

Peaceful Partisans: How Political Parties Shape Nationalist Conflicts in China and Japan

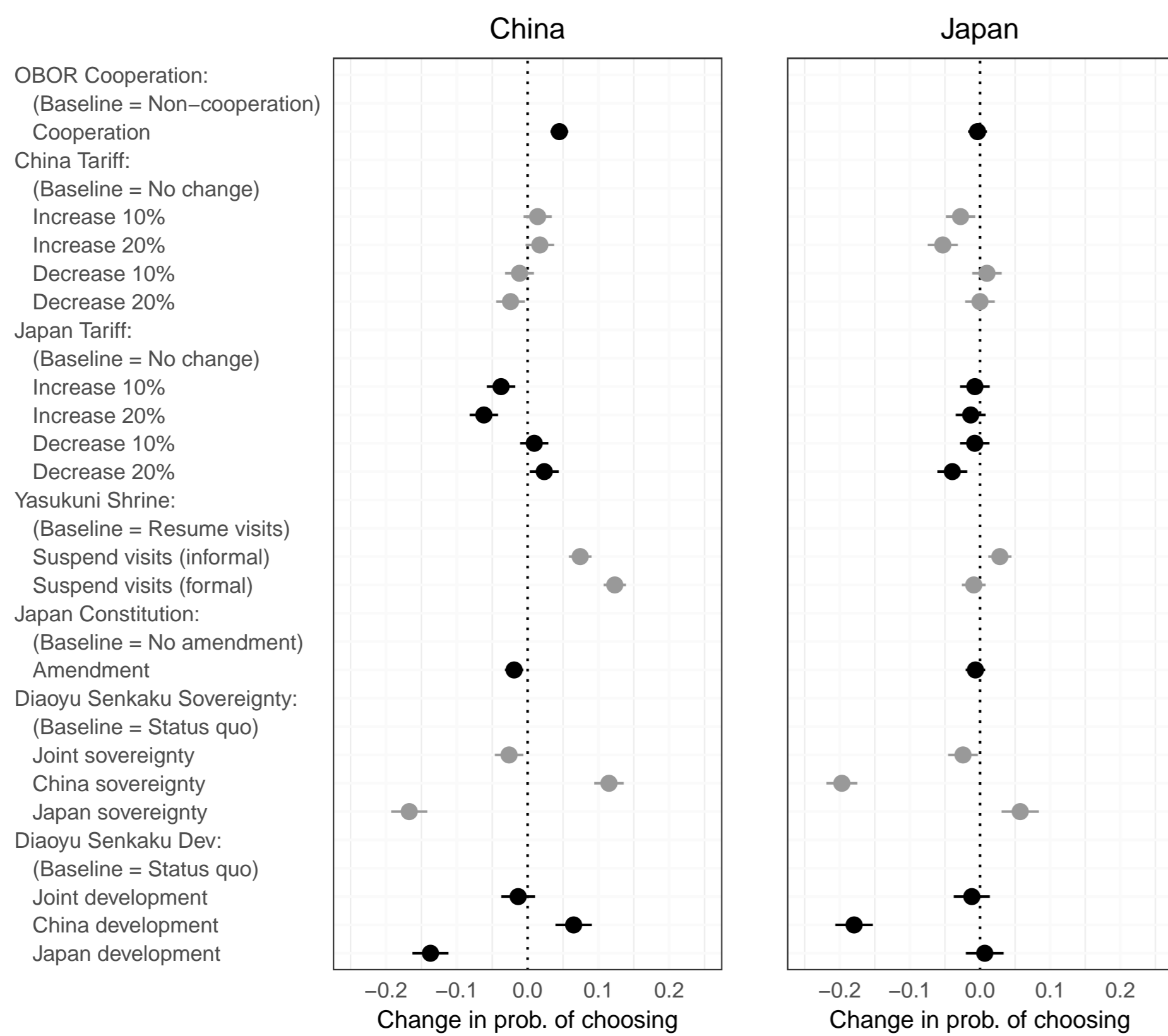
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Nationalism or trade?

