









## hat e Do: Empiri s

- ▶ We exploit both spatial and temporal variation in conflict intensity (number of Palestinian fatalities caused by the Israeli Defense Force (IDF)) and heterogeneity within sectors
- ▶ We find one s.d. increase in **conflict** in intensity to be associated with a **-9% reduction** in firms' **output value**
- ▶ We argue that (at least) part of this negative relationship is explained by **conflict-induced distortions** in the accessibility of markets for **imported material inputs**:
  - ▶ Firms operating in conflict environments substitute imported material inputs with domestically produced ones
- ▶ We provide evidence on the role of border closures, transportation obstacles and transportation costs as possible sources of (conflict-induced) input distortions
- ▶ Conflict affects disproportionately more the most productive firms and sectors: **long-term effects** on productivity.

# The Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Second Intifada

- ▶ Six-Days War: Israel occupied the West Bank and the Gaza Strip
- ▶ 1993: Oslo peace agreements
- ▶ 1994-1999: failure of peace process
- ▶ Second Intifada (September 2000): period of intensified violence between the IDF and the Palestinians
  - ▶ Violent events on both sides: killing of Palestinians in the OPT, terrorist attacks in Israel, assassination of Palestinian leaders, demolitions of Palestinian houses
- ▶ Frequent clashes between Palestinians and the IDF in the OPT
- ▶ During the Second Intifada (2000-2006):
  - ▶ Palestinians killed 234 Israeli civilians and 226 IDF soldiers
  - ▶ IDF caused more than 4000 Palestinian fatalities, mostly non-combatants (B'Tselem, 2007).



## Conceptual Framework: Hsieh and Klenow (QJE, 2009)

- ▶ Production in each sector  $s$  is carried out by a single representative firm which aggregates  $M_s$  differentiated inputs by means of a CES production function
- ▶ Each firm  $i$  in sector  $s$  produces using capital, labor and materials according to a Cobb-Douglas

$$Y_{si} = A_{si} K_{si}^{\alpha_s} L_{si}^{\beta_s} M_{si}^{1-\alpha_s-\beta_s}$$

- ▶ Firms potentially face:
  - ▶ *output distortions*  $\tau_{Yi}$ : change in the marginal return from producing one unit of output
  - ▶ *input distortions*  $\tau_{Xi}$ : change in marginal product of input  $X$
- ▶ Firm takes input prices as given and maximizes

$$(1 - \tau_{Yi})P_{si}Y_{si} - w(1 + \tau_{Li})L_{si} - R(1 + \tau_{Ki})K_{si} - z(1 + \tau_{Mi})M_{si}$$







# Data



# Output Value: Specification

We implement the following regression specification

$$\ln(P_{si}Y_{si})_{dt} = \delta_t + \gamma_d + \varphi_s + \text{fatalities}_{dt} + \mathbf{Z}'_{isdt} \boldsymbol{\rho} + u_{isdt}$$

where

- ▶  $(P_{si}Y_{si})_{dt}$  is output value of firm  $i$  in sector  $s$  located in district  $d$  and surveyed in year  $t$
- ▶  $\text{fatalities}_{dt}$  is number of Palestinians killed by IDF in district  $d$  and year  $t$
- ▶  $\delta_t$ ,  $\gamma_d$  and  $\varphi_s$  are year, district and sector fixed effects respectively
- ▶  $\mathbf{Z}_{isdt}$  is a vector of firm-level controls (fraction of proprietors and I

# Output Value: Results

	Log of Product Value, $\ln(PY)$				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<i>fatalities</i>	-0.126** (0.049)	-0.073*** (0.024)	-0.063* (0.036)	-0.089*** (0.033)	-0.086*** (0.033)
$\frac{\text{Family Work rs}}{\text{Total}}$				-1.522*** (0.100)	-1.533*** (0.097)
$\frac{\text{Propri tors}}{\text{Total}}$				-2.713*** (0.112)	-2.717*** (0.112)
District FE	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Year FE	N	Y	Y	Y	n.a.
Sector FE	N	N	Y	Y	n.a.
Sector Year FE	N	N	N	N	Y
Observations	10042	10042	10042	10039	10039
2	0.007	0.035	0.156	0.434	0.443

Notes. Standard Errors clustered along both district-year and sector-year dimensions.

# Output Value: Results

- ▶ One standard deviation increase in conflict intensity is associated with a 9% fall in output value
- ▶ Robust to the inclusion of controls and sector-year trends

# Output Value: Results

- ▶ One standard deviation increase in conflict intensity is associated with a 9% fall in output value
- ▶ Robust to the inclusion of controls and sector-year trends
- ▶ Far from being causal: omitted variable bias, reverse causality (Dube and Vargas 2013)
- ▶ Also, the result captures both **demand** and **supply** side effects
- ▶ We focus on the supply side of the economy and look at changes in **input usage**.

