Supplementary Appendix to *Erratum: Comparative Politics and the Synthetic Control Method*

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I. Results with Corrected Labeling of the Per-Capita GDP Variable

This section reproduces the results from the original paper with two corrections: (i) the outcome label, per-capita GDP (PPP, Current USD), and (ii) and the OECD predictor averages. All results remain identical to the published version, except for the last columns in Table 2 and Table 4.

Table 1: Synthetic and Regression Weights for West Germany

Country	Synthetic Control Weight	Regression Weight	Country	Synthetic Control Weight	Regression Weight
Australia	0	0.12	Netherlands	0.09	0.14
Austria	0.42	0.26	New Zealand	0	0.12
Belgium	0	0	Norway	0	0.04
Denmark	0	0.08	Portugal	0	-0.08
France	0	0.04	Spain	0	-0.01
Greece	0	-0.09	Switzerland	0.11	0.05
Italy	0	-0.05	UK	0	0.06
Japan	0.16	0.19	USA	0.22	0.13

Note: The synthetic weight is the country weight assigned by the synthetic control method. The regression weight is the weight assigned by linear regression. See text for details.

Table 2: Economic Growth Predictor Means Before German Reunification

	West Germany	Synthetic West Germany	OECD Sample
GDP per-capita	15808.9	15802.2	15037.8
Trade openness	56.8	56.9	35.3
Inflation rate	2.6	3.5	5.7
Industry share	34.5	34.4	34.2
Schooling	55.5	55.2	44.4
Investment rate	27.0	27.0	25.7

Note: GDP per capita, inflation rate, trade openness, and industry share are averaged for the 1981–1990 period. Investment rate and schooling are averaged for the 1980–1985 period. The last column reports a population weighted average for the 16 OECD countries in the donor pool.

Table 3: Synthetic Weights from Combinations of Control Countries

Synthetic Combination:	Countries and W-Weights				
Five Control Countries	Austria	USA	Japan	Switzerland	Netherlands
	0.42	0.22	0.16	0.11	0.09
Four Control Countries	Austria	USA	Japan	Switzerland	
	0.56	0.22	0.12	0.10	
Three Control Countries	Austria	USA	Japan		
	0.59	0.26	0.15		
Two Control Countries	Austria	USA			
	0.76	0.24			
One Control Country	Austria				
	1				

Note: Countries and W-weights for synthetic control constructed from best fitting combination of five, four, three, two, and one countries. See text for details.

Table 4: Economic Growth Predictor Means before the German Reunification for Combinations of Control Countries

	West Germany	Synthetic West Germany					OECD Sample
		Number of countries in synthetic control:					
		5	4	3	2	1	
GDP per-capita	15808.9	15802.2	15800.9	15492.9	15580.9	14817.0	15037.8
Trade openness	56.8	56.9	55.9	52.5	61.5	74.6	35.3
Inflation rate	2.6	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.5	5.7
Industry share	34.5	34.4	34.6	34.8	34.3	35.5	34.2
Schooling	55.5	55.2	57.6	57.7	60.7	60.9	44.4
Investment rate	27.0	27.0	27.2	26.8	25.6	26.6	25.7

Note: GDP per capita, inflation rate, and trade openness are averaged for the 1981–1990 period. Industry share is averaged for the 1981–1990 period. Investment rate and schooling are averaged for the 1980–1985 period.

Figure 1: Trends in Per Capita GDP: West Germany vs. Rest of the OECD Sample
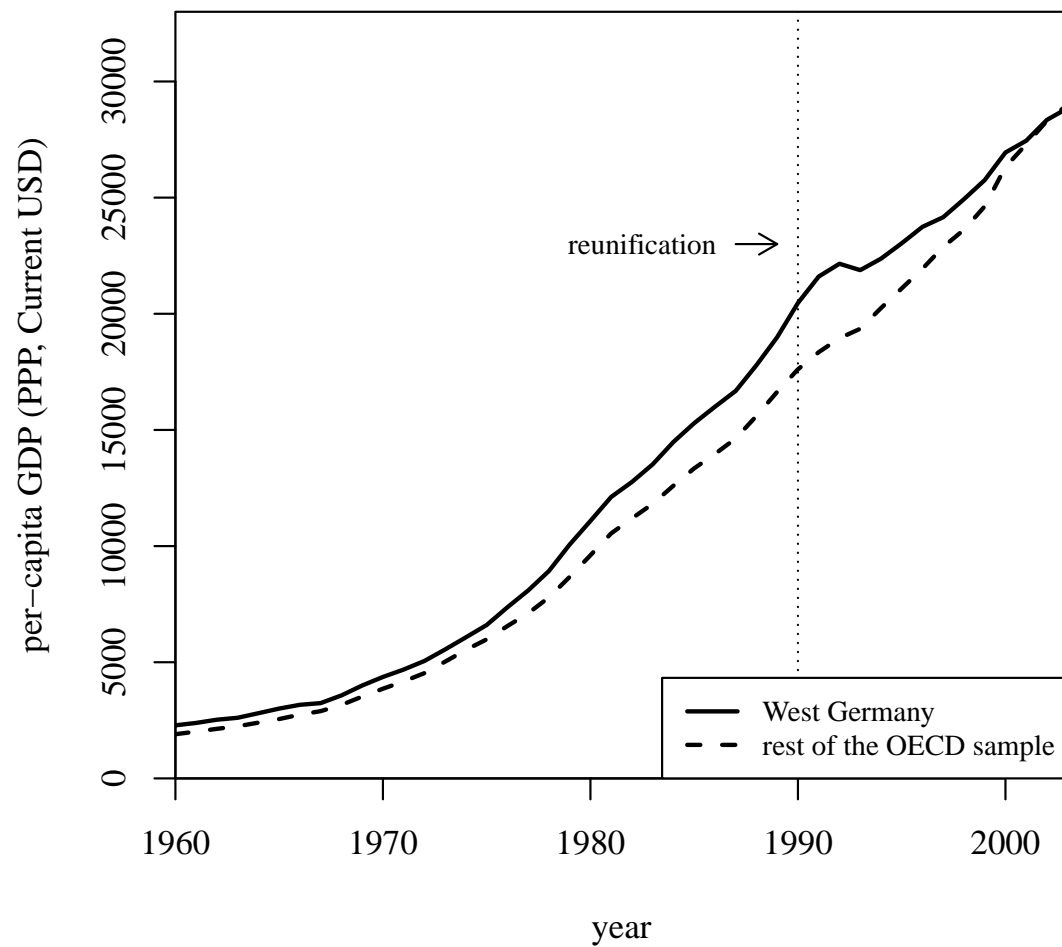
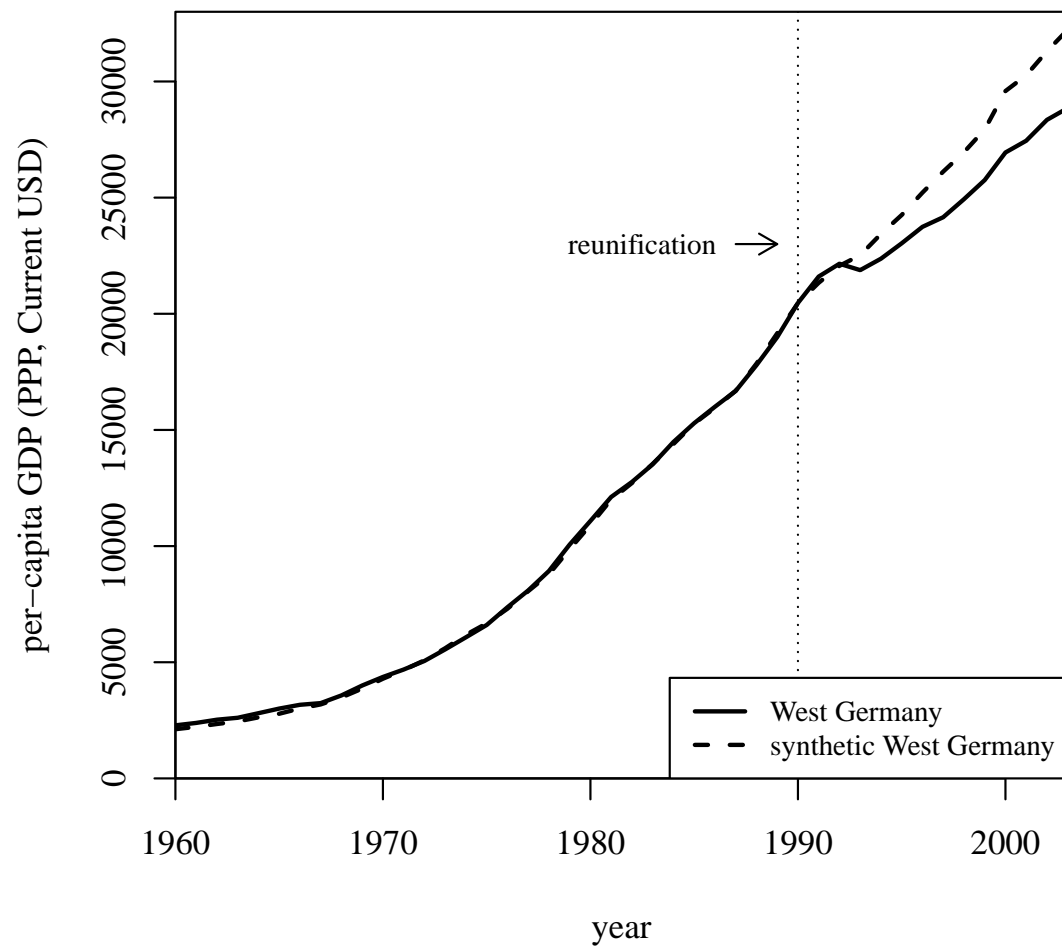Figure 2: Trends in Per Capita GDP: West Germany vs. Synthetic West Germany

