

THE POLITICAL LEGACY OF 19TH CENTURY POLITICIZATION AND REPRESSION

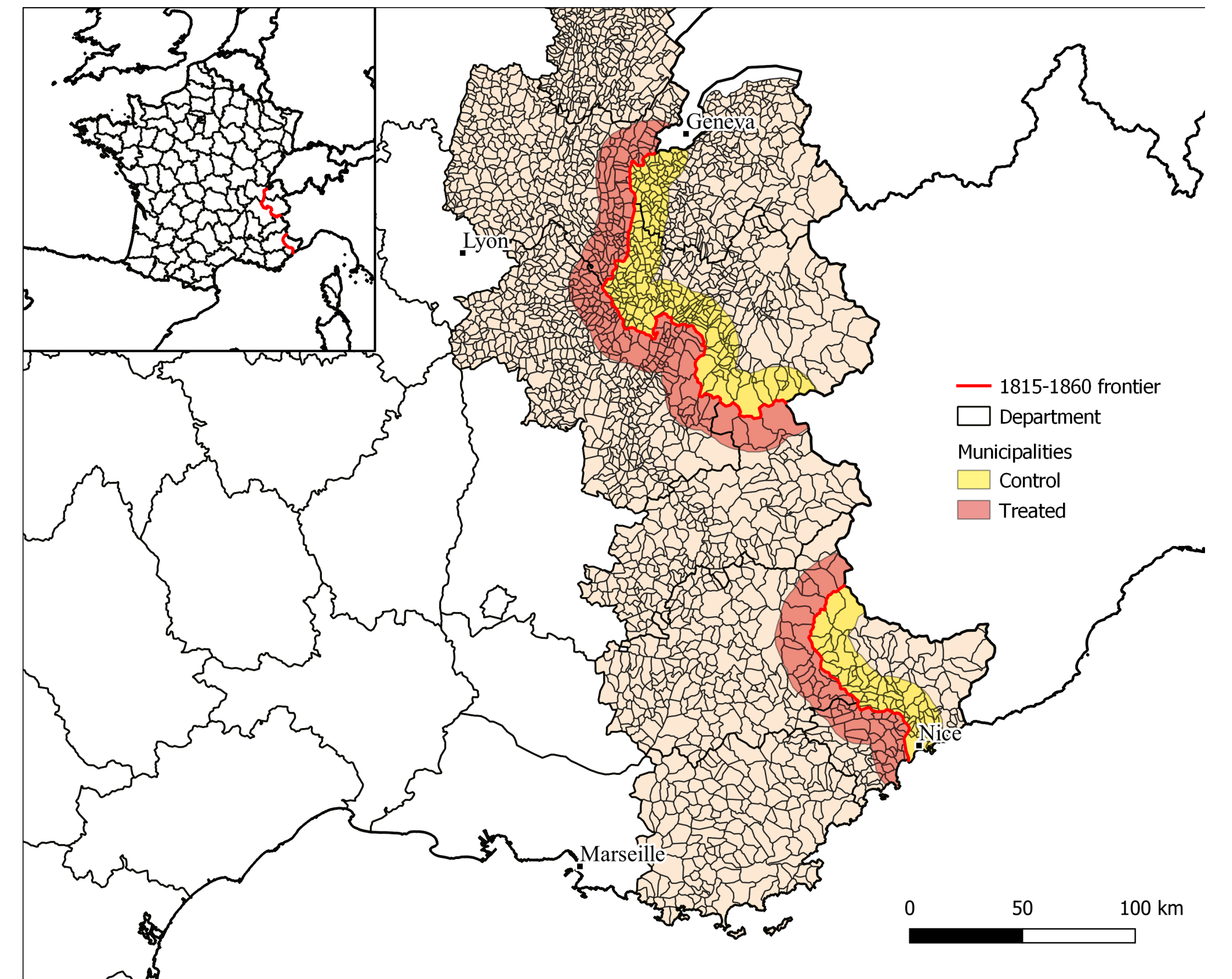
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RESEARCH QUESTION

What is the impact of politicization and political repression on electoral outcomes?

