	828	0.34	0.47
	Immigrant	212	0.22	0.42	828	0.08	0.27
	Middle Eastern	212	0.10	0.31	828	0.02	0.15
	Bonacich centrality	202	56.87	164.79	514	25.52	71.95
	Degree	202	19.23	21.89	514	13.54	16.55
	Family size	202	25.38	29.78	514	18.84	24.73
	Reachability	202	0.35	0.27	514	0.53	0.30

Table A.2: Summary Statistics: Family-level data - Importer sample

		Coup			Non-coup		
		N	Mean	St. Dev.	N	Mean	St. Dev.
Social	Immigrant	76	0.38	0.49	225	0.17	0.38
	Middle Eastern	76	0.22	0.42	225	0.08	0.27
	Political elite	76	0.46	0.50	225	0.21	0.41
	Military elite	76	0.24	0.43	225	0.08	0.28
	Bonacich centrality	73	150.86	248.50	144	81.94	118.53
	Degree	73	26.37	29.59	144	16.60	19.81
	Family size	73	33.93	39.41	144	22.18	27.87
	Reachability	73	0.36	0.28	144	0.57	0.30
Economic	Market share	76	0.07	0.11	225	0.08	0.12
	Value (mil USD)	76	16.31	47.95	225	7.89	21.89
	Consumption share	52	0.46	0.63	131	0.37	0.56
	All inputs	76	0.87	0.28	225	0.87	0.27
	Bulkiness	76	3.62	2.99	225	3.98	2.83
	Divisibility	76	4.90	2.23	225	4.98	2.20
	Reference price	76	1.32	0.55	225	1.25	0.53
	Time sensitivity	76	0.00	0.01	225	0.00	0.01
Complexity	76	1.66	1.69	225	1.72	1.77	

Table A.3: Determinants of Centrality

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>					
	Centrality					
	Centrality					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Middle Eastern	0.32** (0.14)	0.33** (0.14)	0.29 (0.18)	0.31* (0.18)	0.20 (0.16)	0.22 (0.15)
Immigrant	0.08** (0.04)	0.08* (0.04)	0.21** (0.09)	0.19** (0.09)	0.20** (0.08)	0.19** (0.08)
Reachability	0.04 (0.03)	0.04 (0.03)	0.10 (0.09)	0.11 (0.10)	0.14 (0.09)	0.11 (0.09)
Military	-0.01 (0.02)	-0.01 (0.02)	0.01 (0.08)	-0.01 (0.08)	-0.05 (0.07)	-0.09 (0.08)
Political	-0.01 (0.03)	-0.01 (0.03)	0.07 (0.06)	0.05 (0.06)	0.03 (0.06)	0.04 (0.05)
Business	0.15*** (0.02)	0.15*** (0.02)				
Family Size (Log)		0.01 (0.01)		0.03 (0.02)	0.02 (0.02)	0.02 (0.02)
Business Value (Mil USD)					0.005*** (0.001)	0.004*** (0.001)
Consumption Share						0.01 (0.02)
All Inputs						-0.05 (0.11)
Reference Price						-0.03 (0.02)
Complexity						0.02 (0.03)
Time Sensitivity						0.04** (0.02)
Bulkiness						-0.06** (0.02)
Divisibility						-0.06** (0.03)
Constant	-0.79*** (0.03)	-0.81*** (0.04)	-0.69*** (0.06)	-0.79*** (0.09)	-0.82*** (0.09)	-0.83*** (0.11)
Observations	716	716	217	217	217	217
R <sup>2</sup>	0.23	0.23	0.14	0.15	0.31	0.37
Sample	All Elite			Importers		

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

Robust standard errors in parentheses.

The outcome variable is the standardized weighted Bonacich centrality of a family in the marriage network where the parameter  $\frac{1}{8}$  is set to 0.02. The adjacency matrix used to calculate centrality is weighted by the number of members in each family to take into account the higher propensity of large families to connect with each other and the value of a family's trade. Immigrant measures whether a family is recorded as having naturalized as a citizen after independence. Middle Eastern takes a value of 1 if the immigrant came from Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, or Palestine. Military Elite and Political Elite take a value of 1 if a member of the family held a position in government or the military between independence and the end of the Duvalier era in 1986 (Supplice, 2001). Business elite takes a value of 1 if a member of the family is an owner in our business database. The social distance measures are calculated using data on the marriage network from the *Association Généalogique d'Haïti*. The measure of a family's interest in autocracy is the total value of each family's trade in the AGEMAR trade data. Models are estimated using OLS.

