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## **Ethnic Exclusion and State Repression**

The political effects of ethnic diversity have been one of the most important political issues since the French Revolution. The relationship between ethnic diversity and state repression has nonetheless largely been neglected, and the existing studies on the issue have provided inconclusive and even contradictory results. I argue that previous studies on the subject have failed to establish a robust relationship between ethnic diversity and state repression because of a one-sided focus on the ethno-demographic composition of society. Instead, I point attention towards 'ethnic power relations' arguing that it is the power distribution between ethnic groups – namely the degree to

which ethnic groups are excluded from central state power – that causes ethnic tension and thus state repression understood as violations of physical integrity rights and 'First Amendment'-type rights, respectively. Empirically, I test this argument quantitatively using cross-sectional time-series analyses of 151 countries from 1981 to 2009. The results show that exclusion of substantial ethnic groups indeed causes state actors to engage in repression.