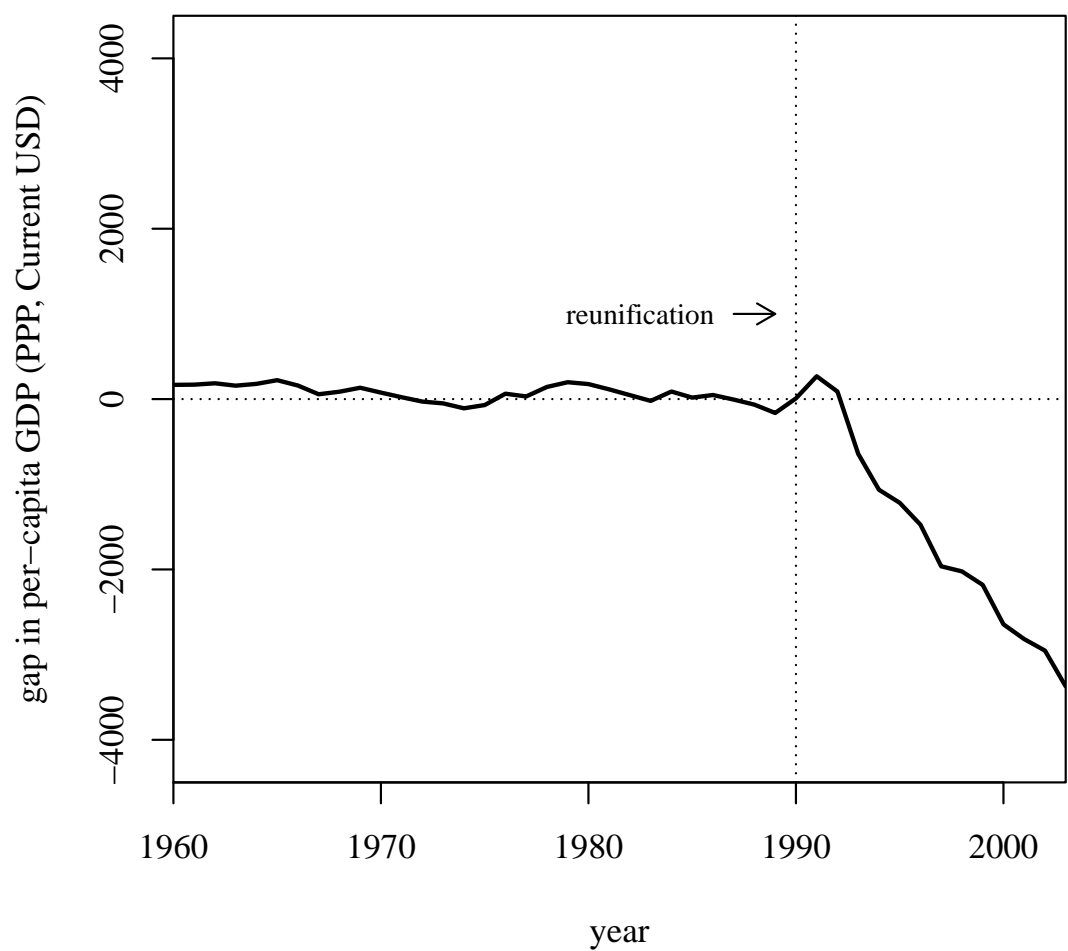Figure 3: Per Capita GDP Gap Between West Germany and Synthetic West Germany

Figure 4: Placebo Reunification 1975 - Trends in Per Capita GDP: West Germany vs. Synthetic West Germany
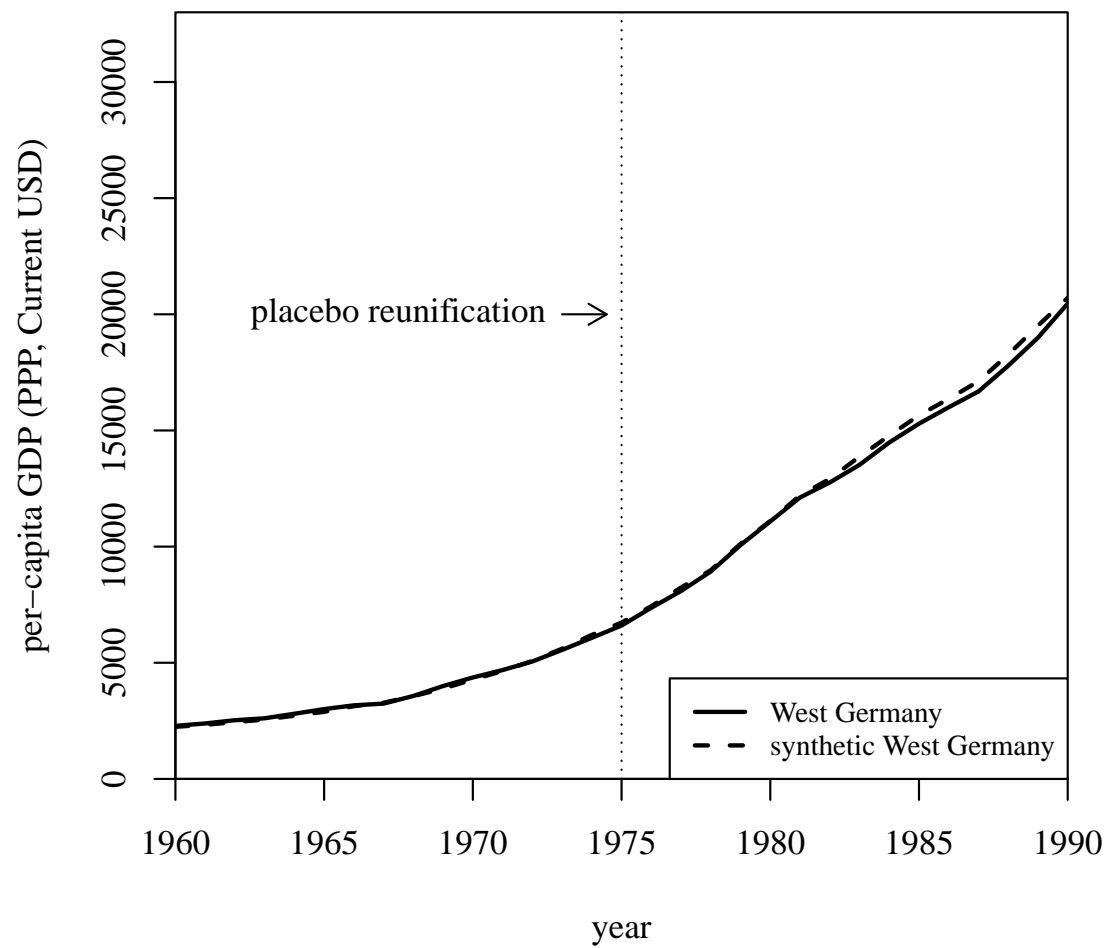
Figure 5: Ratio of post-reunification RMSPE to pre-reunification RMSPE: West Germany and control countries.
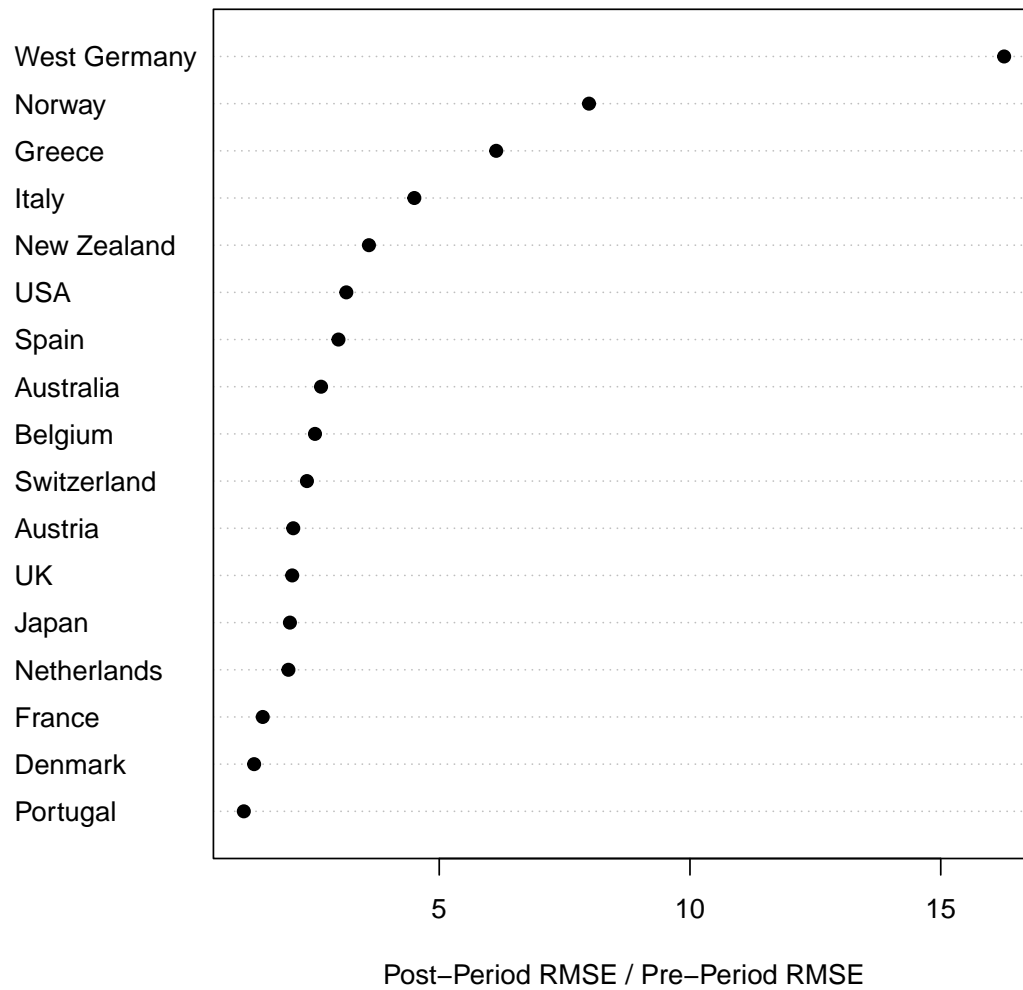

