

Where are you from and why does this matter in voting behavior? Evidence from Turkish Elections, 2007-2018

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Abstract

Turkey's incumbent party (Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi, AKP) has not changed since 2002. The AKP is the first party in all elections since 2002. Also, Turkey has experienced an important emigration process after the 1990s. This emigration process was not only because of economic reasons but also as a result of political conditions. Is there any relation between the emigration process and the electoral success of the AKP in the 2000s? The masses that experienced the internal emigration process mostly come from the rural areas. That's why they have severe socioeconomic problems while trying to survive both economically and politically. Recent research refers to the impact of fellow countrymen associations to understand the relationship between economic and political survival strategies of those who emigrated to the metropole cities of Turkey and their voting behavior. However, these studies are mostly descriptive and do not attempt to measure the impact of origins of voters in terms of the provinces that voters come from. Also, many of them ignore the spatial variousness of the emigrants. In this paper, Turkish elections will be investigated in terms of the spatial variousness of the emigrants' hometowns. To do that, a unique data set will be created based on the province of registration by the province of usual residence, province of birth by the province of usual residence, and election results at the province level. Then the data will be distinguished into various spatial divisions to understand voting patterns. Thus, this study contributes to the literature in terms of measuring spatial voting patterns based on origin provinces in Turkish elections.

Keywords: General Elections, Local Elections, Origin Provinces, AKP, Turkey

JEL Codes: D72, Z13, C31