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preferences

by

Alberto Alesina and Nicola Fuchs-Schündeln

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Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

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Good bye Lenin (or not?): The effect of Communism on people's preferences*

Alberto Alesina and Nicola Fuchs-Schündeln
Harvard University

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Abstract

Preferences for redistribution, as well as the generousities of welfare states, differ significantly across countries. In this paper, we test whether there exists a feedback process of the economic regime on individual preferences. We exploit the experiment of German separation and reunification to establish exogeneity of the economic system. From 1945 to 1990, East Germans lived under a Communist regime with heavy state intervention and extensive redistribution. We find that, after German reunification, East Germans are more in favor of redistribution and state intervention than West Germans, even after controlling for economic incentives. This effect is especially strong for older cohorts, who lived under Communism for a longer time period. We find that East Germans' preferences converge towards those of West Germans, and we calculate that it will take one to two generations for preferences to converge completely.

1 Introduction

Preferences for redistribution and redistributive policies differ significantly across countries.¹ Are the regimes different solely because of different initial preferences for redistribution in the populations? Or is there a feedback effect from the regime on preferences? Is it possible that living under a specific system leads to adaptation of preferences?² To put it more bluntly: are individual preferences

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¹For instance, the difference between Europe and the US has been discussed recently by Alesina and Glaeser (2004).

²Several recent theoretical papers have shown that there is scope for multiple equilibria and self-fulfilling beliefs, i.e. that preferences influence the regime, and that the regime has a feedback on preferences (see e.g. Piketty 1995, Alesina and Angeletos 2005, and Benabou and Tirole 2005).

endogenous to political regimes? In order to answer this question empirically, one needs an exogenous shock to the regime; post war Germany offers an opportunity to analyze the effect of one particular regime, Communism, on people's preferences.

From 1945 to 1990, Germany was split into two parts for reasons that had nothing to do with Germans' desire for separation, or diversity of visions between East Germans and West Germans: the division of Germany into two parts was exogenous with respect to underlying individual preferences. Since the political and economic system has been the same in the eastern and western parts of Germany since reunification in 1990, and was the same before 1945, West Germans constitute a meaningful control group for East Germans. Therefore, comparing the differences in attitudes and preferences of Germans after the reunification can give us a clue about the effects of living for 45 years under a Communist regime on attitudes, beliefs and political preferences.

We are especially interested in measuring how 45 years of Communism affected individuals' thinking toward market capitalism and the role of the state in providing welfare and redistribution from the rich to the poor. If political regimes had no effects on individual preferences one should not observe any systematic difference between East and West Germans after reunification. If Communism had an effect, in principle one could think of two possible reactions to 45 years of Communist dictatorship. One is that people turn strongly against the "state" and switch to preferences in the opposite direction, namely in favor of liberitarian free markets, as a reaction to an all intrusive state. The opposite hypothesis is that 45 years of heavy state intervention and indoctrination instill in people the view that the state is essential for individual well being. As we shall see, we quickly and soundly reject the first hypothesis in favor of the second. In fact, we find that the effects of Communism are large and long lasting. It will take about one to two generations for former East and West Germans to look alike in terms of preferences and attitudes about fundamental questions regarding the role of the government in society.

There can be two effects of Communism on individual preferences, namely a purely economic one, and an effect on intrinsic preferences. The latter could arise because of Marxist Leninist indoctrination, state control over school, press, or state television, etc. Also, simply becoming accustomed to an all encompassing state may make people think of it as necessary and preferable despite the suffocating aspects of the East German regime. This is the effect we are most interested in. The former effect arises because Communism has made former East Germany relatively poorer than former West Germany. Since the poor disproportionately benefit from government redistribution, they favor it. We find evidence of both types of effect.

We also investigate "why" former East Germans are more likely to favor state intervention. One reason is that they are simply used to it. Another reason is that East Germans believe much more so than West Germans that social conditions, rather than individual effort and initiative, determine individual fortunes; this belief is of course one basic tenet of the communist ideology. The more one thinks that it is society's "fault" if one is poor, unemployed or sick,

the more one is in favor of public intervention. We find evidence for both effects.

Last, we analyze whether preferences of East Germans converge towards those of West Germans, given that they now live under the same regime West Germans have experienced since 1945. We calculate that it will take about 20 to 40 years to make the difference between East and West Germans disappear almost completely, due to the combination of two forces. One is the dying of the elderly and the coming of age of individuals born after reunification; the other is the actual change of preferences of the same individuals. We estimate the first effect to account for about 1/3 of the convergence effect and the other one to account for the remaining 2/3 of the convergence.

An implication of all of the above is that Germany in 1990 has been subject to a major political shock, perhaps with deeper and longer lasting consequences than the widely studied economic shock associated with the reunification. A country like former West Germany with an already generous welfare state, heavy labor and goods market regulations etc., which many believe needs trimming, has received a new 25 per cent of population inclined to prefer an even more extensive role for the state, even after controlling for them being on average net recipients of government intervention. This will make any political reform towards trimming the welfare state (broadly defined) especially difficult. All of those who believe that the economic future of Germany (which looks somewhat bleak at the moment) will look brighter with a host of so called “structural reforms” should be especially concerned.³

The question of preferences for redistribution and different visions about the welfare state has recently received much attention. Alesina and Glaeser (2004) discuss the origin of different beliefs and preferences in the US and Continental Western Europe, and in fact place a lot of weight on the influence of Marxist ideology on the preference for redistribution in Europe versus the US. Alesina and La Ferrara (2005) and Fong (2003) investigate the connection about views about social mobility and preferences for redistribution using US data. Ravallion and Lokshin (2000) consider Russian data. In general, this literature finds that the more individuals perceive that there is social mobility the less favorable they are to government redistribution.

The paper most closely related to ours is Corneo (2001). Building on Corneo and Grüner (2002), he studies empirically what motivates individuals to favor redistribution, from purely individual to altruistic motives. In examining this issue, Corneo (2001) compares preferences in the US, West Germany and East Germany. One of his results is that East Germans are more favorable to redistribution than West Germans, who, in turn, are more favorable to it than Americans. More generally, in a comparison of 6 Eastern European and 6 Western countries, Corneo and Grüner (2002) find large country fixed effects for Eastern European countries; i.e. they find that Eastern Europeans have stronger preferences for redistribution than individuals from Western countries.⁴ Corneo

³Giavazzi and McMahon (2005) have recently pointed out how the German reform process in fact is lacking political support from the people.

⁴Besides East Germany, their sample includes Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Romania, and Russia.

(2001) as well as Corneo and Grüner (2002) use data from the 1992 round of the International Social Survey Programme. We can expand on their analyses since we use a panel data set. By using different waves of our data, we can discuss more precisely timing issues and speed of convergence of preferences.⁵ Moreover, we can include many more individual controls. Last, by focusing on Germany, we can distinguish more clearly the role of Communism in shaping preferences from other potential reasons why Eastern Europeans might favor redistribution. That is, it could be that preferences in Eastern Europe are different because of different cultures, histories etc. even before the advent of Communism. Moreover, a more uncertain environment and absence of insurance markets could induce Eastern Europeans to favor redistribution.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we describe the institutional background, data and summary statistics. In Section 3 we present our basic results concerning preferences for state intervention in social policy. This section breaks down effects on preferences emerging from relative poverty in the East from the pure preference effect of communism. In Section 4 we investigate related attitudes about individual responsibility versus social conditions that can explain differences in preferences regarding the welfare state. The last section concludes.

2 Institutional Background, Data and Summary Statistics

2.1 Institutional Background

Germany as a country was created in 1860 as a result of the political unification of 18 independent political units of various size, the largest and most powerful being Prussia. Germany remained a single country until the end of the Second World War when, as a losing power, it was split amongst the winning Allies. East Germany was under the sphere of influence of the Soviets, while the West was occupied by the US, France, and the UK. The borders between East and West Germany were the result of bargaining between the Allies and the position of the occupying forces at the end of hostilities. In 1949, both the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and the German Democratic Republic (GDR) were officially founded. The East German regime developed as one of the most rigid of the former Communist regimes. Income inequality in the GDR was low: in 1988, the average net income of individuals with a university degree was only 15% higher than that of blue collar workers, compared to 70% in the FRG. Also, intersectoral differences in net incomes were minimal, on average amounting

⁵In addition, we can also check whether West Germans are becoming more or less in favor of the welfare state, an intriguing question given the recent attempt of the German government to implement "structural reforms", a buzz word for pro market reforms. The political support (or lack thereof) of such reforms is the result of the "political shock" associated with the arrival of new preferences for Easterners and the evolution of preferences of Westerners. Our conclusions will not give much hope to those who see pro market reforms as desirable.

only to 150 Mark per month with an average monthly income of around 1100 Mark in 1988 (Stephan and Wiedemann, 1990, Schäfers, 1998). Reunification occurred rather quickly and abruptly in October 1990, 11 months after the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989. East Germany became part of the Federal Republic of Germany, and hence the economic and political system of the West was transferred to the East.

