

Does globalization reduce personal violence? ∴

efficient labor specialization, increases worldwide prosperity and reduces

generally recognized to be the most valid measure of cross-national crime (Aebi 2010; Eisner 2008; LaFree 1999) and assemble a homicide database with 78 countries over more than five decades (1960–2013). We operationalize globalization as trade openness, the measure most frequently used by economists (Rodrik 1999; Yanikkaya 2003). We control for common rival explanations, test for interaction between globalization and GDP per capita and perform several post estimation robustness tests.







**Table 1. Descriptive Statistics for Homicide, Globalization and Control Variables**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>Max</b>
<b>Dependent variable</b>				





salaries and benefits for each country (Feenstra and Inklaar 2019). If economic

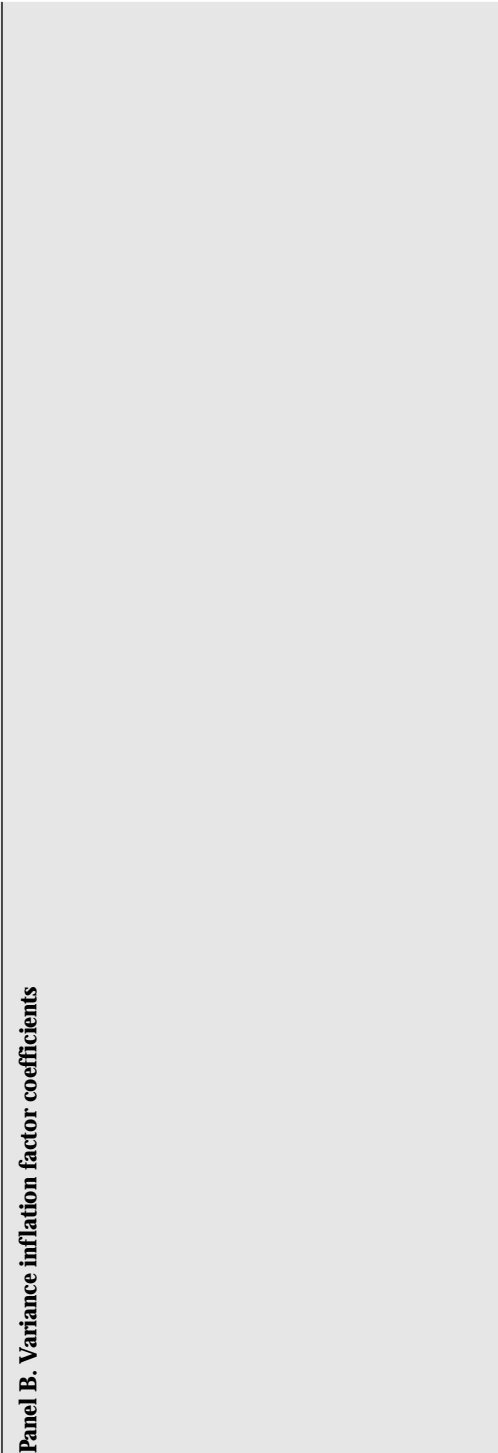
lowest percent of youth in our dataset are Italy and Japan while those with the highest percent of youth are Qatar and Singapore.

**Percent urban**

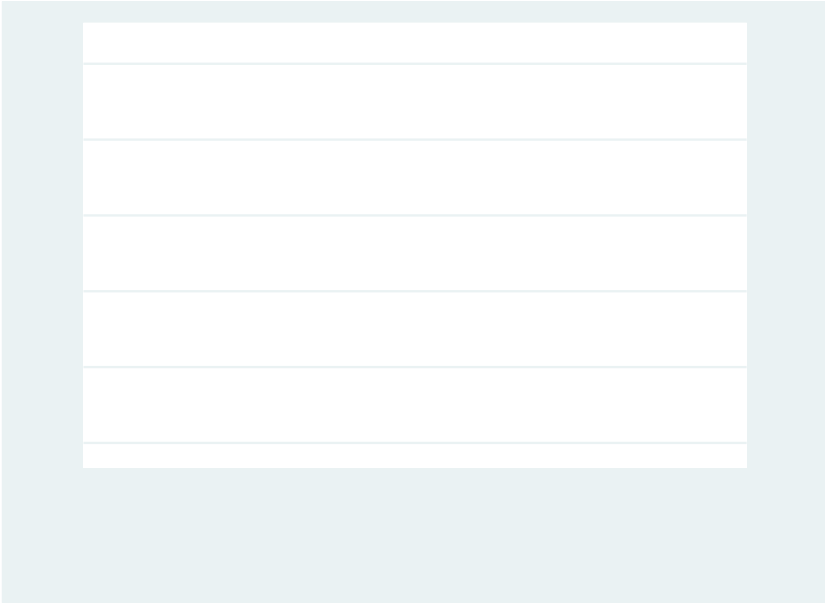


Table 2. Continued.

**Panel B. Variance inflation factor coefficients**



**Figure 1. Globalization and homicide trends, 1965–2013.**





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most of the 18th century, many western intellectuals accepted as fact the *doux commerce* assertion that expanding trade and commerce has beneficial effects on civilizing human behavior and reducing crime. However, most contemporary research on cross-national comparative homicide has ignored globalization as a factor in predicting crime rates and has instead concentrated on a set of economic stress and modernization variables that are widely attributed to globalization by its critics. We operationalize globalization as trade openness, analyze a large cross-national homicide database and include a robust set of control variables. Our analysis consistently shows that trade globalization during the past half century has been associated with significant declines in national homicide rates and that these effects are especially strong for low GDP per capita-high inequality countries. Our results suggest that at least in terms of homicide, it may be beneficial to encourage further globalization while at the same time developing







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Wallerstein, Immanuel 1979. *The Capitalist World-Economy* Vol. 2: Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

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