

**RSAEM**  
RESEARCH SEMINAR IN APPLIED ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT

**JEAN LACROIX**

**THE POLITICAL VALUE  
OF RESISTANCE**

To understand how conflicts shape political selection, we measure the legacy of the French Résistance in French politics after World War II. First, we are able to match candidates to a list of participants in the Résistance/Collaboration to determine the electoral advantage of Résistant candidates. Second, we study the mobilization of Résistant voters post-war and their reaction to the resistant credentials of some candidates. Third, we evaluate the welfare implications of this new political selection in terms of electoral competition and economic performance. According to our results, both Résistant voters and Résistant candidates were mobilizing forces in post-war politics. Their salient identity decreased political competition but was not detrimental for the economy.

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