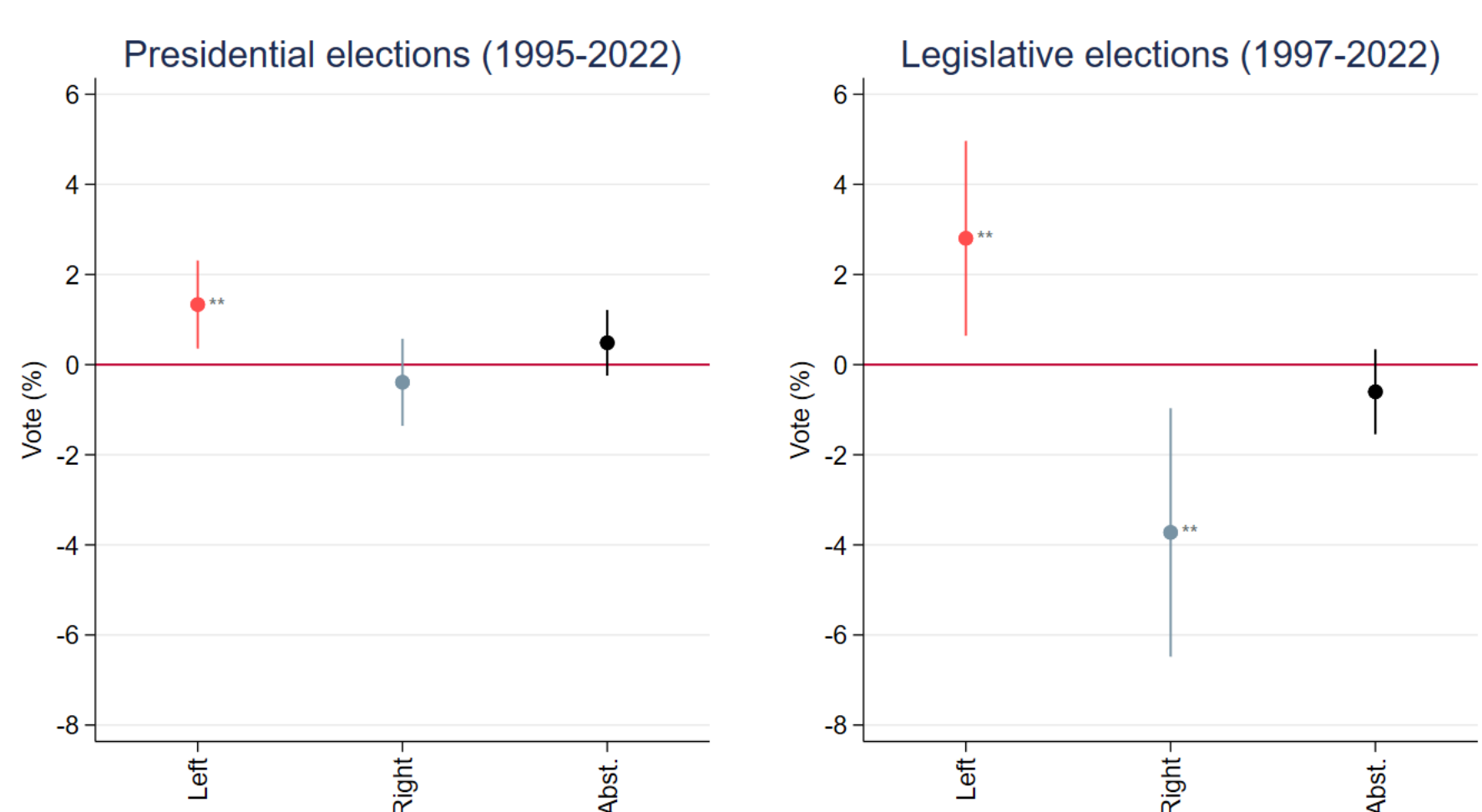
1. NATURAL EXPERIMENT

- Hard to answer since they are **not randomly assigned**. Here, I resort to a **natural experiment**:
 - 1815-1860: **Savoy and Nice switched exogenously** between France and Italy.
 - **Similar population** along the frontier experienced different historic trajectories, marked by **distinct politicization processes** and **different exposures to political repression**.
- Thanks to this **natural experiment**, I employ a **spatial RDD** along the frontier.
- I compare the **electoral outcome** of communes along the frontier with **similar characteristics** but **different historic paths**.



