Does China's Middle Class Prefer (Liberal) Democracy?

Wen-Chin Wu^{a1}, Yu-Tzung Chang^b, and Hsin-Hsin-Pan^b

^a *Institute of Political Science, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan;*

^b *Department of Political Science, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan*

Online Appendix

May 18, 2016

¹ Corresponding author. Email: wenchinwu@sinica.edu.tw

Appendix A.1. Operationalization of variables

Variables	Coding
Preference for Democracy	Principal component score derived by <i>polychoric</i> correlation matrix.
Democratic Support	“Democracy may have its problems, but it is still the best form of government.” 0: Strong disagree or disagree; 1: Strongly agree or agree.
Support for Regime Change	“Compared with other systems in the world, would you say our system of government works fine as it is, needs minor change, needs major change, or should be replaced? 0: not need to change or needs minor change; 1: need major change or should be replaced.
Age	Age in years.
Male	Coded as 1 if respondents are male, and 0 if female.
Education	1: under primary education; 2: primary education; 3: secondary education; and 4: university and higher.
Urban	Coded as 1 if respondents live in an urban area, and 0 otherwise.
Economic Evaluation	“How would you compare the current economic condition of your family with what it was a few years ago?” 1: much worse now; 2 a little worse now; 3: about the same; 4: a little better now; 5: much better now.
Perception of National Corruption	“How widespread do you think corruption and bribe-taking are in your national government?.” -2: Hardly anyone is involved; -1: Not a lot of officials are corrupt; 1: Most officials are corrupt; 2: Almost everyone is corrupt; 0: Can’t choose or decline to answer.
Perception of Local Corruption	“How widespread do you think corruption and bribe-taking are in your local/municipal government?.” -2: Hardly anyone is involved; -1: Not a lot of officials are corrupt; 1: Most officials are corrupt; 2: Almost everyone is corrupt; 0: Can’t choose or decline to answer.
Trust in National Government	“Please tell me how much trust do you have in the national Government.” -2: None at all; -1: Not very much trust; 1: Quite a lot of trust; 2: A great deal of trust. 0: Do not understand the question, can’t choose, or decline to answer.
Trust in Local Government	“Please tell me how much trust do you have in the local Government.” -2: None at all; -1: Not very much trust; 1: Quite a lot of trust; 2: A great deal of trust. 0: Do not understand the question, can’t choose, or decline to answer.

(continuing on the next page)

Appendix A.1. Operationalization of variables (Continued)

Subjective Social Status	“People sometimes think of the social status of their families in terms of being high or low. Imagine a ladder with 10 steps. At step one stand the lowest status and step 10 stand the highest. Where would you place your family on the following scale?” 1: Lowest; 10: Highest.
Middle Class	Coded as 1 if the subjective social status is between 4 and 7 (inclusive); otherwise coded as 0.
Extent of Democracy	“How much of a democracy is China? 1: A democracy; 2: A democracy with major problems; 3: A democracy with minor problems; 4: A full democracy.

Appendix A.2. Summary statistics

Variable	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min.	Max.
<i>Preference for Democracy</i>	3225	44.507	29.068	0	100
<i>Democratic Support</i>	2780	0.890	0.313	0	1
<i>Support for Regime Change</i>	2705	0.280	0.449	0	1
<i>Age</i>	3225	45.242	15.577	18	92
<i>Age^2</i>	3225	2289.394	1470.128	324	8464
<i>Male</i>	3225	0.534	0.499	0	1
<i>Education</i>	3225	2.510	0.869	1	4
<i>Urban</i>	3225	0.470	0.499	0	1
<i>Subjective Social Status</i>	3225	5.368	1.903	1	10
<i>Subjective Social Status^2</i>	3225	32.441	20.491	1	100
<i>Middle Class</i>	3225	0.710	0.454	0	1
<i>Economic Evaluation</i>	3225	3.916	0.833	1	5
<i>Perception of National Corruption</i>	3225	-0.481	1.020	-2	2
<i>Perception of Local Corruption</i>	3225	0.207	1.133	-2	2
<i>Trust in National Government</i>	3225	1.421	0.718	-2	2
<i>Trust in Local Government</i>	3225	0.751	1.014	-2	2