

# Long-term Effects of Childhood Exposure to Persecution: Human Capital, Marriage Market, and Intergenerational Outcomes

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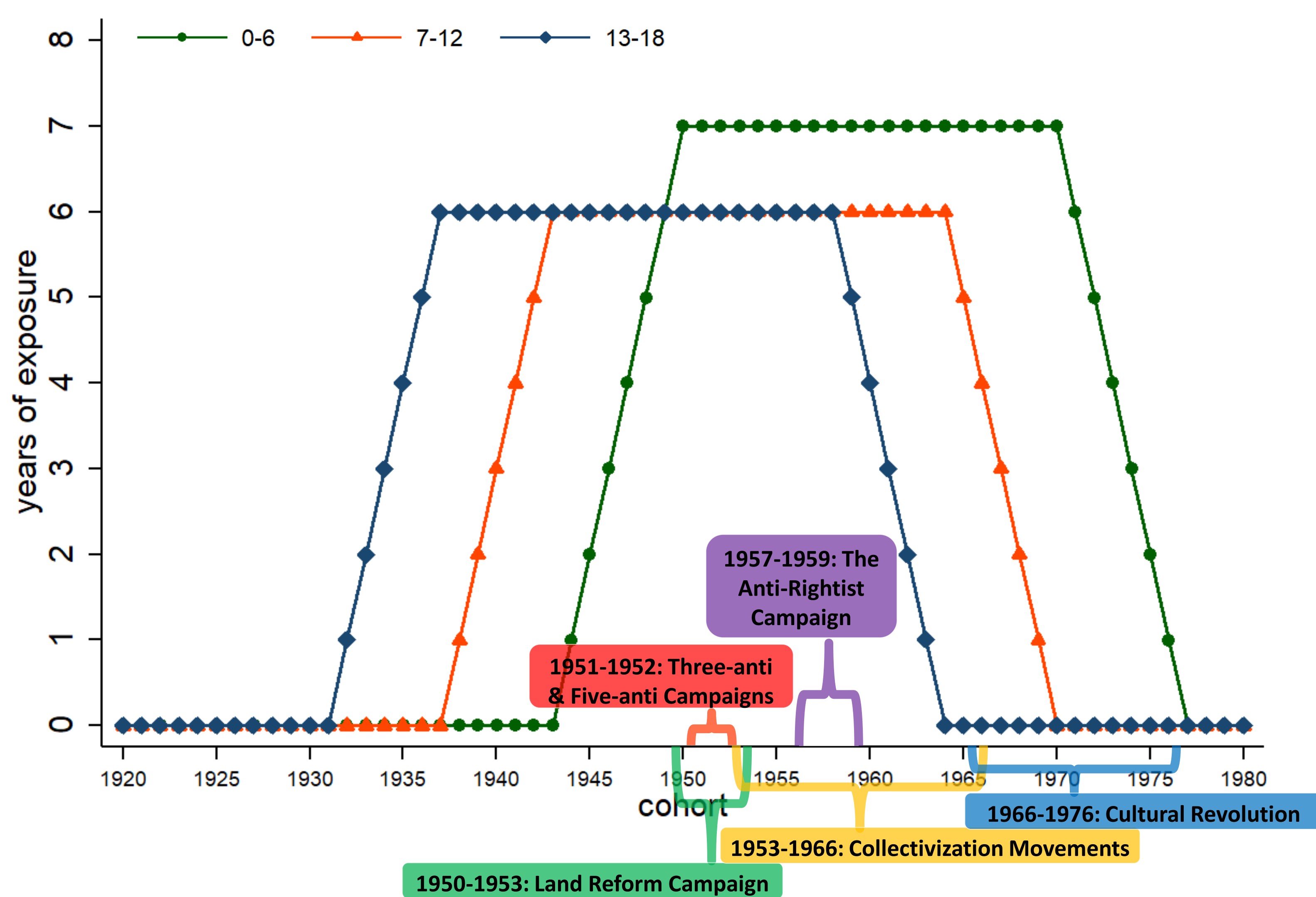
## Introduction

- Historical persecutions against some social group(s) based on religion, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic class, etc.
- Little attention paid to **persecution survivors**, especially children. **Policy implication for post-persecution period.**
- Investigated the long-term consequences of early-life exposure to persecution:
  - Individual human capital development;
  - Marriage sorting across social groups.
- Compared impacts across childhood stages: 0-6, 7-12, and 13-18 years old.
- **Key findings:** Longer **early-childhood (0-6)** exposure to persecution leads to:
  - Worse human capital outcomes;
  - Distorted marriage choices.

## Institutional Background

- Massive persecution activities against “bourgeoisie” during class struggle period (1950-1976) in China.

Fig 1: Timeline of selected class struggle movements and exposure length variations



- The probability of being persecuted is decided by the **family class coded by the regime.**

