Education, Militarism and Civil Wars

By

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Abstract
Prevailing explanations for why poorer countries are more likely to experience civil wars focus on the different opportunities facing potential insurgents in poor and rich countries. This paper examines whether perceptions of military capabilities may also contribute to this relationship. Using micro data from a large set of countries it is found that poverty and especially poor education are very often closely associated with confidence in the military. Cross-country evidence is consistent with the hypothesis that such confidence at the national level accounts for part of the association between income per capita and the incidence of civil wars.