Table A.4: Summary Statistics: Product data

Product	Firms	Fams	Coup	Cent.	Middle Eastern	Share Consumption
	N			Weighted Mean		Percent
Beauty care	56	42	0.57	11.00	0.81	0.20
Bread	18	14	0.58	10.82	0.83	0.53
Chicken	12	9	0.92	3.15	0.92	0.22
Cigarettes	2	6	1.00	8.77	1.00	0.37
Cola	12	17	0.69	4.82	0.60	0.16
Corn meal	6	6	0.66	3.97	0.36	0.45
Dry peas	5	6	0.55	13.55	0.88	0.00
Edible oil	5	10	0.43	6.08	1.00	3.10
Evaporated milk	10	12	0.49	14.83	0.59	0.38
Fabric	23	15	0.52	7.89	0.67	1.15
Fresh fish	10	7	0.42	9.55	0.67	1.28
Furniture	19	19	0.38	11.10	0.63	0.01
Kerosene	5	3	0.76	7.65	1.00	0.85
Laundry soap	24	19	0.35	7.42	0.81	0.00
Medicine	11	12	0.31	5.10	0.50	0.73
Raw sugar	8	6	0.70	7.35	0.85	0.51
Rice	7	6	0.88	5.51	1.00	2.26
Sandals	23	7	0.65	0.63	0.00	0.00

Table A.5: Summary Statistics: Child health outcomes data

	Democracy			Autocracy		
	N	Mean	St. Dev.	N	Mean	St. Dev.
Urban	11643	0.3	0.5	3207	0.4	0.5
Female	11643	0.5	0.5	3207	0.5	0.5
Age	11643	29.9	17.0	3207	16.5	10.7
Weight (tenths kg)	11482	114.6	35.4	3034	89.5	35.6
Height (tenths cm)	11469	842.7	139.5	3026	734.5	104.8
Weight (Z-score)	11229	-90.3	122.8	2893	-102.8	139.5
Height (Z-score)	11229	-102.3	137.3	2893	-112.7	146.7

Table C.1: Centrality in the Network of Coup Participants

	(1)	(2)
Coup Degree	0.229** (0.089)	0.253* (0.146)
Observations	716	217
R <sup>2</sup>	0.011	0.015
Sample	All elite	Importers

Robust standard errors in parentheses.

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

The outcome variable is a binary measure of whether a family participated in the coup, as measured by whether the family is on the 1991 U.S. Treasury targeted sanctions list. The measure Coup Degree is the number of connections that a family has to coup participants. Models are estimated using OLS.

Table C.2: Robustness to earlier versions of the network

<i>Dependent variable:</i>										
Coup										
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
<b>Panel A: 1850-1975 Marriage Network</b>										
Centrality	0.213*** (0.055)	0.188*** (0.054)	0.098 (0.064)	0.097 (0.063)	0.193*** (0.059)	0.213*** (0.067)	0.221*** (0.068)	0.147* (0.075)	0.139* (0.072)	0.14* (0.072)
Observations	716	716	716	716	217	217	217	217	217	217
R <sup>2</sup>	0.017	0.042	0.075	0.077	0.034	0.04	0.059	0.116	0.142	0.143
<b>Panel B: 1850-1950 Marriage Network</b>										
Centrality	0.202*** (0.057)	0.178*** (0.056)	0.08 (0.066)	0.081 (0.066)	0.175*** (0.062)	0.197*** (0.069)	0.209*** (0.07)	0.123 (0.078)	0.117 (0.075)	0.12 (0.074)
Observations	699	699	699	699	209	209	209	209	209	209
R <sup>2</sup>	0.014	0.04	0.078	0.08	0.027	0.032	0.048	0.114	0.139	0.14
<b>Panel C: 1850-1925 Marriage Network</b>										
Centrality	0.156*** (0.053)	0.126** (0.055)	0.067 (0.058)	0.067 (0.058)	0.125** (0.061)	0.153** (0.071)	0.172** (0.074)	0.116 (0.075)	0.105 (0.075)	0.107 (0.075)
Observations	659	659	659	659	191	191	191	191	191	191
R <sup>2</sup>	0.014	0.032	0.077	0.078	0.021	0.027	0.05	0.127	0.135	0.136
Sample	All elite						Importers			

Robust standard errors in parentheses.

