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A County-Level Database on Expellees in West Germany, 1939–1961

ABSTRACT: Between 1944 and 1950, almost eight million expellees arrived in West Germany. This paper introduces a rich county-level database on the expellees' socio-economic situation in post-war Germany. The database contains regionally disaggregated information on the number, origin, age, gender, religious denomination and labour force status of expellees. It also records corresponding information on the West German population as a whole, on the pre-war economic and religious structure of host and origin regions, and on wartime destruction in West Germany. The paper illustrates the scope of the database by studying the determinants of county-level differences in expellee inflows.
Keywords: displacement, expellees, World War II, county-level data, census data
JEL Codes: N01, N34, J15, J61

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1. Introduction

Following one of the largest displacements in history, the population census of 13 September 1950 counted almost eight million expellees (*Heimatvertriebene*) in West Germany. During the final months of World War II, hundreds of thousands of Germans fled from the eastern front to the German interior, escaping the advancing Red Army. After Nazi Germany's surrender, the Potsdam Treaty of 1945 placed former German territories east to the Oder-Neisse under Polish and Soviet control (see Figure 1). Germans remaining east to the new German-Polish border were expelled and resettled in post-war Germany.

The mass arrival of expellees had profound consequences for the West German economy[1], and the integration of the newcomers was one of the main economic challenges that the war-ridden country faced after 1945.[2] Consequently, Germany's statistical

1 Ambrosius (1996); Braun/Kvasnicka (2014)
2 Connor (2017); Grosser (2006).

authorities collected rich data on the socio-economic situation of expellees.[3] This paper describes a new electronic database that compiles county-level data on the demographic and economic characteristics of expellees and West German population as a whole.[4]

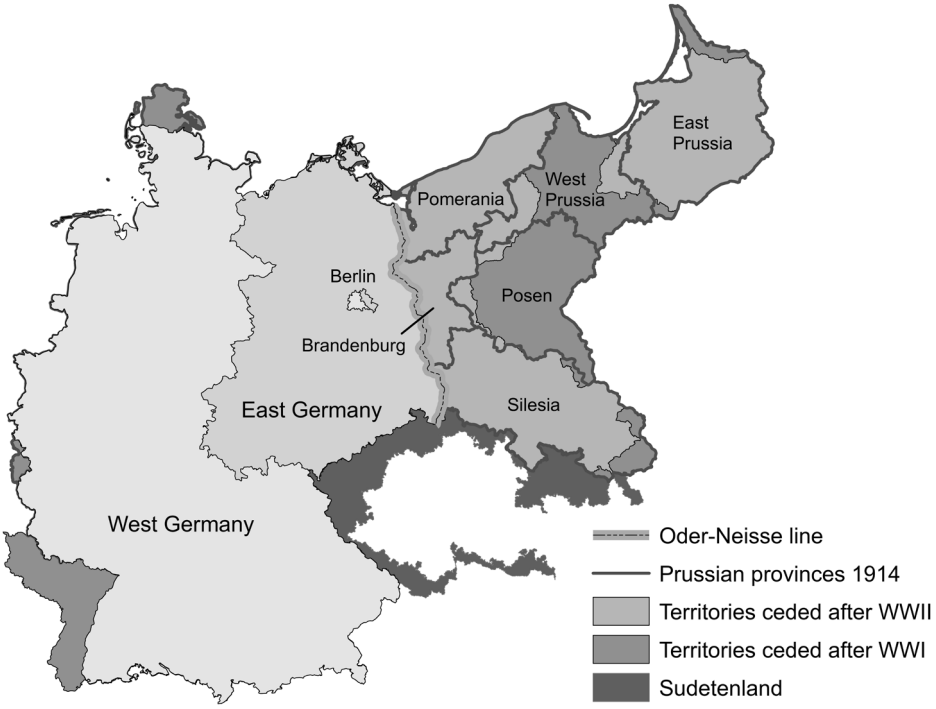

Figure 1: German territorial losses 1919/1945 and the Sudetenland
Source: Base maps: MPIDR [Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research] and CGG [Chair for Geodesy and Geoinformatics, University of Rostock] (2011) and Testa (2020).

The cornerstone of the database is the population and occupation census of 13 September 1950, which provides the most detailed regional information on expellees of all the West German post-war censuses. We complement this source with data from the censuses of 29 October 1946 and 6 June 1961 and from other selected administrative statistics. We also digitized regional data from the last pre-war census of 17 May 1939. The 1939 census provides information on regional conditions that prevailed before the expellee

3 See, e. g., Nellner (1959) and Reichling (1989) for overviews of statistical sources on the expellees. Krallert-Sattler (1989) provides a detailed bibliography of publications that deal with the expellee inflow.