Post−Period RMSE / Pre−Period RMSE

Figure 6: Leave-one-out distribution of the synthetic control for West Germany
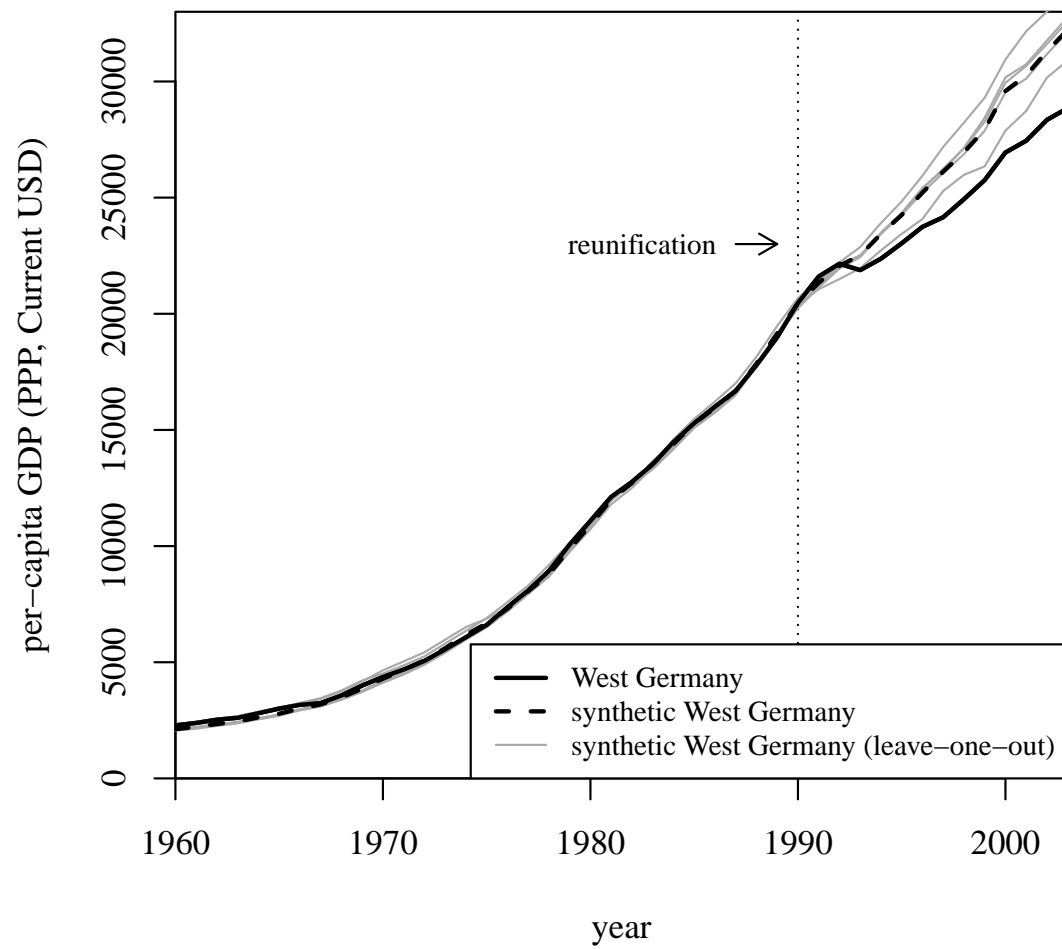
Figure 7: Per Capita GDP Gaps Between West Germany and Sparse Synthetic Controls

No. of control countries: 4

No. of control countries: 3

No. of control countries: 2

No. of control countries: 1
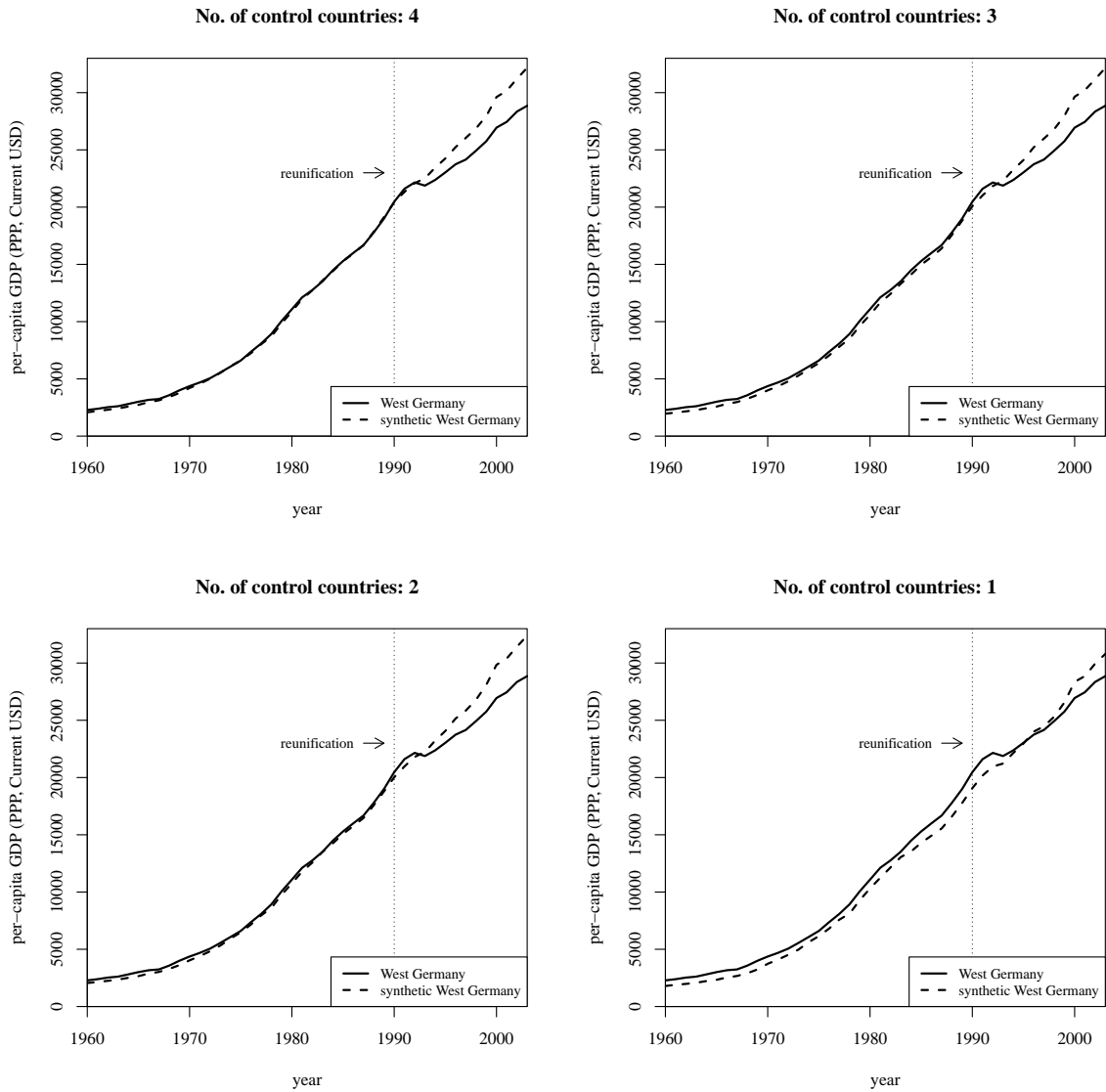
II. Results with Ex Post Deflated Per-Capita GDP

This section reports results after applying a common deflator to the fitted series. To express outcomes in real terms, we deflate both the West Germany and synthetic control series with the same index, converting per-capita GDP from PPP-adjusted current U.S. dollars to constant 1990 U.S. dollars. We use the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis price index, rebased to 1990, as the common deflator.[1]

Because the per-capita GDP series are deflated only after constructing the synthetic control, all tables in this section are identical to those in Section I.

Table A1: Synthetic and Regression Weights for West Germany

Country	Synthetic Control Weight	Regression Weight	Country	Synthetic Control Weight	Regression Weight
Australia	0	0.12	Netherlands	0.09	0.14
Austria	0.42	0.26	New Zealand	0	0.12
Belgium	0	0	Norway	0	0.04
Denmark	0	0.08	Portugal	0	-0.08
France	0	0.04	Spain	0	-0.01
Greece	0	-0.09	Switzerland	0.11	0.05
Italy	0	-0.05	UK	0	0.06
Japan	0.16	0.19	USA	0.22	0.13

Note: The synthetic weight is the country weight assigned by the synthetic control method. The regression weight is the weight assigned by linear regression.

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[1]U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Gross Domestic Product (implicit price deflator) [A191RD3A086NBEA], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis: `https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/A191RD3A086NBEA`, August 20, 2025.

Table A2: Economic Growth Predictor Means Before German Reunification

	West Germany	Synthetic West Germany	OECD Sample
GDP per-capita	15808.9	15802.2	15037.8
Trade openness	56.8	56.9	35.3
Inflation rate	2.6	3.5	5.7
Industry share	34.5	34.4	34.2
Schooling	55.5	55.2	44.4
Investment rate	27.0	27.0	25.7

Note: GDP per capita, inflation rate, trade openness, and industry share are averaged for the 1981–1990 period. Investment rate and schooling are averaged for the 1980–1985 period. The last column reports a population weighted average for the 16 OECD countries in the donor pool.

