

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

From: The Director

To: Agent 405

Date: 5/9/03

Dear Agent 405,

A dataset and codebook have been emailed to you through our secret channel called “the internet.” The dataset is `world_data.dta` (stata format). The codebook is `world_codebook.pdf`. The data consist of social, political, and economic variables for a set of countries that are important to our ongoing operations: Canada, China, Columbia, Egypt, France, the German Federal Republic, India, Italy, Japan, Spain, Turkey, the USSR, the UK, the US, and Venezuela. Data exists for each country from 1956–1973.

Your mission, which you must complete and return by Monday, May 12, at noon, is to analyze the political-economy of these nations over this period. In particular, we urgently need (1) an assessment of how economic and social issues affect political instability and (2) an assessment of how political and social issues affect economic prosperity. Unfortunately, we do not have time for you to model these simultaneously; so, for now, treat each as a separate process.

I cannot emphasize enough the secrecy of this mission. You are expected to work alone. You are not to discuss your mission with anyone. You may consult your texts, notes, and any manuals. However, for security purposes, we request that you not use any resources on the web.

Please return your assessment as a typed report. And please be as clear as possible in your analysis, about your choice of variables, about any modeling or estimation choices, and in your discussion of the results.

Do not fail us.

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