4 Several earlier publications have summarized important data series on the expellees (see, e. g., Statistisches Bundesamt (1955); Reichling (1989)). Besser (2008) has compiled some of these data summaries in electronic form. However, the data compilation only contains data at the level of West German states.

inflow. It also provides information on the pre-war economic structure of Germany's former eastern territories where most expellees lived before the war.

The paper proceeds as follows. Section 2 briefly reviews recent empirical studies on the displacement's socio-economic consequences. Section 3 discusses the scope and sources of the database. Section 4 then uses the database to study the regional distribution of expellees. Section 5 concludes with guidelines for using the database.

2. Related Literature

Forced migration has grown rapidly in the last decade. The UN Refugee Agency counted 79.5 million forcibly displaced persons at the end of 2019, up from 41.1 million in 2010.[5] This sharp increase in forced migration has also revived academic interest in the displacements that occurred in Europe during and after World War II, including that of Germans from East and Central Europe. We thus begin with briefly reviewing the growing literature on the integration of German expellees and their effects on the West German economy.[6] We restrict our review to econometric studies published in the last ten years.

A first set of studies analyses the effect of the displacement on *expellees themselves and their integration* in West Germany. Building on earlier work by Lüttinger[7], Bauer et al. show that by 1971, first-generation expellees had not fully caught up with their native peers in terms of income and wealth. In contrast, displaced agricultural workers earned more than comparable natives, as they were more likely to leave low-paid agriculture after 1945. [8] Braun and Dwenger highlight the spatial dimension of expellee integration.[9] They show that high expellee shares and a large agricultural sector impeded local integration processes, in line with hypotheses of contemporary observers.[10] Falck et al. find no discernible effect of the Federal Expellee Law of 1953 (*Bundesvertriebenengesetz*) on labour market outcomes of expellees.[11] Bauer et al. document that expellees were not only economically worse off than native West Germans but also faced a higher mortality risk.[12]

A second set of studies considers the effect of the expellee inflow on *receiving areas* in West Germany. Braun and Mahmoud show that expellee inflows decreased native em-

5 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2020).
6 Becker/Ferrara (2019) survey recent empirical work on the socio-economic consequences of forced migration more generally. Verme/Schuettler (2021) provide a meta-analysis of the economic effects that forced displacement has on host communities, capturing 19 major episodes of forced migration. Both articles also feature studies on the flight and displacement of Germans after World War II.
7 Lüttinger (1986).
8 Bauer et al. (2013)
9 Braun/Dwenger (2020)
10 Pfeil (1958); Reichling (1958).
11 Falck et al. (2012)
12 Bauer et al. (2019)

ployment in 1950, but only in labour markets segments with very high inflows.[13] Braun and Weber show that it took regional labour markets more than a decade to adjust to the expellee inflow fully. Large differences in regional unemployment rates and strong migration from high- to low-inflow regions characterised the adjustment process.[14]

Braun and Kvasnicka show that districts with high expellee inflows experienced greater structural change away from low-productivity agriculture,[15] and Peters finds positive effects of expellee inflows on manufacturing employment and income per capita. Importantly, he also shows that the positive income effect materialized only slowly in the late-1950s and 1960s. He then builds an idea-based model of spatial growth that is consistent with his empirical findings.[16] Semrad documents for Bavarian counties that higher shares of Sudeten Germans were associated with higher shares of pupils in higher secondary school. According to the study, the Sudeten Germans' strong preferences for education also increased educational attainment among native Bavarians.[17]

Schumann considers the long-run effect of the expellee inflow on the spatial distribution of population in Baden-Württemberg. He shows that the expellee inflow had a persistent positive effect on municipality size along the former border between the French and American occupation zone.[18] In related work, Wyrwich shows that counties in the French occupation zone experienced lower population growth in 1939–2010 than counties in the American or British zone. The study attributes this finding to the fact that the French zone received markedly fewer expellees.[19]

While Schumann and Wyrwich highlight the persistent effect of expellee inflows,[20] Braun et al. argue that this conclusion hinges on the regional unit of observation. They show that the expellee inflow had a persistent effect on the distribution of population only within but not between labour markets.[21] Franke argues that internal migration of expellees in the 1950s can explain the significant decline in relative population that cities along the inner-German border experienced after German division.[22]

Chevalier et al. study the effect of the expellee inflow on local taxes and welfare expenditures in host cities. They show that higher expellee inflows led to higher taxes on farm and business owners as well as higher welfare spending. The authors argue that these changes in public policy setting were partly the results of expellees' political influence.[23] Menon finds that even today, the vote share of parties on the radical right remains larger in counties with historically higher expellee inflows. The author argues that expel-