Table A3: Synthetic Weights from Combinations of Control Countries

Synthetic Combination:	Countries and W-Weights				
Five Control Countries	Austria	USA	Japan	Switzerland	Netherlands
	0.42	0.22	0.16	0.11	0.09
Four Control Countries	Austria	USA	Japan	Switzerland	
	0.56	0.22	0.12	0.10	
Three Control Countries	Austria	USA	Japan		
	0.59	0.26	0.15		
Two Control Countries	Austria	USA			
	0.76	0.24			
One Control Country	Austria				
	1				

Note: Countries and *W*-weights for synthetic control constructed from best fitting combination of five, four, three, two, and one countries.

Table A4: Economic Growth Predictor Means before the German Reunification for Combinations of Control Countries

	West Germany	Synthetic West Germany *Number of countries in synthetic control:*					OECD Sample
		5	4	3	2	1	
GDP per-capita	15808.9	15802.2	15800.9	15492.9	15580.9	14817.0	15037.8
Trade openness	56.8	56.9	55.9	52.5	61.5	74.6	35.3
Inflation rate	2.6	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.5	5.7
Industry share	34.5	34.4	34.6	34.8	34.3	35.5	34.2
Schooling	55.5	55.2	57.6	57.7	60.7	60.9	44.4
Investment rate	27.0	27.0	27.2	26.8	25.6	26.6	25.7

Note: GDP per capita, inflation rate, and trade openness are averaged for the 1981–1990 period. Industry share is averaged for the 1981–1990 period. Investment rate and schooling are averaged for the 1980–1985 period.

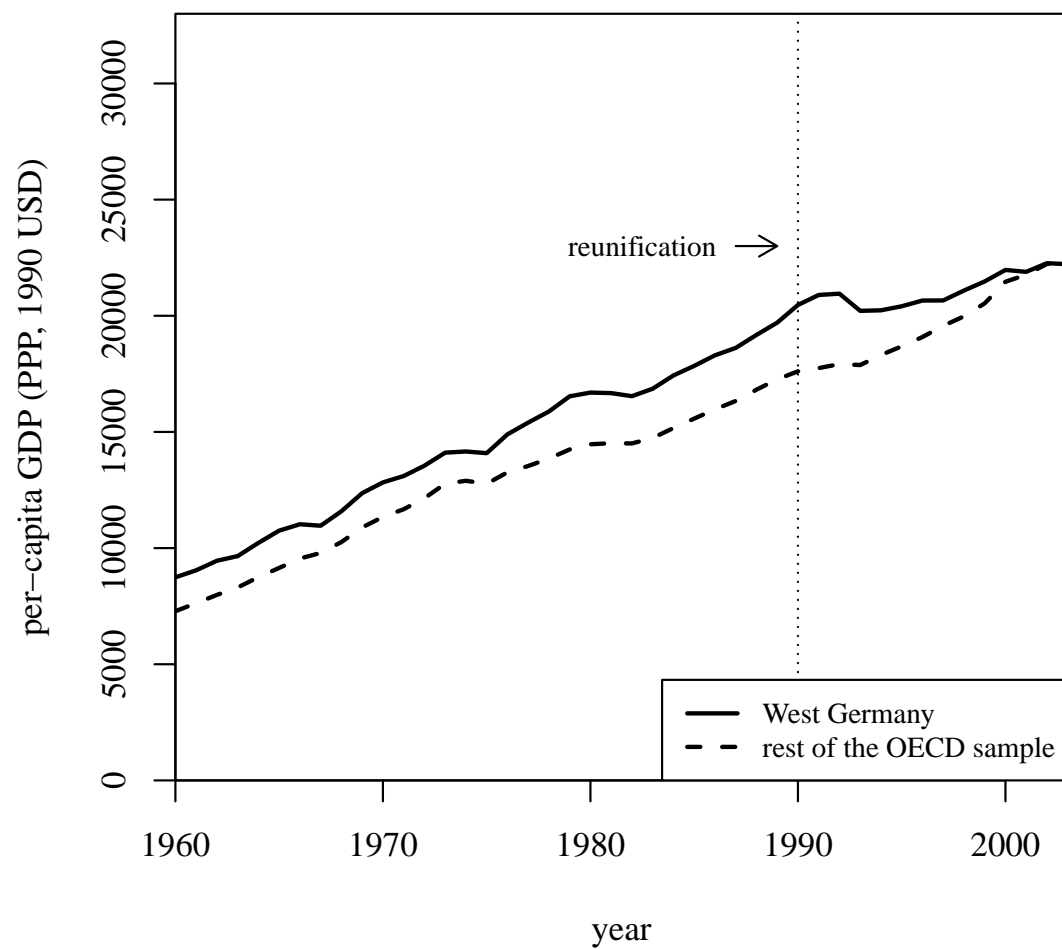Figure A1: Trends in Per Capita GDP: West Germany vs. Rest of the OECD Sample

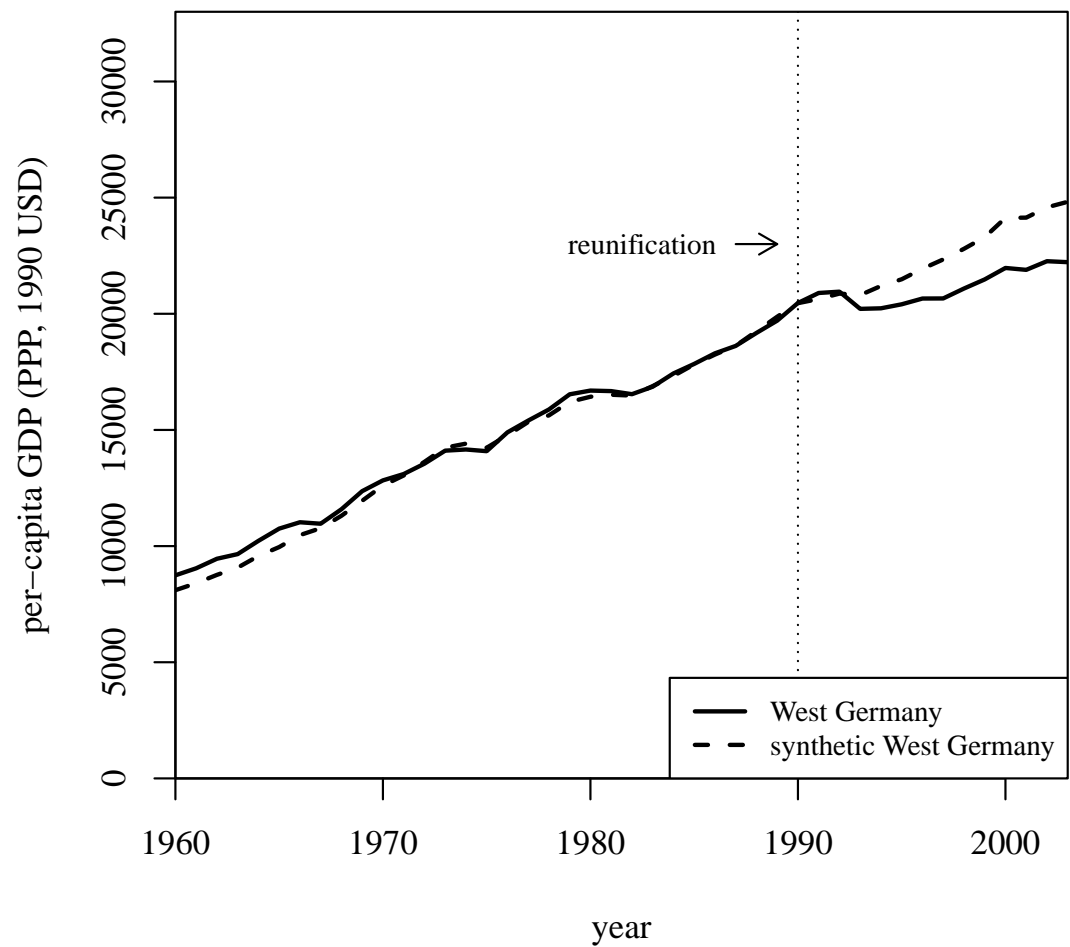Figure A2: Trends in Per Capita GDP: West Germany vs. Synthetic West Germany