One important identifying assumption of our analysis is that East and West Germany were indistinguishable until the exogenously imposed separation in 1945. Because of this, if we observe differences in attitudes amongst East and West Germans after reunification, we can attribute them to 45 years of Communism. How reasonable is the assumption that East and West Germans were indistinguishable in terms of their attitudes before 1945? Table 1 shows average per capita income levels of different German regions, as well as subregions of Prussia, in 1928, 1932, and 1936. We mark a region by E or W, depending on whether it mainly belonged to the FRG or GDR between 1949 and 1990. Unmarked regions do not belong to Germany after 1945.⁶ As the table shows, the level of income per capita in pre-World War II Germany does not show any systematic difference between East and West; in fact, on average they are almost identical.⁷ Moreover, destruction during World War II was major and universal in both the later FRG and GDR.

However, income per capita aside, there might have been differences in attitudes before 1945. One possible issue is that Prussians might have had a more militarist "state-centric" view about the state than other Germans. Note however that part of former Prussia belonged to the FRG and part to the GDR between 1949 and 1990, and not all regions of the later GDR belonged to Prussia.

2.2 The Data

The German Socioeconomic Panel (GSOEP) is an annual household panel, started in West Germany in 1984. From 1990 on, it also covers the territory of the former German Democratic Republic. We use the original sample established in 1984, and the sub-sample covering the territory of the former GDR started in 1990. The original West German sample leaves us with around 11,400 year-person observations, while the East German sample covers around 7,000 year-person observations for 1997 and 2002.⁸

In 1997 and 2002, respondents were asked questions concerning their preferences for the role of the state in different areas of social security. The question reads: "At present, a multitude of social services are provided not only by the state but also by private free market enterprises, organizations, associations, or

⁶Note that some regions transcend later borders, in which case we assign the region to East, West or outside Germany depending on its largest share.

⁷The non-population weighted average income in later East regions amounted to 1,203 Mark in 1928, 877 Mark in 1932, and 1,169 Mark in 1936, while the corresponding incomes for the later West regions are 1,203, 913, and 1,200 Mark.

⁸The number of observations varies slightly with the dependent variable.

private citizens. What is your opinion on this? Who should be responsible for the following areas?”. We use the answers to all areas that concern financial security, namely “financial security in case of unemployment”, “financial security in case of illness”, “financial security of families”, “financial security for old-age”, and “financial security for persons needing care”. The answers are given on a scale of 1 to 5, which correspond to “only the state”, “mostly the state”, “state and private forces”, “mostly private forces”, and “only private forces”. We group the first 2 answer categories together to represent individuals with preference for an active role of the state in providing for its citizens, and group the last 3 answer categories together to represent individuals with preferences for private forces. Hence, we create 5 new dummy variables which take on the value of 1 if the respondent answered “only the state” or “mostly the state” for the respective area, and 0 otherwise. This is mainly done to ease the interpretation of the coefficients. As a robustness check, we run ordered probit regressions on the original variables, and the results do not change significantly.⁹

Our explanatory variable of main interest is an East dummy that takes on the value of 1 if the respondent lived in East Germany *before* reunification, regardless of the current place of residence. Hence, this dummy captures people who lived under communism before 1990. The baseline controls include age, gender, marital status, labor force status, and occupation of the respondent, the number of children and the number of adults in the household, as well as the annual household income. All monetary variables are in DM and inflated to 2002.

We analyze two additional questions that capture the belief of the respondent regarding important driving forces of success in life. In 1996 and 1999, GSOEP asked the following question: “The following statements express varying attitudes towards life and the future. Please state whether you totally agree, agree slightly, disagree slightly, or totally disagree”, followed by several statements that differ between 1996 and 1999. The first statement we use refers to the role of luck in life. We create a dummy variable “luck” that takes on the value of 1 if the respondent agreed totally or slightly with the statements “No one can escape their fate, everything in life happens as it must happen” in 1996 and “What one achieves in life is mainly a question of luck or fate” in 1999.¹⁰ Similarly, the dummy variable “social conditions” takes on the value 1 if the respondent agreed totally or slightly with the statement “The possibilities in my life are determined by the social conditions”.¹¹

2.3 Summary Statistics

Table 2 reports the basic summary statistics regarding the five questions that we use as dependent variables.¹² This cross tabulation already highlights several

⁹The basic results using ordered probits are shown in Table A2 in Appendix. All other results are available from the authors upon request.

¹⁰We take the average of both questions to alleviate potential measurement error.

¹¹This question was asked in 1999. There is no equivalent statement in 1996.

¹²Table A1 in the appendix shows summary statistics for all independent variables.

important facts. First, a larger proportion of East Germans than West Germans favor an active role of the state. The difference is substantial in all categories. Second, in 2002 East and West Germans looked more alike than in 1997. The East-West difference in the percentage of individuals favoring an active state role amounts to between 16 and 18 percentage points in 1997, and between 9 and 14 percentage points in 2002. Third, this convergence arises mostly from changing preferences of East Germans. In all questions, the percentage of East Germans favoring an active role of the state is declining between 1997 and 2002. Last, and this is somewhat more surprising, the support of West Germans for the welfare state is increasing between 1997 and 2002 in 3 out of the 5 categories, namely regarding unemployment, sickness, and care.

This table also reports summary statistics for the two questions concerning beliefs about what determines success in life, namely individual effort against luck and/or social conditions. The interesting finding here is that East Germans are overwhelmingly convinced that social conditions determine success, more so than West Germans. Moreover, they believe less than West Germans in an important role of luck. In other words, East Germans seem to believe much more than West Germans that somebody's life is defined by social conditions, a basic tenet of the Marxist way of thinking.

Table 3 shows the income per capita and the unemployment rates in German states (*Bundesländer*), as well as transfers per capita that each state receives from other states and the federal government in line with the German financial transfer system (see the appendix for an overview of the German transfer system). Average income per capita in the East is around 80% of the average West income, and the unemployment rate is roughly twice as large. As we discussed above, before WWII per capita income levels in East and West Germany were virtually identical. The 20 percent difference in per capita income after reunification can be interpreted as the effect of communism on economic development. The lower income levels as well as the higher unemployment rates lead to the fact that all Eastern German states are net recipient of transfers. Among the Western German states, five are net givers, while four are net recipients. Yet, with the exception of the small state of Bremen, the average transfer received is much larger in the East than among the net recipients in the West.

3 Basic Results

Table 4 reports our basic specifications, in which we control for many individual characteristics and for our variable of interest, being from the East. As we discussed above, the left hand side variable is defined as a 0/1 variable with 1 meaning support for an active state role. We also rerun all these regressions using the entire five point scale, and the results are consistent. Table A2 in the appendix is the same as Table 4, but the left hand side variable has the five point scale, and an ordered probit estimation is conducted. In the main text, we report the results from probit regressions for ease of interpretation. The coefficients reported in the tables are the total coefficients. We report the

corresponding marginal coefficients in the text when we are interpreting the size of the coefficients. The marginal coefficients of interaction variables are calculated as the cross partial derivatives (Ai and Norton, 2003).

The first three explanatory variables are the critical ones; and for all the five questions they behave similarly. Consider column 1, which concerns unemployment. An East German is significantly more likely to have preferences for state provision of financial security for the unemployed than a West German. Over time, however, the East Germans are becoming less pro state, since the interaction between being from the East and the 2002 dummy (the third variable) is negative and statistically significant. The effect of being an East German and the interaction of that with 2002 have similar coefficients on all questions. The coefficients on the East indicator variable vary from 0.36 to 0.41, and are hence rather uniform. The interaction of East with 2002 (a rough measure of convergence) varies from -0.06 to -0.18. The economic meaning of these numbers is as follows.¹³ Being from the East increases the probability of favoring state intervention by between 14 and 16 percentage points in 1997, compared to being from the West. Between 1997 and 2002, the probability of favoring state intervention for an East German declines by between 2.5 and 5.8 percentage points. Given that these questions are reported at a 5 year interval (1997 and 2002), a very rough measure of convergence would imply full uniformity of views from a minimum of about 15 years (column 5) to a maximum of 30 years in column 3. Given that the first survey was taken 7 years after reunification, the complete cycle of convergence (assuming that it is linear) would be between roughly 20 and 40 years, depending on the question; roughly one to two generations.¹⁴

The dummy for 2002 captures the change in preferences of a West German between 1997 and 2002. Note that it is significantly positive, indicating that Westerners are becoming more pro government, for 3 of the 5 regressions. In none of the five regressions is there significant evidence that West Germans are becoming less pro government.

The estimates on individual controls yield reasonable results. Men are generally less pro government (although not consistently on all questions). Larger families, both in terms of number of children and number of adults, are more favorable to government intervention, not surprisingly, since they get more benefits. Interestingly, civil servants have weaker preferences than others for government intervention for the unemployed, probably because they have very high job security. On the contrary, those who are unemployed strongly prefer government intervention for unemployed. Income enters negatively and is statistically significant on all questions; the wealthy benefit less from government intervention and pay more for it. Self employed are less pro government either because

¹³The marginal effect on y of a dummy variable x has been calculated as $E[y|x=1] - E[y|x=0]$.

