

Who Does History Remember?

Using Wikipedia to
Measure the Historical Reputation of Leaders

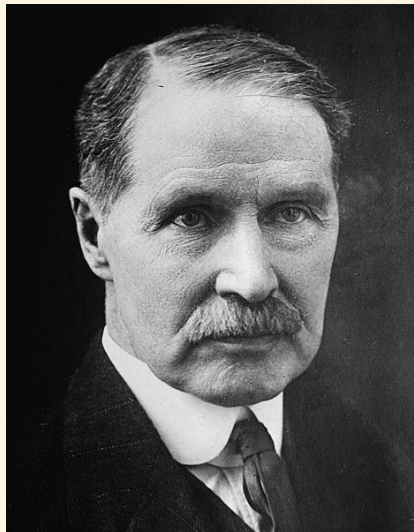
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April 13, 2012
70th Annual MPSA Conference, Chicago

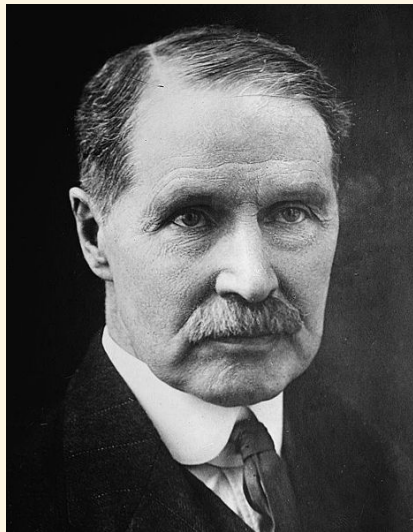
A Puzzle of Two Leaders



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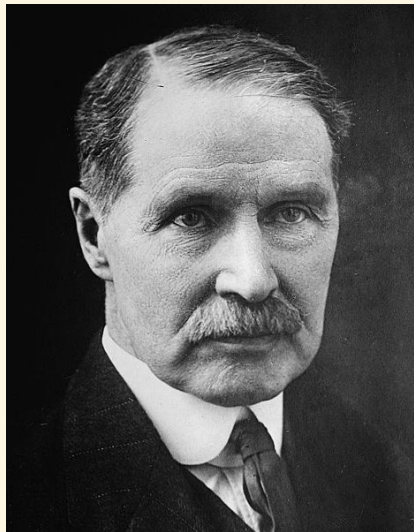
Winston Churchill



A Puzzle of Two Leaders



Winston Churchill



Henry-Campbell Bannerman

Questions

1. What explains the fame of leaders?
2. Do these explanations differ with culture?

Overview

1. Why should you care about fame?
2. How we measure fame (prominence)
3. What explains fame (initial results)

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War, ...

What shapes the decisions of leaders?

- Tenure (BdM et al. (2005))
- Post-tenure fate (Goemans; Chiozza and Goemans)
- Personal background, experience, age (Horowitz, McDermott and Stam (2005))
- Fame (contemporaneous and historical)

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Fame in Theories

Previous Work

- Simonton, Michel et. al (2005)
- Fame in other theories
 - Stam et. al. (Age) \rightarrow (War) \rightarrow (Fame)
 - BdM et. al. (Term Limits) \rightarrow (War) \rightarrow (Fame)

Our question

? \rightarrow (Fame)

What do we mean by Fame?

Prominence

- Name recognition
- Henry Campbell-Bannerman v Winston Churchill

Valence

- Favorability
- Adolf Hitler v Winston Churchill.

How do we measure prominence?



Data

leaders Archigos

- $n = 2,472$
- years = 1875-2004

Wikipedias 10 most viewed

article data

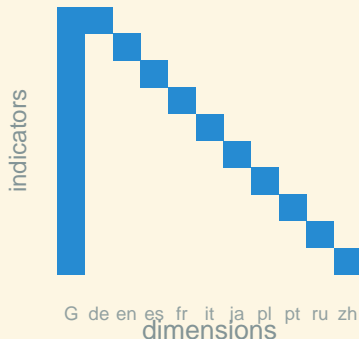
- number of page views
- page size
- number of times edited
- number of editors
- number of inward links