13 Braun/Mahmoud (2014)
14 Braun/Weber (2021)
15 Braun/Kvasnicka (2014)
16 Peters (2019)
17 Semrad (2015)
18 Schumann (2014)
19 Wyrwich (2020)
20 Schumann (2014) and Wyrwich (2020)
21 Braun et al. (2020)
22 Franke (2017)
23 Chevalier et al. (2018)

lees had a persistent effect on voting patterns because they maintained a strong group identify after the frequently hostile welcome in West Germany.[24]

While more and more empirical studies consider the effect of the expellee inflow on host communities, less evidence exists on the socio-economic consequences of the displacement for origin regions. Only recently has Testa studied the long-run consequences of the expulsion of Sudeten Germans for their origin regions' economic development. Today, municipalities in the former Sudetenland have lower population density, higher unemployment rates, and less skill-intensive industries. The paper attributes these findings to selective migration of less-skilled individuals into the Sudetenland and to the extraction of physical capital after the displacement.[25] Guzi et al. show that resettled areas in the former Sudetenland still experience higher population churn today. The authors argue that the local population still feels less attached to their place of residence, after the displacement destroyed local social capital.[26]

3. Content and Sources

Table 1 gives an overview of the scope and sources of the data that we collected on the expellees' socio-economic situation in post-war West Germany. Overall, the database contains more than 800 variables and more than 300,000 data points.

The *1939 census* contains information on the economic structure of both receiving counties in West Germany and the German Reich's eastern territories. Notably, the census also encompasses the Sudetenland (see Figure 1), which Nazi Germany annexed in 1938. The Sudetenland was home to 1.91 out of the 7.88 million expellees that resided in West Germany in 1950. The census also provides county-level data on the local population's religious structure.

The *1946 census* is the first census conducted in Germany after World War II. It contains county-level data on the number of expellees by gender and origin region. The census defined expellees as all persons who on 1 September 1939 had lived in the former German territories east of the Oder-Neisse line or abroad, but only if their mother tongue was German. Overall, the 1946 census counted 5.88 million expellees in West Germany and 3.60 million in the Soviet occupation zone. Except for population, other information, such as expellees' occupational structure, is only available at a regionally more aggregated level and is thus not included in the database.

The *1950 census* contains the most comprehensive set of county-level data of the West German post-war censuses. As in 1946, the 1950 census used residence on 1 September 1939 to distinguish expellees from the population at large. It defined expellees as German nationals or ethnic Germans who on 1 September 1939 lived in the former German territories east of the Oder-Neisse line, the Saarland or abroad, but only if their mother tongue

24 Menon (2020)
25 Testa (2020)
26 Guzi et al. (2019)

was German. Overall, the 1950 census counted 7.88 million expellees in West Germany. Not all variables are available for all nine West German states. The states' statistical offices published separate statistical compendiums, which differ slightly in their coverage.

The *1950 population census* provides detailed county-level information on the populations' place of residence on 1 September 1939. All states provided information on the number of persons from the most important origin regions of expellees, namely Silesia, Brandenburg, Pomerania, East Prussia, Czechoslovakia (including the Sudetenland), and Poland (including the regions Germany ceded after World War I). The population census also distinguished the expellees' religious structure from that of the local population as a whole. The expellees' arrival often changed the local denominational structure markedly, as Catholic expellees ended up in Protestant regions and vice versa.[27] County-level data on the expellee population by age and sex is only available for Hesse and Rhineland-Palatinate. All other states published this information only at the district (*Regierungsbezirk*) level. The database also contains each county's total male and female population in 1939, 1946 and 1950.

The *1950 occupation census* provides county-level data on the labour force status of expellees and the population as a whole. It distinguishes, in particular, between economically active persons (*Erwerbspersonen),* independent economically inactive persons *(Selbständige Berufslose),* and dependent economically inactive persons (*Angehörige ohne Beruf*). Data for the total population are also separately available by one-digit sector. The *1950 workplace census* provides county-level information on the number of non-agricultural workplaces and persons employed therein by sector. It further recorded total expellee employment by sector. Bavaria also published separate county-level data for expellee firms.

The *1961 census* counted Germans who held an official displacement identification card (*Vertriebenenausweis A/B*)[28] as expellees. It thus no longer used the place of residence in 1939 as the main criterion to identify expellees. The 1961 census contains county-level information on the number of female and male expellees.[29] We complement this data with information on the total population by sex in 1939, 1950 and 1961, and add data on the regional distribution of expellees in 1956 from official housing statistics. The 1961 census also counted German refugees from the Soviet Occupation Zone holding an official displacement identification card (*Vertriebenenausweis C*) and other Germans from the Soviet zone without displacement status. While the census collected detailed data on the expellees' socio-economic situation[30], the data was not published at the county level.