¹⁴Our results are based on unweighted observations. If we use the sample weights provided by GSOEP, the results are very similar. The only difference worth mentioning is that the convergence results become weaker, indicating an even longer process of convergence. However, when we include wealth variables as controls (as described at the end of this section), the convergence results are again very similar to the unweighted results.

they benefit less from redistribution, or because being self employed is correlated with a more individualistic vision of the world and/or with less risk aversion.¹⁵ All these variables are always included in all our regressions and the coefficients are quite stable. From now on, we do not report them to avoid cluttering the tables.

Our data set also includes two variables which proxy for wealth. One is the amount of interest and dividend income obtained by the household of the respondent; the second is whether or not the household owns the house it lives in. When we add these variables in the regressions of Table 4, our results on the East-West differences remain virtually unchanged, and the coefficients on the two wealth variables have the expected sign and are statistically significant. These results are reported in table A3 in the appendix. We do not include these two wealth controls in our basic regressions because of data availability. After the inclusion of these variables, we lose around 2,200 observations because of non response. For robustness, we checked all our results including these two variables, in addition to those of Table 4, and the results are robust. These results are available upon request.

3.1 Age effects

Let us now consider more closely the effects of the number of years under Communism on individual preferences. Table 5 shows some striking results. Consider column 1.¹⁶ The variable “age” corresponds to the age of the respondent. The East indicator variable interacted with age is positive, meaning that older former East Germans are more favorable to state intervention. Note how age not interacted with East is negative, meaning that West Germans are becoming less pro government as they become older, the same result found for the US by Alesina and La Ferrara (2005).¹⁷ The effect of age on preferences is exactly opposite in East and West. The same pattern applies to all other questions. The obvious interpretation of this strikingly different age patterns between East Germans and West Germans is that while age tends to make individuals less pro government in West Germany, this effect is more than compensated by the fact that elderly East Germans have lived longer under communism.

Table 6 pushes this age analysis further by looking at five different groups of birth cohort. The five groups are defined as follows: youngest are those born after 1975, young are those born between 1961 and 1975, middle are those born between 1946 and 1960, old are those born between 1931 and 1945, and oldest are those born on or before 1930. Note that the youngest group did only spend their childhood and early adolescence under communism; this is the omitted group in the regressions. This table shows that the older are progressively

¹⁵All these results on individual controls are qualitatively similar to those obtained for the US by Alesina and La Ferrara (2005).

¹⁶In the regressions of this table we do not include the variables age squared and age cubed to facilitate the comparison of the age effect.

¹⁷This result coincides with the famous quote “A man who is not a socialist at age 20 has no heart; a man who is still a socialist at age 40 has no brain”, that has been attributed to Georges Clemenceau, George Bernard Shaw, and Winston Churchill, among others.

more pro government than the younger in the East, a pattern not observed in the West in which in fact the older tend to be less pro government than the younger. Interestingly, for some of the questions the old rather than the oldest group in the East shows the maximum support of government. Note that the old ones are the group with the maximum time of the working life spent under Communism, since they were at least 15 years old at the end of World War II.

The quantitative implications of the birth cohort effects are large. Figure 1 represents the results from Table 6 in a different way; it shows by how many percentage points an East German of a certain cohort group is more likely to favor state intervention than a West German of the same cohort group. While an East German from the youngest group is only between 3 (column 4) and 11 (column 1) percentage points more likely to be in favor of government redistribution than a West German of the same group, an East German born before 1945 is between 21 percentage points (column 1) and 49 percentage points (column 4) more likely than a West German of the same cohortgroup to believe in government redistribution.

3.2 Decomposition of change over time

Given that we observe that older East Germans are more in favor of redistribution than younger ones, the question arises whether the observed decline in East Germans' preferences for redistribution between 1997 and 2002 is simply a result of a shift in the cohort composition, or whether it is caused by changing personal preferences of East Germans. Even if personal preferences were constant over time, we would expect that East German preferences converge on average to West German preferences as older East Germans die and East Germany becomes populated by relatively younger households who have spent less time of their life under communism.

To investigate the relative importance of both effects, in Table 7 we report results from the baseline regressions in which we include only individuals who answer the relevant questions in both 1997 and 2002.¹⁸ Hence, all effects of a change in preferences between 1997 and 2002 are due to changing personal preferences, and not due to changes in the cohort composition. The interaction effect between East and year 2002 is still negative in all 5 regressions, and significant in all cases except financial security of families (column 3). However, the East time effect is now on average substantially smaller than in the baseline regressions, declining in absolute terms by between 0% (column 1), and 70% (column 3). On average, the East time effect is around 35% smaller than the effect reported in the baseline results in Table 4. Hence, we conclude that around 2/3 of the convergence arises from actual convergence of preferences, while around one third arises from changes in the cohort composition.¹⁹

¹⁸Note that we use an unbalanced sample for the general results.

¹⁹The number of observation drops by around 22% if we restrict the sample to those individuals who answer in both 1997 and 2002. Note that the decline in the sample size is not random. While in general we use only Eastern households that were added to the survey in 1990 and hence should in principle answer the survey in both 1997 and 2002, some members of

3.3 The Effect of Communism: Poverty or Preferences?

3.3.1 Individual economic effects

The poor tend to favor government intervention more than the rich. In fact in our regressions we always include the logarithmic household income of the respondent as a control, and the coefficient on this variable is always negative and statistically significant. Hence, we are measuring the effects of having been in the East controlling for the fact that the respondent's income might be lower precisely because he or she lived in the East. In order to allow for further non-linearities between income and preferences, we also include a fourth order polynomial of household income instead of the logarithm of household income, and our estimates remain almost unchanged.²⁰

In order to capture the extent to which a household currently benefits from redistribution, in Table 8 we include as explanatory variable the share of household income that comes from government sources, which we call household government transfer ratio.²¹ One would expect a positive effect of this variable on redistribution; in fact, the coefficient is sometimes positive and significant (column 3), sometimes negative and significant (column 2), and sometimes insignificant. Most importantly, the inclusion of this variable leaves the estimated East effects almost unchanged. In addition to current income, expected future income may explain preferences for redistribution; individuals who expect to rise in the social ladder may oppose redistributive policies which might remain in place for several years²². As a rough measure of the effects of expected future income we check whether the growth in income of a respondent between 1997 and 2002 affects his/her preferences in 1997. This is a rough test of course, which implies perfect forecasts. The future growth rate of income between 1997 and 2002 has a negative effect on preferences in 1997, but again its inclusion leaves the estimates of the East dummy almost unchanged (Table 9).

3.3.2 Aggregate economic effects

In addition to personal income, however, there might be an aggregate income effect; individuals living in regions poorer than average may prefer government intervention because of the active redistribution from richer to poorer regions, which in fact takes place in Germany.

In Table 10 we include the average per capita income and unemployment rate of the state of residence, as well as transfers received or paid by the state; note that we continue to include as always the income of the respondent. The

the household might choose not to answer one of the relevant questions in either 1997 and 2002 (which should be random), and some members of the households become adults between 1997 and 2002, and hence answer the personal questionnaire in 2002, but not in 1997. Therefore, on average the sample should comprise more persons of recent birth cohorts in 2002 than in 1997, which makes the convergence effect for East stronger given the estimated cohort effects.

²⁰Results are available from the authors upon request.

²¹We calculated this share by adding up personal income from government and non-government sources respectively over the members of a household.

²²On this point see Benabou and Ok (2001) and Alesina and La Ferrara (2005).

level of per capita income turns out never to have a significant effect. The regional unemployment rate has a weak positive influence on preferences for state intervention; it is only significant in the question regarding the unemployed. Financial transfers have significant positive predictive power for preferences for state intervention for the unemployed, as well as for people requiring care. After including these three regional controls, in the regression regarding the unemployed the coefficient on the East indicator variable drops from 0.41 to 0.28. This suggests that part of the East effect estimated above had to do with East German states benefitting financially from redistribution. A similar pattern occurs with all the other questions. Thus, up to one third of the "East effect" can be explained by the fact that the East became poorer during Communism and is now a net beneficiary of redistribution within Germany, rather than to an effect of Communism on preferences. The respondents' preferences for public intervention are influenced by economic effects in the region where they live, but even after controlling for that, we still find a large effect of being from the East.

3.4 Migration and preferences

So far, we have treated all East Germans as one homogeneous group. Yet, 7 percent of East Germans in our sample have migrated to the West. In Table 11, we add the dummy variable "East living in East", which takes on the value of 1 if an East German lives in the territory of the former East Germany in the observation year, and 0 otherwise.²³

The coefficient on the East-dummy now captures the preferences of an East German living in the West. As the table shows, East Germans living in the West are more in favor of government intervention than West Germans. However, East Germans living in the East are at least twice as much in favor of government intervention than East Germans who moved to the West. This result can be interpreted in two ways. First, it could be that, having lived among West Germans for some time, preferences of East Germans who moved to the West have converged faster than preferences of East Germans who stayed in the East. Second, those that migrated to the West could be a self-selected group that had lower preferences for state intervention to begin with. Note e.g. that the average age of East respondents who moved to the West is 34, while the average age of East respondents who stayed in the East is 45.

