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Article

Natural Resources and Civil Conflict: The Role of Military Expenditures

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Abstract: Military expenditures significantly affect the relationship between the risk of civil conflict outbreak and natural resources. We show that a significant positive effect of natural resource rents on the risk of civil conflict outbreak is limited to countries with low military expenditures. In countries with high military expenditures, there is no significant effect of natural resource rents on civil conflict onset. An important message is thus that a conflict resource curse is absent in countries with sufficiently large military expenditures.

Keywords: civil conflict; natural resources; military expenditures



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1. Introduction

History is riddled with civil conflicts over natural resources. Examples of such conflicts span several continents and types of natural resources. Civil conflicts erupted in Indonesia over oil or gas discovery in Aceh in the 1970s and in Papua New Guinea over a copper mine in Panguna toward the end of the 1980s until the early 1990s. Civil conflicts erupted over land and water dispute in Afghanistan, Darfur, Sudan and also over oil or gas sharing in Bolivia, Ecuador, and Iraq.¹ Systematic evidence from the existing literature points to the risk of civil conflict being higher in resource-rich countries (we refer to this throughout the paper as the “conflict resource curse”).² An important question is whether natural resources are associated with conflict in all developing countries—that is, whether there exist mediating factors that affect the relationship between natural resources and the likelihood of a civil conflict outbreak? In this paper, we explore one particular mediating factor: military might. Our proxy for military might are military expenditure shares.

We provide a simple theoretical framework that suggests that military expenditures affect the relationship between resource rents and conflict. Specifically, we develop a rational-agent model for an economy with weak legal-political institutions. In countries with weak legal-political institutions, the government cannot credibly commit to making transfers to a subset of the population that may be discontent with regard to the public good provided by the government. In the model, resource rents accrue to the government. The resource rents can be spent on the military or on the public good, for example, public education. A key assumption in the model is that larger military expenditures increase the capacity of the government to crush a rebellion.

In the model, an increase in resource rents has two opposing effects on the likelihood of an outbreak of civil conflict. On the one hand, an increase in resource rents increases the gain of state capture. This effect, which is well known in the literature, increases the risk of a civil conflict outbreak. There is however a second effect that is countervailing to the first effect: An increase in resource rents increases the spending capacity of the state. The state may give part of the resource rents to the military. An increase in resource rents will lead to a larger increase in military expenditures, the larger the share of military expenditures

in total government expenditures. Larger military expenditures reduce the risk of civil conflict outbreaks. This second effect reduces the risk of a civil conflict outbreak. The second effect is stronger, the larger are military expenditure shares.

The main result of our empirical analysis is that an increase in resource rents increases the risk of civil conflict outbreak but only in countries with low military expenditure shares. In countries with high military expenditure shares, an increase in resource rents has no significant effect on the risk of civil conflict outbreak. In the empirical part of the paper, we document robustness of this result to alternative datasets and coding of civil conflict; including in the panel model country fixed effects; using subnational data; and alternative data on natural resources, that is, total natural resource rents, resource discoveries, and commodity price windfalls.

For a sample of 133 countries, our panel model estimates show that there is a quantitatively large and statistically significant effect of resource rents on conflict risk in countries with low military expenditures shares. Consider, for example, a country at the 25th percentile of the sample distribution of military expenditures as a share of central government expenditures. For that country, our estimates suggest that a one standard deviation increase in total natural resource rents is associated with an increase in the likelihood of a civil conflict outbreak of around 3 percentage points. This is a large effect. The average likelihood of a civil conflict outbreak is around 4 percent. An increase of three percentage points of the likelihood of a civil conflict outbreak is equivalent to a more than 70% increase in the average rate of civil conflict outbreaks in the world during the past half-century.

Natural resource rents and military expenditure shares are potentially endogenous to the onset of civil conflict. To allay concerns that our empirical results are due to an endogenous response of resource rents and military expenditures to civil conflict onset we: (i) control the panel model for country fixed effects; and (ii) military expenditures and natural resource rents enter the panel model with a lag, that is, in the year prior to the onset of civil conflict. Estimates of these models are not subject to endogeneity bias unless there are significant anticipation effects, that is, people in the economy are able to systematically predict the outbreak of a conflict and this leads to a change in behavior already before the outbreak of the conflict. To allay concerns that our results are driven by such anticipation effects, we report estimates of panel models where the right-hand-side variable is an international commodity price index. Commodity price windfalls are a plausibly exogenous source of variation in resource rents—in all periods, that is, before, during, and after the onset of a conflict. Even if there are significant anticipation effects, we can use variations in an international commodity price index to identify causal effects of resource rents on conflict risk. With regard to military expenditure shares: we use countries' average military expenditures, either as a share of GDP or as a share of central government expenditures. Controlling for country and time fixed effects, we then estimate the interaction effect of (time-varying, country-specific) commodity price windfalls and (time-invariant, country-specific) average military expenditures shares.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 provides a theoretical framework that suggests that the effect of resource rents on conflict depends on military expenditures. Section 3 discusses the empirical results. This section contains three sub-sections. In Section 3.1.1, we discuss estimates of panel models where the right-hand-side variable is total natural resource rents. Variations in total natural resources rents are affected by the variation in the international prices of the natural resources and the quantity produced in each country. Since the outbreak of civil conflict in a country might affect resource production in that country, variations in total natural resource rents are not plausibly exogenous. The results in Section 3.1.1 can thus only be interpreted as a correlation—and not as a causal relationship—between resource rents and the risk of civil conflict. We report in Section 3.1.2 results for an international commodity price index. As most countries are price takers on the international commodity market, the estimates in Section 3.1.2 are plausibly reflecting a causal effect of international commodity price windfalls on civil conflict. The effects of increased wealth in commodity-exporting countries on civil conflict risk that is

due to international commodity price booms may or may not be the same as the effects that resource wealth has on a civil conflict that is due to the discovery or changes in the produced quantity of the natural resource. We report in Section 3.1.3 results for oil reserves and discoveries, using existing methods in the literature to establish a causal effect of these variables on civil conflict. Section 4 concludes.

2. A Simple Theoretical Framework

This section contains a simple theoretical framework. The purpose of the model developed here is to formalize our argument that the effect of resource rents on conflict depends on military expenditure shares. The theoretical framework is motivated by Azam (1995), Grossman (1995), Hirshleifer (1995), and Collier and Hoeffler (1998).³ The model developed here could be extended along several dimensions; for example, by taking a game-theoretic approach (for an example of a game-theoretic approach see Garfinkel and Syropoulos 2021).

The starting point is the assumption that rebels maximize the expected net gain from rebellion: expected revenue (ER)—costs (C). The likelihood of a conflict outbreak, $L(\text{Conflict})$, depends on the economic incentives for rebellion:

- (1) $L(\text{Conflict}) = f(\text{net gain from rebellion}) = f(ER, C); dL(\text{Conflict})/dER > 0$
- (2) Expected Revenue (ER) = probability of successful rebellion (p) * revenue captured (T) where p is a decreasing function of military expenditures:
- (3) $ER = p(M) \times T$ with $dp/dM < 0$ Revenues can be used by the government to finance the military, or they can be allocated for something else. Thus, we now write that $p(M(T))$, where M is military expenditure and T is revenues.
- (4) $ER = p(M(T)) \times T$ The simplest relationship is where: military expenditures are a constant fraction, a , of revenues, T , so that $M = aT$; and the probability of successful rebellion is decreasing in military expenditures:
- (5) $p(M(T)) = 1 - aT$ where M , T , and a are normalized on the unit interval. This yields
- (6) $ER = (1 - aT)T$ Differentiating expected revenues with respect to T one obtains the following marginal effect:
- (7) $d(ER)/dT = 1 - 2 \times aT$ which is strictly decreasing in a , the share of revenues allocated to military expenditures.⁴

In the empirical analysis, we will begin by using military expenditures as a share of central government expenditures. This variable corresponds one-to-one to the a in the theoretical framework development above. More data (about twice as many country-year observations) are available for military expenditures as a share of GDP than for military expenditures as a share of central government expenditures. In order to maximize observations, we will report in subsequent tables results that use military expenditures as a share of GDP. Military expenditures as a share of central government expenditures are positively correlated with the GDP share of military expenditures (correlation coefficient is around 0.69). That is, countries with a large GDP share of military expenditures also tend to have a large share of military expenditures in central government expenditures.

3. Empirical Results

3.1. Natural Resources and Civil Conflict

3.1.1. Total Natural Resource Rents

Estimates of an Interaction Model with Countries' Average Military Expenditures as a Share of Central Government Expenditures

The theoretical framework in Section 2 suggests that that the effect of natural resource rents on civil conflict risk depends on the share of military expenditures in government expenditures.

$$P(\text{Conflict}_{it}) = a_{1,i} + b_{1,t} + \theta_{1,1} \text{LogNatRes}_{it} + \theta_{1,2} \text{LogNatRes}_{it} * \text{Mil}_i + e_{1,it} \quad (1)$$

where LogNatRes_{it} is the natural logarithm of total natural resource rents in year t and country i . Mil_i is country i 's average military expenditures as a percent of central govern-

ment expenditures. Country fixed effects and year fixed effects are denoted by a_i and b_t , respectively. Note that because in the model military expenditure shares are time-invariant the direct effect of military expenditure shares on the likelihood of conflict is controlled for by the country fixed effect.

Conventional logit or probit models with fixed effects are inconsistent due to the incidental parameter problem (Wooldridge 2002). However, the conditional logit model yields consistent estimates in the presence of fixed effects. In the tables, we report estimates from the conditional logit model. We use the Delta method to compute marginal effects, which are discussed in the text below.

An alternative to Equation (1) is to use as right-hand-side variable total natural resource rents scaled by GDP, with or without logging:

$$P(\text{Conflict}_{it}) = a_{2,i} + b_{2,t} + \theta_{2,1}(\text{NatRes}/\text{GDP})_{it} + \theta_{2,1}(\text{NatRes}/\text{GDP})^2_{it} + \theta_{2,3}(\text{NatRes}/\text{GDP})_{it} * \text{Mil}_i + e_{2,it} \quad (2)$$

$$P(\text{Conflict}_{it}) = a_{3,i} + b_{3,t} + \theta_{3,1}\text{Log}(\text{NatRes}/\text{GDP})_{it} + \theta_{3,2}\text{Log}(\text{NatRes}/\text{GDP})_{it} * \text{Mil}_i + e_{3,it} \quad (3)$$

We will report estimates for all three specifications (1) to (3). When natural resource rents are not scaled by GDP, we will apply the natural logarithm to this variable. Since the model includes country fixed effects, when the time-varying natural resource rents are in logs, the estimation of Equation (1) yields the same estimates as if natural resource rents are scaled by the average GDP of each country. This is of course only true if the time-varying natural resource rents are in logs.

