

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/stealing-an-election-violence-or-fraud/>

In a discussion about electoral violence, the speaker provides an overview of their research aimed at understanding how and why candidates resort to violence instead of electoral fraud to influence election outcomes. They define electoral violence as actions that either prevent elections or alter their results, including intimidation, coercion, and violent attacks. The speaker argues that the observability of violence makes it a more reliable method for candidates because it reduces the risk of "shirking" by those contracted to implement such strategies, unlike the more difficult-to-monitor nature of electoral fraud.

The study they reference examines past elections, particularly looking at the 2005 Egyptian elections, where increased electoral monitoring by judges made fraud more difficult, leading to an uptick in violence used by candidates. The findings suggest that when fraud becomes harder to commit due to monitoring, candidates may lean towards using violence instead.

The speaker concludes by indicating future research directions, including a book project focused on observing electoral violence globally and exploring the broader implications for international relations, foreign aid, and investment based on the types of electoral manipulation used.