27 Connor (2017).

28 This card was granted to German nationals or ethnic Germans who were displaced during or after World War II from the former eastern territories of the German Reich or abroad. Children born after the displacement inherited the displacement status from the parent with child custody.

29 The next census in 1970 no longer contained county-level data on the regional distribution of expellees. Instead, it used a 10 % sample of the population to compare the socio-economic situation of expellees and Germans from the German Democratic Republic to that of native West Germans (see Statistisches Bundesamt (1974), for the main results).

30 See Statistisches Bundesamt (1967b).

Table 1: Scope and Sources of Digitized County-Level Data

Table	Year	Variable	Sources
A. Population and occupation census of 17 May 1939			
1	1939	Employment by sector, gender, and occupational status	Statistisches Reichsamt (1943)
2	1939	Population by religious denomination	Statistisches Reichsamt (1941a)
B. Population and occupation census of 29 October 1946			
3–5	1946	Population by gender and place of residence on September 1, 1939[a]	Statistisches Amt des Vereinigten Wirtschaftsgebietes (1950); Statistisches Landesamt Rheinland-Pfalz (1949)
C. Population, occupation, and workplace census of 13 September 1950			
6	1950	Total number of expellees	Statistisches Bundesamt (1955)
7	1950	Population by place of residence on September 1, 1939	Bayerisches Statistisches Landesamt (1952c); Hessische Statistisches Landesamt (1952a); Niedersächsisches Amt für Landesplanung und Statistik (1953a); Statistisches Landesamt Baden-Württemberg (1954a); Statistisches Landesamt Bremen (1953a); Statistisches Landesamt der Freien und Hansestadt Hamburg (1953b); Statistisches Landesamt Nordrhein-Westfalen (1952b); Statistisches Landesamt Rheinland-Pfalz (1951, 1952b); Statistisches Landesamt Schleswig-Holstein (1953a)
8	1950	Population by religious denomination and expellees status[b]	See previous entry
9	1950	Population by age, sex, and expellee status[c]	See previous entry
10	1939, 1946, 1950	Population by sex; land area[d]	Statistisches Bundesamt (1953)
11	1950	Population by labour force status and expellee status; population by labour force status and one-digit sector	Bayerisches Statistisches Landesamt (1952b); Hessisches Statistisches Landesamt (1952b); Niedersächsisches Amt für Landesplanung und Statistik (1953a); Statistisches Bundesamt (1955); Statistisches Landesamt Baden-Württemberg (1954b); Statistisches Landesamt Bremen (1953b); Statistisches Landesamt der Freien und Hansestadt Hamburg (1953a); Statistisches Landesamt Nordrhein-Westfalen (1952c,d); Statistisches Landesamt Rheinland-Pfalz (1952a); Statistisches Landesamt Schleswig-Holstein (1953b)

Table	Year	Variable	Sources
12	1950	Number of non-agricultural workplaces by one-digit sector; employment level of non-agricultural workplaces by one-digit sector and expellee status	Bayerisches Statistisches Landesamt (1952a); Hessisches Statistisches Landesamt (1951); Niedersächsisches Amt für Landesplanung und Statistik (1953b); Statistisches Landesamt Baden-Württemberg (1952); Statistisches Landesamt Bremen (1952); Statistisches Landesamt der Freien und Hansestadt Hamburg (1952); Statistisches Landesamt Nordrhein-Westfalen (1952a); Statistisches Landesamt Schleswig-Holstein (1952); Statistisches Landesamt für Württemberg-Hohenzollern (1952)
	D. Population census of 6 June 1961		
13	1961	Number of expellees, refugees from the Soviet Occupation Zone, and other Germans from the Soviet Occupation Zone by sex[e]	Statistisches Bundesamt (1967b)
14	1939, 1950, 1961	Population by sex; land area[e]	Statistisches Bundesamt (1967a)
	E. Housing statistics of 25 September 1956		
15	1956	Population by sex and expellee status; land area	Statistisches Bundesamt (1957)
	F. War damages		
16	1950	Total and damaged residential dwellings (*Normalwohnungen*); dwellings by construction year	Statistisches Bundesamt (1956)
17	1945	Loss in housing space	Institut für Raumforschung (1955)

Notes: [a] Data for the state of Baden were only published at district (*Regierungsbezirk*) level. [b] Lower Saxony and Rhineland-Palatinate only published data for expellees and migrants from the Soviet Occupation Zone combined. [c] Only Hesse and Rhineland-Palatinate published county-level data on the age/gender structure of expellees; all other states reported data at district level. [d] For counties in their 1950 borders. [e] For counties in their 1961 borders.
Source: compiled by authors.