2. DIFFERENT HISTORIC TRAJECTORIES

Communes in the red area **vote more for left-wing** candidates.

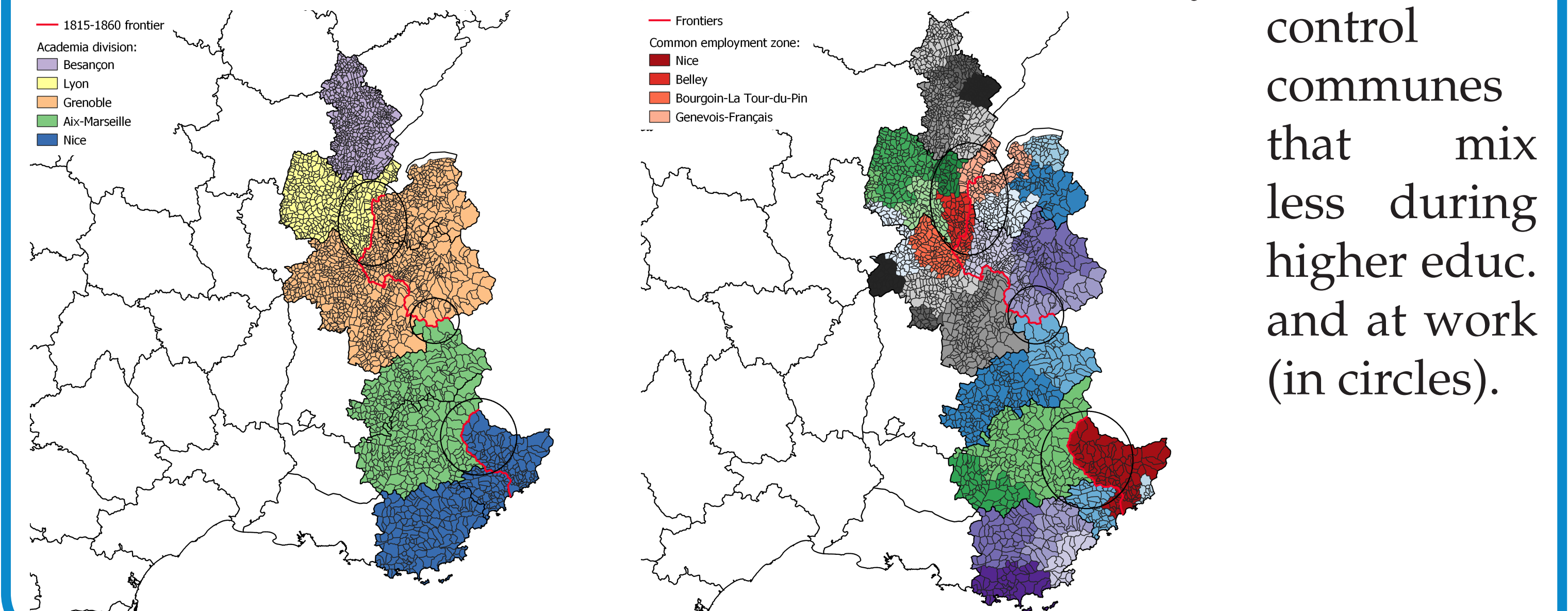


Similar intuition:

- With the 1871 legislative elec.
- Between 1876-2022 (Cagé and Piketty, 2023)

