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Abstract:
Resiliency in the face of international threats such as climate change or pandemics requires coordination and, at least short-term, self-sacrifice. Related to this, nations differ in their propensities for individualism, altruism, and collectivism. It is not clear, however, if such cultural traits facilitate the type of coordination and self-sacrifice that would encourage resiliency in the face of largescale threats. Individualistic cultures may be more adept at such coordination through long-term self-gain incentives. Conversely, more pro-social, or collectivist, cultures may be better suited to solve largescale coordination problems via a willingness for self-sacrifice toward a greater good. We measure success of coordination between countries by comparing cross-country rankings of pro-socialiality, altruism, collectivism, and individualism with national-level data on physical distancing during the global Covid-19 pandemic.

Data Description:
To measure social distancing compliance, we use mobility data for 107 countries provided by Google. We use country-level measures of pro-sociality compiled from Gallup survey data (n=135) and a country-level cooperative culture index compiled from World Values Survey, European Social Survey, and Ipsos (n=88).

JEL Codes: I12, E71

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