With regard to convergence, one can observe that all the convergence in preferences between 1997 and 2002 is driven by East Germans who stayed in the East. The preferences of East Germans who moved to the West do not

²³We also estimated a model in which we include instead a dummy variable "East residence" that takes on the value of 1 if the respondent lives in the East in the observation year, regardless of whether the respondent is from the former East or the former West, as well as interactions of this variable with the East dummy, the year 2002 dummy, and their interaction (results are available from the authors upon request). While this is a better modeling approach, the interpretation of the results is more complicated. Since only 0.6% of the West Germans in our sample live in the East, we hence decided to refrain from splitting the West Germans according to current residence. Results do not change significantly.

change in a statistically significant way between 1997 and 2002. Again, there are several possible explanations for this phenomenon. It could be that preferences of East Germans who moved to the West converged initially, but that they have reached their new steady-state level by 2002. In this case, we should not expect full convergence either for East Germans staying in the East. On the other hand, it could be that those East Germans who moved to the West not only had different preferences at the time of migration, but that their preferences also exhibit different convergence patterns. In the case of preferences regarding financial security when unemployed and financial security of families, East Germans who moved to the West even become more pro state over time, although this effect is not statistically significant;²⁴ this might be interpreted as a backlash of preferences after experiencing life in the West.

3.5 Regional differences

In order to gain further insides whether the measured effects really capture the effect of communism, we analyze regional differences in the effect. We would expect the effect of communism to be relatively homogenous across Eastern states. Hence, we would be worried if the “East” effect on preferences were very heterogeneous across Eastern states, and especially if it were mostly driven by one or two single states. Hence, we rerun our baseline regression including separate dummies for all 5 Eastern states plus East Berlin instead of one single East dummy. Note that, consistent with the East dummy, these dummies refer to the state of residence at the time of reunification.

As the results in Table 12 show, the coefficients on the Eastern state dummies are positive and significant in all states. Moreover, they are of similar size across the states. The only slight outlier that emerges is the state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, which is in 4 out of 5 cases more pro private forces than the other Eastern states, although it is still relatively pro-government compared with West Germany. With regard to convergence, the results are a little bit more heterogeneous. However, only 5 out of 30 coefficients on the interaction term between an East German state and the year 2002 turn out not to be negative, while 15 of the 30 coefficients are significantly negative. Every state shows significant convergence in at least 1 of the 5 questions.

We conclude that the effect of Communism on preferences, as well as convergence of preferences over time, can be found in every single East German state, and are not driven by outliers.

4 Social conditions, individual effort and luck

Why do former East Germans favor state intervention? One possibility is that they are used to think (partly because of the influence of Communist ideology) that it is “society’s fault” if people are poor, unemployed or in need of help.

²⁴The associated p-values are 0.17 and 0.38.

If the individual is not responsible, but society is, then society (i.e. the state) should take care of these problems.

In Table 13 we report a regression in which the left hand side is a variable that takes the value of 1 if the respondent believes that social conditions determine individual possibilities in life. In column 1, we find a strong effect from being from the East. The probability of believing in the influence of social conditions is 10 percentage points higher for an East German than a West German. The coefficients on individual characteristics seem reasonable. Men believe less in social conditions than women, unemployed believe more in social conditions, self employed much less etc. In the next column we interact the East indicator variable with the age of the respondent and find, once again, a strong age effect.²⁵ Older East Germans are more likely to believe in social conditions as major determinants of individual fortunes than younger East Germans. We interpret this as the effect of having lived longer under a Communist regime. In the West, the age effect is not significant.

Table 14 however shows that the effect of having lived in the East goes well beyond these beliefs about social conditions. In this table (where as always we control for all individual characteristics), we repeat the baseline regression including the dummy variable capturing beliefs in an important role of social conditions as control. While the variable capturing the beliefs about social conditions has a significantly positive influence on preferences for an active state role, the East indicator variables are still significant and only slightly smaller than in the baseline results in Table 4. Thus, even after controlling for beliefs regarding social conditions, former East Germans believe in state intervention more than former West Germans.

Alesina and La Ferrara (2005) and Alesina and Glaeser (2004) find that those who believe that luck determines wealth and success in life are more pro redistribution than those who believe that mostly individual effort is responsible for success.²⁶ We pursue this line here as well. Table 15 shows a regression in which the left hand side variable is defined as 1 if the respondent believes that luck determines individual fortunes. The East indicator variable is now negative. If we put this result together with that of Table 13, it appears that East Germans believe more than West Germans that individuals (being their effort or their luck) matter less than social conditions in determining success or failure in life. Column 2 shows no age effect for East Germans beyond the positive age effect also observed for West Germans.²⁷ Table 16 shows that those who believe that luck matters a lot in determining individual success are more favorable to government intervention. Not surprisingly, given the lower belief in the role of luck by East Germans, the inclusion of this variable has no significant effect on the east indicator variable.

²⁵As in table 5, we omit higher order terms of age as controls in this regression.

²⁶Alesina and Angeletos (2005) and Benabou and Tirole (2004) present models seeking to explain the equilibrium redistributive policies as a function of individual beliefs about luck and effort as determinants of success.

²⁷Again, we omit higher order terms of age as controls in this regression.

5 Final remarks

We find that East Germans believe significantly more so than West Germans that the state should be responsible for the financial security of different vulnerable groups in society, namely the unemployed, the sick, families, the old, and people requiring care. According to our results, it will take about one to two generations (20 to 40 years) for an average East German to have the same views on the role of the government in society than a West German.

The difference in preferences between former East and West Germans is due in large part to the direct effect of communism. This effect could arise due to indoctrination, e.g. in public schools, or simply due to becoming used to an intrusive public sector. A second, indirect effect of communism is that by making former East Germany poorer than West Germany, it has made the former more dependent on redistribution and therefore more favorable to it. The implication of our findings is that former West Germany has received a major “political shock”, in the sense that the new members of the unified Germany are much more favorable to state intervention. This shock has potentially long-lasting effects, since we find that preferences need one to two generations to converge. One caveat to this conclusion, however, is that since we could use only two survey years, namely 1997 and 2002, we could only estimate a linear convergence effect. It is possible that the speed of convergence may increase or decrease. Certainly, even 15 years after reunification former East Germans continue to view the role of the state in economic life as much more essential than the former West Germans, not exactly a population of libertarians.

In evaluating these results, one always has to wonder whether or not these survey answers are meaningful, namely whether they reflect what individuals truly believe. We are quite confident that they truly reflect preferences for two reasons. First, the basic correlations of the answers with variables like income, wealth, and labor force status are consistent with obvious individual cost/benefit analyses. Second, evidence on voting behavior in East and West over the observation period is consistent with the picture emerging from this survey. Table A4 shows the share of votes obtained by various parties in the different states in the elections for the federal parliament (*Bundestagswahlen*) in 1998 and 2002. In this table, the parties are ordered from left to right to coincide with their position in the political spectrum. Thus, the first column shows the vote share per state of the most leftist party, the PDS (*Partei des Demokratischen Sozialismus*), which is in effect the successor party of the SED (*Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands*), the ruling party in the GDR. In 1998, the percentage of votes received by this party was about 20 per cent in the East, but only around 1 to 2 per cent in the West; it was around 10 per cent in Berlin, which includes both former East and former West Berlin. This is consistent with our finding of a much more pro state, left leaning population in the East, as captured by the survey. Also, comparing the 2002 and 1998 elections, we see how the percentage of the PDS votes in the East shrinks substantially, presumably in favor of the SPD, the main center left party, whose share increases almost identically to the reduction in votes for the PDS. This

indicates a movement away from the communist leaning left toward the center of the political spectrum, and shows a convergence of the East to the West. This voting behavior is therefore consistent with the preferences regarding state intervention expressed by the respondents of the survey.

6 References

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Appendix

A German regional transfer system

German federalism is a complicated structure, with many legislative areas and taxes shared between the federal government and the states. Realizing the different economic powers of the states, the need for an equalization scheme was written down in the West German constitution in 1949. In 1993, federal and state governments reformed the system to administer massive monetary flows into the new Eastern German states. The new system (*Solidarpakt I*) was established in 1995, and scheduled to expire at the end of 2004. In response to the still significant economic needs of the Eastern German states, the federal and state governments negotiated an extension of the system (*Solidarpakt II*) in 2001, which started to become effective in 2005 and is scheduled to expire at the end of 2019. Through the new system, the Eastern German states will receive a total of 306 billion DM (i.e. 156 billion Euro) over a period of 15 years.