# The Mechanism: Conflict, Input Value Ratios and Implied Relative Input Distortions

For every pair of inputs  $(X_{si}^1, X_{si}^2)$  with corresponding prices  $(p_1, p_2)$ , we estimate

$$\ln \left( \frac{p_1 X_{si}^1}{p_2 X_{si}^2} \right)_{dt} = \delta_t + \gamma_d + \varphi_s + \lambda_{12} \text{fatalities}_{dt} + \mathbf{Z}'_{isdt} \boldsymbol{\rho} + \varepsilon_{isdt}$$

and derive the (conflict-induced) implied relative input distortions as



$$\exp \left( \hat{\lambda}_{12} \right)$$







# The Mechanism: Results

- ▶ We find evidence of **conflict-induced distortions** to be relatively higher for imported materials with respect to domestically produced ones
- ▶ Results are robust across specifications
- ▶ We claim that part of the **negative effect** of conflict on **output value** comes through **distortions in market access** which are disproportionately higher for **imported material inputs**
- ▶ Aggregate evidence further validates this finding
  - ▶ Net balance of trade increases with conflict intensity 
  - ▶ Composition of imports changes while composition of exports does not. 





# Sources of Distortions: order closure

- ▶ Border closures



# Sources of Distortions: Transportation and Transaction Costs

- ▶ We use data from the World Bank Enterprise Survey (2006)
- ▶ Additional information on firms' activity (firm location available at the city/own/village level)
- ▶ We look at the differential effect of formalities on firms' activity according to their importing status
- ▶ Importing firms in high conflict localities:
  - ▶ consider custom regulations and transportation costs more of an obstacle
  - ▶

▶ Table

## Sector-level Heterogeneity

- ▶ We look at the heterogeneous effect of conflict on domestically vs. imported produced material usage across sectors
- ▶ We show that **sector-level distortion** in input usage correlate with sector-level variation in:
  - ▶ imported input intensity in pre-conflict year
  - ▶ output value in pre-conflict year
- ▶ Conflict affects more firms and sectors that use imported input material more intensively and have higher productivity
- ▶ Hints towards long-term effects on the Palestinian economy.

▶ More



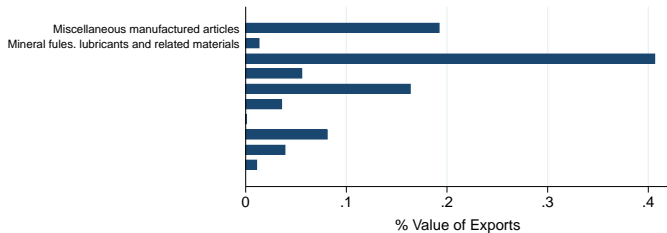
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- ▶ We have investigated the impact of conflict on firm performance and input usage in the OPT during the Second Intifada
- ▶ Evidence shows that conflict negatively affects firms' output value through the distortions it generates in the accessibility of markets for imported material
  - ⇒ Within the same sector, firms operating in high conflict environments substitute domestically produced materials for imported ones
- ▶ Input distortions materialize as increase in transportation and transaction costs
- ▶ Conflict affects more the most productive sectors in the economy, and may have long-lasting effects.

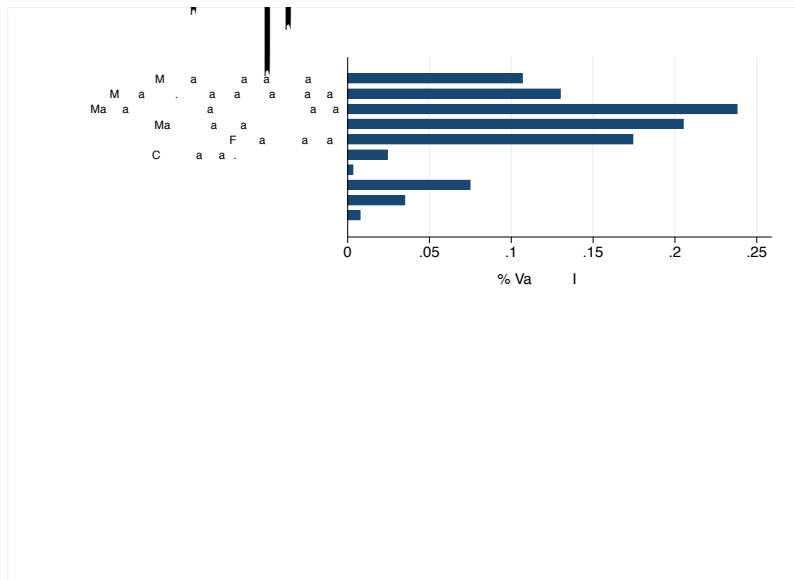




# Trade composition: Exports



# Trade composition: Imports



# Robustness: Output Prices

- ▶ What if the fall in output value is driven by a fall in firm-level **output price**?