Table 1 reports estimates from the conditional logit models. Panels A–C of Table 1 report estimates of Equations (1)–(3), respectively. The data source of the dependent variables is Bazzi and Blattman (2014). Specifically, in columns (1) and (2) the dependent variables are the onset of civil conflict and civil war, respectively; both variables are based on PRIO’s Armed Conflict Database. In column (3), the dependent variable is civil war onset based on the Correlates of War database; in column (4), the dependent variable is civil war onset from Collier and Hoeffler (2004). The data source of the right-hand-side variables is World Bank (2018a, 2018b).⁵

In Panel A one can see that the coefficient on the log of natural resource rents is positive and the coefficient on the interaction between the log of natural resource rents and the share of military expenditures is negative. Both coefficients are individually significantly different from zero at the conventional significance levels. The interpretation of the estimates in Panel A of Table 1 is that an increase in natural resource rents is associated with an increase in the likelihood of civil conflict outbreak—but less so the higher is the share of military expenditures in central government expenditures.

Military expenditure shares have a substantial effect on the relationship between conflict risk and resource rents. Take, for example, the estimated coefficients in column (1) of Panel A in Table 1. Applying the Delta method to obtain marginal effects from the conditional logit model and differentiating with respect to the log of total natural resource rents yields:

$$dP(\text{Conflict})/d\text{LogNatres} = 1.55 - 0.05 * \text{Mil} \quad (4)$$

According to the above equation, if the share of military expenditures in central government expenditures is equal to zero ($\text{Mil} = 0$) then a 1 log increase in total resource rents is associated with an increase in the likelihood of conflict outbreak of around one and a half percentage points. For a share of military expenditures in central government expenditures equal to thirty percent ($\text{Mil} = 30$), the effect of a 1 log increase in total resource rents on the likelihood of conflict outbreak is zero after rounding to the first decimal.

Table 1. Natural Resource Rents and the Risk of Civil Conflict Onset: The Role of Military Expenditures.

	Civil Conflict Onset PRIO	Civil War Onset PRIO	Civil War Onset COW	Civil War Onset Collier and Hoeffler
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Panel A: Log of Natural Resource Rents				
Log Natural Resource Rents, <i>t</i>	0.93 ** (0.41)	1.73 ** (0.86)	0.83 * (0.49)	1.87 ** (0.84)
Log Natural Resource Rents, <i>t</i> * Country's Average Military Expenditures % of Central Government Expenditures	−0.03 ** (0.01)	−0.09 ** (0.04)	−0.05 * (0.03)	−0.10 ** (0.05)
Panel B: Natural Resource Rents % of GDP				
Natural Resource Rents % of GDP, <i>t</i>	0.216 ** (0.085)	0.420 *** (0.129)	0.240 ** (0.096)	0.423 * (0.234)
Squared Natural Resource Rents % of GDP, <i>t</i>	−0.002 * (0.001)	−0.002 * (0.001)	−0.001 (0.001)	−0.004 * (0.002)
Natural Resource Rents % of GDP, <i>t</i> * Country's Average Military Expenditures % of Central Government Expenditures	−0.005 ** (0.002)	−0.015 ** (0.007)	−0.012 ** (0.006)	−0.009 (0.012)
Panel C: Log Natural Resource Rents % of GDP				
Log Natural Resource Rents % of GDP, <i>t</i>	1.18 *** (0.44)	3.67 *** (1.01)	1.52 ** (0.74)	3.62 ** (1.52)
Log Natural Resource Rents % of GDP, <i>t</i> * Country's Average Military Expenditures % of Central Government Expenditures	−0.04 ** (0.02)	−0.20 *** (0.06)	−0.09 * (0.05)	−0.20 ** (0.09)
Country Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	1964	2298	2097	1659

Note: Estimates are from a conditional logit model. Standard errors are shown in parentheses. The dependent variables in columns (1) and (2) are civil conflict onset and civil war onset, respectively, based on PRIO. In column (3) the dependent variable is civil war onset based on the Correlates of War data. In column (4), the dependent variable is civil war onset from Collier and Hoeffler (2004). * Significantly different from zero at 10 percent level, ** 5 percent level, *** 1 percent level.

The estimates in Table 1 suggest that in countries with a low share of military expenditures in central government expenditures, an increase in natural resource rents leads to a large increase in the likelihood of a civil conflict outbreak. Consider, for example, a country at the 25th percentile of the sample distribution of the share of military expenditures in central government expenditures. According to the estimates in Panel A of Table 1, a one standard deviation increase in the log of natural resource rents is associated with an increase in the likelihood of civil conflict outbreak of around 3 percentage points; for civil war outbreaks, the effect is even larger, around 5 percentage points.

To contrast the above effect to a country with a, relatively, high military expenditure share, consider now a country at the 75th percentile of military expenditures in central government expenditures. For that country, the effects of resource rents on conflict risk are about half as large as at the 25th percentile. Statistically, the effects are much weaker. At the 75th percentile, only for civil conflict onset, that is, column (1), one can reject that the effect of resource rents on civil conflict onset is equal to zero at the 10 percent significance level (*p*-value 0.07). For all three measures of civil war onset, that is, columns (2)–(4), one cannot reject the null that the effect is equal to zero at the conventional significance levels.

Our main finding, that the effect of resource rents on conflict onset risk is declining in military expenditures continues to hold for alternative functional forms. Panel B of Table 1 shows estimates if the right-hand-side variable is the GDP share of total natural resource rents and its square. From Panel B one can see that the estimated coefficient on the GDP share of natural resource rents is positive while the coefficient on the squared GDP share of natural resource rents is negative.⁶ Similar to Panel A, the coefficient on the interaction between the GDP share of natural resource rents and countries' average shares of military expenditures in central government expenditures are negative. Panel C of Table 1 shows that this is also the case if the squared term of the GDP share of military expenditures is not included in the model.

Estimates of Interaction Models with Military Expenditures as a Share of GDP Time-Varying

Table 2 shows estimates of models where the log of the GDP share of natural resource rents of country *i* in year *t* interacts with the log of the GDP share of military expenditures of country *i* in year *t*.⁷ As a robustness check, see Section Robustness, we will discuss estimates from models that use military expenditures in central government expenditures of country *i* in year *t*. We will also discuss in Section Robustness estimates of interaction models that use country *i*'s average GDP share of military expenditures.

Table 2. Interaction Model with Log Military Expenditures % of GDP.

	Civil Conflict Onset			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Log Natural Resource Rents (% of GDP), <i>t</i>	0.29 *** (0.06)	0.30 *** (0.06)	0.30 ** (0.13)	0.33 ** (0.14)
Log Natural Resource Rents (% of GDP) * Log Military Expenditures (% of GDP), <i>t</i>	−0.20 *** (0.03)	−0.21 *** (0.04)	−0.16 ** (0.07)	−0.18 ** (0.08)
Country FE	No	No	Yes	Yes
Year FE	No	Yes	No	Yes
Observations	5565	5565	5565	5565

Note: Estimates in columns (1) and (2) are from a logit model; in columns (3) and (4) conditional logit model. All regressions control for log military expenditures (% of GDP); these estimates are not reported in the table. Standard errors are shown in parentheses. * Significantly different from zero at 10 percent level, ** 5 percent level, *** 1 percent level.

Column (1) of Table 2 shows estimates without any fixed effects. Column (2) adds time-fixed effects. Column (3) includes country fixed effects only. Column (4) includes both country and time fixed effects. All columns control for the log of the GDP share of military expenditures of country *i* in year *t*; estimates are not reported in Table 2 for this variable.

One can see from Table 2 that regardless of whether country fixed effects are included or excluded from the model: (i) the coefficient on resource rents is positive and significantly different from zero at the 5 percent level or higher; (ii) the coefficient on the interaction between resource rents and military expenditure shares is negative and significantly different from zero at the 5 percent level or higher. The estimated coefficients on resource rents and the interaction between resource rents and military expenditure shares barely change when country-fixed effects are included in the model.

The main finding in Table 2 is that the relationship between resource rents and civil conflict is significantly decreasing in the GDP share of military expenditures. The higher the GDP share of military expenditures the smaller is the relationship between civil conflict risk and resource rents. When military expenditure shares are low, an increase in resource rents is positively associated with civil conflict risk. Take, for example, a country at the 25th percentile of the GDP share of military expenditures. At these low shares of military expenditures, a one standard deviation increase in the GDP share of total natural resource rents is associated with an increase in the likelihood of civil conflict outbreak of over 1 percentage point (*p*-value 0.00). At the median of the GDP share of military expenditures, the relationship between resource rents and conflict risk is still significantly positive. That is, at the 50th percentile of military expenditures a one standard deviation increase in the GDP share of total natural resource rents is associated with an increase in the likelihood of civil conflict outbreak of around 0.7 percentage points.

Figure 1 illustrates graphically how the relationship between resource rents and the likelihood of conflict outbreak depends on the GDP share of military expenditures. The figure is based on the estimates in column (1) of Table 2. On the *y*-axis of Figure 1 is the effect of a 1-log increase in the GDP share of total natural resource rents on the likelihood of civil conflict onset. The dashed lines are 95 percent confidence bands. One can see that

for low military expenditure shares, that is, below 2 percent of GDP, there is a significant positive relationship between resource rents and conflict risk. Above 2 percent military expenditures in GDP, there is no significant effect of resource rents on conflict outbreak risk.

