

ECON 460: Women, Work, and the World Economy

Reading Guide: “Queens”

Read the abstract and the introduction carefully first. After reading the introduction, you should be able to answer the following questions:

1. What is the big-picture question this paper is exploring, and why is it important?
2. How will they seek to explore that question? What is their lever?
3. What is the context of their research? What time(s) and place(s) are they studying?
4. What is their main empirical (or identification) strategy?
5. What are their main findings?

Now read the whole article carefully – though you can skim the paragraphs (sprinkled throughout the paper) describing their extensive robustness checks. After reading the article, you should be able to answer the following questions:

1. What two potential mechanisms do the authors propose that might explain why female monarchs engage in more conflicts than male monarchs?
2. What is the structure of their data data set? Do they use cross-sectional data, a time series, or a panel? What time period does the data set cover?
3. How many polities are included in the main analysis sample? What characteristic of these polities determines whether they are included in the main analysis or not?
4. How many different queens are included in the analysis?
5. What two instrumental variables do the authors use, and what endogenous variable do they use them to instrument?
6. What table contains the main results? What regression specification(s) did the authors use to create the table? Which coefficients are statistically significant, and in which specifications? What is the overall interpretation of the pattern of results reported in the main table?
7. What steps do the authors take to convince readers that their instruments are valid?
8. Does the empirical evidence suggest that queens are involved in more conflicts early in their reigns or later in their reigns? Which empirical specifications do the authors use to demonstrate this?
9. What does Table 6 suggest about the reasons that polities led by queens are involved in more conflicts than those led by kings? Are queens more aggressive than kings, or are other countries more likely to attach a polity that is ruled by a queen?