⇒ We look at families and Producer Price Index for industries clustered in specific districts



	Log of Wages, $\ln(W/L)$			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
<i>fatalities</i>	-0.070** (0.035)	-0.072** (0.035)	-0.079** (0.035)	-0.076** (0.034)
<u>Family Workers</u> Total		-2.014*** (0.071)	-2.015*** (0.071)	-2.032*** (0.084)
<u>Proprietors</u> Total		-2.250*** (0.081)	-2.242*** (0.081)	-2.224*** (0.075)
Sector FE	Y	Y	n.a.	n.a.
Year FE	Y	Y	n.a.	n.a.
District FE	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sector Year FE	N	N	Y	Y
Observations	8891	8891	8891	7302
<sup>2</sup>	0.156	0.443	0.459	0.476

Notes. SE clustered along both district-year and sector-year dimensions.

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# The Role of Firm Localization

- ▶ Is the effect of firm localization capturing the differential effects according to distance from the border?
  - ⇒ We control for road distance from the closest neighboring area interacted with year fixed effects
- ▶ Allows to control for any nationwide shock which has differential impact according to distance from the border.



# Robustness: Demand-side Effects



# All Sectors: Output Value vs Input Value Ratio

# Restricted Sample: Output Value vs Input Value Ratio





## Robustness: Demand-side Effects

- ▶ We restrict the sample to those sectors where input value ratios are not systematically correlated with output value and find very

# Input Value Ratios, Fatalities and order closures

		Dependent Variable: $\ln z^d M_{si}^d / z^f M_{si}^f$			
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
<i>fatalities</i>		1.263*** (0.247)	1.279*** (0.247)	1.290*** (0.246)	1.340*** (0.289)
<i>closure days</i>	$dt_{\text{passag}}$	0.010** (0.004)	0.010** (0.004)	0.010** (0.004)	0.009* (0.005)
<u>Family Work</u>		N	Y	Y	Y
<u>Proprietors</u>		N	Y	Y	Y
Sector FE		Y	Y	n.a.	n.a.
Year FE		Y	Y	n.a.	n.a.
District FE		Y	Y	Y	Y
Sector	Year FE	N	N	Y	Y

Notes. Standard Errors clustered along both district-year and sector-year dimensions.

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# Obstacles to Firms' Operations

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<b>PANEL A</b>					
<b>Customs/Trade Regulations as Main Obstacle</b>					
<i>fatalities</i>	-0.227*** (0.05)	-0.247*** (0.05)	-0.101 (0.10)	-0.016 (0.09)	-0.042 (0.09)
<i>Importer</i>	0.287 (0.34)	0.355 (0.34)	0.336 (0.32)	0.393 (0.30)	0.309 (0.30)
<i>fatalities</i> <i>Importer</i>	0.249*** (0.06)	0.237*** (0.06)	0.246*** (0.06)	0.234*** (0.06)	0.292*** (0.06)
<b>PANEL B</b>					
<b>Transportation as Main Obstacle</b>					
<i>fatalities</i>	-0.254*** (0.07)	-0.257*** (0.07)	-0.144* (0.08)	-0.062 (0.07)	-0.075 (0.07)
<i>Importer</i>	0.255 (0.34)	0.305 (0.34)	0.304 (0.33)	0.386 (0.31)	0.393 (0.28)
<i>fatalities</i> <i>Importer</i>	0.296*** (0.07)	0.288*** (0.07)	0.293*** (0.06)	0.258*** (0.07)	0.301*** (0.06)
Population 1997	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Salaries in 2003	N	N	N	Y	Y

# Contrasts with Foreign Suppliers

	Percentage of Inputs Paid Before Delivery				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<i>fatalities</i>	-0.013 (0.02)	-0.003 (0.01)	-0.009 (0.02)	-0.010 (0.03)	-0.013 (0.03)
<i>I porter</i>	0.110 (0.07)	0.100 (0.07)	0.107 (0.08)	0.090 (0.08)	0.090 (0.08)
<i>fatalities I porter</i>	<b>0.039**</b> (0.02)	<b>0.041***</b> (0.01)	<b>0.041***</b> (0.01)	<b>0.051***</b> (0.02)	<b>0.062***</b> (0.01)
Population 1997	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sales in 2003	N	N	N	Y	Y
Employment in 2003	N	N	N	Y	Y
Year Started	N	N	N	Y	Y
Other Controls	N	N	N	N	Y
District FE	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Observations	10042	10042	10042	10039	10039
<sup>2</sup>	0.007	0.035	0.156	0.434	0.443

Notes. Standard Errors clustered at the locality level.

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# Sector-level Heterogeneity: Most and Least Affected

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## *Most Affected*

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- 1 (34) Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semitrailers
- 2 (23) Manufacture of coke, refined petroleum products and nuclear fuel
- 3 (21) Manufacture of paper and paper products
- 4 (37) Recycling
- 5 (24) Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products

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## *Least Affected*

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- 25 (20) Manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork, except furniture; articles of straw and plaiting materials
- 24 (36) Manufacture of furniture; manufacturing n.e.c.
- 23 (35) Manufacture of other transport equipment
- 22 (32) Manufacture of radio, television and communication equipment
- 21 (14) Other mining and quarrying

# Sector-level Distortions and Pre-conflit Imported Input Material Value Intensity

# Se tor-level Distortion and Pre-onfi t Output Value