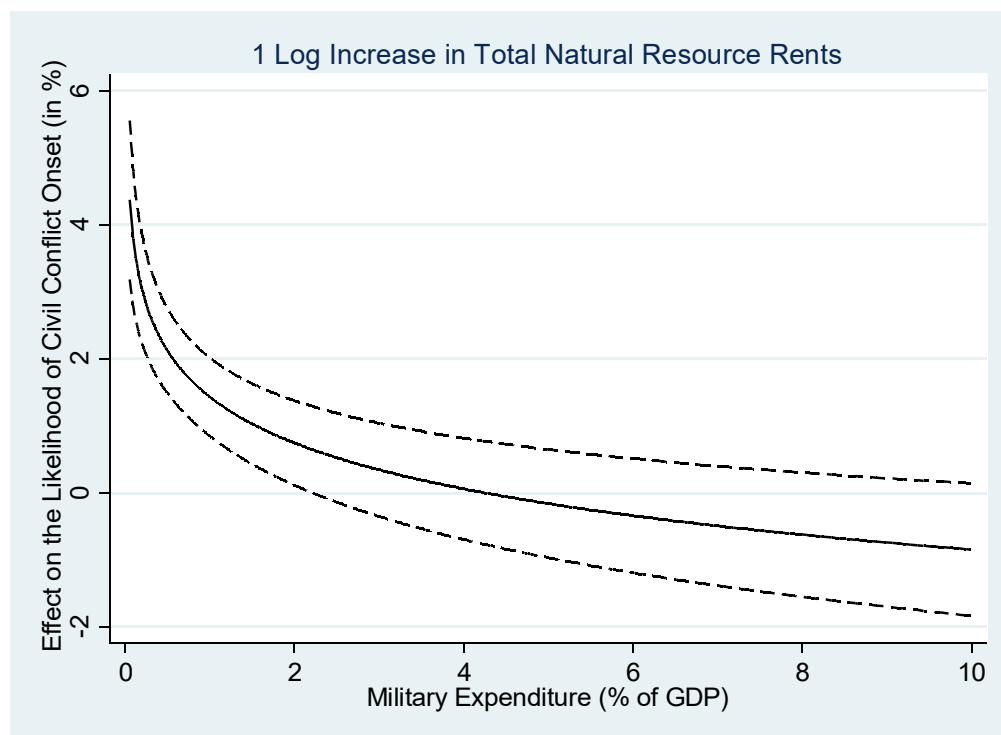


Figure 1. Natural Resource Rents and the Risk of Civil Conflict Onset: The Role of Military Expenditures. The figure plots the effect of a 1 log increase in the GDP share of natural resource rents on the likelihood (in %) of civil conflict onset. Dashed lines are 95 percent confidence bands. The figure is generated from the estimated logit model in column (1) of Table 2.

Sample Split

Table A3 shows estimates of econometric models where the dependent variable is civil conflict onset and the right-hand-side variable is the log of total natural resource rents as a share of GDP. Panel A (B) reports estimates for the sub-sample of country-years with low and intermediate (high) military expenditures, that is, where military expenditures are below (above) 3.3% of GDP; this is the 75th percentile.

Column (1) shows estimates from a simple bivariate logit model. One can see that the estimated coefficient on resource rents is significantly positive in the sub-sample with low and intermediate military expenditure shares, but significantly negative in the sub-sample with high military expenditures. Column (2) shows that these estimates do not change substantially if time-fixed effects are included on the right-hand side of the estimating equation. After computing the marginal effects, these estimates mean that a one standard deviation increase in the GDP share of natural resource rents is associated with an increase in the likelihood of civil conflict outbreak of around 1.3 percentage points, on average, in the subset of countries with low and intermediate military expenditure shares. In countries with high military expenditure shares, a one standard deviation increase in natural resource rents is associated with a decrease in the likelihood of civil conflict outbreak of around 1.1 percentage points.

Columns (3) and (4) show estimates from conditional logit models with country fixed effects. The within-country estimates show a positive coefficient on resource rents in the sample of countries with low and intermediate military expenditures shares. Including country fixed effects leads to a substantial increase (i.e., more than doubling) in standard errors. Only in column (4), for the sample of countries with low and intermediate military

expenditure shares, when both time and country fixed effects are included in the model can one reject the null hypothesis that the coefficient on resource rents is equal to zero at the 10 percent significance level. For the sample of countries with high military expenditure shares, the estimated coefficient on resource rents is not significantly different from zero.

The estimates from econometric models where the sample is split are easy to interpret, however, this is not the most efficient method for estimating how military expenditure shares affect the relationship between resource rents and civil conflict risk. Estimation of an interaction model that includes an interaction term between resource rents and military expenditure shares is more efficient. The interaction model also enables the provision of estimates of the relationship between resource rents and conflict for specific values of military expenditure shares. This is why the baseline estimates and robustness tests are for an interaction model, rather than for a model where the sample is split at certain thresholds of military expenditure shares.

Robustness

This section discusses robustness of the interaction model to: alternative functional forms; not scaling resource rents by GDP; using military expenditures scaled by central government expenditures; excluding from the sample observations with extremely low GDP shares of resource rents or GDP shares of military expenditures; controlling for lagged civil conflict; using time-invariant measures of military expenditure shares, that is, countries’ average or beginning of sample military expenditure shares; alternative civil war onset datasets; estimation of the model for the sub-set of countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

Alternative Functional Forms and Scaling

Table 3 documents robustness to alternative functional forms and scaling. In Table 2 both the GDP share of military expenditures and the GDP share of natural resource rents are in logs. Taking logs means that larger values, that is, higher percentages of the GDP shares of military expenditures and resource rents are given less weight. Table 3 shows that, qualitatively, we obtain similar results if we do not take logs of the right-hand side variables: When the GDP share of military expenditures is low, a higher GDP share of resources rents is associated with a significantly higher risk of civil conflict. Take, for example, a country at the 25th percentile of the GDP share of military expenditures. At this relatively low GDP share of military expenditures, the estimates in Table 3 suggest that a 1 standard deviation (11 percentage points) increase in the GDP share of resource rents is associated with an increase in the likelihood of civil conflict outbreak of around 0.7 percentage points. At the 50th percentile of the GDP share of military expenditures, a 1 standard deviation increase in the GDP share of resource rents is associated with an increase in the likelihood of civil conflict of around 0.4 percentage points.

Table 3. Robustness: Alternative Functional Form No Logging of RHS Variables.

	Civil Conflict Onset			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Natural Resource Rents (% of GDP), <i>t</i>	0.022 *** (0.008)	0.026 *** (0.008)	0.017 (0.014)	0.025 * (0.015)
Natural Resource Rents (% of GDP) * Military Expenditures (% of GDP), <i>t</i>	−0.006 *** (0.002)	−0.007 *** (0.002)	−0.004 * (0.002)	−0.005 ** (0.002)
Country FE	No	No	Yes	Yes
Year FE	No	Yes	No	Yes
Observations	5612	5612	5612	5612

Note: Estimates in columns (1) and (2) are from a logit model; in columns (3) and (4) conditional logit model. All regressions control for log military expenditures (% of GDP); these estimates are not reported in the table. Standard errors are shown in parentheses. * Significantly different from zero at 10 percent level, ** 5 percent level, *** 1 percent level.

Not Scaling Resource Rents by GDP

Table 4 shows estimates of models where we use as right-hand-side variable the log of total natural resource rents—that is, resource rents are not scaled by GDP. Table 4 shows that our main result is still intact: In countries with a low GDP share of military expenditures, total natural resource rents are positively associated with conflict risk. The higher the GDP share of military expenditures, the less likely it is that an increase in resource rents is associated with an outbreak of conflict. Take, for example, a country at the 25th percentile of the GDP share of military expenditures. At this relatively low GDP share of military expenditures, the estimates in Table 4 suggest that a 1 standard deviation increase in the log of total natural resource rents is associated with an increase in the likelihood of civil conflict outbreak of around 1 percentage point (*p*-value 0.00). At the 90th percentile of the GDP share of military expenditures, the connection between resource rents and conflict is much weaker and not significantly different from zero. According to the estimates in Table 4, at the 90th percentile of the GDP share of military expenditures, a 1 standard deviation increase in the log of total natural resource rents is associated with an increase in the likelihood of civil conflict outbreak of around 0.2 percentage points (*p*-value 0.39).

Table 4. Robustness: No Scaling of Natural Resource Rents by GDP.

	Civil Conflict Onset			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Log Natural Resource Rents, <i>t</i>	0.18 *** (0.03)	0.23 *** (0.04)	0.10 (0.06)	0.18 * (0.10)
Log Natural Resource Rents * Military Expenditures (% of GDP), <i>t</i>	−0.03 *** (0.01)	−0.03 *** (0.01)	−0.02 ** (0.01)	−0.02 ** (0.01)
Country FE	No	No	Yes	Yes
Year FE	No	Yes	No	Yes
Observations	5612	5612	5612	5612

Note: Estimates in columns (1) and (2) are from a logit model; in columns (3) and (4) conditional logit model. All regressions control for military expenditures (% of GDP); these estimates are not reported in the table. Standard errors are shown in parentheses. * Significantly different from zero at 10 percent level, ** 5 percent level, *** 1 percent level.

Military Expenditures as a Share of Central Government Expenditures Time-Varying

Table 5 reports results if we estimate the interaction model with military expenditures scaled by central government expenditures of country *i* in year *t*. The estimates in Table 5 show that in countries with a low share of military expenditures in central government expenditures, resource rents are positively associated with conflict risk. The higher the share of military expenditures in central government expenditures, the less likely it is that an increase in resource rents is associated with an outbreak of conflict. Take, for example, a country at the 25th percentile of the share of military expenditures in central government expenditures. At this relatively low share of military expenditures in central government expenditures, the estimates in Table 5 show that a 1 standard deviation increase in the GDP share of total natural resource rents is associated with an increase in the likelihood of civil conflict outbreak of over 2 percentage points (*p*-value 0.00). At the 90th percentile of the share of military expenditures in central government expenditures, the connection between resource rents and conflict is much weaker and not significantly different from zero. According to the estimates in Table 5, at the 90th percentile of the share of military expenditures in central government expenditures, a 1 standard deviation increase in the GDP share of total natural resource rents is associated with an increase in the likelihood of civil conflict outbreak of around 0.3 percentage points (*p*-value 0.33).

Table 5. Robustness: Military Expenditures as a Share of Central Government Expenditures Time-Varying.

	Civil Conflict Onset			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Log Natural Resource Rents (% of GDP), <i>t</i>	0.43 *** (0.08)	0.48 *** (0.09)	0.40 ** (0.19)	0.48 ** (0.23)
Log Natural Resource Rents (% of GDP) * Military Expenditures (% of Central Government Expenditures), <i>t</i>	−0.02 *** (0.00)	−0.02 *** (0.00)	−0.02 * (0.01)	−0.02 * (0.01)
Country FE	No	No	Yes	Yes
Year FE	No	Yes	No	Yes
Observations	2895	2895	2895	2895

Note: Estimates in columns (1) and (2) are from a logit model; in columns (3) and (4) conditional logit model. All regressions control for military expenditures (% of central government expenditures); these estimates are not reported in the table. Standard errors are shown in parentheses. * Significantly different from zero at 10 percent level, ** 5 percent level, *** 1 percent level.