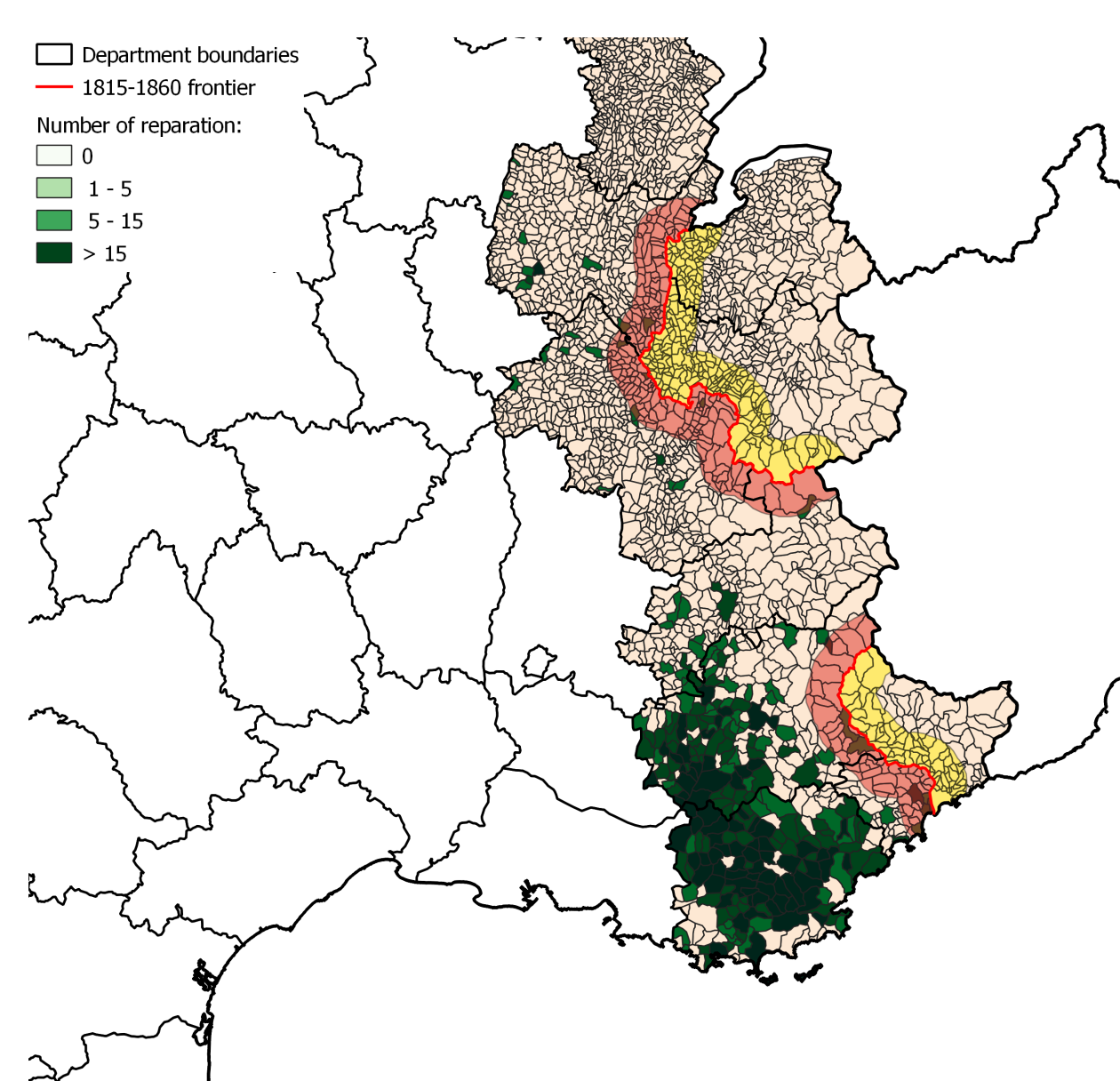
3. WHY SUCH PERSISTENCE?

Limited population mingling Results are driven by treated and control communes that mix less during higher educ. and at work (in circles).