Wikipedias Used

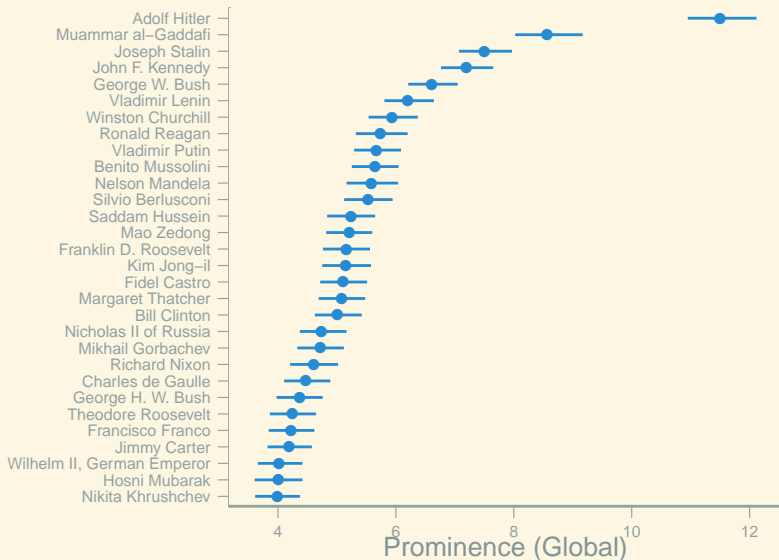
	Language	Views (per day)	Articles	Users
en	English	20,927,397	3,884,116	16,341,507
ja	Japanese	3,497,489	794,372	598,843
es	Spanish	2,875,342	871,245	2,131,214
de	German	2,787,900	1,368,841	1,382,923
ru	Russian	1,887,215	826,231	805,230
fr	French	1,864,612	1,219,020	1,232,356
it	Italian	1,281,963	895,288	723,110
pl	Polish	1,070,320	882,616	476,717
pt	Portuguese	972,146	715,191	968,747
zh	Chinese	480,091	404,145	1,149,239

Estimating Prominence

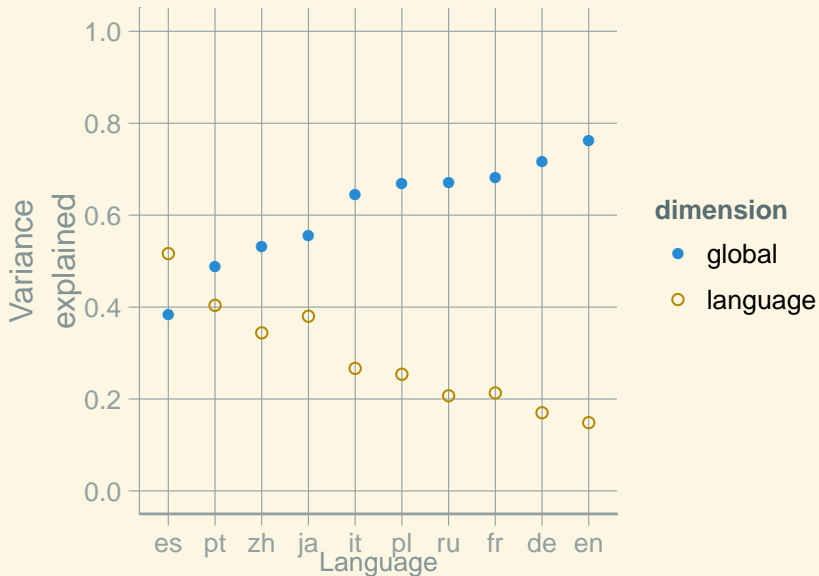
- Factor model
- 50 Indicators
 - 5 article attributes
 - \times 10 languages
- 11 factors
 - Global factor (G)
 - 10 Language Factors



30 Most Famous Leaders



Importance of Language Factors



Explaining Prominence

	G	en	ja	es	de	ru	fr	it	pl	pt	zh
War_duration	+	-					-	-			-
War_wins_3	+				-		+	+	+		
War_losses_3	+						+		-	-	
War_draws_3	+	+			+					+	+
bat_death	+				+	+					-
Major Power	+		-		+		-	-	-		+
pecpc_growth						+			-		
Presidential		+		-		+	+				
Democracy			+	+				+		+	+
Autocracy	+					+		+		+	
Ungoverned						+					
Civil War		+	+			+					+
duration	+		+	+	+		+	+	+	+	
ntenures							+				
Irregular_entry	+					+					
Irregular_exit	+					+					-
Bad.Post.ten		+		+		+	+		+		
Male	-				+		-				
Age	-			-			-	+			
Alive	+	+		+		-					
Years_out	-			+	-		-		-		
Leader_2004	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+
Constant	+					+	+				

Conclusion

To be continued . . .

Wikipedia Demographics

Editors (Wikipedia survey)

- 91% Male
- Mean age = 32
- College or higher educated
- Computer proficient

Viewers (alexa.com)

- Gender : similar
- Age : 18-24 overrepresented, 65+ underrepresented
- Education : No or some college and underrepresented