Excluding Low GDP Shares of Resource Rents or Low GDP Shares of Military Expenditures

Table 6 shows that results are robust to excluding the bottom 10th percentile of GDP shares of natural resource rents (Panel A) or the bottom 10th percentile of GDP shares of military expenditures (Panel B). Relative to the estimates in Table 2, one can see that the estimated coefficients in Table 6 are in absolute size somewhat larger. This is true both for the estimated coefficient on the log of the GDP share of resource rents and for the estimated coefficient on the interaction of that variable with the GDP share of military expenditures.

Table 6. Robustness: Excluding Countries with Very Low Military Expenditures or Very Low Natural Resource Rents.

	Civil Conflict Onset			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Panel A: Excluding Countries at or below the Bottom 10th Percentile of Natural Resource Rents (Less Than 0.1% of GDP)				
Log Natural Resource Rents (% of GDP), <i>t</i>	0.15 ** (0.07)	0.17 ** (0.07)	0.34 ** (0.16)	0.39 *** (0.18)
Log Natural Resource Rents (% of GDP) * Log Military Expenditures (% of GDP), <i>t</i>	−0.17 *** (0.05)	−0.19 *** (0.05)	−0.17 * (0.09)	−0.20 ** (0.10)
Country FE	No	No	Yes	Yes
Year FE	No	Yes	No	Yes
Observations	5009	5009	5009	5009
Panel B: Excluding Countries at or below the Bottom 10th Percentile of Military Expenditures (Less Than 0.8% of GDP)				
Log Natural Resource Rents (% of GDP), <i>t</i>	0.33 *** (0.06)	0.35 *** (0.07)	0.37 *** (0.14)	0.40 *** (0.15)
Log Natural Resource Rents (% of GDP) * Log Military Expenditures (% of GDP), <i>t</i>	−0.22 *** (0.04)	−0.24 *** (0.04)	−0.20 ** (0.08)	−0.23 *** (0.09)
Country FE	No	No	Yes	Yes
Year FE	No	Yes	No	Yes
Observations	5009	5009	5009	5009

Note: Estimates in columns (1) and (2) are from a logit model; in columns (3) and (4) conditional logit model. All regressions control for log military expenditures (% of GDP); these estimates are not reported in the table. Standard errors are shown in parentheses. * Significantly different from zero at 10 percent level, ** 5 percent level, *** 1 percent level.

Controlling for Lagged Conflict

Table 7 reports estimates when adding to the right-hand side of the estimating equation the lagged dependent variable. Comparing the estimates in Table 7 to the estimates in Table 2 one can see that adding the lagged dependent variable does not substantially change the estimated coefficients on resource rents and the interaction between resource rents and

military expenditures. In the models without country fixed effects, see columns (1) and (2), the estimated coefficient on the lagged dependent variable is positive and significantly different from zero at the conventional significance levels. In models that include country fixed effects, see columns (3) and (4), the estimated coefficient on the lagged dependent variable is positive but not significantly different from zero at the conventional significance levels. Regardless of whether country fixed effects are included in the model or not, one can see in Table 7 that the estimated coefficient on resource rents is significantly positive while the coefficient on the interaction between resource rents and military expenditures is significantly negative.

Table 7. Robustness: Controlling for Lagged Civil Conflict.

	Civil Conflict Onset			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Log Natural Resource Rents (% of GDP), t	0.23 *** (0.06)	0.24 *** (0.06)	0.29 ** (0.13)	0.32 ** (0.14)
Log Natural Resource Rents (% of GDP) * Log Military Expenditures (% of GDP), t	−0.15 *** (0.04)	−0.16 *** (0.04)	−0.16 ** (0.07)	−0.18 ** (0.08)
Civil Conflict Onset, $t - 1$	2.14 *** (0.16)	2.20 *** (0.17)	0.23 (0.17)	0.22 (0.18)
Country FE	No	No	Yes	Yes
Year FE	No	Yes	No	Yes
Observations	5565	5565	5565	5565

Note: Estimates in columns (1) and (2) are from a logit model; in columns (3) and (4) conditional logit model. All regressions control for log military expenditures (% of GDP); these estimates are not reported in the table. Standard errors are shown in parentheses. * Significantly different from zero at 10 percent level, ** 5 percent level, *** 1 percent level.

Countries' Average or Beginning of Sample Military Expenditures

In Table 8, we report estimates from models with country fixed effects where military expenditures as a share of GDP are time-invariant, interacted with the time-varying $t - 1$ GDP shares of total natural resource rents. An advantage of using time-invariant GDP shares of military expenditures, as opposed to time-varying GDP shares of military expenditures, is that measurement error of the country average is typically smaller than the time-varying series; or stated differently, that the cross-country signal to noise ratio is higher than the within-country signal to noise ratio. Thus, attenuation bias is likely to be smaller when using time-invariant GDP shares of military expenditures. Using time-invariant military expenditures also means that, by construction, the outbreak of civil conflict in year t does not affect the GDP share of military expenditures in that year.

In a model with country fixed effects, one can estimate the coefficient on the interaction between time-varying $t - 1$ resource rents and time-invariant military expenditures as a share of GDP. The direct effect of the time-invariant military expenditures is controlled for by the country's fixed effects. Hence, we do not include time-invariant military expenditures on the right-hand side of the estimating equation in the fixed-effects model.

We consider two alternatives for constructing time-invariant military expenditure shares. The first approach is to generate, for each country, the unweighted average of the GDP share of military expenditures during 1960–2017. The second approach is to use for each country the GDP share of military expenditures at the beginning of the sample period. For the 1960s, the cross-country data on military expenditures is very sparse. We thus estimate the sample on the 1971–2017 period and use the 1970 GDP share of military expenditures for the interaction term for the second approach.

From Table 8 one can see that the correlation between resource rents and the likelihood of civil conflict outbreak is significantly decreasing in time-invariant measures of countries' GDP shares of military expenditures. Columns (1) and (2) show estimation results where the time-invariant measure is the country average GDP share of military expenditures;

columns (3) and (4) show estimation results for the beginning of sample GDP shares of military expenditures. Compared to Table 2, one can see that the estimated coefficients in Table 8 on resource rents and the interaction with military expenditures are similar in size and statistical significance.

Table 8. Robustness: Countries’ Average or Beginning of Sample Military Expenditures.

	Civil Conflict Onset			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Log Natural Resource Rents (% of GDP), $t - 1$	0.32 ** (0.14)	0.39 ** (0.15)	0.38 ** (0.16)	0.40 ** (0.17)
Log Natural Resource Rents (% of GDP), $t - 1$ * Log Country’s Average Military Expenditures (% of GDP)	−0.15 * (0.09)	−0.17 * (0.10)		
Log Natural Resource Rents (% of GDP), $t - 1$ * Log Country’s Beginning of Sample Log Military Expenditures (% of GDP)			−0.15 * (0.08)	−0.14 * (0.09)
Civil Conflict Onset, $t - 1$	0.49 ** (0.16)	0.45 *** (0.17)	0.49 *** (0.19)	0.52 *** (0.20)
Country FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	No	Yes	No	Yes
Observations	6363	6363	3708	3708

Note: Estimates are from a conditional logit model. Standard errors are shown in parentheses. * Significantly different from zero at 10 percent level, ** 5 percent level, *** 1 percent level.

Alternative Civil Conflict and Civil War

Bazzi and Blattman (2014) is a recently published paper that contains an empirical analysis of cross-country civil conflict data. In Table 9, we show estimation results that use as dependent variables the civil conflict and civil war onset variables of the Bazzi and Blattman (2014) dataset. In columns (1) and (2) of Table 9, the dependent variables are the PRIO-based civil conflict onset and civil war onset indicator variables, respectively. The civil conflict and civil war onset data are computed by Bazzi and Blattman based on the PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset. The key difference between civil conflict and civil war according to PRIO is the battle death threshold: for civil conflict, the threshold is 25 battle deaths per year, for civil war, it is 1000 battle deaths per year. In column (3), the dependent variable is civil war onset from the Correlates of War. In column (4), the dependent variable is civil war onset from Collier and Hoeffler (2004). One can see that in all four columns of Table 9 the estimated coefficient on the $t - 1$ log of the GDP share of natural resource rents is positive and significantly different from zero at the conventional significance levels. The coefficient on the interaction between the $t - 1$ log of the GDP share of natural resource rents and countries’ average GDP shares of military expenditures is significantly negative. Noteworthy is that when the dependent variable is civil war onset the estimated coefficients on the right-hand side variables are somewhat larger in absolute value than when the dependent variable is civil conflict onset.

MENA

Table 10 shows estimates of the econometric model for the sub-set of countries in the Middle East and North Africa. Columns (1) and (2) show estimates for an interaction model where countries’ $t - 1$ GDP shares of natural resource rents interact with countries’ average GDP shares of military expenditures; in columns (3) and (4) countries’ $t - 1$ GDP shares of natural resource rents interact with countries’ beginning of sample GDP shares of military expenditures. One can see that the estimated coefficient on the interaction term is significantly negative while the coefficient on the $t - 1$ GDP share of natural resource rents is positive. Thus, the model predicts that in a MENA country with a low GDP share

of military expenditures, an increase in natural resource rents will significantly increase the risk of civil conflict outbreak; but there is no significant effect on the risk of civil conflict outbreak in a country with a high GDP share of military expenditures.

Table 9. Robustness: Alternative Civil Conflict and Civil War Onset Datasets.

	Civil Conflict Onset PRIO	Civil War Onset PRIO	Civil War Onset COW	Civil War Onset Collier & Hoeffler
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Panel A: Log of Natural Resource Rents				
Log Natural Resource Rents, $t - 1$	0.88 ** (0.34)	1.18 ** (0.52)	0.68 ** (0.32)	4.70 *** (1.32)
Log Natural Resource Rents, $t - 1$ * Log Country's Average Military Expenditures (% of GDP)	−0.34 ** (0.18)	−0.66 ** (0.27)	−0.31 ** (0.15)	−2.74 *** (0.85)
Panel B: Log of Natural Resource Rents % of GDP				
Log Natural Resource Rents (% of GDP), $t - 1$	0.70 ** (0.33)	0.90 ** (0.44)	0.78 ** (0.34)	3.56 *** (1.46)
Log Natural Resource Rents (% of GDP), $t - 1$ * Log Country's Average Military Expenditures (% of GDP)	−0.32 * (0.18)	−0.58 ** (0.29)	−0.40 ** (0.19)	−2.57 ** (1.05)
Country FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	2368	2815	2593	1913

Note: Estimates are from a conditional logit model. Standard errors are shown in parentheses. The civil conflict onset and civil war data are from [Bazzi and Blattman's \(2014\)](#) dataset. The dependent variables in columns (1) and (2) are civil conflict onset and civil war onset, respectively, based on the PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset. In column (3), the dependent variable is civil war onset based on the Correlates of War data. In column (4), the dependent variable is civil war onset based on [Collier and Hoeffler \(2004\)](#) coding. * Significantly different from zero at 10 percent level, ** 5 percent level, *** 1 percent level.

