



The Relationship Between Partisan Affiliation and Opinion of the US Government



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Introduction

- In recent years, there has been a decrease in trust regarding the political state of the country which has become increasingly significant as the division between political parties grows (Jilke, 2017).
- Studies into the trust of elections have found that trust and faith in the government are often influenced by self-identification with various social groups (Freeder & Shino, 2023).
- Cynicism surrounding the government is often based on social, racial, and economic groups, as each group prioritizes different qualities in a government (Kim, 2023), but there has not been a large amount of research into whether political parties also factor into this.

Research Questions

- Does political party affiliation affect an individual's faith in and opinion of the US government?
- How does race impact the relationship between partisan affiliation and opinion?

Methods

Sample

- The sample from the American National Election Studies (ANES) surveyed 8,280 eligible voters in the US pre-election and 7,449 post-election. The pre-election survey was conducted from August 18, 2020, until election day, November 3, 2020. The data used in the present study includes only pre-election survey responses.
- There were several limitations within the survey, as many of the respondents declined to include their race or party

Measures

- Citizen satisfaction, trust, and opinion of the government were measured using the question, "Do you feel things in this country are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?" was asked. Possible responses were 1 (right track) and 0 (wrong track).
- To examine the possible correlation between partisan affiliation and public opinion, the question, "What political party are you registered with, if any?" was asked. Possible responses included 1 (Democrat), 2 (Republican), 4 (none or independent), and 5 (other).

Results

Univariate

- 22.4% of respondents were Republican, 16.1% were Democrat
- Registered Republicans were more likely to believe the country is on the right track (51.1%) compared to Democrats (7.4%)

Bivariate

- Chi-square analysis showed that party affiliation and opinion of the government were significantly associated ($p < 2.2e-16$).
- Logistic regression shows that the odds that an individual believes the country is on the right track is 13 times greater for Republicans than Democrats.