Figure A3: Per Capita GDP Gap Between West Germany and Synthetic West Germany
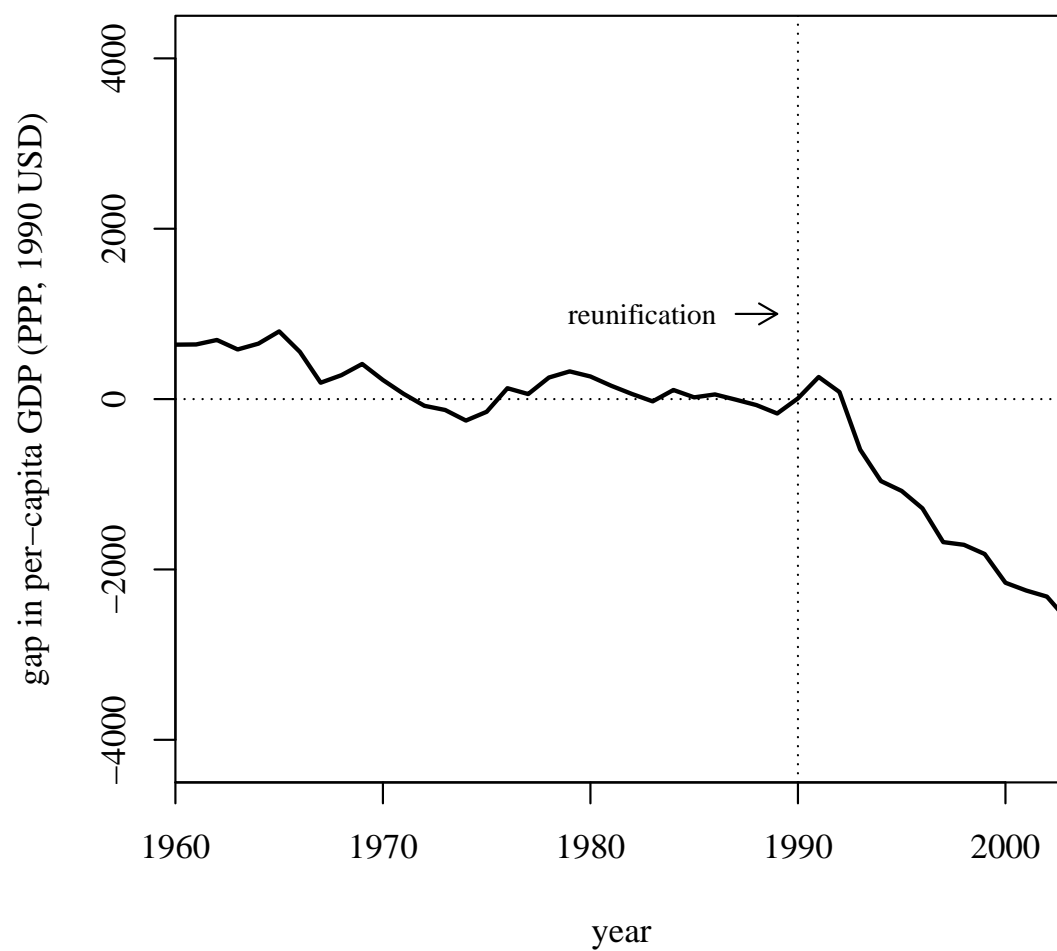
Figure A4: Placebo Reunification 1975 - Trends in Per Capita GDP: West Germany vs. Synthetic West Germany
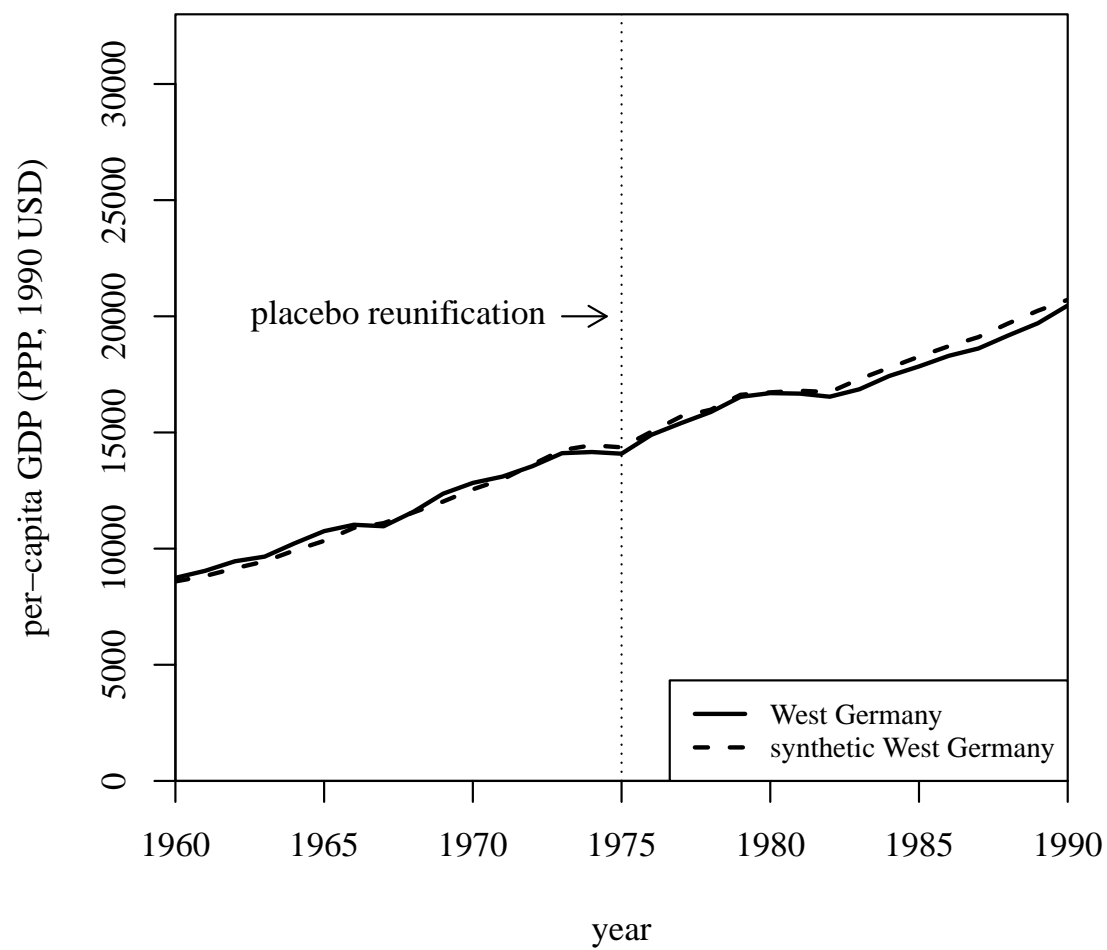
Figure A5: Ratio of post-reunification RMSPE to pre-reunification RMSPE: West Germany and control countries.
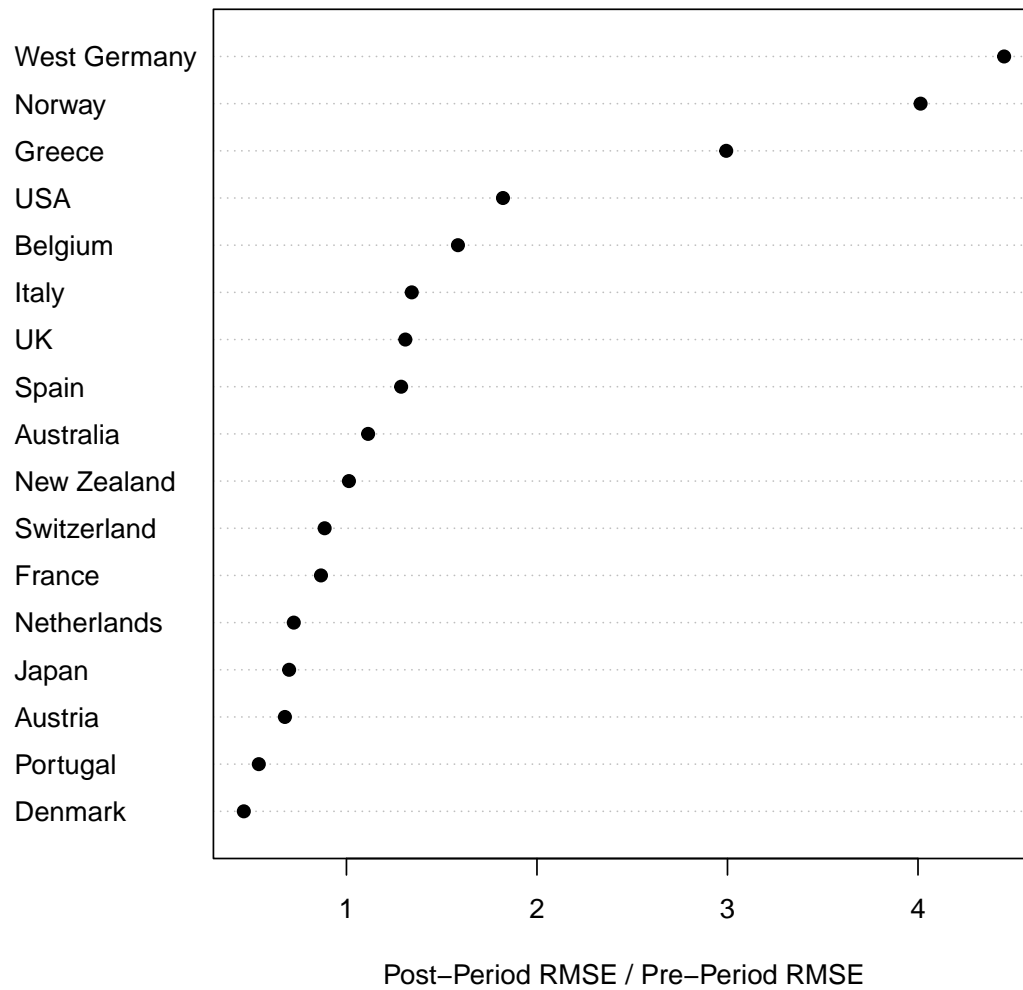