Table 10. Robustness: Middle East and North Africa.

	Civil Conflict Onset			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Log Natural Resource Rents (% of GDP), $t - 1$	3.86 ** (1.50)	12.29 ** (5.41)	2.34 ** (0.93)	5.15 ** (2.18)
Log Natural Resource Rents (% of GDP), $t - 1$ * Log Country's Average Military Expenditures (% of GDP)	−1.68 *** (0.62)	−4.85 ** (2.29)		
Log Natural Resource Rents (% of GDP), $t - 1$ * Beginning of Sample Military Expenditures (% of GDP)			−1.11 *** (0.41)	−2.04 ** (0.87)
Country FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	No	Yes	No	Yes
Observations	403	403	296	296

Note: Estimates are from a conditional logit model. Standard errors are shown in parentheses. * Significantly different from zero at 10 percent level, ** 5 percent level, *** 1 percent level.

An interesting stylized fact about MENA is that the average GDP share of total natural resource rents is much larger than in other regions of the world—yet, despite this, the average risk of civil conflict outbreak in MENA is not higher than in the rest of the world. An explanation for this, which is consistent with the results of the econometric analysis is that, in MENA, the average GDP share of military expenditures is much larger than in the rest of the world. Thus, in the average MENA country, rebels have relatively more to gain (from appropriating the natural resources) but their success probability is also relatively

low (due to a relatively strong military). According to data from the World Development Indicators and PRIO, during 1960–2017:

1. The average GDP share of total natural resource rents in MENA was around 15 percent. This is more than three times the average GDP share of total natural resource rents in the rest of the world.
2. The average likelihood of civil conflict (civil war) outbreak in MENA was around three (two) percent while in the rest of the world, the average likelihood of civil conflict (civil war) outbreak was around four (two) percent.
3. The average GDP share of military expenditures in MENA was around 7 percent; in the rest of the world the average GDP share of military expenditures was around 2 percent.

3.1.2. Commodity Price Windfalls

In this section, we report estimates of the impact that international commodity price windfalls have on the risk of civil conflict outbreak. Section Cross-Country Time Series Regressions shows panel model estimates of cross-country time-series data. Our main variable for the cross-country analysis is an international commodity price index where the international commodity prices are geometrically weighted with countries' average GDP shares of the export values of the commodities; the index is constructed in the same way as in [Arezki and Brueckner \(2012a, 2012b\)](#). [Ciccone \(2019\)](#) uses as weights countries' average export shares in total exports; we will discuss results using the Ciccone data as a robustness check in Section Cross-Country Time Series Regressions In Section Regressions Using Subnational Data for Africa, we will show estimates of econometric models that are based on subnational data of sub-Saharan African countries. In that section, we will use the dataset and estimation methods of [Berman et al. \(2017\)](#).

Cross-Country Time Series Regressions

Table 11 shows conditional logit fixed estimates of the effects that windfalls from international commodity price booms have on the risk of civil conflict outbreak. The unbalanced panel covers more than 150 countries and spans the period 1960–2017. The econometric model includes country and time fixed effects. The commodity price index enters in year $t - 1$ and is interacted with countries' average GDP shares of military expenditures.

The four columns of Table 11 show estimates for different commodities that are included in the commodity price index. In column (1), the price index includes gas and oil only. In column (2), the index includes all capital-intensive commodities, that is, gas and oil, as well as minerals and metals. Column (3) reports estimates for a commodity price index that includes agricultural commodities only. Column (4) reports estimates for an index that includes all commodities.

As argued, for example, in [Dube and Vargas \(2013\)](#) price shocks to capital-intensive commodities have different effects on the risk of civil conflict outbreak than labor-intensive commodities. For a commodity-exporting country, an increase in the international price of capital-intensive commodities increases rents (relative to wages); an increase in the international price of labor-intensive commodities increases wages (relative to rents). This is the Stolper–Samuelson Theorem.

With regard to conflict risk, we already pointed out in Section 2 that the incentives for rebellion are determined by expected rents relative to costs. There, we only discussed expected rents but here it is appropriate to also discuss costs. Rebels need to recruit militia. That is, rebels have to trade off the wage earned in the labor market to that what they expect to gain from rebellion. When wages rise relative to rents, the value of rents captured from successful rebellion decrease relative to costs and vice versa. Hence, an increase in international prices of capital-intensive goods increases conflict risk while the opposite is the case for labor-intensive goods. However, regardless of whether commodities are capital intensive or labor-intensive, a better financed military decreases the success probability of rebellion. Thus, an increase in international commodity prices has a smaller effect on

expected rents the greater are military expenditures. This is true for both capital-intensive and labor-intensive commodities.

Table 11. (A) Commodity Price Shocks and Civil Conflict: The Role of Military Expenditures. (B) Effects of a Commodity Price Windfall on the Likelihood of Civil Conflict Onset at Different Percentiles of Military Expenditures.

(A)				
Civil Conflict Onset				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Commodities Included in ComPI	Oil and Gas	Capital-Intensive Commodities	Labor Intensive Commodities	All Commodities
ComPI, $t - 1$	0.04 *** (0.02)	0.03 ** (0.01)	0.04 (0.14)	0.02 * (0.01)
ComPI, $t - 1$ * Log Country's Average Military Expenditures (% of GDP)	-0.02 *** (0.01)	-0.02 *** (0.01)	-0.19 (0.14)	-0.02 *** (0.01)
Country FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	8745	8745	8745	8745
(B)				
GDP Share of Military Expenditures				
	25th Percentile	50th Percentile	75th Percentile	90th Percentile
Panel A: ComPI includes Oil and Gas Only				
Effect of a 1 Standard Deviation Increase in ComPI on the Likelihood of Conflict Onset	10.50 ** (4.15)	7.50 ** (3.34)	4.42 * (2.59)	0.37 (1.96)
Panel B: ComPI Includes Capital-Intensive Commodities Only				
Effect of a 1 Standard Deviation Increase in ComPI on the Likelihood of Conflict Onset	7.05 ** (3.46)	4.67 * (2.82)	2.22 (2.28)	-0.99 (1.93)
Panel C: ComPI Includes Labor-Intensive Commodities Only				
Effect of a 1 Standard Deviation Increase in ComPI on the Likelihood of Conflict Onset	-0.91 (2.78)	-2.88 (2.18)	-4.90 ** (2.39)	-7.56 ** (3.64)
Panel D: ComPI Includes All Commodities				
Effect of a 1 Standard Deviation Increase in ComPI on the Likelihood of Conflict Onset	6.25 * (3.32)	4.03 (2.72)	1.74 (2.21)	-1.27 (1.90)

Note: Estimates are from a conditional logit model. The effects of a 1 standard deviation increase in ComPI on the likelihood (in percent) of civil conflict onset are computed using the Delta method. The effects are based on the estimates of the logit model shown in column (1) of Table 11A. Standard errors are shown in parentheses. * Significantly different from zero at 90 percent confidence, ** 95 percent confidence, *** 99 percent confidence.

The estimates in Table 11 show that the effect of commodity price windfalls on civil conflict risk is decreasing in the GDP share of military expenditures. Consider, for example, the estimates in column (1), which are for a commodity price index that includes oil and gas only. The estimated coefficient on the $t - 1$ commodity price index is positive and significantly different from zero at the 1 percent level. The estimated coefficient on the interaction between the $t - 1$ commodity price index and countries' average GDP shares of military expenditures is negative and significantly different from zero at the 1 percent level. To have an understanding of the size of the effect, let us consider various percentiles of the sample distribution of countries' average GDP shares of military expenditures. At the 25th percentile of the GDP share of military expenditures, a one standard deviation increase in the commodity price index that includes oil and gas only increases the risk of civil conflict outbreak in the next year by around 10 percentage points. This effect is significantly different from zero at the 5 percent level. At the 50th and 75th percentile of the GDP share of military expenditures, a one standard deviation increase in the commodity price index that includes oil and gas only increases the risk of civil conflict outbreak

in the next year by around 7 and 4 percentage points, respectively. These effects are significantly different from zero at the 5 percent level and 10 percent level, respectively. At the 90th percentile of GDP share of military expenditures, the effect is quantitatively small and not significantly different from zero at the conventional significance levels. Comparing the estimated coefficients in column (1) to those in column (2), one can see that they are qualitatively similar, though quantitatively the coefficients are somewhat smaller in column (2) than in column (1). This suggests that effects are particularly large for oil and gas.

Windfalls from price booms in agricultural commodities are associated with a decrease in the risk of civil conflict outbreaks, especially in countries with large military expenditure shares. According to the estimates of column (3) of Table 11, the conflict-reducing effect of agricultural commodity price windfalls is larger in those countries with a higher GDP share of military expenditures. Statistically, the effect of agricultural commodity price windfalls on conflict risk is different from zero at the conventional significance levels but only in those countries with a high GDP share of military expenditures. Take, for example, a country at the 75th percentile of the GDP share of military expenditures: according to column (3), a one standard deviation increase in the agricultural commodity price index reduces the likelihood of civil conflict outbreak by nearly 5 percentage points. This effect is significantly different from zero at the 5 percent level. At the 90th percentile of the GDP share of military expenditures, the effect is even larger: a one standard deviation increase in the agricultural commodity price index reduces the likelihood of civil conflict outbreak by over 7 percentage points. At low GDP shares of military expenditure, the effects are quantitatively smaller and not significantly different from zero: for example, at the 50th (25th) percentile of the GDP share of military expenditures, a one standard deviation increase in the agricultural commodity price index reduces the likelihood of civil conflict outbreak by around 3 (1) percentage points.