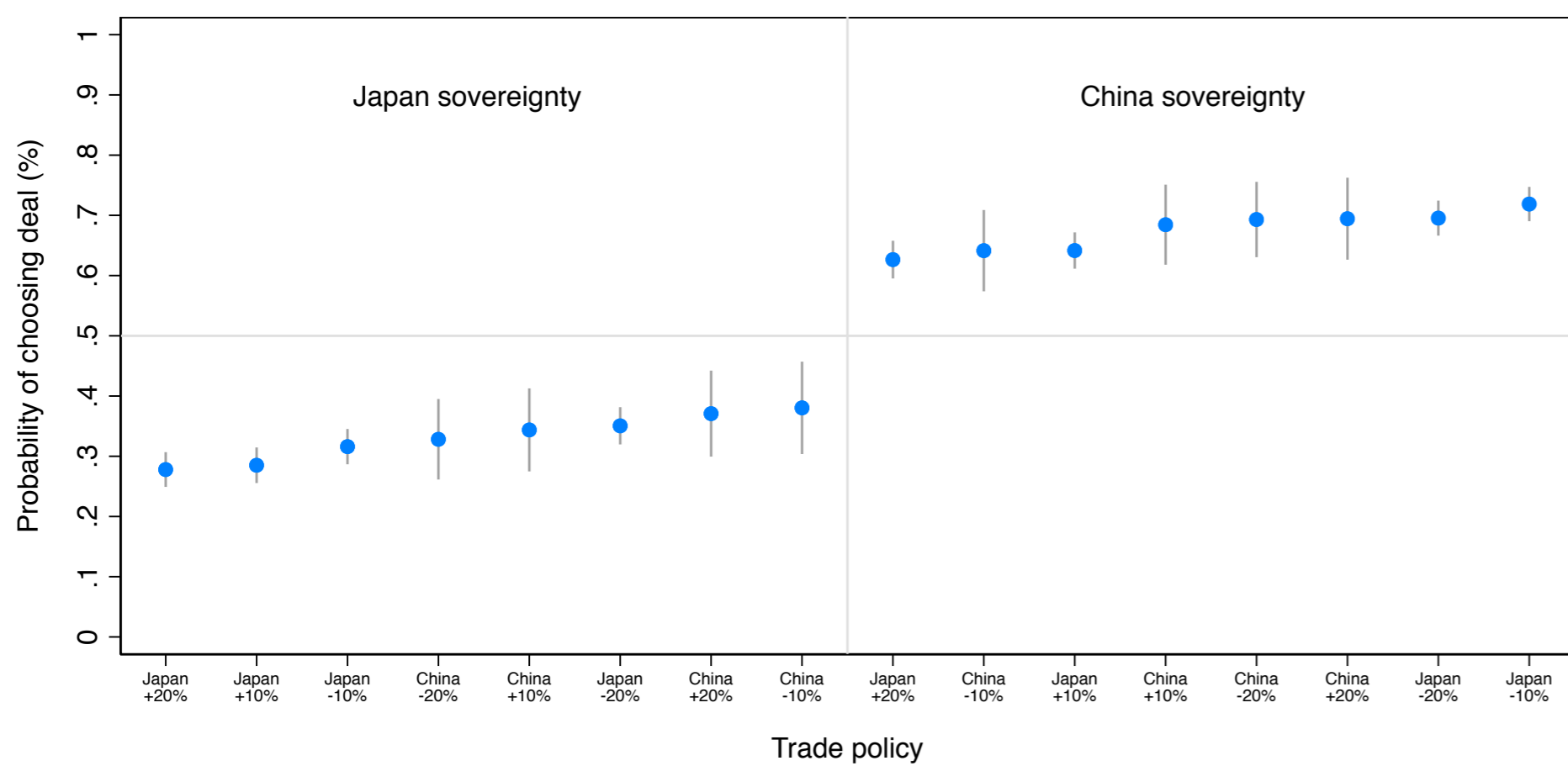
Do Chinese and Japanese citizens prioritize *political disputes* or *economic benefits*?

Conjoint experiment: Select between a pair of hypothetical compromises between the Chinese and Japanese governments.