Finally, the database also contains regional information on war destruction, one key determinant of the regional distribution of expellees in West Germany (see Section 4). The *1950 housing census* distinguished dwellings by their construction date and counted dwellings that were damaged in the war. Thus, one can calculate the share of damaged dwellings as a measure of local war destruction.[31] The second measure contained in the database draws on various administrative sources to classify the loss in housing space in four categories ('no losses', 'minor losses', 'substantial losses', 'very substantial losses').[32]

4. Regional Distribution

The very uneven regional distribution of expellees was a core topic in contemporaneous policy debates.[33] In particular, the so-called refugee states of Bavaria, Lower Saxony, and Schleswig-Holstein argued that they were over-burdened by the disproportionally large inflow of expellees. Methodologically, many recent studies exploit the large regional variation in expellee inflows to study their socio-economic consequences (see Section 2). We thus illustrate the scope of the database by describing and analysing the expellees' regional distribution across West German counties.

Figure 2 shows the 1950 population share of expellees for all 556 West German counties that existed at the time. The unequal distribution is striking: the expellee share ranges from 1.8 percent in Pirmasens, located in the south-west, to 44.1 percent in Salzgitter, located in the northeast. The mean county-level expellee share is 18.6 percent, with a standard deviation of 9.4 percent .

Figure 2 illustrates three crucial patterns in the regional distribution of expellees. First, the expellees share was much lower in counties located in the French occupation zone. The mean expellee share is 6.8 percent across counties in the French zone, but 20.1 percent in the British zone and 21.4 percent in the American zone. This is because the French initially refused to accept expellee transfers into their occupation zone. They were not invited to the Potsdam Conference and thus did not feel responsible for its consequences.

Second, the population share of expellees also differed strongly *within* occupation zones. The British zone, in particular, exhibited a marked east-west divide. Expellee shares were above 30 percent in the north-east but hardly reached 5 percent in the far west of the zone. This divide resulted from the mass flight of Germans from the Eastern front lines at the end of the war. As the Red Army advanced westwards, refugees from East Prussia, for instance, fled along the coast or boarded ships to North Germany. Consequently, the vast majority of East Prussian expellees lived in the northeast of West

31 A crucial drawback of this measure is that the census only counted dwellings that could still house residents in 1950. It does not contain information on dwellings that were completely destroyed in the war.

32 A third measure of war destruction is the amount of rubble per capita at the end of the war, as used in, e. g., Brakman et al. (2004). Unfortunately, data on the amount of rubble, as published in Kästner (1949), is only available for the 199 largest West German cities.

33 Pfeil (1958); Reichling (1958).

Germany in 1950 (see Panel (a) of Figure 3). In contrast, refugees from the Sudetenland gathered in neighbouring Bavaria (see Panel (b)). Accessibility of host regions was thus an important determinant of the regional distribution of expellees.