Comparing to Dube and Vargas (2013)

Dube and Vargas (2013) present estimates of the effect that commodity price shocks have on civil conflict risk in Colombia. They find that: (i) an increase in international oil prices increases the likelihood of conflict in Colombia; (ii) an increase in international agricultural prices decreases conflict risk. We can use the estimates in Table 11 to compare with the results in Dube and Vargas. That is, we can compute the predicted effects for a GDP share of military expenditures equivalent to that of Colombia.

Average military expenditures as a share of GDP were about 2.7 percent in Colombia. Given this value of military expenditures as a share of GDP, the prediction from the estimates in Table 11 is a negative relationship between civil conflict risk and agricultural commodity price windfalls and a significant positive relationship between civil conflict risk and oil price windfalls.

Specifically, for military expenditures equal to the mean in Colombia during the sample at hand, the prediction from the estimates in Table 11 is that: (i) a one standard deviation increase in the oil price index increases the likelihood of civil conflict outbreak by around 5.8 percentage points, this effect is significantly different from zero at the 5 percent significance level (p -value 0.046); (ii) a one standard deviation increase in the agricultural price index decreases the likelihood of civil conflict outbreak by around 4 percentage points, this effect is significantly different from zero at the 10 percent significance level (p -value 0.067).

The results in Table 11, which are based on a large cross-country panel, are thus consistent with the subnational estimates in Dube and Vargas for Colombia. For a commodity exporter like Colombia—which by international comparison has intermediate levels of the GDP share of military expenditures—an increase in the international price of oil increases the likelihood of a civil conflict outbreak while an increase in the international price of agricultural commodities decreases the likelihood of conflict.

Alternative Data: Ciccone (2019)

In a recent working paper, [Ciccone \(2019\)](#) presents new evidence of the effect that export price shocks have on civil war outbreaks. One of Ciccone's main points is that, for identifying the effects of price shocks, it is crucial to use commodity price indices that are based on time-invariant export weights. Time-varying exports weights, as, for example, [Bazzi and Blattman \(2014\)](#) employ in their baseline, do not enable one to distinguish between a price effect and a quantity effect. Another point that Ciccone makes is that constructing the index based on time-varying exports weights could attenuate estimates towards zero due to noisily measured time-series data of commodity exports. We agree with both of these points.

In Table A4, we present estimates that use the [Ciccone \(2019\)](#) data. We also follow Ciccone's model specification and estimation method. That is, we include country-fixed effects, country-specific linear time trends, and year fixed effects as right-hand-side controls. The price shocks enter in periods t , $t - 1$, and $t - 2$. The model is estimated using least squares as in [Ciccone \(2019\)](#).

In column (1) of Table A4, we show estimates for the largest possible sample. This is a replication of column (3) of Table A8 in [Ciccone \(2019\)](#). Ciccone reports in column (3) of Table A8 the estimated coefficient on a three-year price shock—and the p -values from various tests that are based on the estimates reported in column (1) of Table A4 in this paper. The estimates reported in column (1) of Table A4 are the coefficients and standard errors on which the p -values reported in column (3) of Table A8 in [Ciccone \(2019\)](#) are based.

We are able to exactly replicate [Ciccone \(2019\)](#): One can see from column (1) of Table A4 that, on average, there is a significant negative relationship between commodity export price shocks and civil war outbreaks in the Ciccone data. The coefficient on the price shock in period t is negative and significantly different from zero at the conventional significance levels. The coefficients on the export price shocks in $t - 1$ and $t - 2$ are also negative but one cannot reject the null that individually these coefficients are equal to zero.

Column (2) of Table A4 reports estimates for the largest sample for which data on military expenditure shares are available. One can see that for this sub-sample, the estimated coefficients on the export price shocks are negative and individually significantly different from zero in periods t , $t - 1$, and $t - 2$.

Column (3) of Table A4 shows estimates for the sub-sample where military expenditures are less than 2 percent of GDP. This sample comprises about half of the observations of column (2). One can see that for this sub-sample with low military expenditure shares, the coefficient on the export price shock in period $t - 2$ is positive and significantly different from zero at the 10 percent significance level. The coefficient on the price shocks in periods t and $t - 1$ are insignificant.

Column (4) of Table A4 reports estimates for the same sub-sample as in column (3), that is, where military expenditures are less than 2 percent of GDP, but the model includes only country fixed effects and country-specific linear time trends—that is, we do not include year fixed effects. Excluding year fixed effects leads to somewhat larger estimated coefficients (in absolute value) on the export price shocks. This is expected since the year-fixed effects control for worldwide shocks. In column (4) of Table A4, the coefficient on the $t - 2$ price shock is positive and significantly different from zero at the 5 percent significance level. Quantitatively, the coefficient on the $t - 2$ price shock in column (4) is about twice as large as the coefficient on the $t - 2$ price shock in column (3).

Column (5) of Table A4 shows estimates for the sub-sample where military expenditures exceed 2 percent of GDP. This sample comprises about half of the observations in column (2). One can see that for this sub-sample with high military expenditure shares the coefficients on the $t - 1$ and $t - 2$ export price shock are negative and significantly different from zero at the 10 percent significance level. The coefficient on the price shock in period t is insignificant. In column (6), we report estimates for the same sub-sample as in column (5) but the model includes only country fixed effects and country-specific linear time trends—that is, we do not include year fixed effects. In that model specification, only the price shock in $t - 1$ is significantly different from zero at the 10 percent level.

The main message of the estimates in columns (3)–(6) of Table A4 is that in countries with low military expenditure shares export price shocks tend to increase the risk of civil war outbreak while in countries with high military expenditures the opposite is the case.

How large are these estimated effects? According to the estimates from the models that include country fixed effects, country-specific linear time trends, and year fixed effects, a one standard deviation increase in the export price index in year $t - 2$ increases the risk of a civil war outbreak in year t by around 0.2 percentage points for the subset of countries where the GDP share of military expenditures is below 2 percent. In the subset of countries where the GDP share of military expenditures exceeds 2 percent, a one standard deviation increase in the export price index in year $t - 1$ decreases the risk of a civil war outbreak in year t by around 1.2 percentage points.

While qualitatively the results obtained with the Ciccone data are similar to what we obtain with our data, quantitatively it seems as if with the Ciccone data the effects are smaller for the subset of countries with low military expenditures shares. There is one key difference, however, with regard to the commodity price index, which makes the quantitative comparison not straightforward. We lay out this difference in the next paragraph.

The index constructed by Ciccone uses as weights exports of a commodity in total exports—and not exports of a commodity as a share of GDP. This means that the results with the Ciccone data should be interpreted as a price shock to a particular commodity having a larger effect on civil war in a country where exports of that commodity are larger as a share of total exports. The share of a commodity in total exports is inversely related to export diversification (as measured, e.g., by a Herfindahl index). A larger share of a commodity export in total exports could mean that also the share of a commodity export in GDP is larger, but this must not necessarily be the case. The ratio of commodity exports in GDP is a measure of how large commodity exports are relative to the total value added in a country. The share of commodity exports in GDP is a measure of the economic importance of commodity exports for the entire economy of a country. The share of a specific commodity exported in total exports is a measure of the economic importance of the commodity exported for a particular part of a country's economy, namely, the exporting sector.

Regressions Using Subnational Data for Africa

The effect of price shocks at the subnational level may differ from the effects at the country level. Brueckner and Ciccone (2010) found that export price shocks, which increase economic growth, lead to a significant reduction in the risk of civil war outbreaks in sub-Saharan African countries. Their finding is based on a panel of 39 sub-Saharan African countries during 1980–2009, and an export price index that is generated based on fixed export weights.⁸ In contrast, using subnational data for Africa, Berman et al. (2017) found that international commodity price booms increase conflict risk more in those regions of African countries which produce (more of) that particular commodity. None of these studies examine how the relationship between commodity price windfalls and conflict risk depends on military expenditure shares.

Subnational panel data from Berman et al. span African countries during the 1997–2010 period at a $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$ spatial resolution. The subnational data enable the examination of whether a change in a particular commodity price has a larger effect on conflict risk in a country's region, that is, cell, where (more of) that particular commodity is produced. The main finding from Berman et al. is that, on average, an increase in the international price of a commodity increases conflict risk more in cells that produce (more of) that particular commodity. That is, Berman et al. find that on average an increase in resource wealth that is due to international commodity price booms increases conflict risk at the subnational level.

We first replicate the baseline estimates of Berman et al. (2017)—which are an average effect—and then examine whether and to what extent the effects differ across sub-Saharan African countries' military expenditure shares. Column (1) of Table A5 replicates the estimates of column (1) of Table 2 in Berman et al. (2017). Referring to Equation (1) on

page 1573 of [Berman et al. \(2017\)](#), one can see that the estimate of α_3 on *ln price mines* > 0 is positive and significantly different from zero at the 5 percent significance level.

Column (2) of Table A5 shows estimates for the sub-sample for which data are available on the share of military expenditures in central government expenditures. One can see that for this sub-sample the coefficient α_3 is positive and estimated with a standard error that is about as large as in column (1) of Table A5. That is, for the sub-sample for which data on military expenditure shares are available, one can continue to reject that the effect of mineral price shocks on subnational conflict risk is, on average, equal to zero at the 5 percent significance level.

Columns (3)–(6) of Table A5 show that only in countries with relatively low military expenditures as a share of central government expenditures does an increase in mineral prices have a significant positive effect on subnational conflict risk. Estimates for countries with relatively low military expenditure shares are shown in columns (3) and (4). Consider the estimates in column (3). Column (3) shows estimates for countries where military expenditures are less than 8.7% of central government expenditures, that is, the bottom 25th percentile of the sample distribution of military expenditures as a percent of central government expenditures. One can see in column (3) that the estimated coefficient, α_3 , is about 2.1 times the coefficient in column (2). This means that for one-quarter of African countries—that is, at the bottom 25th percentile of military expenditure shares—the effect of mineral price shocks on subnational conflict risk is about twice as large as the effect that mineral price shocks have on subnational conflict risk in Africa on average.

Column (4) of Table A5 shows estimates for countries where military expenditures are less than 11% of central government expenditures, that is, the bottom 50th percentile of military expenditures as a percent of central government expenditures. In column (4) of Table A5, the estimated coefficient, α_3 , is about 20 percent larger than in column (2). This means that for the group of African countries with the lowest 50th percent of military expenditure shares, the effect of mineral price shocks on subnational conflict risk is, on average, about 20 percent larger than the effect that mineral price shocks have on the subnational conflict in the average African country.

