# US Leader-to-Leader Diplomatic Visits Dataset, 1946-2019

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This dataset is an updated version of the diplomatic visits data collected from the US State Department's Office of the Historian (https://history.state.gov/departmenthistory/visits and https://history.state.gov/departmenthistory/travels/president) and analyzed in our article "State Visits and Leader Survival" (replication material here: https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/9QUMY3).

This dataset expands on the previous version by including variables capturing the type of visit, the names of any conferences or events attended or agreements signed during the visit, the position of the foreign visitor or visit recipient, and whether any direct leader-to-leader meeting occurred during the visit. These coding decisions involve judgment calls on our part; please do let us know if you disagree with any coding decisions, or believe any codings to have been in error.

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## Foreign leader visits to the US

| | |
|---|---|
| country | Visitor's home country, given by Historian |
| country_clean | Standardized COW country name |
| ccode | Three-digit COW country code |
| pres_US | Name of US president at time of visit |
| year | Year of visit |
| dates | Dates of visit, given by Historian |
| start_date | Standardized start date of visit, YYYY-MM-DD |
| end_date | Standardized end date of visit, YYYY-MM-DD |
| duration | Duration of visit, in days |
| visitor | Name of visitor, given by Historian |
| leader | Political leader of visitor's home country |
| description | Visit description, given by Historian |
| visitor_is_leader | Is the visitor the political leader of his/her home country? "Yes", "No", or "Elect" if the visitor is the incoming (but not-yet-inaugurated) leader |
| visit_type | One of: Ceremonial, Conference, Informal, Multilateral, Official, Private, Pull-aside, State visit, Summit, Unofficial, Working, or Unspecified. |
| pres_meeting | Does the visit description provide a clear indication that the visitor met face-to-face with the US president? |
| event_name | Name of conference or other event visitor is attending |
| signed | Name of any agreement signed during the visit |

Notes:

- The data on political leaders is from Alastair Smith (2022), "National Political Leaders and Causes of Death", available at https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/U1MYGI. This dataset updates the Archigos dataset (https://www.rochester.edu/college/faculty/hgoemans/data.htm) through January 2022.
- There are many instances in which the "pres_meeting" variable is coded as "No", because the description did not clearly indicate that a face-to-face meeting with the US president took place, but where one would reasonably believe that a meeting did occur. Most notably, visits described as "State visit" or "State dinner" will likely involve a face-to-face meeting between the visitor and the US President, but the description rarely states so explicitly.
- Some visit descriptions indicated that multiple types of interaction occurred during the visit; for instance, "State Visit. Private visit to Los Angeles afterwards." Or "Official working visit." In these cases, for the visit_type variable, we aimed to record the more formal of the visit types ("State visit" rather than "Private" in the first example, "Official" rather than "Working" in the second example).

## US Presidents' travels abroad

| | |
|---|---|
| country | Country visited, as given by Historian |
| locale | Location(s) (typically cities) within country visited |
| country_clean | Standardized COW country name, corresponding to the home country of the visit recipient (not necessarily the country in which the visit occurred) |
| ccode | Three-digit COW country code for the country visited |
| visitor | Name of US president who conducted the visit |
| dates | Dates of visit, given by Historian |
| start_date | Standardized start date of visit, YYYY-MM-DD |
| end_date | Standardized end date of visit, YYYY-MM-DD |
| duration | Duration of visit, in days |
| leader | Political leader of visit-recipient's home country (usually left NA for manually added rows) |
| remarks | Visit description, given by Historian |
| leader_meeting | Does the visit description provide a clear indication that the US president met face-to-face with the political leader of the recipient's home country? "Yes", "No", "Elect", or "Other" if the US president met with a recipient who is not the political leader of their country |
| host_position | Recipient's position, if not the political leader (Queen, President, etc.) |

| | |
|---|---|
| visit_type | One of: Ceremonial, Conference, en route, Informal, Multilateral, Official, Private, State visit, Summit, Troops, Unofficial, Working, or Unspecified. |
| added_manually | “No” if this observation appears in the Historian data, “Yes” if it was added manually as part of a multi-recipient visit |
| public_address | Did the US president give a public address during this visit? |
| event | Name of conference or other event US president attended during the visit |
| signed | Name of any agreement signed during the visit |

Notes:

- This dataset is structured at the level of the visit-recipient. Suppose the US president travels to country X to meet with leaders X, Y, and Z. This visit will typically be listed on the Historian website as a single visit to country X (with the description mentioning leaders X, Y, and Z). Our dataset will represent the visit with three separate observations, corresponding to visit-recipients X, Y, and Z.
- The variable “added_manually” denotes whether a given observation appears on the Historian website, or whether we added the row manually as part of a multi-recipient visit. For multi-recipient visits, the row corresponding to the leader of the visited country (leader X in country X) will be coded added_manually = “No”, while the other rows (leaders Y and Z in country X) will be coded added_manually = “Yes.
- Note that we do add a row for visit-recipient Y even if they are not the political leader of their country, e.g. the Queen of England, in which case we will code leader_meating = “Other” and host_position = “Queen”.
- Alternatively, suppose the president travels to country X, and the Historian’s description says that he attended a conference and met with leader Y (but makes no mention of leader X). This visit will appear as two visit-recipient observations, first for leader X with leader_meeting = “No”, and second for leader Y with leader_meeting = “Yes”.
- For multi-recipient visits, the country_clean variable is updated to reflect the country of the visit-recipient. For manually added rows for multi-recipient visits, the ccode and country variables are set to NA.
- visit_type = “en route” denotes that the president stopped in this county en route to or from another destination. visit_type = “Troops” denotes that the primary purpose of the visit was to visit US troops stationed abroad, not to meet with representatives of the host country.
- The notes for the “Foreign leader visits to the US” dataset above all apply to this dataset as well.