

Title: The Cause of China's Great Leap Famine Revisited: Using Panel Data Approach for Program Evaluation

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Abstract: China's Great Leap Famine, with an estimated death of about 30 million people, occurred during the period of Great Leap Forward from 1959 to 1961, which aimed at speeding up the process of industrialization by implementing a series of radical policies. Using a panel of the grain production of US states, we estimate the impact of radical policies on the collapse in grain production of China during this period. Moreover, a new measure is constructed to evaluate the extent of political radicalism in each province. We find that the new measure is helpful to understand the varying severity of excess mortality across provinces.