The financial equalization scheme between the federal government and the states (*Länderfinanzausgleich*) comprises a horizontal and a vertical component. In the horizontal component, the financial needs and financial resources of any given state are determined via specific formulas. Based on these calculations, it is decided whether a given state should receive extra financial resources, or should share its resources with other states. The financial flows between the states in this step sum up to zero.²⁸ In the subsequent vertical component, certain states receive additional financial resources from the federal government (*Bundesergänzungszuweisungen*). On top of that, since 1995 the Eastern German states have received special support from the federal government based on the “law for the promotion of investment in Eastern Germany” (*Investitionsförderungs-gesetz Aufbau Ost*). Last, the debt of the East German government was taken over by the Western German states. This led to annual interest and amortization payments by only the Western states (*Fonds Deutsche Einheit*). In Table 3, we report the transfers per capita in DM for every state in 1997 and 2002, adding the vertical and the horizontal component of the *Länderfinanzausgleich*, as well as the flows based on the *Investitionsförderungs-gesetz*²⁹ and the *Fonds Deutsche Einheit*.³⁰

²⁸In a preceding step, the receipts from value added taxes are divided between the states. 75% of the receipts are divided based on the number of inhabitants, while 25% of the receipts are divided according to a formula that takes the financial needs of the states into account. Hence, this procedure leads to some implicit flows between states. Unfortunately, we were not able to obtain the amounts of these implicit transfers.

²⁹Since 2002, these flows have become part of the *Bundesergänzungszuweisungen*, and hence they have only been added in 1997.

³⁰Note that results are unchanged when we omit the *Fonds Deutsche Einheit* in calculating the transfers.

Table 1: Average per capita income 1928, 1932, and 1936 by region

	1928 (in 1928 Mark)	1932 (in 1928 Mark)	1936 (in 1928 Mark)
Prussia	1,174	869	1,161
Provinz East-Prussia	814	673	849
Stadt Berlin (E/W)	1,822	1311	1,895
Provinz Brandenburg (E)	1,140	917	1,158
Provinz Pommern	921	721	967
Grenzmark Posen/West-Prussia	837	649	781
Niederschlesien	1,057	804	953
Oberschlesien	850	599	758
Sachsen (E)	1,155	844	1,161
Schleswig-Holstein (W)	1,164	938	1,192
Hannover (W)	1,069	859	1,156
Westfalen (W)	1,080	755	1,045
Hessen-Nassau (W)	1,226	963	1,140
Rheinprovinz (W)	1,218	857	1,171
Bayern (W)	1,041	785	1,049
Sachsen (E)	1,423	964	1,270
Württemberg (W)	1,183	1015	1,348
Baden (W)	1,135	859	1,117
Thüringen (E)	1,095	784	1,087
Hessen (W)	1,158	797	1,039
Hamburg (W)	1,754	1304	1,746
Other Länder	1,155	913	1,314
Deutsches Reich	1,185	875	1,173

Source: Statistisches Jahrbuch für das Deutsche Reich, various issues

Table 2: Summary statistics

year	variable	West sample		East Sample	
		Obs.	Per cent	Obs.	Per cent
1997	Responsibility for the financial security when unemployed (state=1)	6,104	63.24%	3,735	78.85%
	Responsibility for the financial security when sick (state=1)	6,105	34.50%	3,728	52.76%
	Responsibility for the financial security of the family (state=1)	6,095	32.78%	3,732	49.06%
	Responsibility for the financial security when old (state=1)	6,110	38.46%	3,737	56.09%
	Responsibility for the financial security when requiring care (state=1)	6,110	40.77%	3,737	56.44%
2002	Responsibility for the financial security when unemployed (state=1)	5,307	65.33%	3,343	76.64%
	Responsibility for the financial security when sick (state=1)	5,309	40.01%	3,345	51.81%
	Responsibility for the financial security of the family (state=1)	5,311	32.10%	3,347	45.65%
	Responsibility for the financial security when old (state=1)	5,319	36.70%	3,350	48.51%
	Responsibility for the financial security when requiring care (state=1)	5,313	44.27%	3,354	53.04%

year	variable	West sample		East Sample	
		Obs.	Per cent	Obs.	Per cent
1997	Life achievements determined by luck or effort (luck=1)	6,555	40.23%	4,070	31.40%
	Social conditions define possibilities (agree=1)	5,523	60.44%	3,465	72.41%

Table 3: Average income per capita, unemployment rates, and transfers by states

	Average income per capita (in DM)		Unemployment rates (in %)		Transfers per capita (in DM)	
	1997*	2002	1997	2002	1997*	2002
Berlin	28,830	28,528	17.3	16.9	2,922	3,020
WEST						
Baden-Württemberg	32,621	34,843	8.7	5.4	-249	-305
Bayern	32,011	33,895	8.7	6.0	-276	-325
Bremen	35,588	37,231	16.8	12.6	3,912	3,458
Hamburg	35,056	36,709	13.0	9.0	-172	-223
Hessen	30,683	32,803	10.4	6.9	-559	-614
Niedersachsen	30,149	31,473	12.9	9.2	285	319
Nordrhein-Westfalen	32,198	34,168	12.2	9.2	-182	-176
Rheinland-Pfalz, Saarland	29,625	31,329	11.0	7.6	720	649
Schleswig-Holstein	31,178	31,655	11.2	8.7	132	278
EAST						
Brandenburg	26,288	28,047	18.9	17.5	1,889	1,793
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	24,878	26,834	20.3	18.6	2,067	2,016
Sachsen	25,867	28,099	18.4	17.8	1,912	1,893
Sachsen-Anhalt	25,227	27,313	21.7	19.6	1,998	1,985
Thüringen	25,338	27,941	19.1	15.9	2,015	1,954

* Values adjusted for inflation

Table 4: Basic regression

Dependent variable	Responsibility for the financial security when unemployed (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when sick (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security of the family (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when old (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when requiring care (state=1)	
	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.
east	0.414	0.029	0.406	0.027	0.405	0.027	0.399	0.027	0.362	0.027
year02	0.068	0.023	0.170	0.023	-0.009	0.024	-0.027	0.023	0.105	0.023
east*year02	-0.124	0.039	-0.163	0.036	-0.063	0.036	-0.146	0.036	-0.177	0.036
age	-0.034	0.014	-0.018	0.014	-0.022	0.014	-0.034	0.014	-0.011	0.014
age squared (*10 ³)	0.745	0.283	0.375	0.277	0.473	0.278	0.709	0.273	0.095	0.272
age cubed (*10 ³)	-0.005	0.002	-0.002	0.002	-0.003	0.002	-0.004	0.002	-0.0001	0.002
male	-0.088	0.022	-0.083	0.021	-0.014	0.022	-0.031	0.022	0.014	0.021
number of children	0.034	0.014	0.035	0.012	0.064	0.012	0.059	0.036	0.109	0.036
number of adults	0.026	0.013	0.049	0.012	0.026	0.011	0.038	0.012	0.011	0.012
married	0.079	0.038	0.109	0.037	0.036	0.036	0.043	0.011	0.008	0.011
divorced	0.095	0.054	0.042	0.052	0.020	0.052	0.063	0.052	0.101	0.050
married but separated	0.028	0.088	-0.008	0.084	-0.031	0.084	0.096	0.084	0.176	0.085
widowed	-0.034	0.059	0.053	0.057	-0.020	0.058	-0.005	0.056	0.064	0.056
log(household income)	-0.171	0.026	-0.285	0.025	-0.149	0.024	-0.244	0.024	-0.154	0.024
civilservant	-0.165	0.056	-0.278	0.058	0.071	0.058	-0.114	0.058	-0.132	0.054
self-employed	-0.338	0.052	-0.433	0.052	-0.340	0.052	-0.477	0.052	-0.316	0.051
white-collar worker	-0.056	0.032	-0.082	0.030	-0.004	0.031	-0.126	0.030	-0.114	0.030
unemployed	0.153	0.051	-0.008	0.047	0.135	0.047	-0.007	0.046	-0.039	0.046
retired	-0.088	0.059	-0.108	0.057	0.137	0.057	-0.001	0.056	0.002	0.056
maternity	-0.005	0.079	-0.080	0.077	0.098	0.075	-0.229	0.076	-0.093	0.075
nonworking	-0.037	0.043	-0.034	0.042	0.153	0.042	-0.024	0.041	0.016	0.041
training	-0.033	0.064	0.003	0.061	-0.079	0.063	-0.056	0.061	-0.004	0.061
other nonworking	-0.007	0.051	-0.099	0.049	0.068	0.049	-0.052	0.048	-0.099	0.048
constant	2.165	0.293	2.113	0.283	0.924	0.280	2.143	0.280	1.284	0.276
obs	18,489		18,487		18,485		18,516		18,514	
log likelihood	-11,070		-12,208		-11,964		-12,265		-12,571	

Table 5: Regressions with east*age interaction

Dependent variable	Responsibility for the financial security when unemployed (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when sick (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security of the family (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when old (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when requiring care (state=1)	
	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.
east	0.029	0.064	-0.035	0.060	-0.032	0.060	-0.225	0.060	0.002	0.059
year02	0.075	0.023	0.178	0.023	-0.001	0.024	-0.016	0.023	0.111	0.023
east*year02	-0.140	0.039	-0.179	0.036	-0.077	0.036	-0.171	0.036	-0.191	0.036
age	-0.001	0.001	-0.002	0.001	-0.003	0.001	-0.004	0.001	-0.006	0.001
east*age	0.009	0.001	0.010	0.001	0.010	0.001	0.014	0.001	0.008	0.001
const	1.796	0.213	2.031	0.202	0.818	0.199	1.909	0.200	1.293	0.197
obs	18,489		18,487		18,485		18,516		18,514	
log likelihood	-11,047		-12,170		-11,928		-12,191		-12,546	