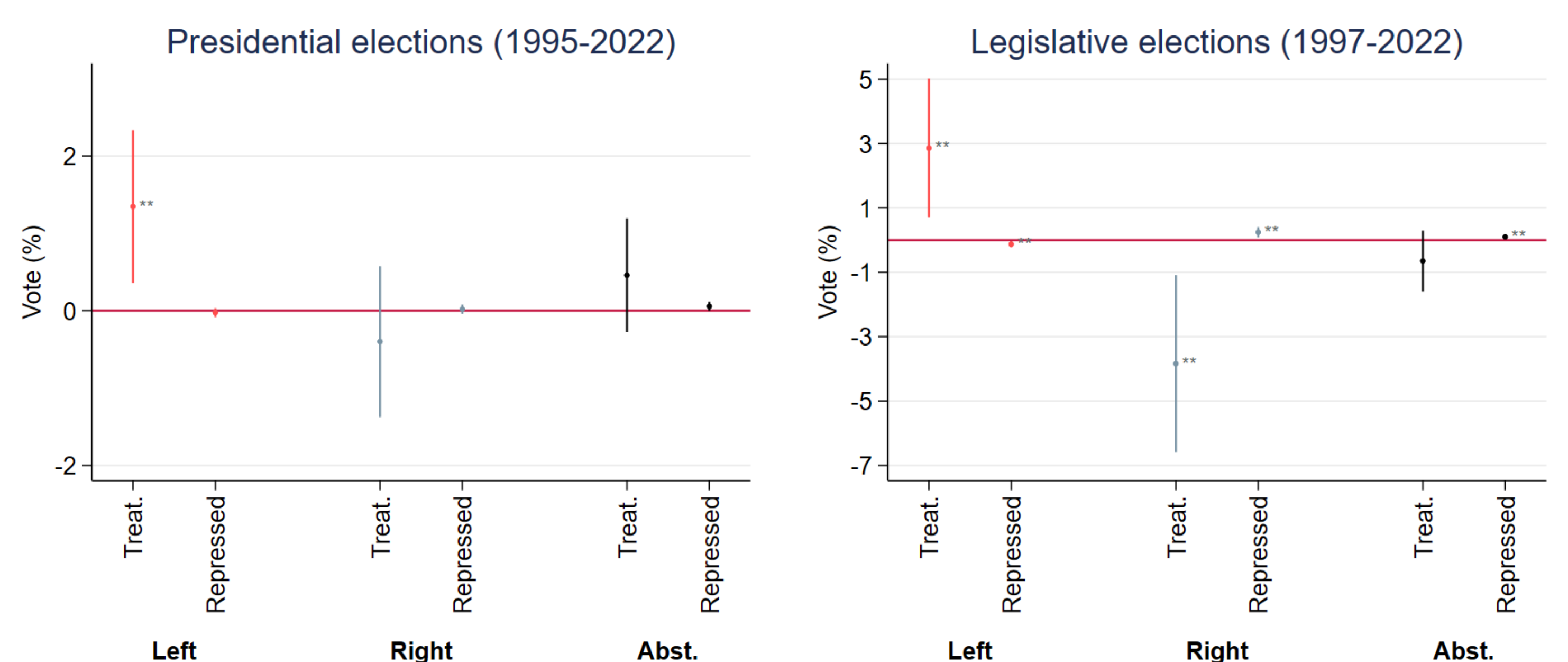


4. DIFFERENT EXPOSURES TO POLITICAL REPRESSION

I collected an **original database** of the victims of the **1851 political repression** from the National Archives.