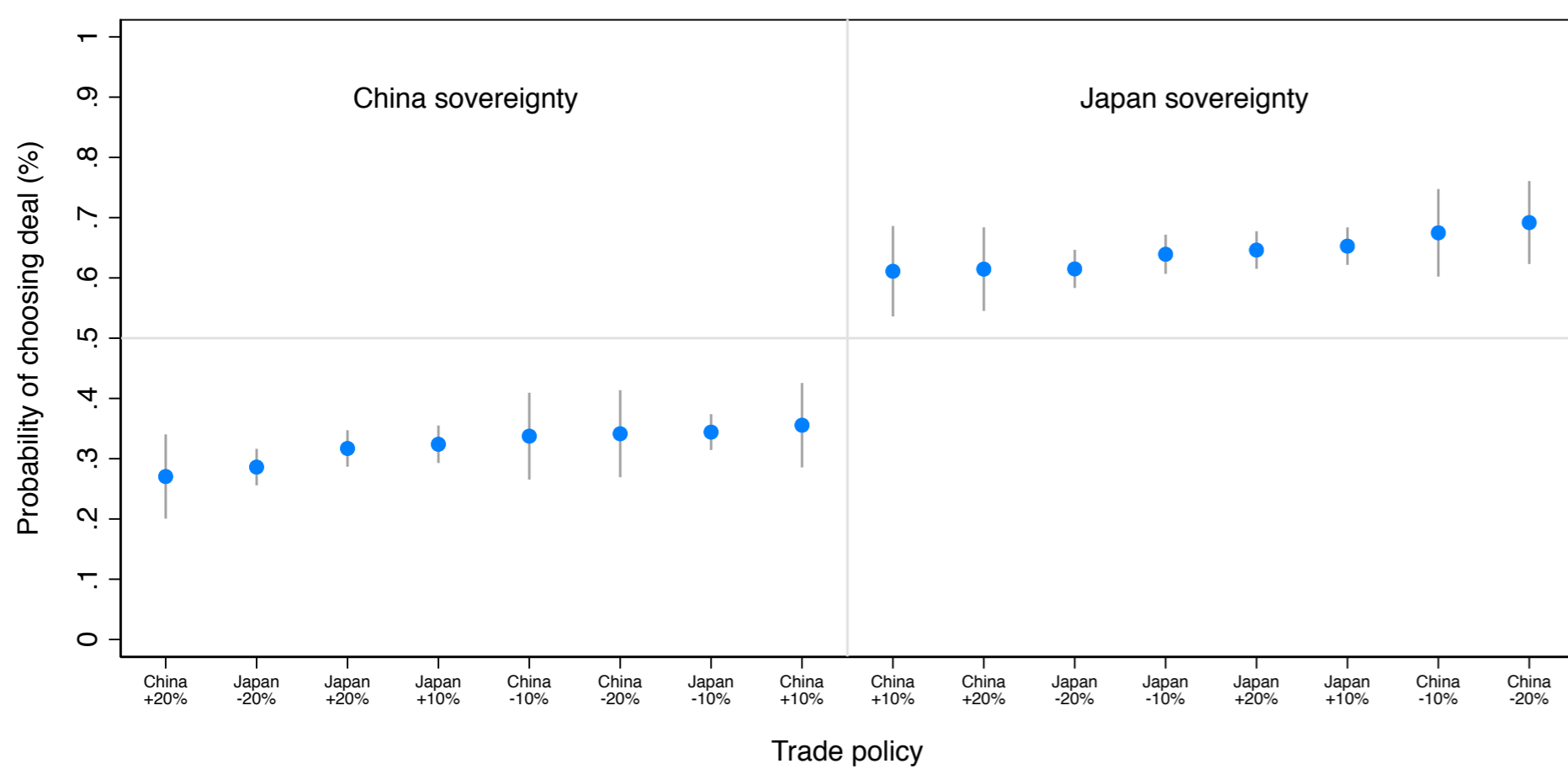
Hypothesis 1: General public prioritizes nationalist disputes over economic issues.



Chinese respondents: Can trade concessions overcome territorial attachments?



Japanese respondents: Can trade concessions overcome territorial attachments?



Conclusions

Respondents in both China and Japan *weigh territorial issues more heavily* than tariffs, trade concessions, or economic cooperation.

Heterogeneity by party and pre-existing nationalism in Japan.

Chinese respondents are *more influenced by issues tied to historical grievance* (e.g. Yasukuni visits) than changes in tariffs or economic cooperation.

