

Turning the Tables? Aid, Status and Stability in the International System

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How does the the provision or acceptance of foreign assistance affect citizens' perceptions of international status?

- Providing aid is status-conferring ("superior donor" narrative)
- Receiving aid is status-denying ("inferior recipient" narrative)
- Preferences update when states deviate from traditional aid behavior ("role reversals")
- Aid provision increases the status of new donors and aid acceptance decreases the status of new recipients

Online information experiment conducted by Lucid on US respondents (N=1532)

- Vignette based off US acceptance of Russian Covid-aid
- Randomize information on aid acceptance and donor (UK, China, India)
- Respondents rank the respect of 5 countries (US, UK, China, India, Germany)

Findings

- Nominal but not comparative gains for new donors. Comparative but not nominal losses for new recipients
- Black respondents are more likely than White respondents to update perceptions of status