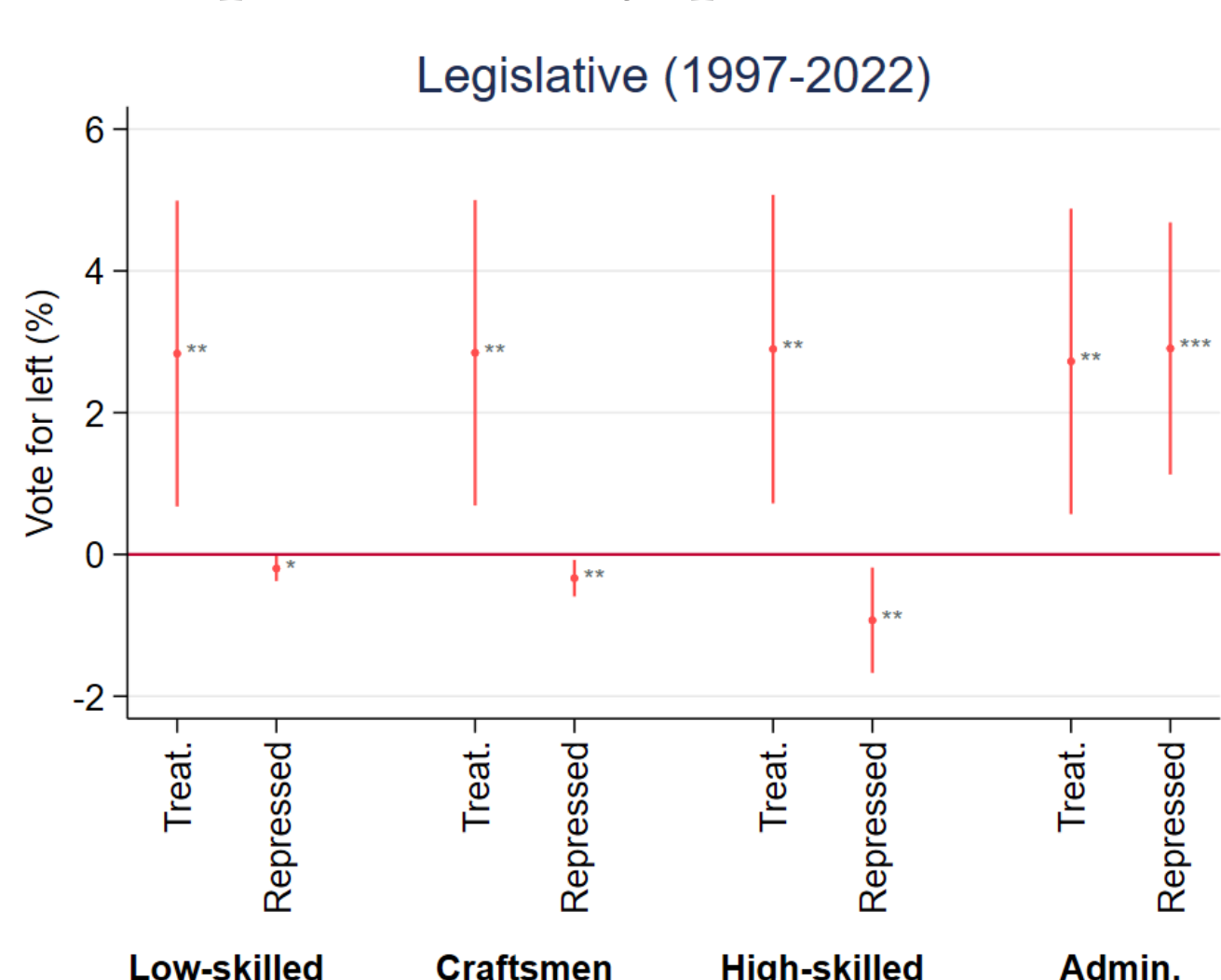
The **political repression**, measured by the number of repressed citizens per communes, **lowers the preference for the left**.