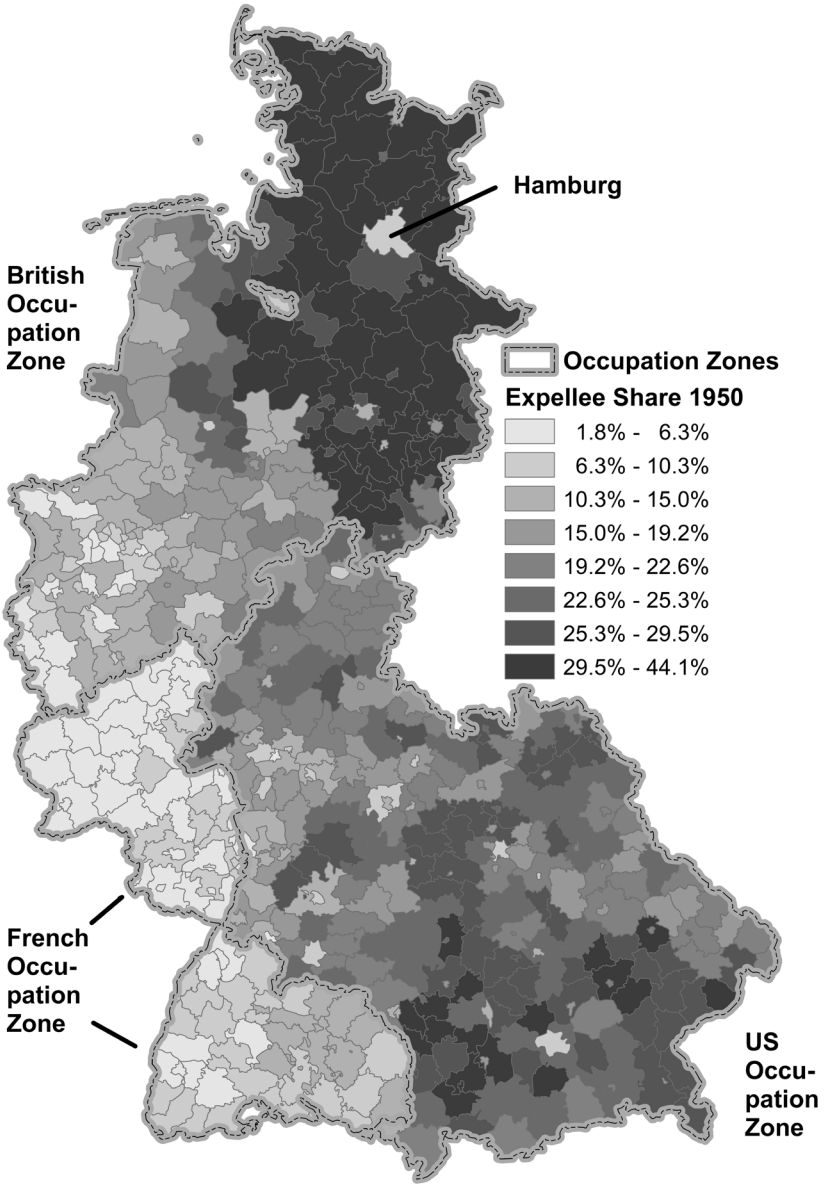

Figure 2: Total population share of expellees, September 1950
Notes: The figure depicts the population share of all expellees on 13 September 1950. The dashed black line (on grey background) depicts occupation zone borders.
Source: Basemap: MPIDR (2011). *Source*: Database.

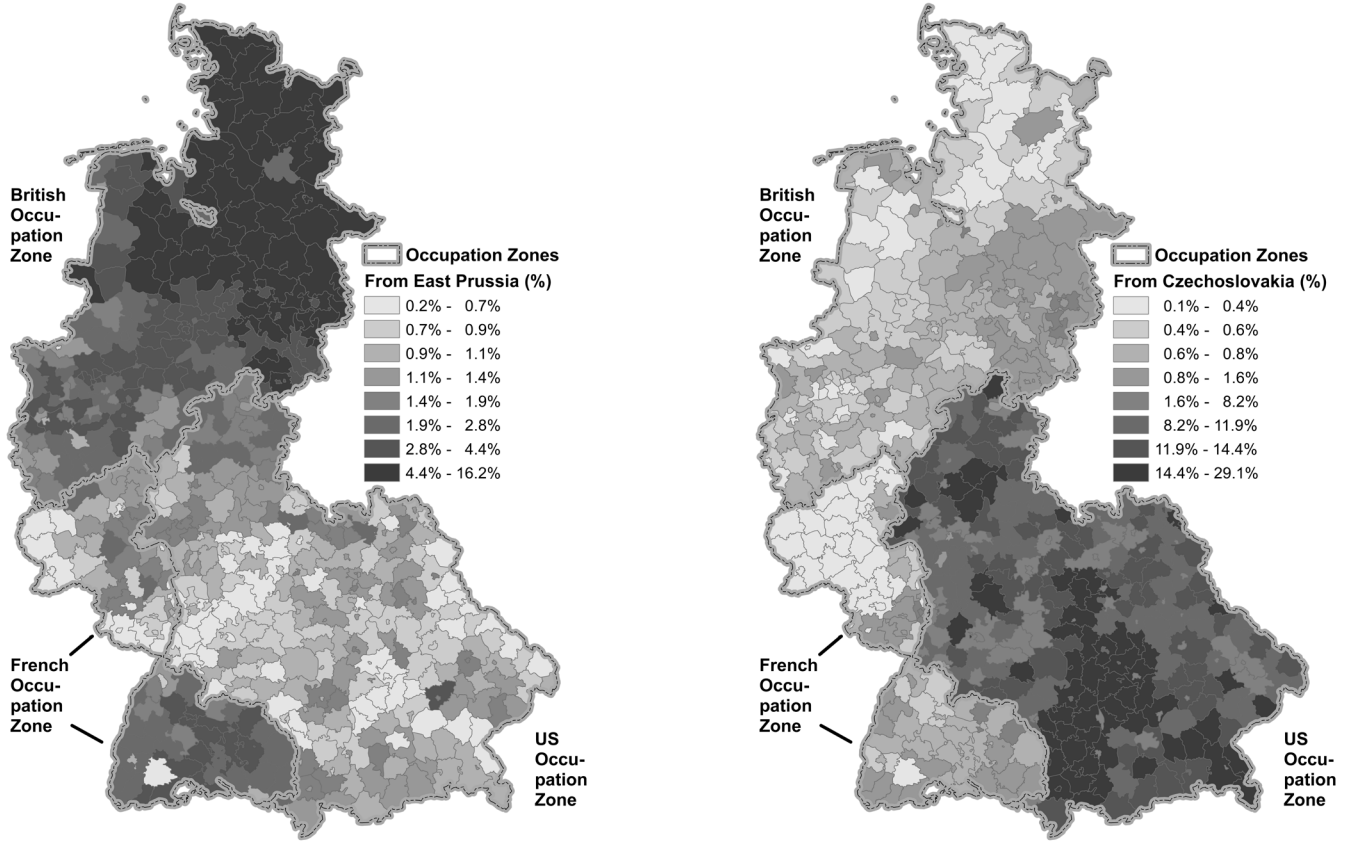

Figure 3: Population shares of expellees from East Prussia and Czechoslovakia, September 1950