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

The outcome variable is a binary measure of whether a family participated in the coup, as measured by whether the family is on the 1991 U.S. Treasury targeted sanctions list. The measure of centrality is the standardized weighted Bonacich centrality of a family in the marriage network where the parameter  $\frac{1}{\delta}$  is set to 0.02. In Panel A, the network is restricted to nodes born between 1850 and 1975, in Panel B to nodes born between 1850 and 1950, and in Panel C to nodes born between 1850 and 1925. The adjacency matrix used to calculate centrality is weighted by the number of members in each family to take into account the higher propensity of large families to connect with each other. Data quality weights are constructed using network data from all time periods and represent for each last name the average proportion of other nodes with that last name that can be reached from a single node of that last name, or the reachability within each last name across nodes. Immigrant measures whether a family is recorded as having naturalized as a citizen after independence. Middle Eastern takes a value of 1 if the immigrant came from Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, or Palestine. The measures of political eliteness Military Elite and Political Elite take a value of 1 if a member of the family held a position in government or the military between independence and the end of the Duvalier era in 1986 (Supplice, 2001). The social distance measures are calculated using data on the marriage network from the *Association Genealogique d'Haïti*. The measure of a family's interest in autocracy is the total value of each family's trade in 2009 and 2011, which is calculated from the AGEMAR trade data. Models are estimated using OLS.

Table C.3: Robustness to weights based on quality of network data

		<i>Dependent variable:</i>									
		Coup									
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	
Centrality	0.237*** (0.056)	0.218*** (0.055)	0.160** (0.066)	0.160** (0.066)	0.241*** (0.061)	0.210*** (0.059)	0.207*** (0.066)	0.158** (0.071)	0.157** (0.073)	0.157** (0.073)	
Family Size		0.028** (0.013)	0.036** (0.015)	0.036** (0.015)		0.056*** (0.022)	0.051** (0.022)	0.052* (0.027)	0.045* (0.027)	0.045* (0.027)	
Social Characteristics		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Economic Characteristics							✓	✓	✓	✓	
Product Characteristics									✓	✓	
Community FE				72						22	
Observations	716	716	716	716	217	217	217	217	217	217	
R <sup>2</sup>	0.024	0.033	0.143	0.143	0.054	0.090	0.108	0.130	0.163	0.163	
Sample		All elite				Importers					

Robust standard errors in parentheses.

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

The outcome variable is a binary measure of whether a family participated in the coup, as measured by whether the family is on the 1991 U.S. Treasury targeted sanctions list. The measure of centrality is the standardized weighted Bonacich centrality of a family in the marriage network where the parameter  $\frac{1}{\delta}$  is set to 0.02. The adjacency matrix used to calculate centrality is weighted by the number of members in each family to take into account the higher propensity of large families to connect with each other. Data quality weights are constructed using network data from all time periods and represent for each last name the average proportion of other nodes with that last name that can be reached from a single node of that last name, or the reachability within each last name across nodes. Immigrant measures whether a family is recorded as having naturalized as a citizen after independence. Middle Eastern takes a value of 1 if the immigrant came from Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, or Palestine. The measures of political eliteness Military Elite and Political Elite take a value of 1 if a member of the family held a position in government or the military between independence and the end of the Duvalier era in 1986 (Supplice, 2001). The social distance measures are calculated using data on the marriage network from the *Association Genealogique d'Haïti*. The measure of a family's interest in autocracy is the total value of each family's trade in 2009 and 2011, which is calculated from the AGEMAR trade data. The communities are calculated using the walktrap algorithm with a walk distance of 3. Models are estimated using OLS.

