Codebook for Political Regimes of the World Dataset

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Overview

The ambition with the present database is to provide researchers with a longitudinal data set on democratic and autocratic regime characteristics. It contains yearly observations for the time period 1800-2016 for all countries that have been independent at any point in time between 1946 and 2016. In the dataset, we decompose democracies and autocracies into several regime categories. Regarding democracies, we make a first distinction between republics and monarchies. We then split up the category of republics into presidential, semi-presidential, and parliamentary systems. Within the category of monarchies, almost all systems are parliamentary but a few countries are conferred to the category semi-monarchies.

As there is far from any agreement on how to classify authoritarian regimes, the ambition has been to base the categorization on existing pioneering works in the field. In the present dataset autocratic countries are classified into the following main categories: *absolute monarchy, military rule, party-based rule, personalist rule, and oligarchy*

In addition, the dataset contains a number of sub-categories of certain regimes. This makes it possible for users of the dataset to apply different definitions of controversial regime types like one-party rule and oligarchies. In addition, there is far from any consensus on how to define semi-presidentialism. Many, but not all, authors may wish to include the popular election of the president as a necessary criterion of semi-presidentialism and some authors disregard the power dimension altogether. The database therefore provides information on whether the president was popularly elected or not. The inclusion of this variable also makes it possible to apply a wider definition of semi-presidentialism, which disregards the criterion that the president must share executive powers with the president.

Variables in the dataset

Country

Name of country

Ccode

Correlates of War country code. (Correlates of War Project, http://www.correlatesofwar.org/data-sets/cow-country-codes).

Abbreviation

Abbreviation of country name. (World Bank, (https://wits.worldbank.org/wits/wits/witshelp/content/codes/country_codes.htm).

Year

Year

Democracy

Boix, Miller and Rosato's Dichotomous democracy measure (democracy_omitteddata). (Carles Boix, Michael K. Miller, and Sebastian Rosato. 2013. "A Complete Data Set of Political Regimes, 1800-2007." *Comparative Political Studies* 46(12): 1523-54). Supplemented for all countries for the period 2011-2016, as well as for Liechtenstein 1866-1990, Monaco 1862-2016, and San Marino 1800-1992, by Anckar and Fredriksson

Values: 0 Autocracy

1 Democracy

99 Not available/Missing

Monarchy

Distinguishes between monarchies and republics in democratic countries.

Vales: 0 Republic

1 Monarchy

7 Hybrid

Regimebroadcat

Regime type. Classification with broad categories.

Values 0 Parliamentarism

1 Semi-presidentialism

2 Presidentialism

3 Semi-monarchy

4 Party-based rule

5 Personalist rule

6 Military rule

7 Absolute monarchy

8 Oligarchy

99 Missing (Occupation, civil war or otherwise unclear)

Regimenarrowcat

Regime type classified with narrow categories

Values 0 Parliamentarism

1 Semi-presidentialism

2 Presidentialism

3 Semi-monarchy

4 Single-party rule

5 Multi-party authoritarian rule

6 Personalist rule

7 Military rule

8 Absolute monarchy

9 Monarchic oligarchy

10 Other oligarchy

99 Missing (Occupation, civil war or otherwise unclear)

Popelection

Indicates if the head of state is popularly elected or not in democratic republics.

Values 0 Head of state not popularly elected

1 Head of state popularly elected