Post−Period RMSE / Pre−Period RMSE

Figure A6: Leave-one-out distribution of the synthetic control for West Germany
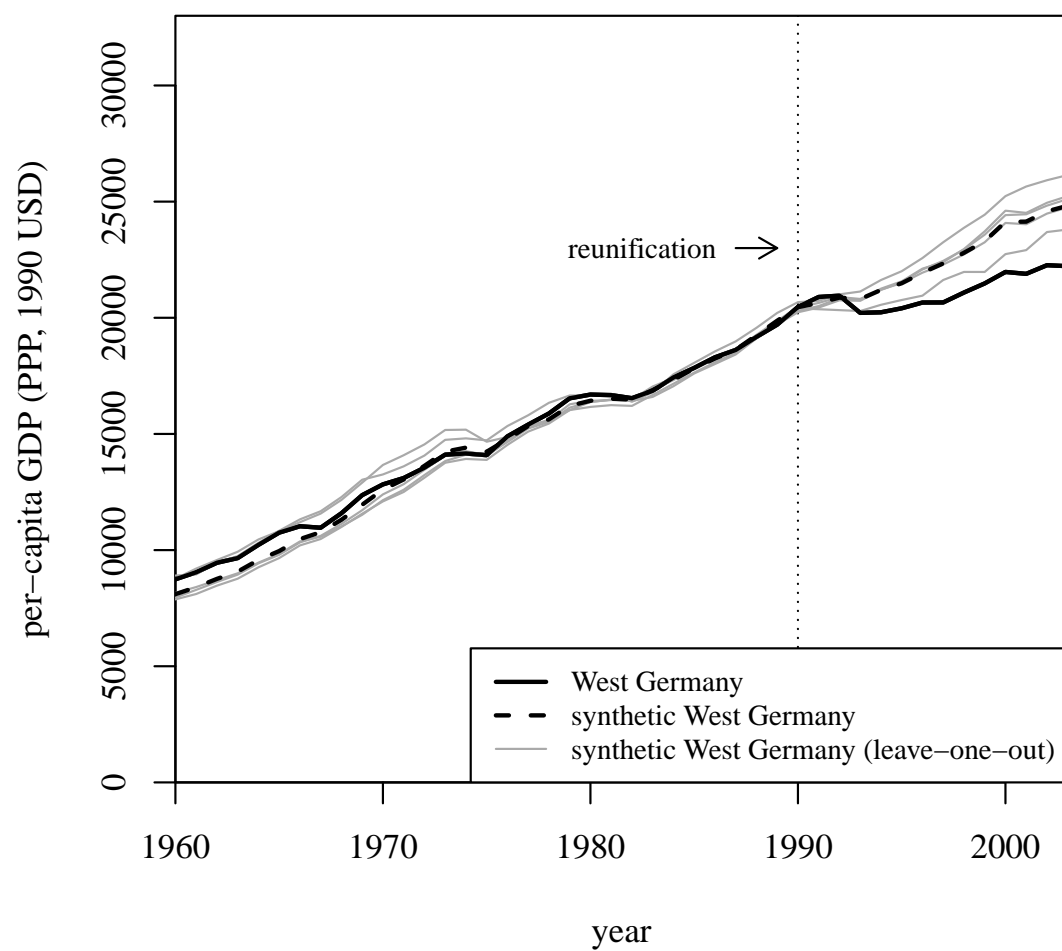
Figure A7: Per Capita GDP Gaps Between West Germany and Sparse Synthetic Controls

No. of control countries: 4

No. of control countries: 3

No. of control countries: 2

No. of control countries: 1
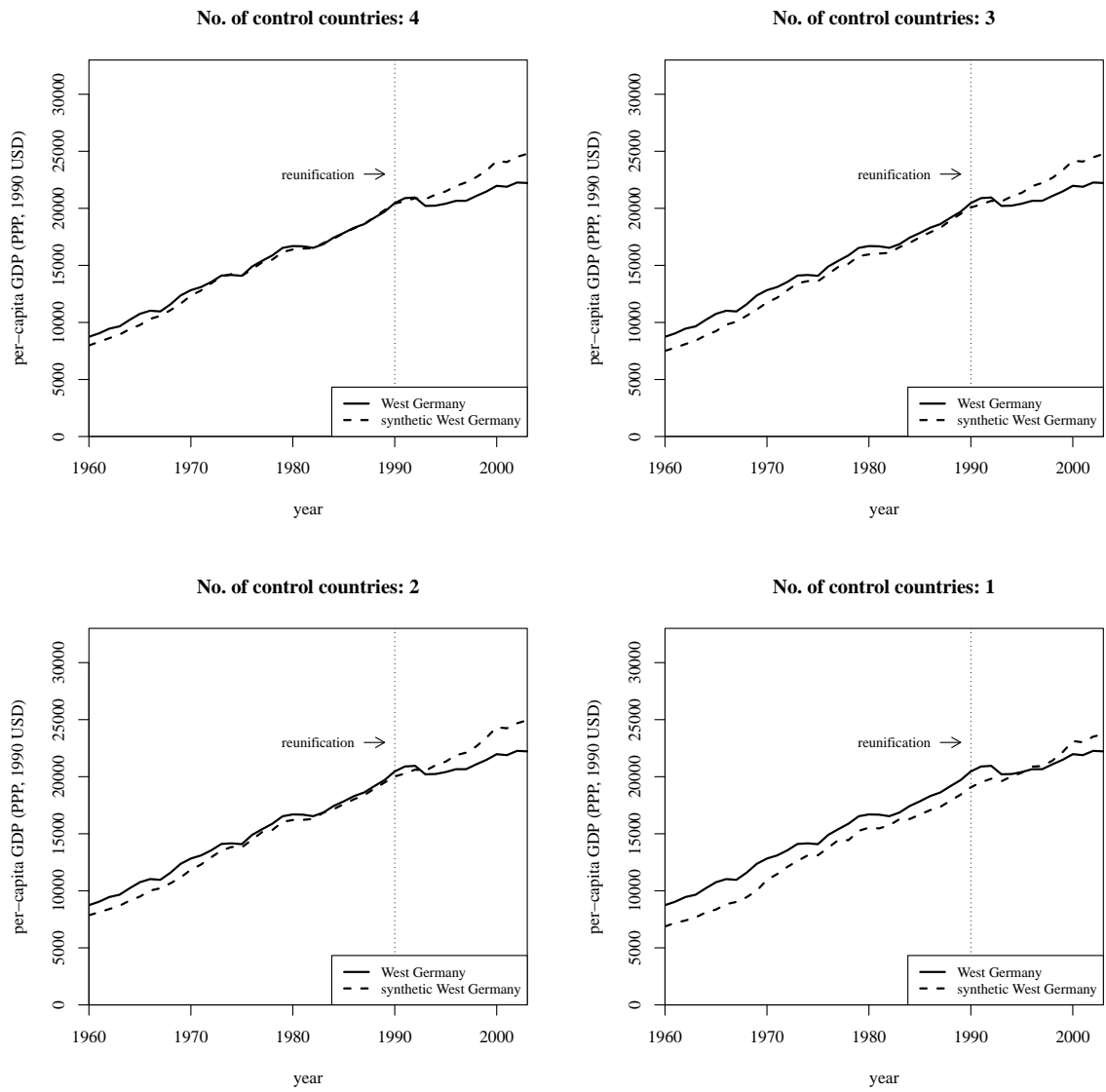
III. Results with Ex Ante Deflated Per-Capita GDP

This section reports the results after applying a common deflator to the per-capita series before computing a synthetic control. In this specification, GDP per capita is converted from PPP-adjusted current U.S. dollars to constant 1990 U.S. dollars. The deflator is taken from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and rebased to 1990 (see Footnote 1).

Table B1: Synthetic and Regression Weights for West Germany

Country	Synthetic Control Weight	Regression Weight	Country	Synthetic Control Weight	Regression Weight
Australia	0.00	0.12	Netherlands	0.09	0.14
Austria	0.42	0.26	New Zealand	0.00	0.12
Belgium	0.00	-0.00	Norway	0.00	0.04
Denmark	0.00	0.08	Portugal	0.00	-0.08
France	0.00	0.04	Spain	0.00	-0.01
Greece	0.00	-0.09	Switzerland	0.11	0.04
Italy	0.00	-0.05	UK	0.00	0.06
Japan	0.15	0.19	USA	0.22	0.13

Note: The synthetic weight is the country weight assigned by the synthetic control method. The regression weight is the weight assigned by linear regression.

Table B2: Economic Growth Predictor Means Before German Reunification

	West Germany	Synthetic West Germany	OECD Sample
GDP per-capita	18160.4	18158.3	17255.1
Trade openness	56.8	56.9	35.3
Inflation rate	2.6	3.5	5.7
Industry share	34.5	34.4	34.2
Schooling	55.5	55.2	44.4
Investment rate	27.0	27.0	25.7

Note: GDP per capita, inflation rate, trade openness, and industry share are averaged for the 1981–1990 period. Investment rate and schooling are averaged for the 1980–1985 period. The last column reports a population weighted average for the 16 OECD countries in the donor pool.

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Synthetic Combination:	Countries and W-Weights				
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	0.42	0.22	0.15	0.11	0.09
Four Control Countries	Austria	USA	Japan	Switzerland	
	0.57	0.22	0.12	0.09	
Three Control Countries	Austria	USA	Japan		
	0.35	0.32	0.32		
Two Control Countries	Austria	USA			
	0.53	0.47			
One Control Country	Austria				
	1.00				

Note: Countries and *W*-weights for synthetic control constructed from best fitting combination of five, four, three, two, and one countries.

Table B4: Economic Growth Predictor Means before the German Reunification for Combinations of Control Countries

	West Germany	Synthetic West Germany *Number of countries in synthetic control:*					OECD Sample
		5	4	3	2	1	
GDP per-capita	18160.4	18158.3	18157.5	18041.3	18453.8	17027.4	17255.1
Trade openness	56.8	56.9	56.1	56.7	48.8	74.6	35.3
Inflation rate	2.6	3.5	3.6	5.3	6.3	3.5	5.7
Industry share	34.5	34.4	34.5	34.9	34.9	35.5	34.2
Schooling	55.5	55.2	57.8	54.0	49.5	60.9	44.4
Investment rate	27.0	27.0	27.1	26.9	27.3	26.6	25.7

Note: GDP per capita, inflation rate, and trade openness are averaged for the 1981–1990 period. Industry share is averaged for the 1981–1990 period. Investment rate and schooling are averaged for the 1980–1985 period.