Table C.4: Robustness to varying node and edge weights in the centrality measure

Nodes	Weights		Specification									
	Edges		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
$\log(value_{2002})$	$\frac{1}{(size_e * size_m)^{\frac{1}{2}}}$		0.21***	0.19***	0.1	0.08	0.19***	0.21***	0.22***	0.15*	0.14*	0.14*
			(0.06)	(0.05)	(0.06)	(0.07)	(0.06)	(0.07)	(0.07)	(0.08)	(0.07)	(0.08)
None	None		-0.03*	-0.03*	-0.03	-0.03*	-0.07**	-0.08**	-0.08**	-0.06*	-0.06*	-0.06*
			(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.04)
$\log(value_{2002-12})$	$\frac{1}{(size_e * size_m)^{\frac{1}{2}}}$		0.21***	0.19***	0.1	0.08	0.19***	0.21***	0.22***	0.15*	0.14*	0.14*
			(0.06)	(0.05)	(0.06)	(0.07)	(0.06)	(0.07)	(0.07)	(0.07)	(0.07)	(0.08)
$\log(value_{autocracy})$	$\frac{1}{(size_e * size_m)^{\frac{1}{2}}}$		0.21***	0.19***	0.1	0.08	0.19***	0.21***	0.22***	0.15*	0.14*	0.14*
			(0.05)	(0.05)	(0.06)	(0.07)	(0.06)	(0.07)	(0.07)	(0.08)	(0.07)	(0.08)
$\log(price_{2002})$	$\frac{1}{(size_e * size_m)^{\frac{1}{2}}}$		0.16***	0.13***	0.09*	0.07	0.14***	0.16***	0.16***	0.13**	0.11*	0.11
			(0.05)	(0.05)	(0.05)	(0.06)	(0.05)	(0.06)	(0.06)	(0.06)	(0.06)	(0.07)
$\log(value_{2002})$	$\frac{1}{(size_e + size_m)}$		0.21***	0.19***	0.1	0.08	0.19***	0.21***	0.22***	0.14*	0.14*	0.14*
			(0.06)	(0.05)	(0.06)	(0.07)	(0.06)	(0.07)	(0.07)	(0.08)	(0.07)	(0.08)
Observations			716	716	716	716	716	217	217	217	217	217
Sample			All elite					Importers				

Robust standard errors in parentheses.

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

This table presents the coefficients on centrality calculating using different node and edge weights from eight specifications (controls not shown). The outcome variable is a binary measure of whether a family participated in the coup, as measured by whether the family is on the 1991 U.S. Treasury targeted sanctions list. The measure of centrality is the standardized weighted Bonacich centrality of a family in the marriage network where the parameter  $\frac{1}{\delta}$  is set to 0.2. The social controls include Family size, Immigrant, Middle Eastern, and dummies for each type of elite (Military, Political, and in the All Elite sample, Business). The product controls include the Value of trade, All Inputs, Consumption Share, Reference Price, Complexity, Divisibility, Bulkiness, and Time Sensitivity. The social distance measures are calculated using data on the marriage network from the *Association Genealogique d'Haïti*. The communities are calculated using the walktrap algorithm with a walk distance of 3. Models are estimated using OLS.

Table D.1: Robustness to imposed autocorrelation coefficients

	<i>Imposed autocorrelation:</i>				
	$\rho = 0.9$	$\rho = 0.925$	$\rho = 0.95$	$\rho = 0.975$	$\rho = 1$
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Coup $\times$ Autocracy	0.024*** (0.008)	0.021*** (0.008)	0.018** (0.007)	0.016** (0.008)	0.013 (0.008)
Coup $\times$ Quake	0.077* (0.041)	0.073* (0.041)	0.069* (0.041)	0.065 (0.040)	0.061 (0.040)
World Supply Price	0.005 (0.006)	0.004 (0.004)	0.002 (0.003)	0.0001 (0.002)	-0.002 (0.003)
Number Firms $\times$ Autocracy	-0.004 (0.003)	-0.004 (0.003)	-0.003 (0.002)	-0.002 (0.002)	-0.002 (0.002)
Consumption Share $\times$ Autocracy	-0.0005 (0.001)	-0.0004 (0.001)	-0.0002 (0.001)	-0.0001 (0.001)	-0.00001 (0.001)
Month FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Product FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Product $\times$ Conflict Events	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Observations	2,322	2,322	2,322	2,322	2,322
Clusters	18	18	18	18	18