Estimates for countries with relatively high military expenditure shares are shown in columns (5) and (6) of Table A5. Specifically, column (5) shows estimates for countries where military expenditures exceed 11% of central government expenditures, that is, the top 50th percentile of military expenditures as a percent of central government expenditures. Column (6) shows estimates for countries where military expenditures exceed 16% of central government expenditures, the top 25th percentile. In both columns (5) and (6) the estimated coefficient α_3 is negative and not significantly different from zero. Thus, in countries with high military expenditure shares mineral price shocks do not significantly affect conflict risk.

In sum: the results in Table A5 confirm our main result that the effect of commodity price shocks on conflict risk is decreasing in military expenditure shares.

3.1.3. Oil Reserves and Discoveries

[Cotet and Tsui \(2013\)](#) use novel data on oil reserves and discoveries, for a world sample of countries during 1930–2003, to estimate how oil wealth affects civil conflict risk. Cotet and Tsui's main result is that, once country-fixed effects are controlled for there is no significant relationship between oil wealth and conflict risk, on average—and this is true for both democracies and non-democracies.

Columns (1) and (3) of Panel A of Table A6 replicate the country-fixed estimates shown in column (5) of Panels A and B of Table 3 in [Cotet and Tsui \(2013\)](#). These estimates are based on a linear probability model that includes country-fixed effects only. In columns (2) and (4) of Panel A of Table A6, we show that the estimates in [Cotet and Tsui \(2013\)](#) are robust to controlling for year fixed effects in addition to country fixed effects. Columns (1) and (2) show results for democracies, and columns (3) and (4) for non-democracies. One

can see that in all four columns of Panel A of Table A6, the estimated coefficient on log oil wealth per capita is not significantly different from zero.

Panel B of Table A6 shows that in the sub-set of countries with relatively low military expenditure shares, an increase in oil wealth per capita is associated with a significant increase in civil conflict risk. In the sample of countries that are coded by Cotet and Tsui as democracies, that is, columns (1) and (2), low military expenditure shares refer to the set of countries with average military expenditures equal to or below 1.4 percent of GDP. This sub-sample comprises about one-quarter of the country-years that are coded by Cotet and Tsui as democracies; or, alternatively, one-tenth of the country-years of Cotet and Tsui's entire panel. In the sample of countries that are coded by Cotet and Tsui as non-democracies, that is, columns (3) and (4), low military expenditure shares refer to the set of countries with average military expenditures at or below 2 percent of GDP. This sub-sample comprises nearly one-half of the country-years that are coded by Cotet and Tsui as non-democracies; or, alternatively, about one-quarter of the country-years of Cotet and Tsui's entire panel.

For democracies with low military expenditure shares, the estimates in columns (1) and (2) of Panel B of Table A6 show that an increase in oil wealth per capita equal to one standard deviation increases the likelihood of civil conflict outbreak by around 3 percentage points⁹. In column (1) of Panel B, the estimated coefficient on log oil wealth per capita is around 0.26 and has a standard error of 0.15; one can reject that the coefficient is equal to zero at the 10 percent significance level. In column (2), where both country and time fixed effects are included in the econometric model, the estimated coefficient on log oil wealth per capita is around 0.33 and has a standard error of around 0.14. One can reject that this estimated coefficient is equal to zero at the 5 percent significance level. Compared to Panel A, one can see that for the sub-set of democracies with low military expenditure shares, the effect of oil wealth on civil conflict risk is more than seven times the effect in the average democracy.

For non-democracies with low military expenditure shares, the estimates in columns (3) and (4) of Panel B of Table A6 show that an increase in oil wealth per capita equal to one standard deviation increases the likelihood of civil conflict outbreak by around 9 to 10 percentage points. In column (3) of Panel B, the estimated coefficient on log oil wealth per capita is around 0.89 and has a standard error of 0.42; one can reject that this estimated coefficient is equal to zero at the 5 percent significance level. In column (4), where both country and time fixed effects are included in the econometric model, the estimated coefficient on log oil wealth per capita is around 1.0 and has a standard error of around 0.43. One can reject that this estimated coefficient is equal to zero at the 5 percent significance level.

From the estimates in Table A6 a number of interesting comparisons can be made: (i) for the sub-set of democracies with low military expenditure shares, the effect of oil wealth on civil conflict risk is more than seven times the effect of the average democracy; (ii) for the sub-set of non-democracies with low military expenditure shares, the effect of oil wealth on civil conflict risk is more than four times the effect of the average non-democracy; (iii) in non-democracies the effect of oil wealth on civil conflict risk is at least three times as large as in democracies.

Panel C of Table A6 shows that for the sub-set of countries with intermediate and high military expenditure shares oil wealth has no significant effect on civil conflict risk. This is true for democracies and non-democracies. Quantitatively, the estimated coefficients on log oil wealth per capita are small and not significantly different from zero at the conventional significance levels. In the majority of columns in Panel C of Table A6, the sign of estimated coefficients on log oil wealth per capita is negative which suggest, that, if anything, an increase in oil wealth per capita is associated with a reduction in conflict risk in countries with large military expenditure shares.

To summarize: the results in Table A6 show the effect of oil wealth on conflict risk is decreasing in military expenditure shares. Only in the subset of countries with low military

expenditure shares does an increase in oil wealth lead to a significant increase in the risk of civil conflict outbreak.

Table A7 shows two-stage least squares estimates. The instrument for the log of oil wealth per capita is the same as in Cotet and Tsui (2013): out-of-region natural disasters, the log of oil reserves per capita, and their product. These instruments are relevant in the sense that they yield a significant first-stage effect: the Kleibergen Paap F-statistic is well in excess of the critical values below which instruments are declared as weak. To facilitate comparison between two-stage least squares and least squares estimates, Table A7 is structured in exactly the same way as Table A6. As one can see, the two-stage least squares regressions yield coefficients on the log of oil wealth per capita that are both statistically and quantitatively similar to the least-squares regressions.

4. Conclusions

From the perspective of intra-state conflict risk, it is safer to make investments in resource-rich countries with high military expenditures than to make investments in resource-rich countries with low military expenditures. Our panel model estimates showed that a conflict resource curse is limited to countries with low military expenditures: resource discoveries or commodity price windfalls only lead to a significant increase in the risk of conflict outbreak in countries with low military expenditures. In countries with high military expenditures, there is no significant relationship between the likelihood of a civil conflict outbreak and natural resources. This is an important result. Foreign investors and development agencies need to take into account the risk of civil conflict outbreaks when making investments in developing countries. Once a conflict breaks out there is a substantial depreciation of (previously made) investments in, for example, infrastructure or human capital, and this implies a lower net return.

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Appendix A

Table A1. Summary Statistics.

	Mean	Stdv.	Data Source
Total Natural Resource Rents, in billion USD	848	4010	WDI
Log Total Natural Resource Rents	24.5	2.69	WDI
Total Natural Resource Rents as a % of GDP	7.59	11.35	WDI
Log Total Natural Resource Rents as a % of GDP	0.47	2.44	WDI
Military Expenditures as a % of GDP	2.91	3.76	WDI
Log Military Expenditure as % of GDP	0.65	2.93	WDI
Military Expenditures as a % of Central Gov. Expenditures	10.67	9.18	WDI
Log Military Expenditures as a % of Central Gov. Expenditures	2.05	0.8	WDI
Civil Conflict Onset	0.05	0.22	PRIO
Civil War Onset	0.03	0.16	COW
Civil War Onset	0.02	0.12	Collier and Hoeffler
Civil War Onset	0.02	0.14	Fearon and Laitin
Civil War Onset	0.02	0.15	Sambanis

Table A2. Distribution of Military Expenditures and Natural Resource Rents.

	1st Pctl.	5th Pctl.	10th Pctl.	25th Pctl.	50th Pctl.	75th Pctl.	90th Pctl.	95th Pctl.	99th Pctl.
Military Expenditures as a Percent of GDP	0.3	0.6	0.8	1.3	2.0	3.3	5.5	7.8	17
Military Expenditures as a Percent of Central Government Expenditures	1.0	2.1	3.1	4.7	7.7	14.6	23.0	28.4	41.5
Natural Resource Rents as a Percent of GDP	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.6	2.9	9.5	22.8	32.0	49.8

Table A3. Sample Split.

Civil Conflict Onset				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Panel A: Low and Intermediate Military Expenditures % of GDP				
Log Natural Resource Rents (% of GDP), <i>t</i>	0.16 *** (0.05)	0.17 *** (0.05)	0.14 (0.12)	0.26 * (0.14)
Country FE	No	No	Yes	Yes
Year FE	No	Yes	No	Yes
Observations	4191	4191	4191	4191
Panel B: High Military Expenditures % of GDP				
Log Natural Resource Rents (% of GDP), <i>t</i>	−0.06 * (0.03)	−0.08 ** (0.04)	0.01 (0.09)	−0.05 (0.12)
Country FE	No	No	Yes	Yes
Year FE	No	Yes	No	Yes
Observations	1374	1374	1374	1374

Note: Estimates in columns (1) and (2) are from a logit model; in columns (3) and (4) conditional logit model. Panel A reports estimates for the sub-sample with low and intermediate military expenditures as a share of GDP (75th percentile and below). Panel B reports estimates for the sub-sample with high military expenditures (above 75th percentile). Standard errors are shown in parentheses. * Significantly different from zero at 10 percent level, ** 5 percent level, *** 1 percent level.

Table A4. Ciccone (2019). “International Commodity Prices and Civil War Outbreak: New Evidence for Sub-Saharan Africa and Beyond”.

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Replication Table A8, column 3	Data on Military Expenditures Not Missing	Military Expenditures % of GDP Smaller Than 2 Percent	Military Expenditures % of GDP Smaller Than 2 Percent	Military Expenditures % of GDP Larger Than 2 Percent	Military Expenditures % of GDP Larger Than 2 Percent
Price Shock, <i>t</i>	−0.021 ** (0.011)	−0.030 * (0.017)	−0.013 (0.014)	0.007 (0.014)	−0.038 (0.036)	−0.028 (0.033)
Price Shock, <i>t</i> − 1	−0.022 (0.014)	−0.059 ** (0.023)	−0.017 (0.021)	0.007 (0.016)	−0.074 * (0.042)	−0.071 * (0.042)
Price Shock, <i>t</i> − 2	−0.017 (0.012)	−0.043 ** (0.022)	0.012 * (0.007)	0.026 ** (0.012)	−0.073 * (0.039)	−0.056 (0.040)
Country FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country Trend	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Observations	5019	3066	1574	1574	1492	1492

Note: * Significantly different from zero at 10 percent level, ** 5 percent level, *** 1 percent level.