Notes: The figures depict the population share of expellees from East Prussia (panel (a)) and Czechoslovakia (panel (b)) on 13 September 1950. The vast majority of expellees from Czechoslovakia had lived in the Sudetenland in 1939. The dashed black line (on grey background) depicts occupation zone borders. *Basemap*: MPIDR (2011). *Source*: Database.

Third, expellee shares were generally lower in cities than in the surrounding rural areas. For instance, expellees accounted for only 7.2 percent of the population in the city of Hamburg. In contrast, expellee shares ranged from 28.2 percent to 38.7 percent in the five rural counties bordering the city. Large parts of Hamburg were destroyed during the bombing of World War II. Like other cities, Hamburg thus lacked housing to accommodate expellees.

Table 2: Determinants of regional expellee shares

Dependent variable	Expellee share 13 September 1950			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Share damaged dwellings	-0.255***			-0.195***
	(0.011)			(0.013)
Population density 1939 (logs)		-0.034***		-0.012***
		(0.002)		(0.002)
French occupation zone (0/1)			-0.141***	-0.137***
			(0.005)	(0.005)
Observations	556	556	556	556
R-squared	0.358	0.224	0.311	0.656

Notes: The dependent variable is the share of expellees in the total population on 13 September 1950. Explanatory variables are the share of dwellings built before 1946 that were damaged in the war; population per square kilometre in 1939 (in logs); and a dummy for being located in the French occupation zone. Robust standard errors are in parentheses.
*** denote statistical significance at the 1 %-level.
Source: Database.

Table 2 shows that a parsimonious set of three variables, which measure war destruction, pre-war population density, and location in the French occupation zone, can explain the bulk of the county-level variation in expellee shares. Column (1) regresses expellee shares in 1950 on the share of dwellings built before 1946 that were damaged in the war. The coefficient estimate implies that an increase in the share of damaged dwellings by one percentage point is associated with a decrease in the expellee share by 0.255 percentage points. The association is highly statistically significant at any conventional level. Column (2) shows that counties with higher pre-war population density received significantly fewer expellees. A one percent increase in the pre-war population density is associated with a decrease in the expellee share of 0.034 percentage points. Column (3) demonstrates that the expellee share was, on average, 14.1 percentage points lower in the French than in the British and American occupation zone.

The multivariate regression in Column (4) shows that the three variables jointly explain almost two-thirds of the regional variation in expellee shares.[34] One important source of variation, not captured in the regression, is the accessibility of counties for refugees in the final months of World War II. It is this type of variation that empirical papers isolate when using distance to expellees' origin regions as an instrument for local inflows.[35]

5. A Guide to the Data Tables

Altogether, the database consists of 18 data tables (in xsls format). The first column of Table 1 identifies the number of the data table that contains the corresponding set of variables. For instance, data table number 2 comprises information on the population's religious breakdown in 1939 (complete file name: *Tab2_Vz_1939_Population by religious denomination.xlsx*). Each data table has two tabs: The first tab (named "source") lists the reference(s) of the printed source, the second ("data") contains the actual data.

Table 3 shows an extract of a data table to illustrate the tables' structure. Each row contains information for one specific regional unit. The first three columns contain identifiers for the regional unit's state (*Bundesland*), district (*Regierunbezirk*) and county (Kreis). Strung after each other, the identifiers yield the identification number in the fourth column (*county ID*) of each table. The *county ID* uniquely identifies a specific regional unit. The ID conforms to the official regional identifier used by the statistical office for a given year. Column (5) shows the name of each regional unit. The actual data are in Columns (6) and (7).

Users should keep two points in mind when working with the data. First, we have digitized the data as printed in the statistical sources, adding only an English translation of the table head (along with the original table head in German). As a result, most data tables contain not only county-level data but also aggregated data for states or districts. The extract in Table 3, for instance, begins with data for the state of Lower Saxony (*Niedersachsen*). The following rows then contain data for all counties located in district of Hannover, which was one of Lower Saxony's eight districts in 1950. The extract ends with figures for the district, calculated as the sum over all counties in the district.