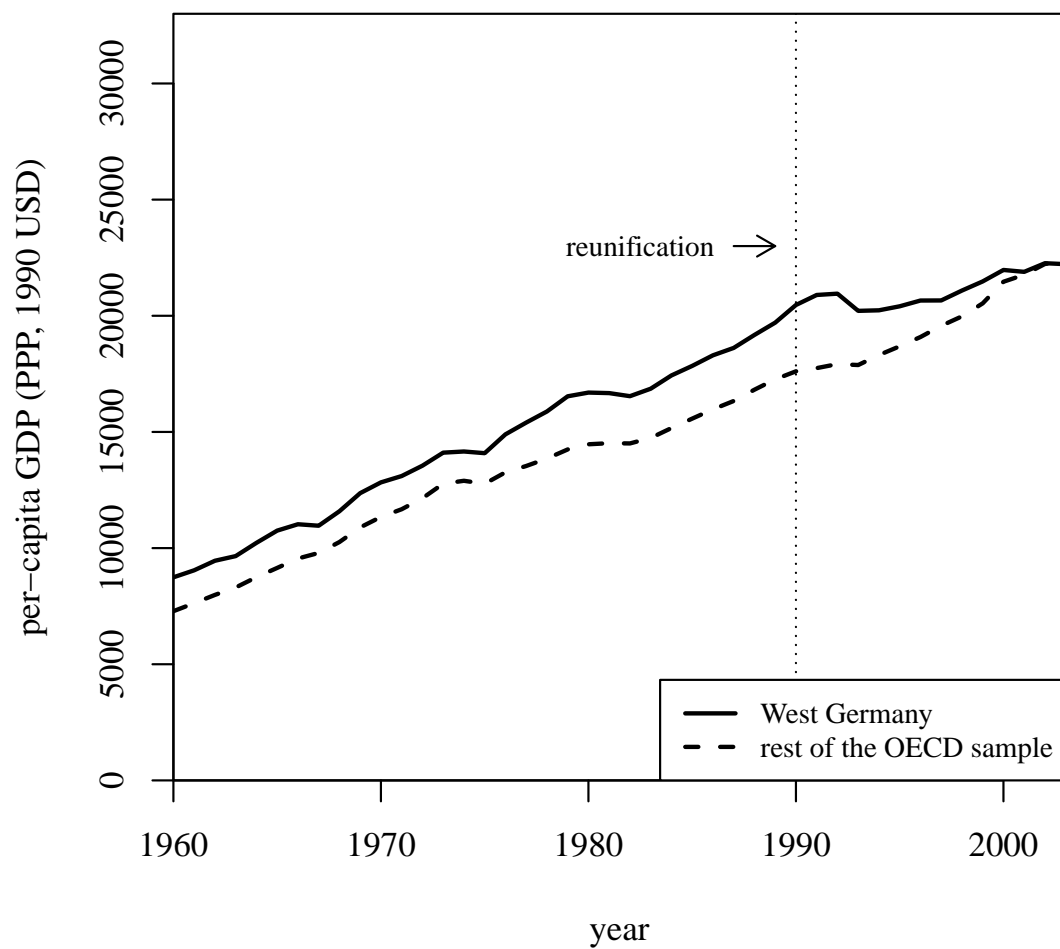Figure B1: Trends in Per Capita GDP: West Germany vs. Rest of the OECD Sample

Figure B2: Trends in Per Capita GDP: West Germany vs. Synthetic West Germany
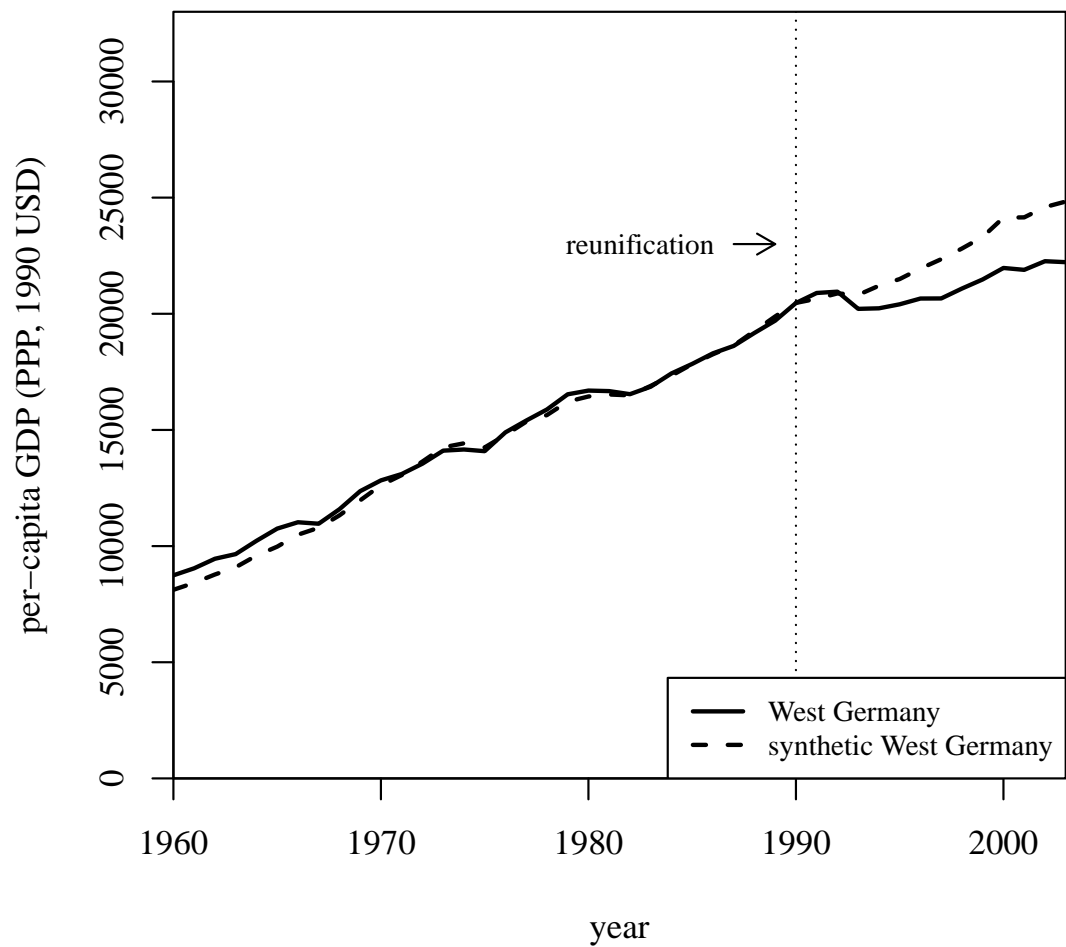
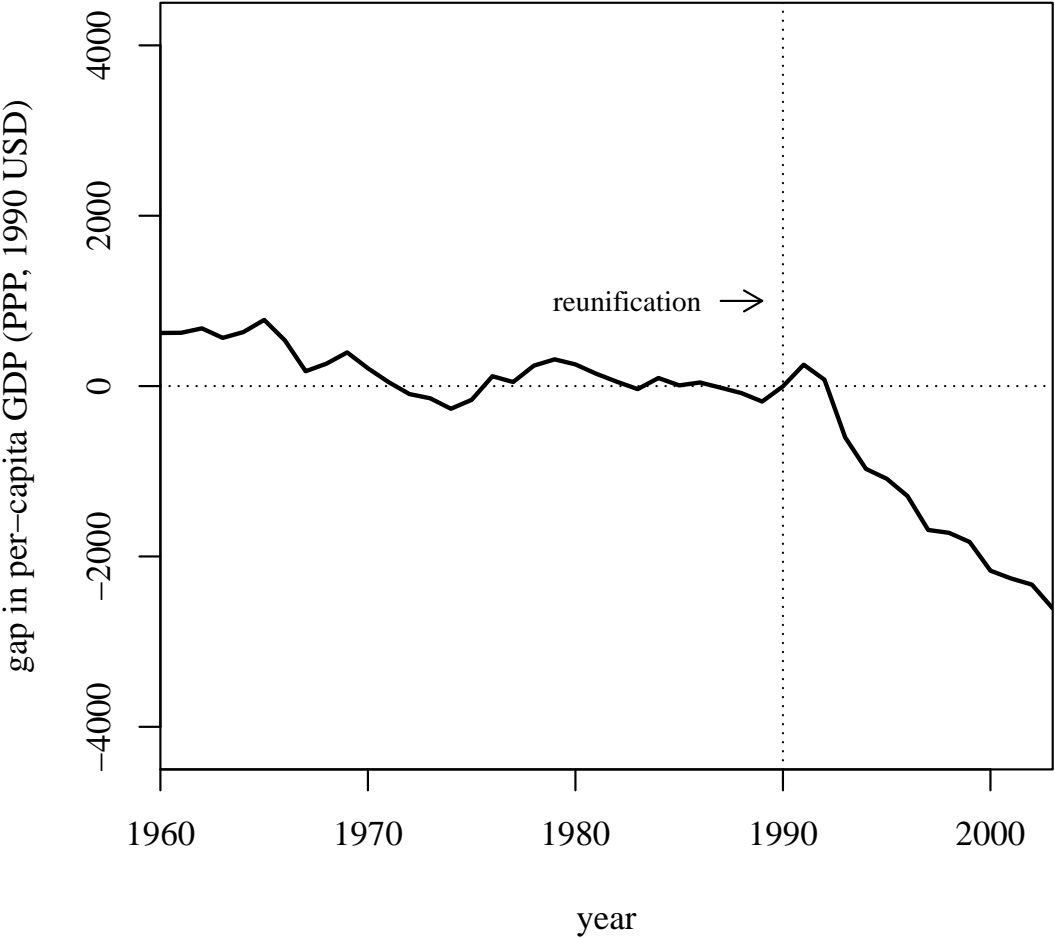Figure B3: Per Capita GDP Gap Between West Germany and Synthetic West Germany