Standard errors clustered at the product level in parentheses

\* significant at  $p < .10$ ; \*\*  $p < .05$ ; \*\*\*  $p < .01$

The dependent variable is the retail price from the Haitian statistical institute *Institut Haïtien des Statistiques et Information*. All prices are indexed to Aug 2004. In Columns 1-4, we impose an autocorrelation coefficient of 0.90, 0.925, 0.95, and 0.975, respectively. The interaction term Coup  $\times$  Autocracy is the interaction between an indicator for being in an autocratic period and the proportion of the market that is controlled by families who participated in the 1991 coup, according to the US Office of Foreign Assets Control. Coup participation is calculated for each product as the average over all business owners that import that product, weighted by the value of their share of the product. The interaction term Coup  $\times$  Quake is the interaction between the coup proportion and being in the month after the January 2010 earthquake. World supply price is the log world supply price of each good by month from the U.S. Census Bureau in levels. In addition to the supply price, we control for the number of firms importing a particular product from the AGEMAR trade data and the consumption share of each good from Jensen, Johnson and Stampley (1990). The unit is the product-month and observations cover January 2001 to December 2012 with some missingness. Models are estimated using OLS.



Table D.2: Robustness to GMM estimators

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Coup $\times$ Autocracy	0.0251*** (0.00969)	0.0382** (0.0177)	0.0266* (0.0158)	0.0330* (0.0188)	0.0281 * (0.0152)
<i>N</i>	1278	1278	1278	1278	1278
Clusters	18	18	18	18	18
Lags of prices	4	4	4	4	4
Lags used for instruments	All Lags	Lags 1-10	Lags 2-10	Lags 1-8	Lags 2-8
Month FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Product FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Robust Standard errors in parentheses

\*  $p < .1$ , \*\*  $p < .05$ , \*\*\*  $p < .01$

Table D.3: Robustness of price results to controls for product characteristics

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>				
	price_log				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Coup × Autocracy	0.019** (0.008)	0.015** (0.007)	0.018*** (0.007)	0.015** (0.008)	0.008 (0.008)
Coup × Quake	0.068* (0.041)	0.068* (0.041)	0.068* (0.041)	0.068* (0.041)	0.068* (0.041)
Number Firms × Autocracy	-0.0003 (0.004)	-0.001 (0.004)	-0.001 (0.004)	-0.001 (0.004)	-0.001 (0.004)
Consumption Share × Autocracy	-0.003 (0.002)	-0.003 (0.002)	-0.002 (0.003)	-0.003 (0.002)	-0.002 (0.002)
World Supply Price	-0.0005 (0.001)	-0.0003 (0.001)	-0.0004 (0.001)	-0.0002 (0.001)	-0.0003 (0.001)
Bulkiness × Autocracy	0.0004 (0.002)			0.001 (0.002)	-0.001 (0.002)
Time Sensitivity × Autocracy		-0.001 (0.001)		-0.001 (0.001)	-0.001 (0.001)
Complexity × Autocracy			-0.001 (0.002)	-0.001 (0.002)	-0.001 (0.002)
Divisibility × Autocracy					0.002 (0.004)
Ref. Price × Autocracy					0.002 (0.001)
Product × Conflict Events	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lagged Dep. Var.	4	4	4	4	4
Month FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Product FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clusters	18	18	18	18	18
Observations	2,214	2,214	2,214	2,214	2,214

Note:

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

Standard errors clustered at the product level in parentheses

\* significant at  $p < .10$ ; \*\*  $p < .05$ ; \*\*\*  $p < .01$

The dependent variable is the retail price from the Haitian statistical institute *Institut Haïtien des Statistiques et Information*. All prices are indexed to Aug 2004. The interaction term Coup × Autocracy is the interaction between an indicator for being in an autocratic period and the proportion of the market that is controlled by families who participated in the 1991 coup, according to the US Office of Foreign Assets Control. Coup participation is calculated for each product as the average over all business owners that import that product, weighted by the value of their share of the product. The interaction term Coup × Quake is the interaction between the coup proportion and being in the month after the January 2010 earthquake. World supply price is the log world supply price of each good by month from the U.S. Census Bureau in levels. In addition to the supply price, we control for three other terms that affect an import firm's profits: the interaction of being in an autocratic period and the number of firms importing a particular profit from the AGEMAR trade data as well as the consumption share of each good from Jensen, Johnson and Stampley (1990). The third control is the interaction of product dummies and the number of conflict events not involving the Haitian elite from the GDELT data. The last five controls in the specification are product characteristics interacted with being in an autocratic period. The product measures Bulkiness and Divisibility are calculated from the PIERS trade data. Complexity is taken from the Hausmann et al. (2013). Reference Price is from Rauch (1999). Time Sensitivity is from Hummels (2007). The unit is the product-month and observations cover January 2001 to December 2012 with some missingness. Models are estimated using OLS.