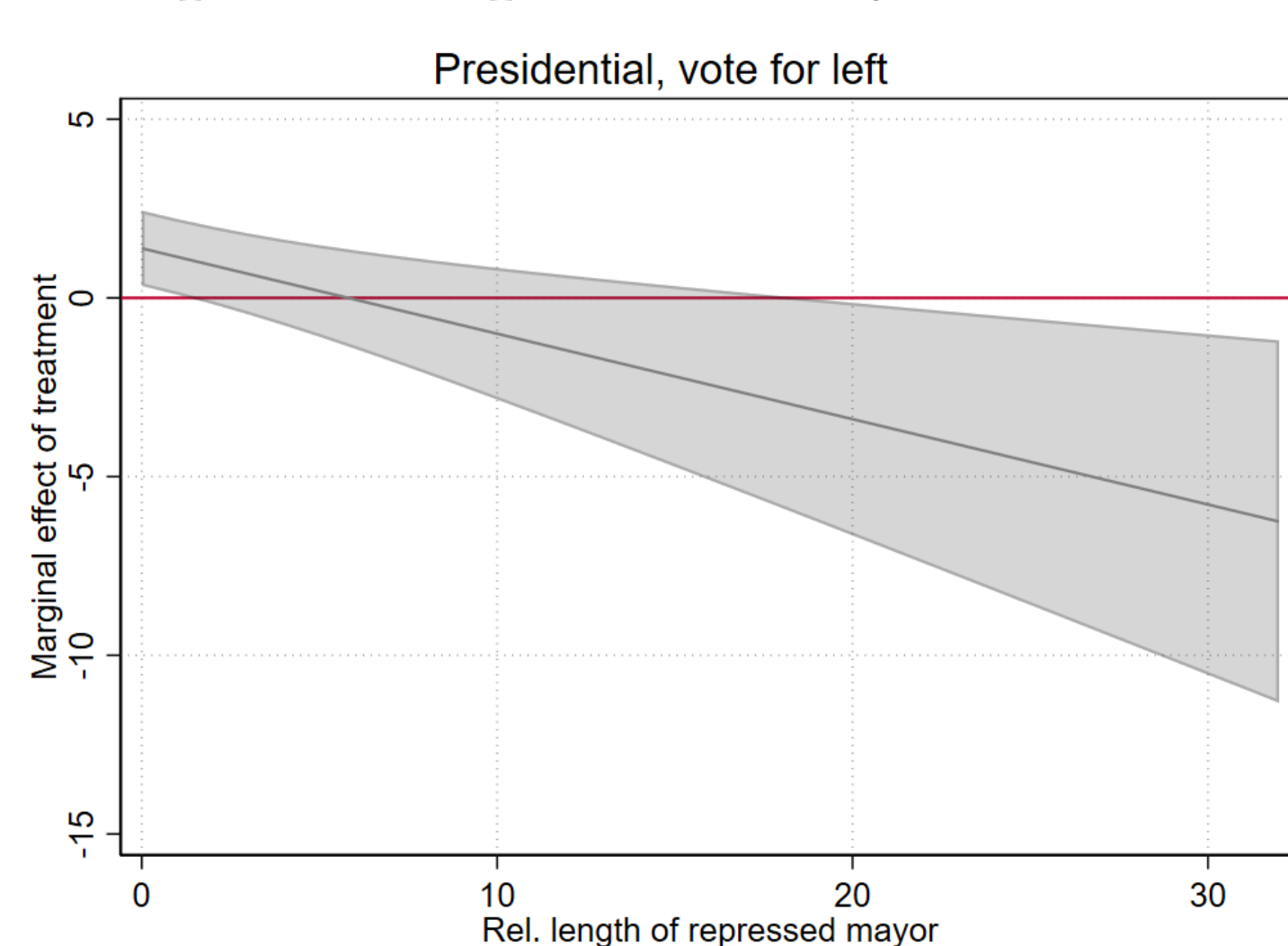
5. WHY SUCH PERSISTING EFFECTS OF POLITICAL REPRESSION?

