



The Costs of Membership Withdrawal from International Organizations

Motivating example

- **UK voted to leave the European Union**
- **expected effects:**
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- **Can historical analysis of other exits inform us?**

Research Question

- **What are the costs of membership withdrawal from international organizations?**
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- **Focus on regional economic organizations**
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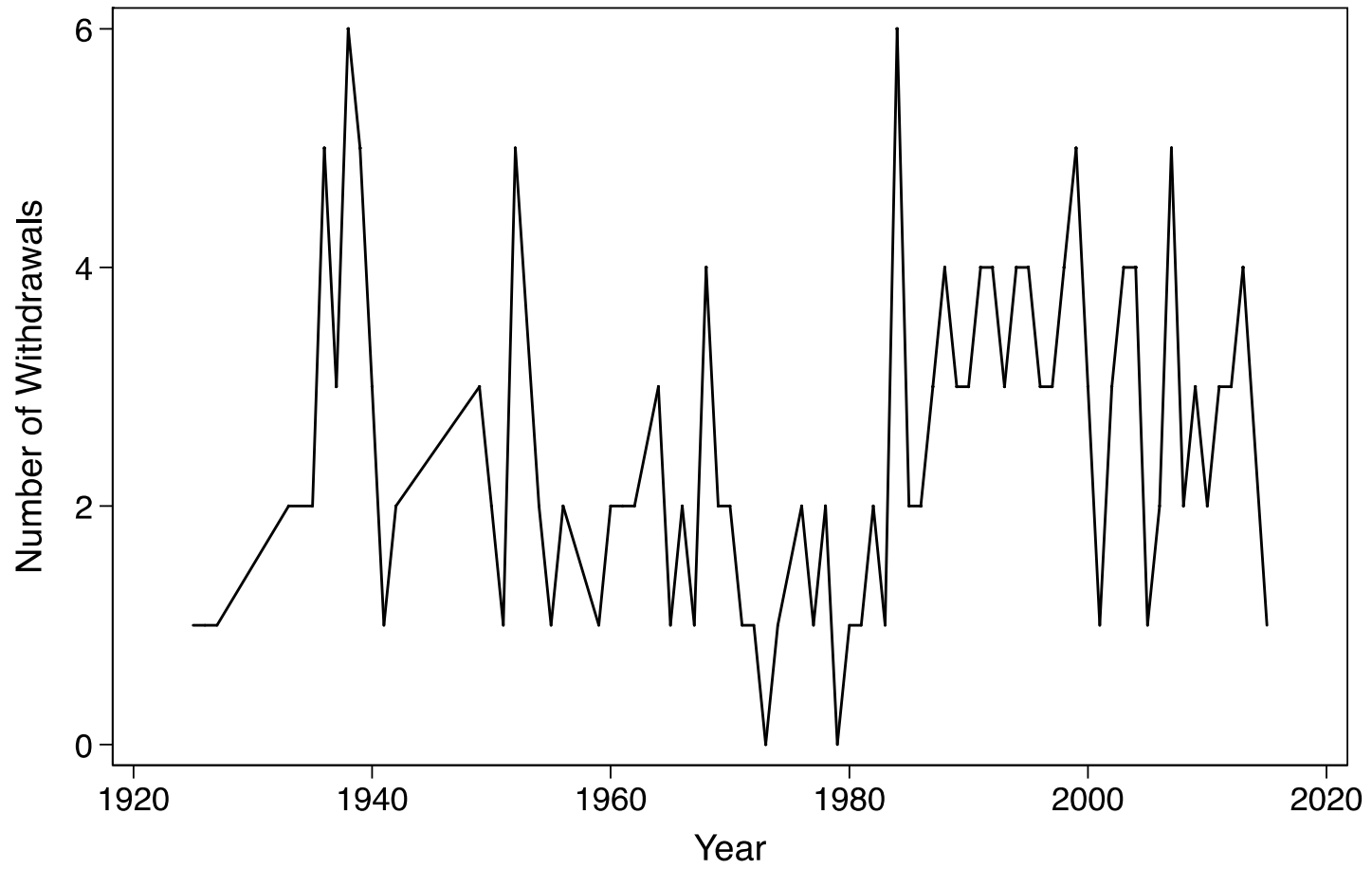
Withdrawals in context

- **What is an IO withdrawal?**

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- **~200 since 1945**

Figure 1: IO Withdrawals, 1925-2015



Other REO withdrawals

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Competing Theoretical Explanations

1. IO accession literature implies exit will be costly

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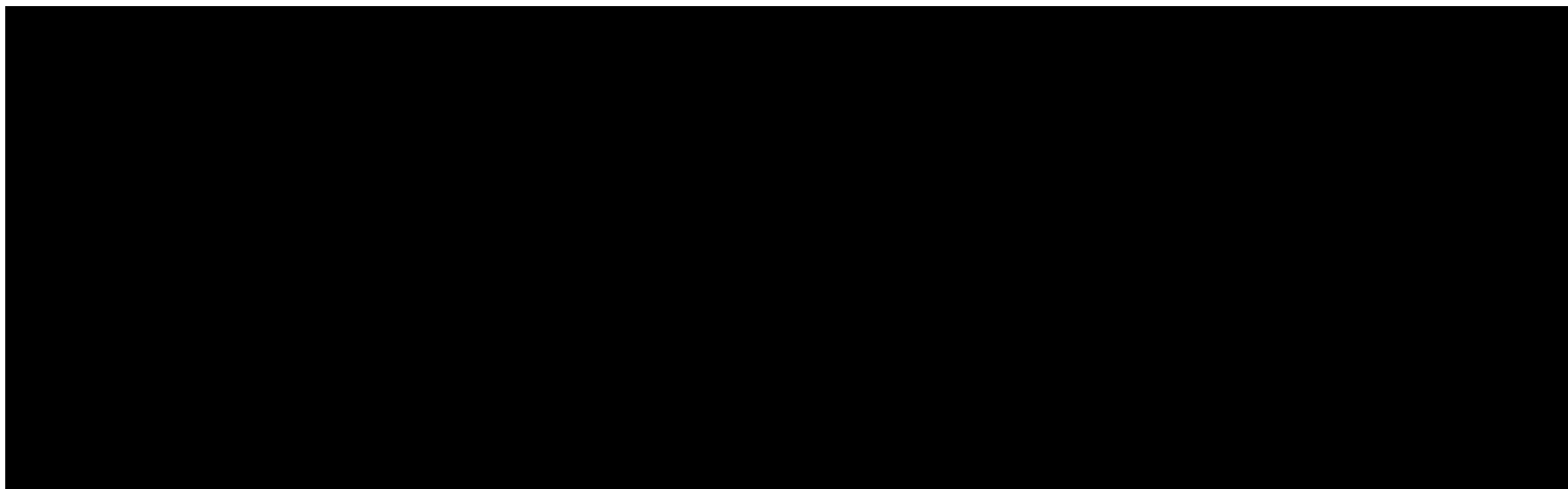
2. IOs exit may be costless

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Research Design

- **Unit of analysis:**
- **Sample:**
- **IV:**
- **DVs:**
- **Model:**
- **Controls:**
 - **Country's decision to exit (selection!):**
 - **DV specific:**
 - **Lagged DVs, time trends**

Preliminary Results



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Implications

- *some*
 - **era of populist backlash**
- **More work needed**
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- **Future research:**
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