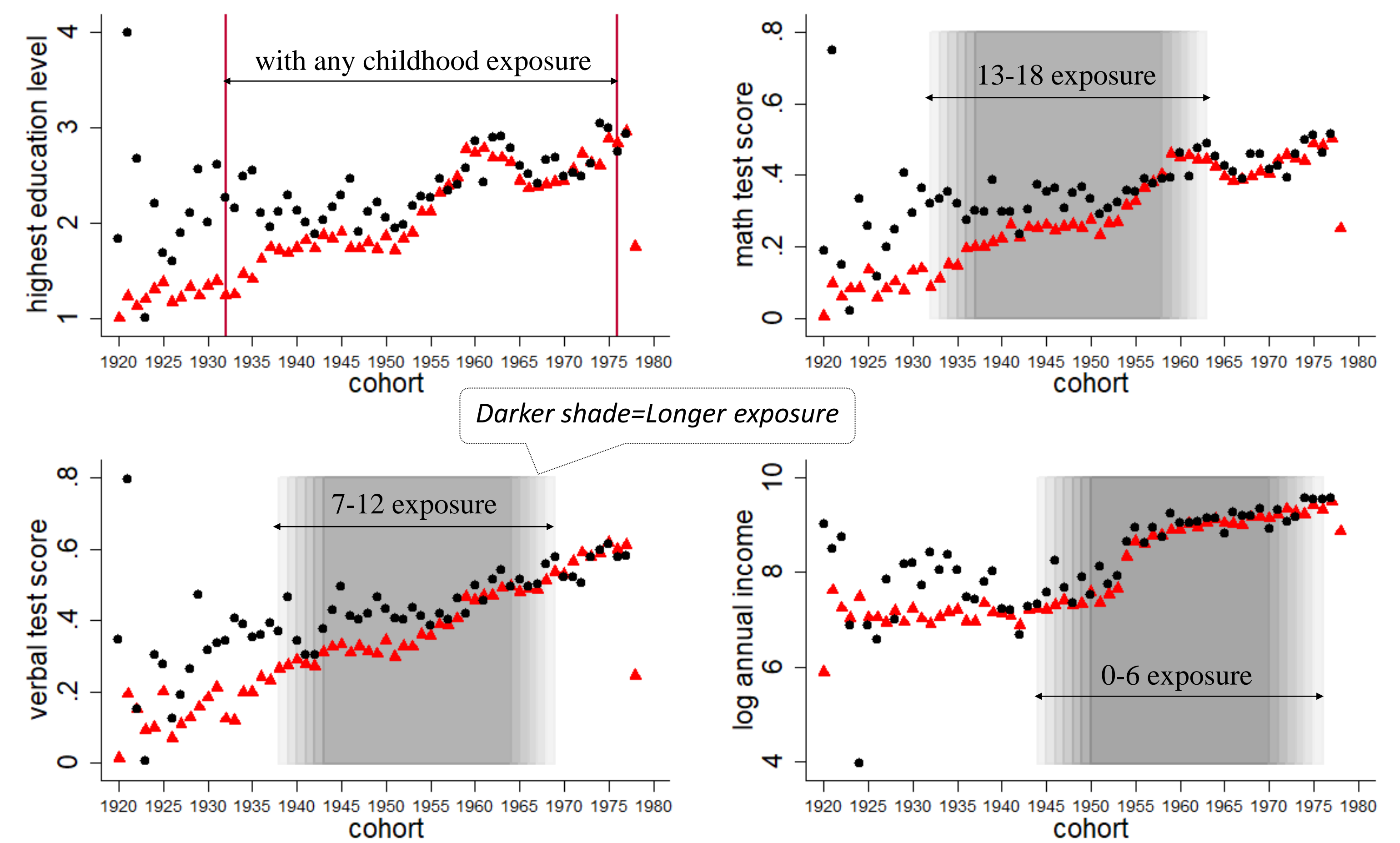
Non-persecuted Group	Persecuted Group	
“Red” classes ( $Pr_{persecute} \rightarrow 0$ ) e.g. workers, farmers	“Grey” classes ( $0 < Pr_{persecute} < 1$ ) e.g. clerks, small businessmen	“Black” classes ( $Pr_{persecute} \rightarrow 1$ ) e.g. capitalists, landlords

## Data & Methodology

- China Family Panel Studies (CFPS): 2010-2016
  - a nationally representative biennial longitudinal survey;
  - 29 provinces, including 4 municipalities.
- Difference-in-difference strategy:
  - Class variation;
  - Cohort (Exposure) variation;
  - Controls: individual characteristics, cohort, group & county F.E.

## Main Results

Fig 2: Time trend of human capital outcomes by family class group



Source:CFPS10-16

▲ red/non-persecuted classes ● non-red/persecuted classes

Tab 1: Effects of exposure to persecution in three life stages (e.g. education attainment)

	Highest education level			
Exposure 0-6*Non-red	-0.209*** (0.063)			-0.241*** (0.079)
Exposure 7-12*Non-red		-0.118** (0.059)		0.036 (0.091)
Exposure 13-18*Non-red			-0.043 (0.051)	-0.093 (0.078)
Observations	70,047	70,047	70,047	70,047
R-squared	0.399	0.399	0.399	0.400

- **Other point estimated effects of the complete 0-6 exposure:**

- Self: 4.9% ↓ math score, 3.4% ↓ verbal score, and 15.9% ↓ income;
- Spouse: chance of having a higher degree ↓ 19%, 4.8% ↓ math score, 4.6% ↓ verbal score;
- Chance of marrying a red-class spouse ↑ 11%, marrying a black-class spouse ↓ 7.1%.

## Mechanisms

- **Health:** more likely to be **short** and **underweight**.
- **Education:** hardly explaining marriage market outcomes.
- **Mental trauma:** worse subjective well-being.
- **Personal perception:** believing more in social status.

## Conclusions

- Most critical long-term development period: **early childhood (0-6 years old).**
- Early childhood exposure to persecution:
  - **less** education, **lower** cognitive skills, and **less** income;
  - a spouse with **poorer** human capital outcomes;
  - a spouse from **non-persecuted** classes.
- Overall, **“black”** classes affected most significantly.
- Gender difference:
  - Male: stronger impacts on **human capital development**;
  - Female: more indirect effects through **marriage**.
- No evidence of transferring to the further next generation.