Table 6: Regressions with cohorts interacted with east

Dependent variable	Responsibility for the financial security when unemployed (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when sick (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security of the family (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when old (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when requiring care (state=1)	
	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.
east	0.316	0.068	0.239	0.063	0.141	0.064	0.075	0.064	0.204	0.064
year02	0.069	0.026	0.166	0.026	-0.042	0.027	-0.061	0.026	0.107	0.025
east*year02	-0.114	0.039	-0.141	0.037	-0.037	0.037	-0.112	0.036	-0.159	0.036
young	0.014	0.074	0.015	0.070	-0.210	0.072	-0.218	0.072	-0.030	0.070
middle	-0.085	0.100	-0.054	0.095	-0.429	0.097	-0.383	0.096	-0.084	0.094
old	-0.067	0.127	-0.104	0.122	-0.492	0.124	-0.518	0.123	-0.098	0.119
oldest	-0.022	0.154	-0.117	0.148	-0.431	0.151	-0.484	0.150	-0.019	0.146
young*east	-0.118	0.075	-0.008	0.070	0.111	0.071	0.109	0.071	0.002	0.071
middle*east	0.139	0.077	0.145	0.072	0.270	0.073	0.276	0.073	0.136	0.072
old*east	0.329	0.081	0.355	0.075	0.480	0.075	0.603	0.076	0.349	0.075
oldest*east	0.285	0.098	0.431	0.090	0.437	0.090	0.724	0.091	0.379	0.090
const	2.006	0.355	2.220	0.342	0.628	0.341	1.993	0.341	1.204	0.334
obs	18,489		18,487		18,485		18,516		18,514	
log likelihood	-11,034		-12,172		-11,919		-12,183		-12,538	

Table 7: Regressions with individuals who answer in 1997 and 2002

Dependent variable	Responsibility for the financial security when unemployed (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when sick (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security of the family (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when old (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when requiring care (state=1)	
	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.
east	0.421	0.034	0.373	0.032	0.389	0.032	0.372	0.032	0.322	0.032
year02	0.053	0.026	0.166	0.026	-0.026	0.027	-0.028	0.026	0.098	0.026
east*year02	-0.126	0.043	-0.109	0.040	-0.018	0.040	-0.080	0.040	-0.126	0.040
const	1.946	0.365	2.216	0.356	0.772	0.352	2.222	0.353	1.468	0.348
obs	14,433		14,434		14,471		14,449		14,451	
log likelihood	-8,623		-9,532		-9,372		-9,555		-9,808	

Table 8: Regressions with household government transfer ratio

Dependent variable	Responsibility for the financial security when unemployed (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when sick (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security of the family (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when old (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when requiring care (state=1)	
	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.
household government transfer ratio	0.031	0.045	-0.071	0.043	0.076	0.042	-0.062	0.043	0.018	0.042
east	0.411	0.030	0.407	0.028	0.403	0.028	0.396	0.028	0.362	0.028
year02	0.064	0.023	0.164	0.023	-0.014	0.024	-0.034	0.024	0.101	0.023
east*year02	-0.117	0.039	-0.162	0.037	-0.068	0.037	-0.143	0.036	-0.179	0.037
const	2.109	0.310	2.254	0.301	0.744	0.297	2.229	0.298	1.219	0.292
obs	17,872		17,871		17,871		17,897		17,895	
log likelihood	-10,680		-11,806		-11,556		-11,852		-12,156	

Table 9: Regressions with future income

Dependent variable	Responsibility for the financial security when unemployed (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when sick (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security of the family (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when old (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when requiring care (state=1)	
	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.
future log(income) change	0.008	0.041	-0.127	0.040	-0.038	0.039	-0.071	0.039	-0.066	0.039
east	0.424	0.035	0.371	0.032	0.389	0.032	0.365	0.032	0.322	0.032
const	2.332	0.495	2.669	0.478	0.969	0.479	2.717	0.474	1.945	0.469
obs	7,405		7,403		7,400		7,413		7,412	
log likelihood	-4,392		-4,817		-4,808		-4,899		-4,993	

Table 10: Regressions with aggregate regional variables

Dependent variable	Responsibility for the financial security when unemployed (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when sick (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security of the family (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when old (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when requiring care (state=1)	
	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.
east	0.278	0.050	0.306	0.047	0.354	0.047	0.290	0.046	0.226	0.046
year02	0.094	0.031	0.213	0.030	0.002	0.031	0.002	0.030	0.117	0.030
east*year02	-0.139	0.040	-0.167	0.038	-0.072	0.038	-0.146	0.038	-0.174	0.038
state income	0.009	0.009	-0.014	0.009	0.007	0.009	-0.009	0.009	-0.002	0.009
state unemployment	0.014	0.007	0.006	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.004	0.007	0.003	0.007
transfers (*10 ³)	0.040	0.022	-0.012	0.021	0.016	0.021	0.014	0.021	0.053	0.021
const	1.711	0.437	2.464	0.424	0.630	0.421	2.380	0.424	1.317	0.425
obs	18,488		18,486		18,484		18,515		18,513	
log likelihood	-11,055		-12,202		-11,959		-12,259		-12,558	

Table 11: Regressions with residence

Dependent variable	Responsibility for the financial security when unemployed (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when sick (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security of the family (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when old (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when requiring care (state=1)	
	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.
east	0.062	0.09	0.183	0.089	0.212	0.089	0.182	0.088	0.122	0.088
east living in East	0.379	0.092	0.238	0.09	0.205	0.090	0.231	0.089	0.256	0.089
year02	0.067	0.023	0.169	0.023	-0.009	0.024	-0.027	0.023	0.105	0.023
east*year02	0.162	0.117	-0.068	0.111	0.100	0.114	0.008	0.107	-0.087	0.113
(east living in East)*year02	-0.306	0.119	-0.098	0.113	-0.172	0.115	-0.162	0.109	-0.092	0.115
const	2.146	0.293	2.105	0.283	0.915	0.28	2.133	0.280	1.275	0.276
obs	18,489		18,487		18,485		18,516		18,514	
log likelihood	-11,061		-12,203		-11,961		-12,261		-12,564	

Table 12: Regressions with east states interacted with year02

Dependent variable	Responsibility for the financial security when unemployed (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when sick (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security of the family (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when old (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when requiring care (state=1)	
	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.
East Berlin	0.409	0.090	0.496	0.082	0.462	0.082	0.334	0.082	0.435	0.082
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	0.250	0.068	0.269	0.064	0.242	0.064	0.279	0.063	0.382	0.064
Brandenburg	0.381	0.062	0.313	0.057	0.400	0.056	0.429	0.057	0.363	0.057
Sachsen-Anhalt	0.486	0.058	0.495	0.052	0.438	0.052	0.496	0.052	0.437	0.052
Thüringen	0.539	0.060	0.384	0.052	0.389	0.052	0.393	0.052	0.303	0.052
Sachsen	0.397	0.046	0.449	0.042	0.450	0.042	0.402	0.042	0.338	0.042
year02	0.071	0.023	0.166	0.023	-0.012	0.024	-0.031	0.023	0.100	0.023
East Berlin * year02	-0.044	0.127	-0.372	0.107	0.021	0.109	-0.022	0.109	-0.135	0.110
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern * year02	0.082	0.099	-0.012	0.092	0.060	0.089	0.002	0.088	-0.181	0.090
Brandenburg * year02	-0.030	0.085	-0.035	0.075	0.022	0.072	-0.140	0.075	-0.233	0.075
Sachsen-Anhalt * year02	-0.133	0.079	-0.229	0.069	-0.111	0.071	-0.216	0.068	-0.221	0.070
Thüringen * year02	-0.456	0.075	-0.140	0.070	-0.098	0.068	-0.123	0.070	-0.010	0.067
Sachsen * year02	-0.063	0.061	-0.202	0.056	-0.108	0.055	-0.186	0.054	-0.208	0.056
const	2.201	0.296	2.135	0.286	0.897	0.282	2.136	0.282	1.255	0.278
obs	18,286		18,283		18,283		18,312		18,311	
log likelihood	-10,929		-12,057		-11,822		-12,112		-12,417	

Table 13: Regressions with social conditions as the independent variable

Independent variable: Social conditions define possibilities (agree=1)

Dependent variable	BASIC REGRESSION		REGRESSION INCLUDING AGE*EAST INTERACTION	
	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.
east	0.282	0.031	-0.188	0.085
age*east			0.011	0.002
age	0.000	0.020	0.002	0.002
age squared (*10 ³)	0.122	0.419		
age cubed (*10 ³)	-0.001	0.003		
male	-0.153	0.030	-0.155	0.030
number of children	0.020	0.017	0.022	0.017
number of adults	0.048	0.015	0.051	0.015
married	-0.037	0.051	-0.050	0.047
divorced	0.050	0.073	0.040	0.070
married but separated	-0.005	0.127	-0.009	0.126
widowed	0.103	0.083	0.100	0.082
log(household income)	-0.145	0.036	-0.144	0.036
civilservant	-0.199	0.074	-0.205	0.074
self-employed	-0.276	0.069	-0.283	0.069
white-collar worker	-0.040	0.043	-0.054	0.042
unemployed	0.153	0.068	0.144	0.068
retired	-0.129	0.086	-0.117	0.073
maternity	0.016	0.112	0.005	0.111
nonworking	0.060	0.059	0.048	0.059
training	0.062	0.091	0.075	0.086
other nonworking	-0.165	0.071	-0.167	0.070
constant	1.330	0.420	1.416	0.300
obs	8,580		8,580	
log likelihood	-5,413		-5,395	