One way to distinguish states, districts, and counties is via the identifiers in Columns (1) to (3). Only for counties are all three columns filled. States only have a state identifier (Column (1)); districts have a state and district identifier (Columns (1) and (2)). Thus, users might delete all regional units where column (3) is blank if they intend to work only with county-level data.[36] They can further use the state identifier in Column

34 All coefficient estimates preserve their sign and significance level in the multivariate regression in Column (4). However, the coefficient estimate on population density decreases strongly from Column (1) to (3) (in absolute magnitude). This is because population density correlates strongly with war damages.

35 See, e. g., Braun/Kvasnicka (2014); Braun/Mahmoud (2014); Peters (2019).

36 The only exception is the city-state of Hamburg, which is not divided into counties.

(1) to generate corresponding dummy variables. The database contains a do file (*RegTab2_Determinants expellee share.do*) that illustrates how the data tables can be read in and processed in Stata to produce the county-level regression results in Table 2.

Table 3: Extract of data table

State (1)	District (2)	County (3)	County ID (4)	County name (5)	Total population (6)	Total number of expellees (7)
13			13	**Niedersachsen**	6,797,379	1,851,472
13	1	11	13 1 11	Hameln-Stadt	48,122	13,195
13	1	12	13 1 12	Hannover-Stadt	444,296	62,151
13	1	31	13 1 31	Grafschaft Diepholz	81,349	24,025
13	1	32	13 1 32	Grafschaft Hoya	131,358	41,772
13	1	33	13 1 33	Grafschaft Schaumburg	90,201	29,157
13	1	34	13 1 34	Hameln-Pyrmont	93,456	33,083
13	1	35	13 1 35	Hannover-Land	154,768	44,828
13	1	36	13 1 36	Neustadt a. Rbge	72,617	25,652
13	1	37	13 1 37	Nienburg	115,550	37,197
13	1	42	13 1 42	Schaumburg-Lippe	85,443	23,373
13	1	38	13 1 38	Springe	68,237	25,034
13	1		13 1	**Reg.-Bez. Hannover**	1,385,397	359,467

Notes: The table contains an extract of data table 6 on the total and expellee population on 13 September 1950 (*Tab6_Vz_1950_Population expellees.xsls*).
Source: Database.

Second, *county ID* is specific to a given census year. It can thus be used to link information from the same census year across regional units. If users intend to link information from more than one census year, they first have to make county borders comparable over time. There are two main approaches to do so. The first approach accounts man-

ually for border changes between census years.[37] This is possible as the number of border changes between 1939 and 1961 is relatively small; far-reaching county reforms only took place in the 1970s.[38] In particular, one can merge counties that at any time between two census years formed one county. For instance, Hildesheim and Marienburg were independent counties in 1939 but formed Hildesheim-Marienburg in subsequent censuses. One can thus merge Hildesheim and Marienburg already in 1939 to make county borders consistent. Data table 18 (*Tab18_County IDs 1939 1961.xlsx*) tracks *county IDs* in 1939, 1950 and 1961[39] and lists county mergers during this period. In addition, the do file (*RegTab2_Determinants expellee share.do*) illustrates the approach by merging data from the 1939 to the 1950 census.

One problem with this approach is that it does not deal with the more frequent smaller border changes, in which one or more municipalities changed between counties. One way to deal also with these changes is to merge counties that exchanged municipalities if the population exchange was large. For instance, Braun and Dwenger compare the 1939 population of each county in its 1950 and 1939 border. If no border change took place, the difference between the two figures should be zero. They then merge counties if the difference exceeds five percent (see their Appendix E for details).[40] Data table 18 contains the 1939, 1950, and 1961 population figures for the different county borders to make such adjustments.

The second main approach overlays maps of historical county borders with the baseline map for a reference year.[41] Using Geographical Information System (GIS) software, one can then compute the share of each historical county's area that belongs to a reference county. Based on these area shares, the data for a specific year can be aggregated to the reference year. This procedure implicitly assumes that the variable of interest is uniformly distributed in space.

We conclude by expressing our hope that the database stimulates further research on the socio-economic integration of expellees and their effects on the West German economy. We kindly ask all users of the database to reference this paper as a source.

Database

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37 See, e. g., Braun/Dwenger (2020).

38 Statistisches Reichsamt (1941b) document border changes for the period 17 May 1939 to 1 January 1941, Statistisches Bundesamt (1958) for the period 14 January 1950 to 25 September 1956 and Statistisches Bundesamt (1963) for the period 16 September 1956 to 5 June 1961.

39 The *1961 county ID* is also required to match the data to the maps from MPIDR (2011) used to produce Figures 2 and 3 (as the 1950 map reference county identifiers in the 1961 format).

40 Braun/Dwenger (2020)

41 See, e. g., Wyrwich (2020).

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