

This paper studies impacts of land reform on a hierarchical structure of society and politics. Landlords had a great influence on tenants' voting, and were politically influential before the land reform. The reform dramatically demolished the hierarchical structure and landlords' power. In order to visualize the fall of the landlord class and the collapse of the politico-landlord affiliation, the paper investigates how vote shares in national elections have shifted due to the redistribution of land, or power, from landlords to their tenants. I first construct a model of land reform which endogenizes agents' voting behavior. A key feature of the model is that tenant farmers are released from tenancy contracts and will be able to vote according to their political preferences after the reform. Then I test predictions using two empirical approaches, and confirm that vote share of conservative parties indeed decreased after the reform. There was no significant change in turnout. However, the first effect sustained for a relatively short period of time, which may be explained by the change of political platforms. Other theories are also discussed.