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Title:

Old sins cast long shadows: Long-term effects of Aussiedlung of ethnic Germans from Czech Republic on migration

Abstract:

There were over 3 millions (29% of total population) of ethnic Germans in current Czech Republic prior to the Second World War living mostly in ethnically segregated villages of Sudetenland -- German-speaking regions often close to national borders. They were forcibly expelled after the end of the Second World War leaving behind empty villages and almost all their personal belongings including fully-equipped farms and factories. Abandoned lands were swiftly resettled by over a million colonizers from inland regions of Czechoslovakia (current Czech Republic and Slovakia) creating new communities in former German villages. Expulsion (Aussiedlung) and resettlement created a shock which allow us to identify differences in migration behaviour between newly established and traditional communities. Empirical results indicate that mobility in former German villages is significantly higher even 70 years after Aussiedlung.