Repression against locally prominent citizens:

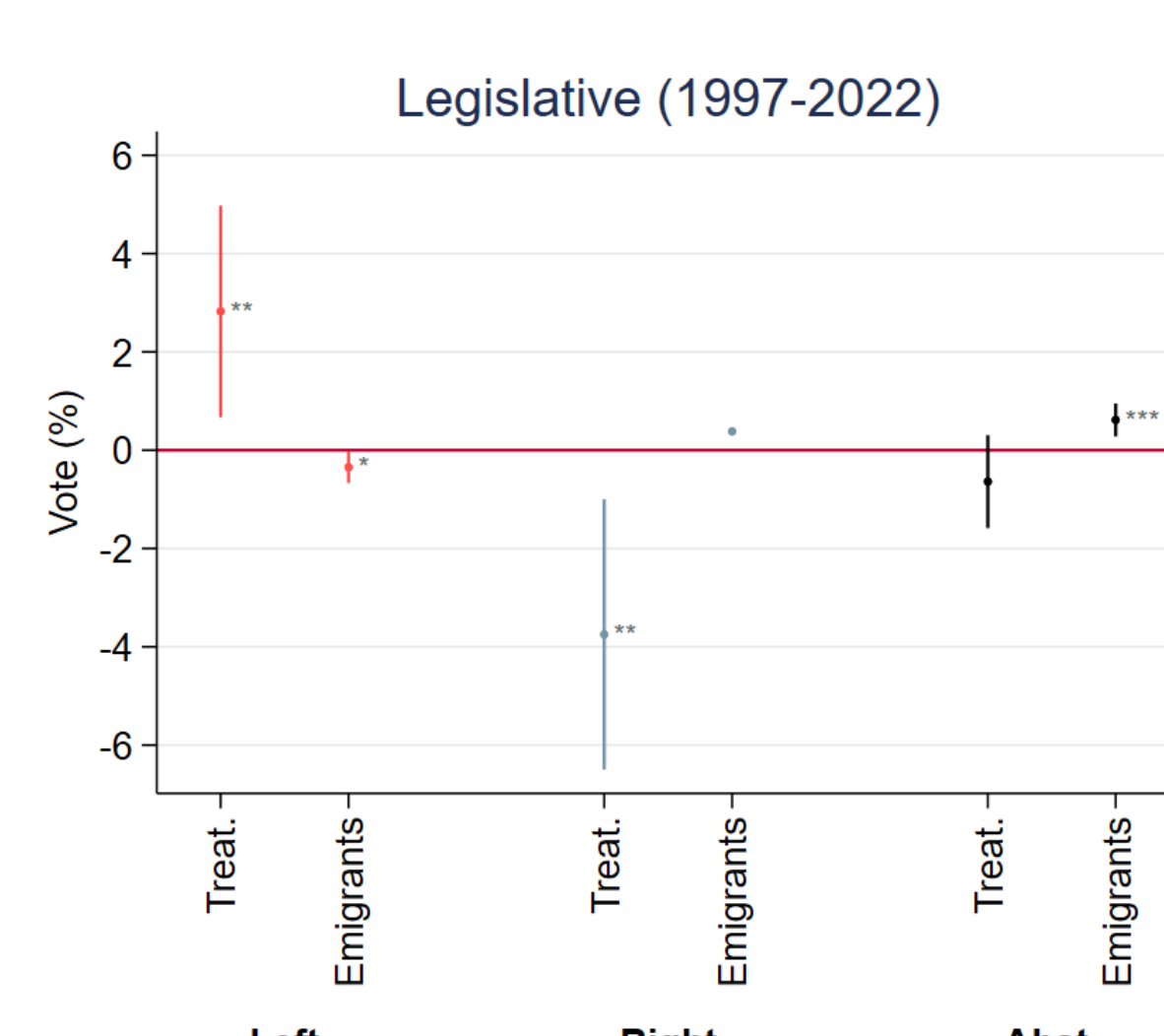
Repression by profession:



Repressed political dynasties:



Emigration of repressed citizens:



6. CONCLUSION

Different politicization has long-run impacts on electoral outcomes. Why?

- Lack of populations mingling.

The 1851 political repression had long-run effects and slightly reduced the preference for the left. Why?

- Repression against locally prominent citizens.
- Emigration of repressed citizens.