Table A5. Berman, Couttenier, Rohner, and Thoenig (Berman et al. 2017). “This Mine is Mine: How Minerals Fuel Conflicts in Africa”.

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Replication of Col 1 Table 2 of Berman et al. (2017)	Replication of Col 1 Table 2 of Berman et al. (2017) for Military Expenditures Data not Missing	Military Expenditures Less Than 8.7% of Central Government Expenditures (Bottom 25th Percentile)	Military Expenditures Less Than 11% of Central Government Expenditures (Bottom 50th Percentile)	Military Expenditures More Than 11% of Central Government Expenditures (Top 50th Percentile)	Military Expenditures More Than 15% of Central Government Expenditures (Top 75th Percentile)
In price mines > 0	0.086 ** (0.034)	0.066 ** (0.034)	0.138 ** (0.056)	0.079 ** (0.037)	−0.008 (0.061)	−0.449 (0.503)
Country-Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cell FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	143,768	65,143	16,267	32,641	32,502	16,730

Note: Standard errors are shown in parentheses. Column (1) replicates column (1) of Table 2 in Berman et al. (2017). Only the estimate of α_3 on *In price mines* > 0 is reported (refer to Berman et al. 2017, Equation (1), on page 1573); the estimates on the other variables are not reported. Column (2) shows estimates for the sample with available data on military expenditures as percent of central government expenditures. Estimates for countries with low military expenditures are shown in columns (3) and (4). Specifically, column (3) shows estimates for countries where military expenditures are less than 8.7% of central government expenditures (the bottom 25th percentile in the sample distribution of military expenditures as a percent of central government expenditures); column (4) shows estimates for countries where military expenditures are less than 11% of central government expenditures (the bottom 50th percentile in the sample distribution of military expenditures as a percent of central government expenditures). Estimates for countries with high military expenditures are shown in columns (5) and (6). Specifically, column (5) shows estimates for countries where military expenditures exceed 11% of central government expenditures (the top 50th percentile in the sample distribution of military expenditures as a percent of central government expenditures); column (6) shows estimates for countries where military expenditures exceed 11% of central government expenditures (the top 25th percentile in the sample distribution of military expenditures as a percent of central government expenditures). * Significantly different from zero at 10 percent level, ** 5 percent level, *** 1 percent level.

Table A6. Cotet and Tsui (2013, AEJ Macro) “Oil and Conflict”. Fixed Effects OLS Regressions.

Civil Conflict Onset				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Democracies	Democracies	Non-Democracies	Non-Democracies
Panel A: Replication of Cotet and Tsui (2013) Table 3				
Log Oil Wealth per capita, <i>t</i>	0.035 (0.048)	0.002 (0.047)	0.199 (0.297)	0.179 (0.292)
Country FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	No	Yes	No	Yes
Observations	2175	2175	2369	2369
Panel B: Low Military Expenditures				
Log Oil Wealth Per Capita, <i>t</i>	0.262 * (0.146)	0.334 ** (0.137)	0.892 ** (0.415)	1.053 ** (0.432)
Country FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	No	Yes	No	Yes
Observations	580	580	1047	1047

Table A6. Cont.

Civil Conflict Onset				
Panel C: Intermediate and High Military Expenditures				
Log Oil Wealth per capita, <i>t</i>	0.052 (0.091)	−0.018 (0.072)	−0.081 (0.282)	−0.150 (0.275)
Country FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	No	Yes	No	Yes
Observations	1595	1595	1322	1322

Note: Standard errors are shown in parentheses. Columns (1) and (3) of Panel A replicate the estimates shown in column (5) of Panels A and B of Table 3 in Cotet and Tsui (2013). In the sample of countries that are coded by Cotet and Tsui as *Democracies*, that is, columns (1) and (2), *Low Military Expenditures* refers to the set of countries with average military expenditures equal to or below 1.4 percent of GDP; *Intermediate and High Military Expenditures* refers to the set of countries with average military expenditures at or above 1.4 percent of GDP. In the sample of countries that are coded by Cotet and Tsui as *Non-Democracies*, that is, columns (3) and (4), *Low Military Expenditures* refers to the set of countries with average military expenditures at or below 2 percent of GDP; *Intermediate and High Military Expenditures* refers to the set of countries with average military expenditures at or above 2 percent of GDP. * Significantly different from zero at 90 percent confidence, ** 95 percent confidence, *** 99 percent confidence.

Table A7. Cotet and Tsui (2013, AEJ Macro) “Oil and Conflict”. Fixed Effects 2SLS Regressions.

Civil Conflict Onset				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Democracies	Democracies	Non-Democracies	Non-Democracies
Panel A: Low Military Expenditures				
Log Oil Wealth Per Capita, <i>t</i>	0.263 * (0.137)	0.333 *** (0.120)	0.996 *** (0.378)	1.157 *** (0.394)
Kleibergen Paap F-Stat	2.6×10^5	2.3×10^4	2000	2132
Country FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	No	Yes	No	Yes
Observations	580	580	1047	1047
Panel B: Intermediate and High Military Expenditures				
Log Oil Wealth Per Capita, <i>t</i>	0.030 (0.086)	−0.027 (0.070)	−0.060 (0.292)	−0.128 (0.271)
Kleibergen Paap F-Stat	2.8×10^4	2.8×10^4	1070	4116
Country FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	No	Yes	No	Yes
Observations	1595	1595	1322	1322
Panel C: Replication of Cotet and Tsui (2013) Table 3				
Log Oil Wealth Per Capita, <i>t</i>	0.019 (0.047)	−0.004 (0.047)	0.241 (0.304)	0.215 (0.292)
Kleibergen Paap F-Stat	9.3×10^4	2.6×10^4	1794	4225
Country FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	No	No	Yes	Yes
Observations	2175	2175	2369	2369

Note: Standard errors are shown in parentheses. Columns (1) and (3) of Panel C replicate the two-stage least squares estimates shown in column (6) of Panels A and B of Table 3 in Cotet and Tsui (2013). In all columns, the instrument set is the same as in Cotet and Tsui (2013): Log (out-of-region natural disaster), log (oil reserves per capita), and their product. In the sample of countries that are coded by Cotet and Tsui as *Democracies*, that is, columns (1) and (2), *Low Military Expenditures* refers to the set of countries with average military expenditures equal to or below 1.4 percent of GDP; *High Military Expenditures* refers to the set of countries with average military expenditures at or above 1.4 percent of GDP. In the sample of countries that are coded by Cotet and Tsui as *Non-Democracies*, that is, columns (3) and (4), *Low Military Expenditures* refers to the set of countries with average military expenditures at or below 2 percent of GDP; *High Military Expenditures* refers to the set of countries with average military expenditures at or above 2 percent of GDP. * Significantly different from zero at 90 percent confidence, ** 95 percent confidence, *** 99 percent confidence.

Notes

- ¹ See [Brown and Keating \(2015\)](#) for a detailed account of these civil conflicts over natural resources.
- ² An important early contribution in the literature on conflict was the World Bank publication *Breaking the Conflict Trap* ([Collier et al. 2003](#)). The finding relating the risk of civil conflict to the presence of natural resources was in general confirmed by subsequent literature, discussed in the paper below.
- ³ See also [Dal Bo and Dal Bo \(2011\)](#), [Acemoglu et al. \(2010\)](#), or [Chassang and Padro-i-Miquel \(2009\)](#).
- ⁴ In their empirical analysis, Collier and Hoeffler use natural resource endowments as a proxy for T . One could further fine tune the model by assuming that government receives a constant fraction, φ , of the resource rents, R , so that $dT = \varphi dR$.
- ⁵ In Table 1, the panel spans the period 1970–2007; this is the longest period given the available conflict data from Bazzi and Blattman and data on natural resource rents and military expenditures from the World Development Indicators. In Table 2 and following tables, we will use data for a larger and longer panel. This larger and longer panel is based on conflict data from [PRIO \(2017\)](#) and as right-hand-side variable for the interaction term the average GDP share of military expenditures.
- ⁶ The same result was obtained in the previous literature, see for example, [Collier and Hoeffler \(1998\)](#). Specifically in Panel B of Table 1 the estimates can be interpreted as follows. At higher levels of GDP shares of natural resource rents, an additional percentage point increase in the GDP share of natural resource rents has smaller effects on conflict risk than at lower GDP share of natural resource rents, that is, there are diminishing effects. If one plots the relationship between conflict risk and the GDP share of natural resource rents based on the estimates in Panel B in Table 1, then there is a threshold at which the slope changes sign, that is, an inverted U-shaped relationship. However, to the right of the tipping point the (negative) marginal effects of resource rents on conflict risk are not significantly different from zero for sample values of GDP shares of natural resource rents. That is, at very high GDP shares of natural resource rents the sign of a marginal increase in natural resource rents on conflict risk is negative, but even at the 99th percentile of the GDP share of natural resource rents (which is around 50 percent) one cannot reject the null that the marginal effect is equal to zero at the conventional significance levels.
- ⁷ In Table 1, natural resource rents of country i in period t are interacted with country i 's average military expenditures as a share of central government expenditures. There are about twice as many country-year observations for the GDP share of military expenditures as for the GDP share of central government expenditures. Note that the theoretical framework in Section 2 is based on military expenditures as a share of central government expenditures. There is hence a trade-off: we have more statistical power when using the GDP share of military expenditures but the theoretical framework is based on military expenditures as a share of central government expenditures. Military expenditures as a share of central government expenditures are positively correlated with the GDP share of military expenditures (correlation coefficient is around 0.69). That is, countries with a larger GDP share of military expenditures also tend to have a large share of military expenditures in central government expenditures.
- ⁸ [Ciccone \(2019\)](#) shows that the result of a zero effect documented by [Bazzi and Blattman \(2014\)](#) is entirely driven by using an index that is based on time-varying exports weights. [Ciccone \(2019\)](#) shows, using the Bazzi and Blattman data, that when the price index is based on fixed exports weights, commodity export price shocks have on average a significant negative effect on civil war risk in sub-Saharan Africa.
- ⁹ A one standard deviation of log oil wealth per capita in the Cotet and Tsui dataset is around 10. All right-hand side variables in Cotet and Tsui's dataset are divided by 100.

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