Table D.4: Prices of goods imported by coup participators during autocratic periods using weights based on measures of data quality

	<i>Weights:</i>				
	None (1)	Fams id'd (%) (2)	Firms id'd (%) (3)	$\frac{Import_{11}}{Import_{09}}$ (4)	Combined weights (5)
Coup × Autocracy	0.018** (0.007)	0.017*** (0.006)	0.017** (0.007)	0.025*** (0.009)	0.023** (0.009)
Coup × Quake	0.068* (0.041)	0.060* (0.033)	0.045 (0.029)	0.198*** (0.058)	0.077* (0.040)
World Supply Price	−0.0004 (0.004)	0.002 (0.004)	0.002 (0.004)	−0.002 (0.005)	0.004 (0.005)
Number Firms × Autocracy	−0.003 (0.002)	−0.003 (0.002)	−0.003 (0.002)	−0.004 (0.003)	−0.005 (0.003)
Consumption Share × Autocracy	−0.0005 (0.001)	−0.001 (0.001)	−0.0004 (0.001)	−0.0002 (0.001)	−0.0003 (0.001)
Lagged Dep. Var.	4	4	4	4	4
Month FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Product FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Observations	2,214	2,214	2,214	2,214	2,214
Clusters	18	18	18	18	18

Standard errors clustered at the product level in parentheses

\* significant at  $p < .10$ ; \*\*  $p < .05$ ; \*\*\*  $p < .01$

The dependent variable is the retail price from the Haitian statistical institute *Institut Haïtien des Statistiques et Information*. All prices are indexed to Aug 2004. The interaction term Coup × Autocracy is the interaction between an indicator for being in an autocratic period and the proportion of the market that is controlled by families who participated in the 1991 coup, according to the US Office of Foreign Assets Control. Coup participation is calculated for each product as the average over all business owners that import that product, weighted by the value of their share of the product. The interaction term Coup × Quake is the interaction between the coup proportion and being in the month after the January 2010 earthquake. World supply price is the log world supply price of each good by month from the U.S. Census Bureau in levels. The unit is the product-month and observations cover January 2001 to December 2012 with some missingness. In addition to the supply price, we control for two other terms that affect an import firm's profits: the number of firms importing a particular profit from the AGEMAR trade data and the consumption share of each good from Jensen, Johnson and Stampley (1990). Both controls are logged and interacted with the Autocracy dummy. We also control for the interaction of the product dummies and the number of non-elite conflict events from the GDELT data. Models are estimated using OLS.

# Figures

Figure 1: Coefficients on centrality placing increasing weight on close ties

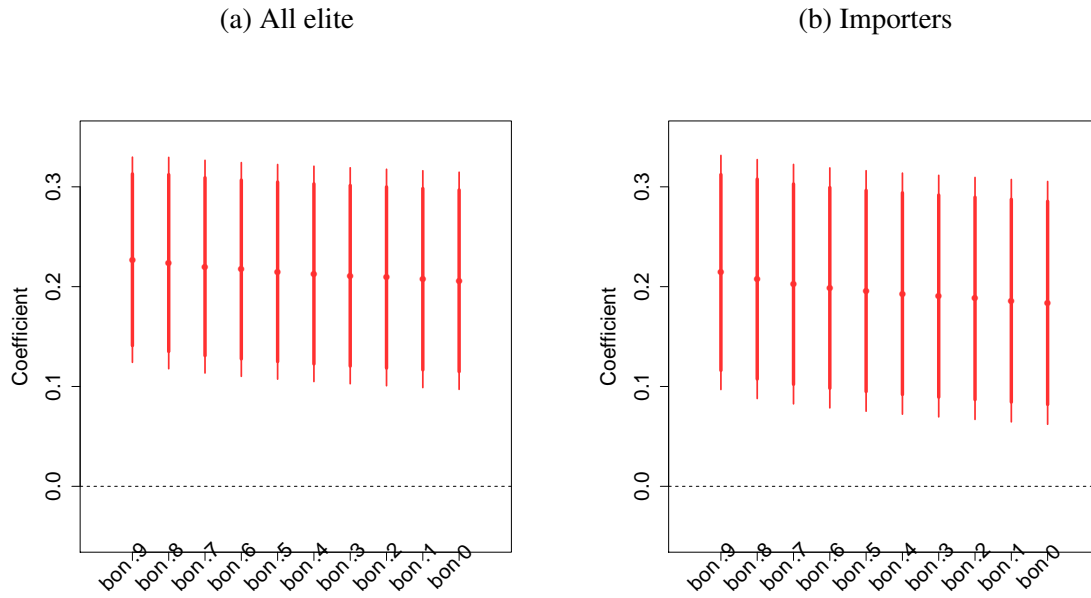


Figure 2: Robustness: Coefficient on Coup  $\times$  Autocracy dropping each product