Figure B4: Placebo Reunification 1975 - Trends in Per Capita GDP: West Germany vs. Synthetic West Germany
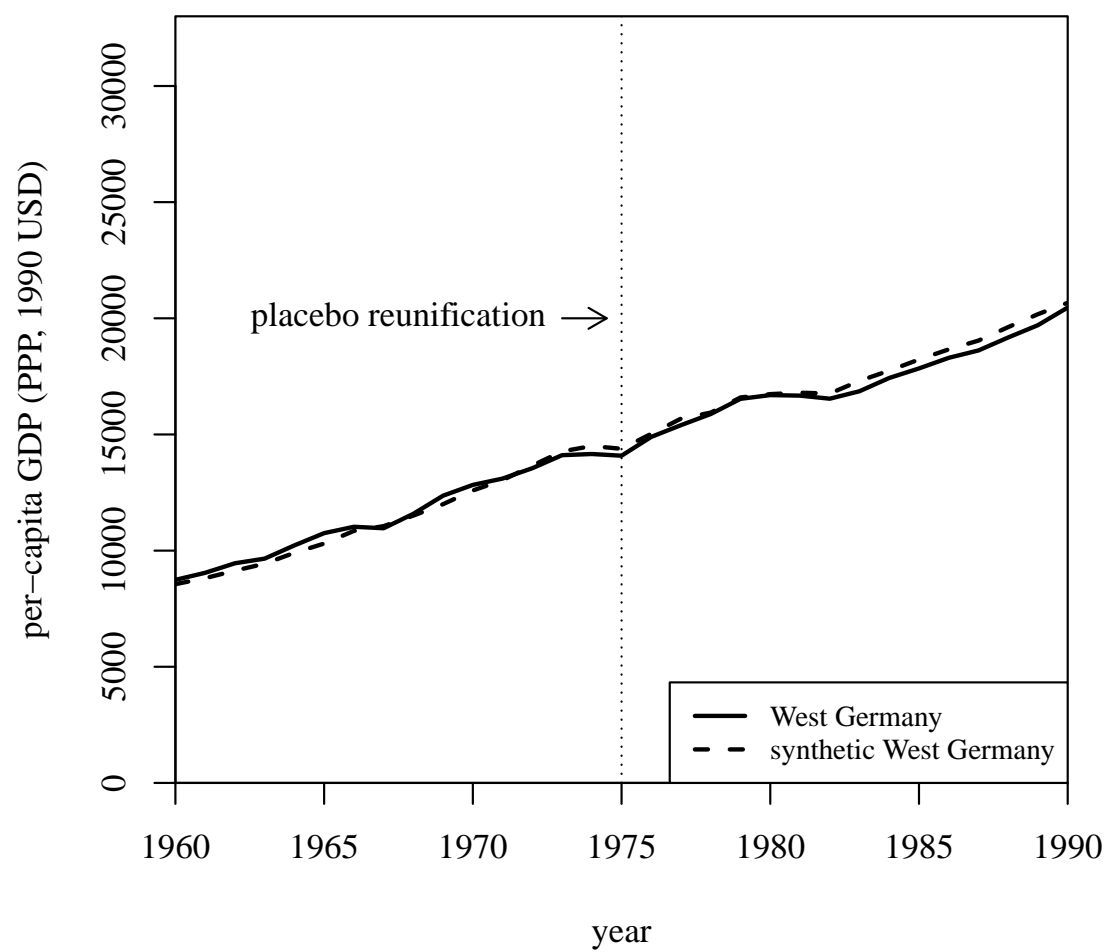
Figure B5: Ratio of post-reunification RMSPE to pre-reunification RMSPE: West Germany and control countries.

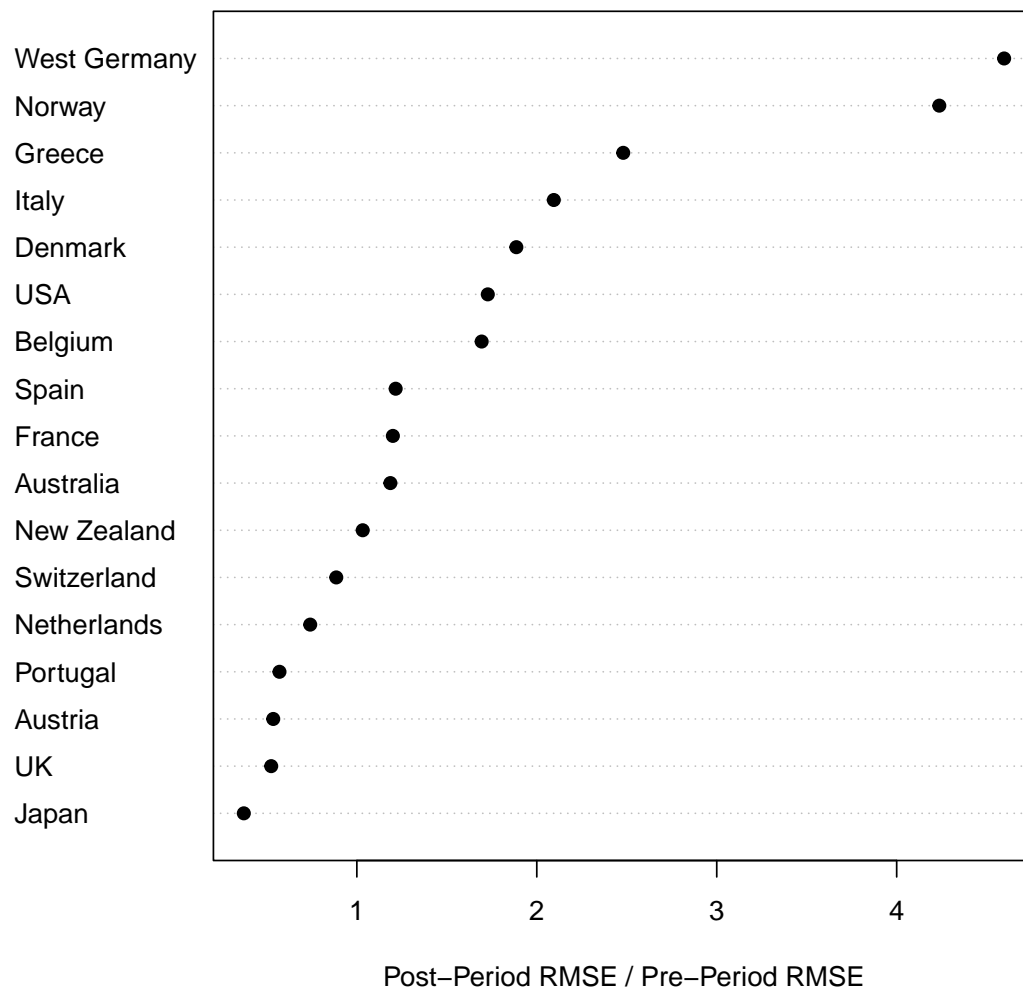
Post−Period RMSE / Pre−Period RMSE

Figure B6: Leave-one-out distribution of the synthetic control for West Germany
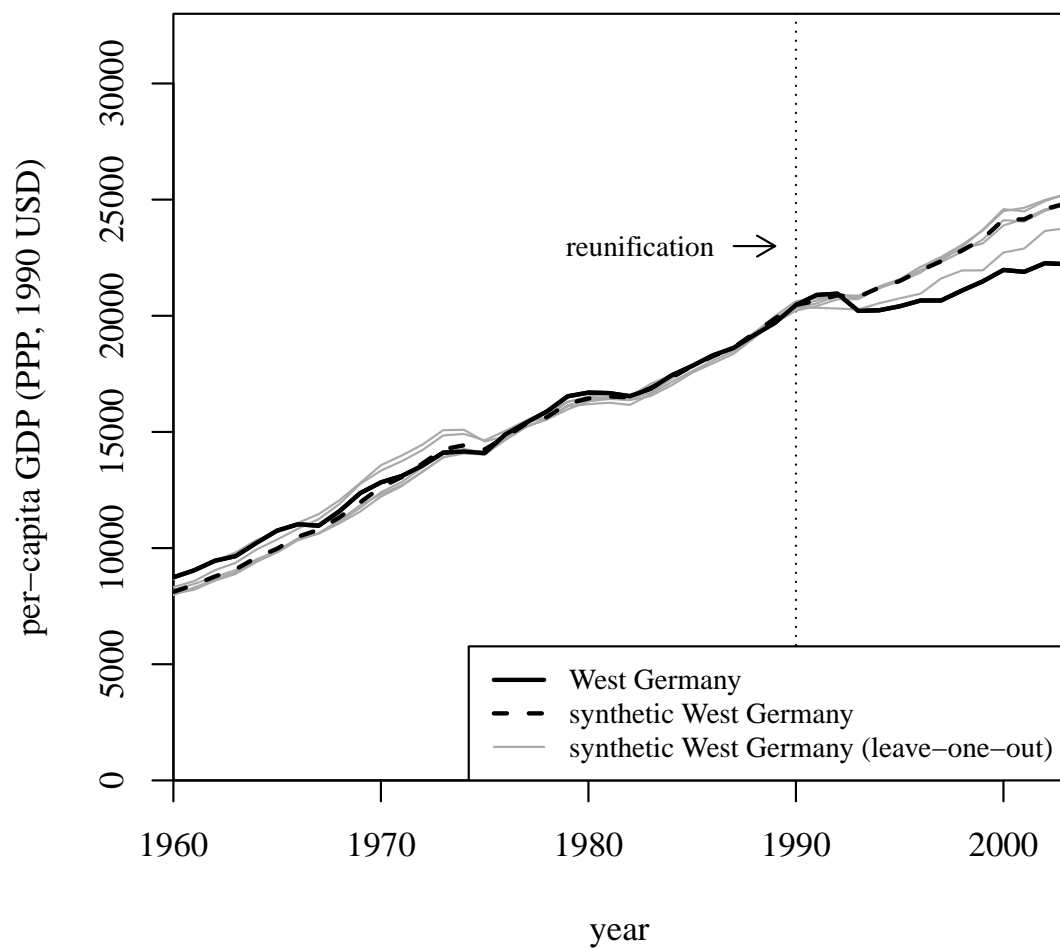
Figure B7: Per Capita GDP Gaps Between West Germany and Sparse Synthetic Controls

No. of control countries: 4

No. of control countries: 3

No. of control countries: 2

No. of control countries: 1