Figure 1: Political party affiliation and opinion of government

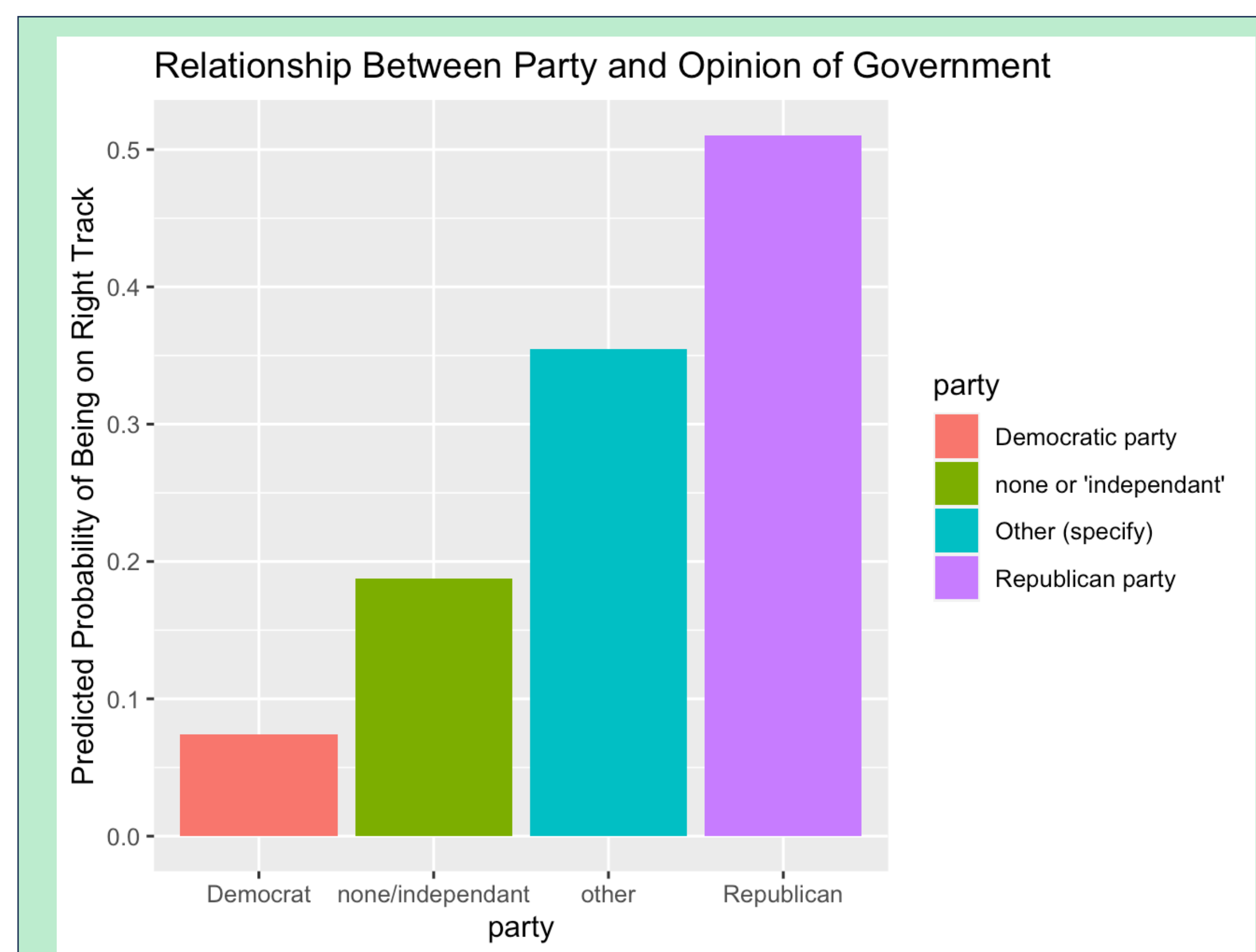
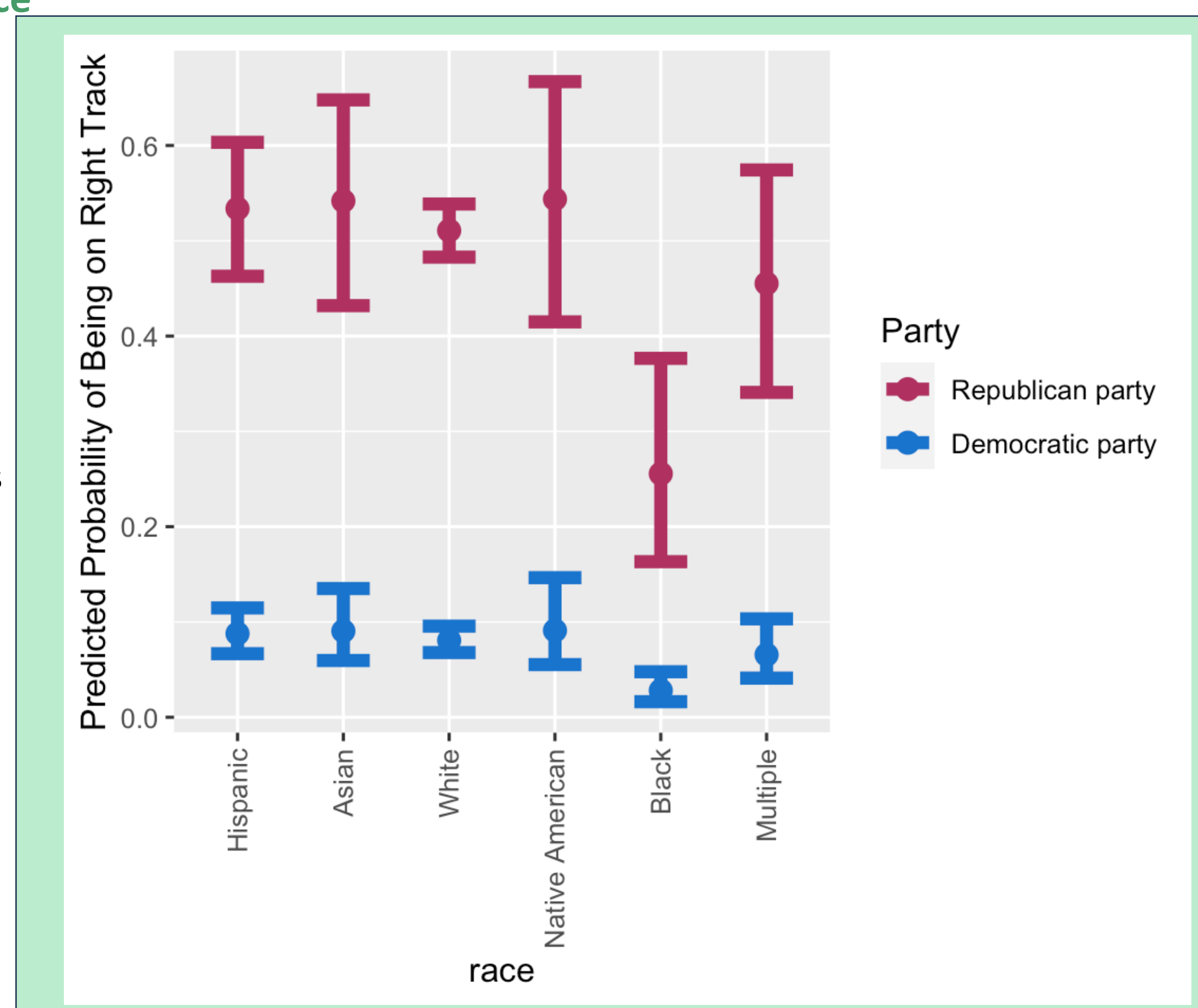


Figure 2: Political party affiliation and opinion of government plotted by race



Multivariate

- A logistic regression analysis was run to determine whether party affiliation and opinion were significantly associated after controlling for race ($p < 2e-16$).
- While race is a factor, it does not significantly moderate the relationship between party affiliation and opinion of the government.
- Logistic regression shows that the odds that an individual believes that the country is on the right track is 71% lower for Black voters compared to Asian voters.

Discussion

- While race does factor into opinions on the US government, partisan affiliation is significantly more influential.
- Generally, registered Republican voters are more likely to think highly of the government than registered Democrats.
- Regardless of political party affiliation Black voters are much less likely to think highly of the government than any other racial group.
- Further research is needed to see how the president-in-power phenomenon impacts this relationship.

References

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