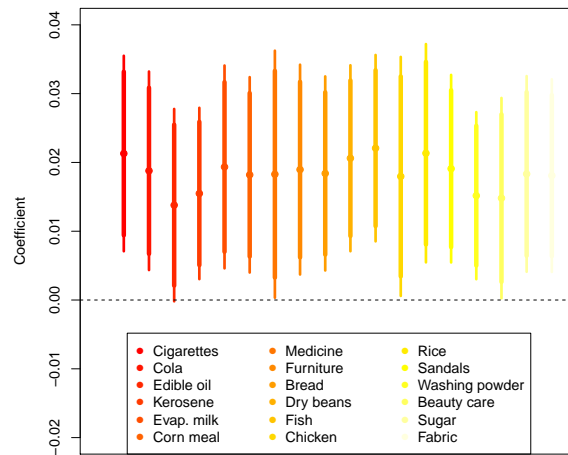


Figure 3: Placebo: Coefficient on Coup  $\times$  Autocracy after arbitrarily moving the window of autocracy

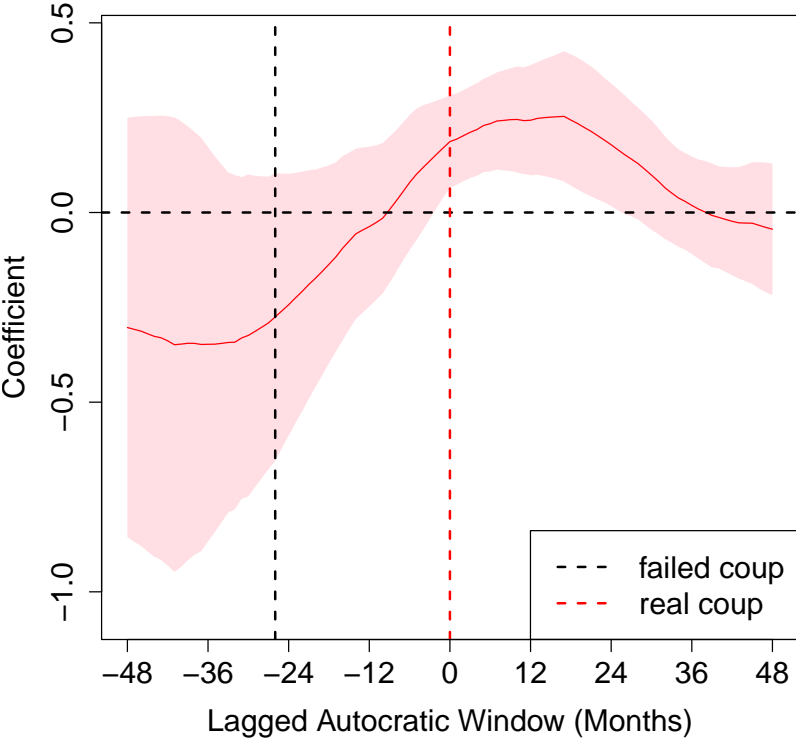


Figure A.1: Import quotas for 19 major families, 1984-1985 (Fass, 1990)

	SHARE OF QUOTA ALLOCATED TO IMPORTER (%)																	Total Share (%)	Total Importers		
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q			R	S
Household utensils, metal	7	92																		99	2
Household utensils, plastic	2	2	15	26	49															94	5
Shoes						70														70	1
Slippers	92																			92	1
Nails						65														65	1
V-8 juice	29								71											100	2
Vegetable and fruit juices	48								48											96	2
Toothpaste	3								62											65	2
Liquid disinfectant	11				14			14		39										78	4
Wrapping paper, cardboard	66							16												82	2
Paper and plastic bags	94																			94	1
Irons for pressing clothes		43		28			28													99	3
Paint											44	22	22							88	3
Hand soap	10		18						45											73	3
Candies	65							32												97	2
Textiles														31	12	37				80	3
Milk																	63	28		91	2
Spaghetti, macaroni, etc.	44																		56	100	2

Source: Reveco (1984).