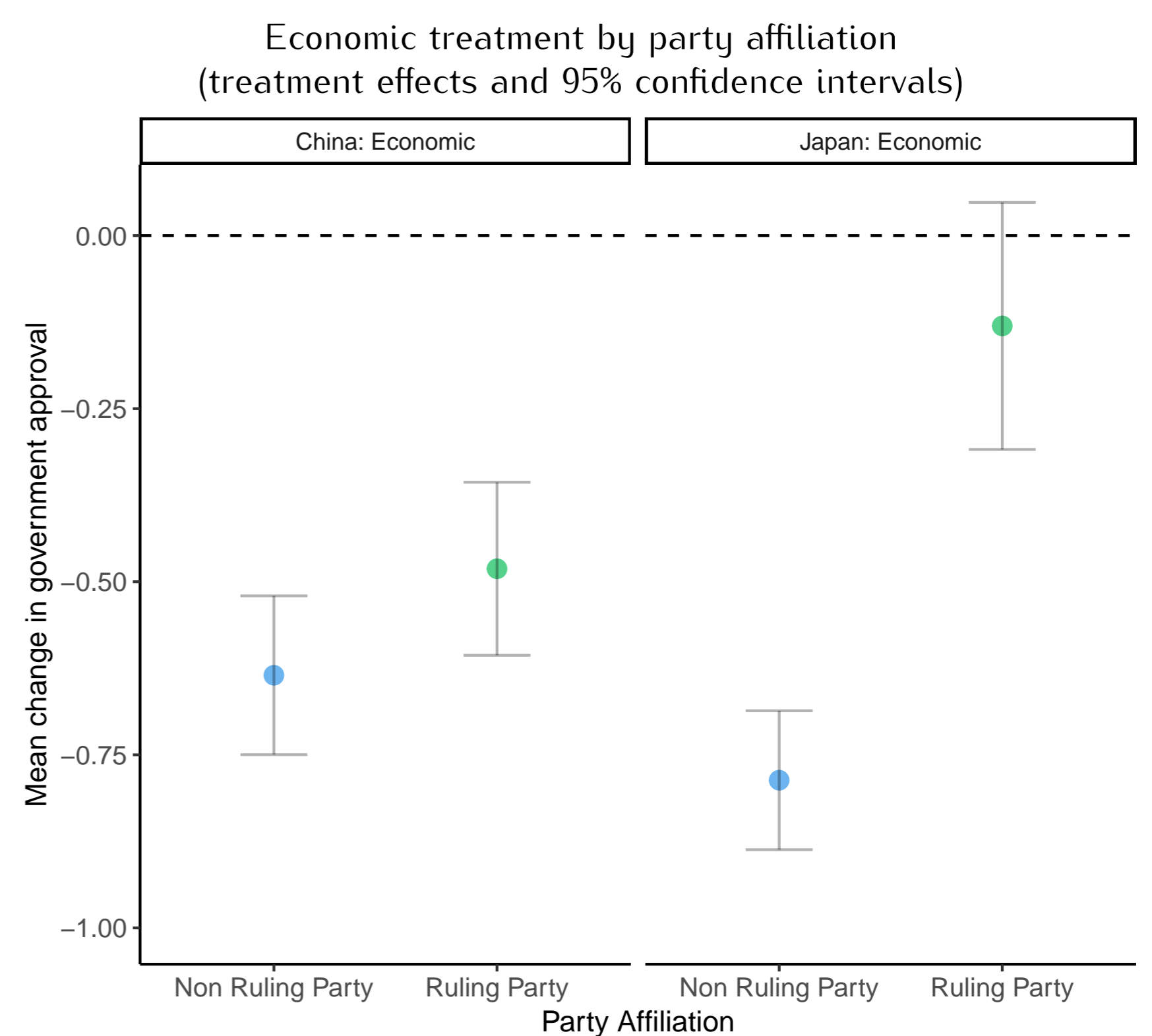
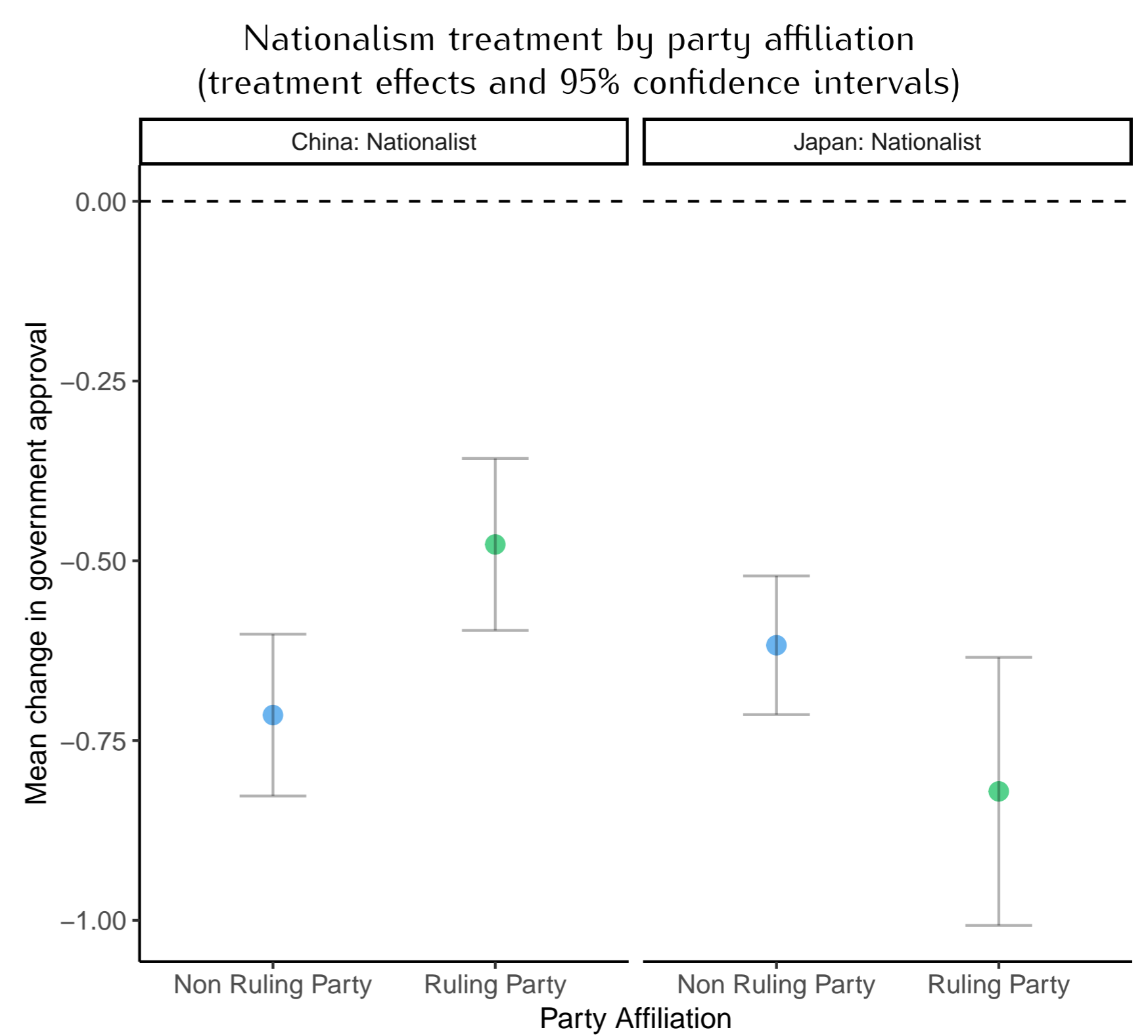
Party or policy?

To what degree can rulers in each country de-escalate nationalist conflict?

Vignette experiment: randomization of whether the government allows or disallows Senkaku/Diaoyu protest. Separate vignette allowing or disallowing economic repression to see how accountability operates when national pride has not been triggered.

Hypothesis 2: In China, members of the ruling party are more likely to support measures that de-escalate conflict.

Hypothesis 3: In Japan, members of the ruling party are less likely to support measures that de-escalate conflict.



Conclusions

Japanese subjects responded to our experiment in a partisan way, reacting to repression *in line with their policy beliefs*.

Japanese supporters of the LDP are less accepting of government repression of nationalist protests, and more accepting of economic.

CCP members and affiliates are more supportive than average citizens of government repression of protest movements.