Table 14: Regressions with social conditions as a control variable

Dependent variable	Responsibility for the financial security when unemployed (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when sick (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security of the family (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when old (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when requiring care (state=1)	
	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.
social conditions	0.076	0.024	0.088	0.023	0.090	0.023	0.087	0.023	0.074	0.023
east	0.406	0.032	0.397	0.029	0.395	0.029	0.380	0.029	0.327	0.029
year02	0.053	0.025	0.157	0.024	-0.023	0.025	-0.037	0.025	0.095	0.024
east*year02	-0.134	0.041	-0.149	0.038	-0.053	0.038	-0.111	0.038	-0.138	0.038
const	1.807	0.329	1.986	0.320	0.871	0.316	1.958	0.316	1.217	0.312
obs	16,198		16,203		16,200		16,225		16,223	
log likelihood	-9,666		-10,695		-10,493		-10,739		-11,012	

Table 15: Regressions with luck as the independent variable

Independent variable: Life achievements determined by luck or effort (luck=1)

Dependent variable	BASIC REGRESSION		REGRESSION INCLUDING AGE*EAST INTERACTION	
	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.
east	-0.375	0.030	-0.441	0.080
age*east			0.002	0.002
age	-0.143	0.019	0.009	0.002
age squared (*10 ³)	2.968	0.380		
age cubed (*10 ³)	-0.018	0.002		
male	-0.186	0.029	-0.187	0.029
number of children	0.033	0.016	0.011	0.016
number of adults	0.079	0.014	0.091	0.014
married	0.079	0.050	-0.048	0.045
divorced	0.093	0.070	-0.039	0.066
married but separated	0.169	0.117	0.049	0.116
widowed	0.251	0.076	0.135	0.075
log(household income)	-0.484	0.035	-0.481	0.035
civil servant	-0.609	0.083	-0.652	0.083
self-employed	-0.276	0.068	-0.316	0.068
white-collar worker	-0.319	0.042	-0.368	0.041
unemployed	-0.065	0.062	-0.076	0.062
retired	-0.156	0.079	0.032	0.067
maternity	-0.374	0.112	-0.366	0.111
nonworking	-0.110	0.055	-0.057	0.054
training	-0.362	0.088	-0.162	0.084
other nonworking	-0.427	0.070	-0.335	0.068
constant	5.615	0.401	3.415	0.289
obs	9,753		9,753	
log likelihood	-5,810		-5,841	

Table 16: Regressions with luck as a control variable

Dependent variable	Responsibility for the financial security when unemployed (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when sick (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security of the family (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when old (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when requiring care (state=1)	
	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.
luck	0.047	0.024	0.146	0.023	0.079	0.023	0.125	0.023	0.069	0.023
east	0.419	0.030	0.422	0.028	0.417	0.028	0.414	0.028	0.370	0.028
year02	0.063	0.024	0.163	0.024	-0.019	0.025	-0.035	0.024	0.103	0.023
east*year02	-0.136	0.040	-0.145	0.037	-0.049	0.037	-0.122	0.037	-0.158	0.037
const	1.869	0.317	1.798	0.307	0.718	0.305	1.811	0.304	1.115	0.301
obs	17,533		17,536		17,531		17,560		17,559	
log likelihood	-10,518		-11,550		-11,340		-11,610		-11,908	

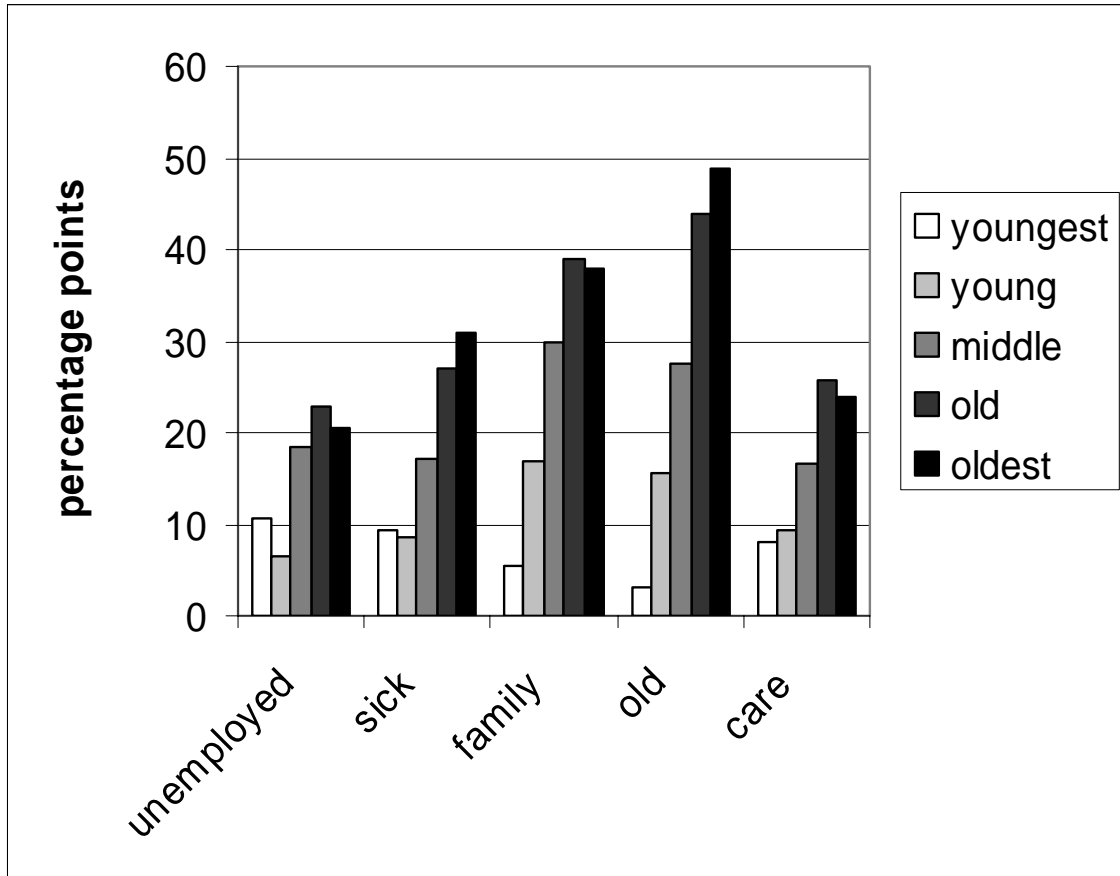


Figure 1: By how many percentage points is an East German of a certain birth cohort group more likely to favor state intervention than a West German of the same birth cohort group?

Table A1: Summary statistics for the dependent variables

year	variable	West sample		East Sample	
		Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Std. Dev.
1997	age	43.7	18.5	41.3	18.2
	male	47.9%		48.4%	
	number of children	0.823	1.040	0.712	0.903
	number of adults	2.411	1.107	2.521	1.121
	married	60.8%		61.9%	
	divorced	6.5%		6.6%	
	married but separated	1.6%		1.2%	
	widowed	7.6%		6.2%	
	household income	4,914	2,431	4,069	1,897
	civilservant	4.8%		1.6%	
	self-employed	4.8%		3.8%	
	white-collar worker	24.7%		22.4%	
	unemployed	3.6%		10.5%	
	retired	15.9%		11.9%	
	maternity	1.8%		1.6%	
	nonworking	12.7%		9.4%	
	training	3.1%		4.0%	
other nonworking	5.2%		4.9%		
2002	age	46.9	17.8	44.5	17.3
	male	47.7%		48.8%	
	number of children	0.788	0.988	0.576	0.818
	number of adults	2.193	0.939	2.286	0.898
	married	61.3%		56.7%	
	divorced	6.8%		7.5%	
	married but separated	1.5%		1.9%	
	widowed	7.4%		6.4%	
	household income	5,179	2,813	4,258	2,011
	civilservant	4.2%		1.8%	
	self-employed	5.4%		3.8%	
	white-collar worker	27.8%		23.6%	
	unemployed	2.9%		9.0%	
	retired	18.3%		14.9%	
	maternity	2.2%		1.8%	
	nonworking	10.6%		8.3%	
	training	3.0%		4.2%	
other nonworking	5.0%		5.9%		