Figure A.2: Diagram of dataset construction

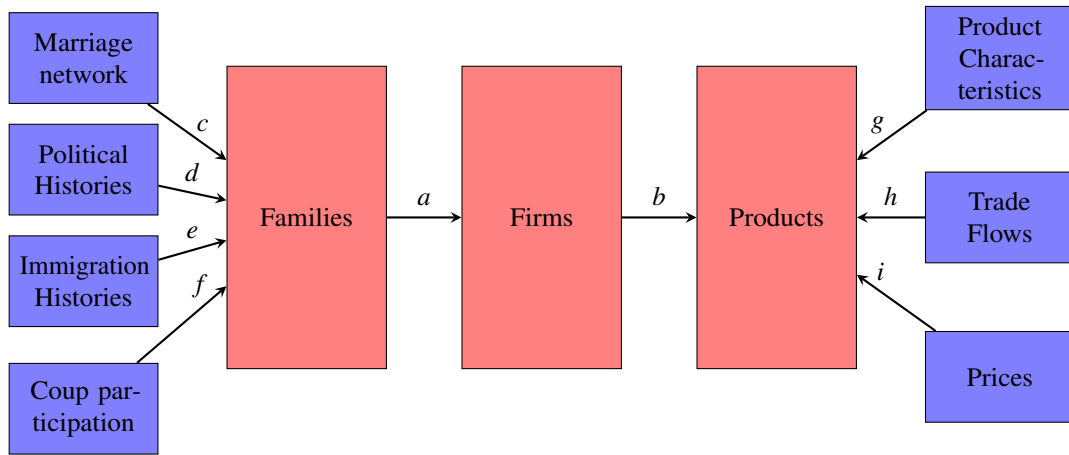
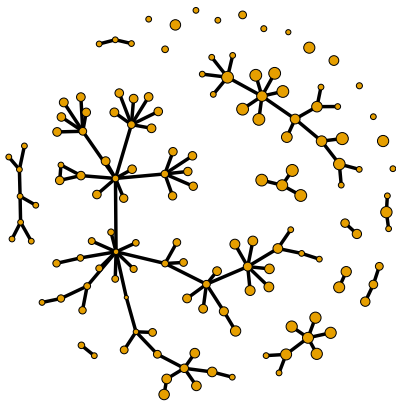
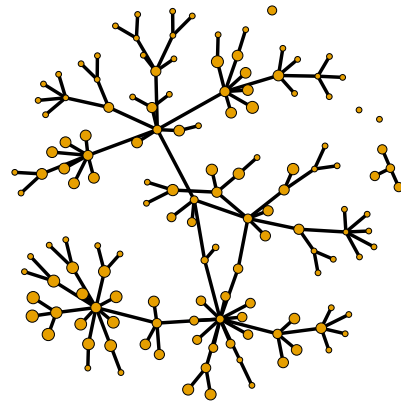


Figure C.1: Examples and Distribution of Reachability in the Haitian Marriage Network

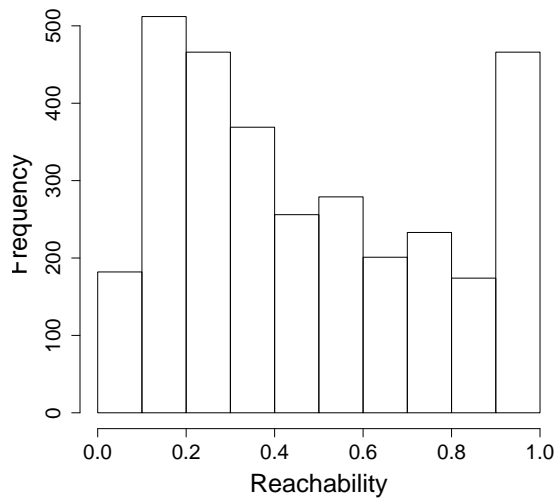
(a) Low reachability family



(b) High reachability family



(c) Histogram of reachability: All elite sample



(d) Histogram of reachability: Importer sample