Table A2: Basic regression - ordered probit

Dependent variable	Responsibility for the financial security when unemployed (state=1, private=5)		Responsibility for the financial security when sick (state=1, private=5)		Responsibility for the financial security of the family (state=1, private=5)		Responsibility for the financial security when old (state=1, private=5)		Responsibility for the financial security when requiring care (state=1, private=5)	
	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.
east	-0.392	0.024	-0.364	0.024	-0.357	0.024	-0.344	0.024	-0.314	0.024
year02	-0.032	0.019	-0.150	0.019	-0.012	0.019	0.005	0.019	-0.083	0.020
east*year02	0.114	0.031	0.140	0.030	0.037	0.030	0.133	0.030	0.161	0.031
age	0.026	0.012	0.015	0.012	0.019	0.012	0.021	0.012	0.016	0.012
age squared (*10 ³)	-0.577	0.238	-0.362	0.245	-0.429	0.238	-0.480	0.232	-0.261	0.241
age cubed (*10 ³)	0.004	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.003	0.002	0.003	0.001	0.001	0.002
male	0.051	0.019	0.099	0.019	0.021	0.019	0.071	0.019	0.015	0.019
number of children	-0.020	0.011	-0.028	0.010	-0.048	0.011	-0.029	0.031	-0.099	0.032
number of adults	-0.016	0.010	-0.051	0.010	-0.030	0.009	-0.027	0.010	-0.009	0.010
married	-0.056	0.031	-0.079	0.032	-0.030	0.030	-0.041	0.009	-0.007	0.010
divorced	-0.101	0.045	-0.013	0.046	-0.040	0.043	-0.035	0.045	-0.091	0.045
married but separated	0.054	0.068	0.001	0.069	0.004	0.067	-0.080	0.071	-0.164	0.071
widowed	0.007	0.049	-0.053	0.049	0.005	0.048	0.035	0.048	-0.048	0.049
log(household income)	0.137	0.021	0.251	0.022	0.147	0.021	0.231	0.021	0.148	0.022
civilservant	0.141	0.049	0.273	0.049	-0.083	0.050	0.156	0.047	0.133	0.046
self-employed	0.333	0.044	0.427	0.043	0.349	0.043	0.477	0.042	0.337	0.044
white-collar worker	0.081	0.027	0.107	0.026	0.035	0.026	0.165	0.026	0.144	0.026
unemployed	-0.126	0.039	0.003	0.041	-0.119	0.039	0.007	0.040	0.017	0.042
retired	0.011	0.048	0.095	0.050	-0.118	0.049	0.082	0.049	0.026	0.049
maternity	-0.040	0.064	0.035	0.064	-0.097	0.058	0.181	0.061	0.103	0.064
nonworking	-0.010	0.035	0.029	0.036	-0.148	0.035	0.039	0.035	0.005	0.035
training	0.016	0.051	0.019	0.053	0.071	0.052	0.016	0.051	0.030	0.053
other nonworking	0.019	0.042	0.112	0.042	-0.019	0.042	0.098	0.042	0.110	0.042
obs	18,489		18,487		18,485		18,516		18,514	
log likelihood	-21,179		-20,772		-22,233		-21,729		-20,327	

Table A3: Basic regression with assets controls

Dependent variable	Responsibility for the financial security when unemployed (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when sick (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security of the family (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when old (state=1)		Responsibility for the financial security when requiring care (state=1)	
	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.	Coeff.	Std. Err.
east	0.398	0.031	0.381	0.029	0.389	0.029	0.381	0.029	0.352	0.029
year02	0.091	0.025	0.184	0.025	-0.006	0.026	0.000	0.025	0.126	0.025
east*year02	-0.131	0.041	-0.158	0.039	-0.070	0.039	-0.150	0.038	-0.196	0.039
log(household asset income)	-0.031	0.009	-0.033	0.009	-0.018	0.009	-0.052	0.009	-0.029	0.009
own house	-0.077	0.024	-0.059	0.023	-0.154	0.023	-0.114	0.023	-0.111	0.023
age	-0.039	0.015	-0.035	0.015	-0.030	0.015	-0.051	0.015	-0.026	0.015
age squared (*10 ³)	0.865	0.311	0.729	0.302	0.646	0.303	1.037	0.300	0.407	0.298
age cubed (*10 ³)	-0.005	0.002	-0.004	0.002	-0.004	0.002	-0.006	0.002	-0.002	0.002
male	-0.105	0.024	-0.086	0.023	-0.016	0.023	-0.033	0.023	0.010	0.023
number of children	0.035	0.015	0.040	0.013	0.078	0.013	0.051	0.013	0.019	0.013
number of adults	0.026	0.013	0.049	0.012	0.039	0.012	0.050	0.012	0.013	0.012
married	0.072	0.040	0.117	0.039	0.036	0.039	0.058	0.039	0.124	0.038
divorced	0.070	0.059	0.051	0.058	0.032	0.058	0.042	0.058	0.096	0.056
married but separated	-0.073	0.104	-0.091	0.099	0.013	0.098	0.037	0.099	0.200	0.098
widowed	-0.042	0.064	0.025	0.062	-0.045	0.063	-0.043	0.061	0.071	0.061
log(household income)	-0.138	0.030	-0.259	0.029	-0.098	0.028	-0.184	0.028	-0.106	0.028
civil servant	-0.130	0.058	-0.244	0.059	0.075	0.06	-0.071	0.06	-0.098	0.056
self-employed	-0.277	0.055	-0.381	0.055	-0.326	0.057	-0.457	0.057	-0.262	0.054
white-collar worker	-0.036	0.034	-0.059	0.032	0.004	0.033	-0.106	0.032	-0.101	0.032
unemployed	0.175	0.057	0.017	0.053	0.145	0.053	0.036	0.053	-0.038	0.052
retired	-0.084	0.063	-0.132	0.061	0.122	0.062	0.012	0.060	0.000	0.06
maternity	-0.022	0.087	-0.032	0.085	0.088	0.082	-0.235	0.085	-0.040	0.083
nonworking	-0.023	0.046	-0.017	0.045	0.152	0.045	0.002	0.045	0.019	0.044
training	0.012	0.069	0.021	0.066	-0.053	0.068	-0.034	0.066	0.050	0.066
other nonworking	0.022	0.055	-0.069	0.053	0.074	0.052	-0.010	0.052	-0.065	0.052
constant	2.159	0.323	2.352	0.314	0.747	0.31	2.196	0.308	1.264	0.305
obs	16,260		16,257		16,255		16,282		16,278	
log likelihood	-9,769		-10,692		-10,464		-10,704		-11,020	

Table A4: Results of elections for the Bundestag, 1998 and 2002

State	year	PDS	GRUNE	SPD	CDU/CSU	FDP	others
Berlin	1998	13.4	11.3	37.8	23.7	4.9	8.8
	2002	11.4	14.6	36.6	25.9	6.6	4.9
<i>WEST</i>							
Baden-Württemberg	1998	1.0	9.2	35.6	37.8	8.8	7.6
	2002	0.9	11.4	33.5	42.8	7.8	3.6
Bayern	1998	0.7	5.9	34.4	47.7	5.1	6.2
	2002	0.7	7.6	26.1	58.6	4.5	2.4
Bremen	1998	2.4	11.3	50.2	25.4	5.9	4.7
	2002	2.2	15.0	48.6	24.6	6.7	2.9
Hamburg	1998	2.3	10.8	45.7	30.0	6.5	4.7
	2002	2.1	16.2	42.0	28.1	6.8	4.8
Hessen	1998	1.5	8.2	41.6	34.7	7.9	6.2
	2002	1.3	10.7	39.7	37.1	8.2	2.9
Niedersachsen	1998	1.0	5.9	49.4	34.1	6.4	3.2
	2002	1.0	7.3	47.8	34.5	7.1	2.2
Nordrhein-Westfalen	1998	1.2	6.9	46.9	33.8	7.3	4.0
	2002	1.2	8.9	43.0	35.1	9.3	2.5
Rheinland-Pfalz	1998	1.0	6.1	41.3	39.1	7.1	5.4
	2002	1.0	7.9	38.2	40.2	9.3	3.3
Saarland	1998	1.0	5.5	52.4	31.8	4.7	4.5
	2002	1.4	7.6	46.0	35.0	6.4	3.7
Schleswig-Holstein	1998	1.5	6.5	45.4	35.7	7.6	3.3
	2002	1.3	9.4	42.9	36.0	8.0	2.4
<i>EAST</i>							
Brandenburg	1998	20.3	3.6	43.5	20.8	2.8	8.9
	2002	17.2	4.5	46.4	22.3	5.8	3.8
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	1998	23.6	2.9	35.3	29.3	2.2	6.6
	2002	16.3	3.5	41.7	30.3	5.4	2.8
Sachsen	1998	20.0	4.4	29.1	32.7	3.6	10.2
	2002	16.2	4.6	33.3	33.6	7.3	5.1
Sachsen-Anhalt	1998	20.7	3.3	38.1	27.2	4.1	6.6
	2002	14.4	3.4	43.2	29.0	7.6	2.4
Thüringen	1998	21.2	3.9	34.5	28.9	3.4	8.1
	2002	17.0	4.3	39.9	29.4	5.9	3.6

Source: Statistisches Bundesamt, Wirtschaft und Statistik 10/2002, p.827, Table 4.