Regular Turnover Details, 1960-2015:
A dataset on world leaders' legal removal from office

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Abstract: The largest working dataset on leader survival, Archigos 4.1 (Goemans, Gleditsch, & Chiozza, 2009), focuses on the violent, dramatic means by which leaders may "exit" office. This information is vital for many research questions and its collection constitutes a valuable public good for the community. Yet, it provides an incomplete picture of the political rise and fall of world leaders. The burgeoning study of leaders using survival analysis requires a fine-grained understanding of not just when, but why and how leaders exit our datasets. We cannot, for example, conclude that a leader's exit implies a successful application of international pressure if her removal stems from pre-set constitutional laws and the immediate successor has long been considered the heir apparent. The Regular Turnover Details dataset remedies this problem, as well as others. Two principle variables, Means and Successor, report information about the manner of each leader's exit and the relationship between outgoing and incoming leaders. Together with supporting information about political pressure and apolitical figures this data allows analysts to arbiter between exits that suggest political failure and those that do not, identify nonpolitical leaders (such as interim and technocratic executives), and determine whether leaders constitute heirs to power or challengers thereof.

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Description/Justification

The Regular Turnover Details dataset aims to provide analysts with enough information to determine for themselves how they want to treat an exit, and to identify information relevant for determining whether a leader's exit indicates a failure to hold together her base of support (i.e. a "winning coalition failure"). To this end, it contains two key variables. *Means* describes the circumstances of a leader's exit, whether it be by election loss or resignation. *Successor* characterizes the relationship between the incoming and outgoing leaders. Together these two dimensions of each turnover make it possible for analysts to produce many different potential operationalizations of leader failure, tailoring the concept to their theoretical model. The data also provide information pertinent for characterizing the leaders themselves: is this leader a break with the prior regime, or a continuation of it? Is this leader a normal political figure, or an apolitical placeholder in power for a designated period of time?

Coding Instructions

For each leader turnover, the coder is provided with the following information from Archigos: country code, leader name, leader exit and entry dates, type of exit (e.g. regular, retirement due to ill health). This information should be suffice to locate the leader's entry in the Archigos codebook and rulers.org. These two sources should be consulted first to determine the appropriate responses for each of the variables below. If insufficient detail is available (e.g. if Archigos and rulers do not have substantive profiles or news snippets for the leader), then the coder must pursue other sources. If term limits are suspected, CIA World Factbook is a reliable source of information, but sometimes government web sites or encyclopedia entries must be consulted for this determination. For elections, consider consulting an appropriate election results database, preferably in conjunction with contemporary news accounts to build context. Often, news searches will be most successful in turning up necessary details if both the incoming and outgoing leaders are included in the search terms and the search is limited temporally to around four weeks prior to the exit. If such a search turns up no information, it is often the case that a resignation or crisis occurring significantly earlier than the actual exit itself and news coverage of resignation/scheduling of elections occurred with that event rather than the exit. Autocratic turnovers are often best coded by consulting the leader's encyclopedia entry or contemporary news accounts. Britannica online and Keesing's are also often good sources for the kind of information necessary. Coders should avoid relying on wiki-type sources, common knowledge, and Google Books in favor of the more easily accessible and reliable sources described above (see source coding below for an extensive list of potential sources).

Coding Rules: Detail on Regular Exits

Means – this variable codes the means by which regular exit occurs. For each type of exit, there is also a dummy variable. Tick the appropriate dummy variable as well as filling in the main field.

1 election – if the incumbent runs in election and loses

- Some researchers may be particularly interested in cases where incumbent leaders lose primary elections; as such turnovers indicate that there has not been a shift in the interests represented necessarily but in the confidence of the winning coalition in their leader's ability to govern. In such cases, tick the election dummy, but also the separate PrimaryElection dummy variable. [not fully coded]

2 term limit – if the incumbent has served a full term and is barred from participation in subsequent elections

3 other constitutional limit – if a revision of the constitution prevents further participation, or if impeachment or criminal proceedings prompt removal by the legislative or judicial branches, or if a governing coalition dissolves, or if a vote of no-confidence occurs

4 unclear – if cause cannot be identified as election, term limit, other constitutional, or resignation and is not a case of either leader death or caretaker/interim regime change. USE SPARINGLY.

5 resignation – if incumbent resigns or retires for personal, or political reasons

SPP – Obviously, many leaders prefer to retire/resign of their own "free will" rather than appear to have been destabilized or ousted by their own party. In cases where a resignation is precipitated by widespread dissent or internal power politics, the coder should tag the dummy variable "SPP", which stands for "severe political pressure". This will hopefully allow us to separate "sincere" from "strategic" retirements.

In addition, the following dummy variables should be used when appropriate:

SPP_Protest – if media discuss mass protests/riots/strikes as a factor in the decision to resign

SPP_Confidence – if media discuss a "loss of confidence" in the ability of the leader to manage tensions within a coalition, ruling party, or junta. Also if a vote of no confidence is threatened.

SPP_BloodyCoup – if a coup is attempted or in progress at the time of resignation where overt violence is used and the leader may fear for his/her safety

SPP_BloodlessCoup – if a coup is attempted or in progress at the time of resignation where no media report use of force/violence

SPPOther – indication of serious political instability which does not fit the above categories

6 caretaker/interim regime – if incumbent surrenders power following completion of duties as executive under a caretaker, interim, or otherwise temporary regime and DID NOT RUN FOR OFFICE in the first round of elections

7 death

Successor – this variable codes the relationship between the exiting leader and the successor. For each relationship there is also a dummy variable. Tick the appropriate dummy variable as well as filling in the main field.

1 challenger – if subsequent leader is of a different political party, or if the incumbent appears to have faced threat of harm before or immediately after removal

2 heir/successor – if subsequent leader is of the same party, was designated or endorsed as successor, or is otherwise discussed as belonging to the same political/policy circle as incumbent

3 neutral – describing the relationship between the incoming and outgoing leader as either (1) or (2) above is inappropriate because the two neither competed against nor promoted each other for office.

NeutralDetail - The following subcodings provide more detail.

1 if the *incoming* leader is described as a "technocrat", usually meaning a bureaucrat, academic, or other kind of expert who is entrusted with producing apolitical, effective policies for improving the provision of public goods or overall quality of governance

2 if the *incoming* leader is a "caretaker", "interim", or "acting" holding office only until a new set of rules for leader selection can be put in place

3 if the *incoming* leader is the head of a "unity" government mutually agreed upon by all major political actors to see the country through a time of difficulty

4 if the *outgoing* leader is described as a "technocrat" as above

5 if the *outgoing* leader is described as a "caretaker", "interim", or "acting" as above

6 if the *outgoing* leader is described as heading a "unity" government as above

7 if the constitution mandates regular rotation of the executive position amongst representatives of key ethnic groups, political parties, etc.

8 if the leader is the first independent leader of the country.

NOTE: subcodings 1-3 are to be used *only* be used if the incoming leader was appointed by an internal or external body rather than running in elections. Subcodings 4-6 are to be used *only* if the outgoing leader did not run in the elections that brought the incoming leader to power.

4 RealUnknown – if there is insufficient evidence to classify the relationship between the incoming and outgoing leaders. The following subcodings should be used to indicate the reason for inability to code as (1)-(3) above:

4.1 no news descriptions available through LexisNexis searches, and no information provided in other sources

4.2 a chaotic domestic situation makes deciphering the relationship between political actors difficult/unreliable

4.3 conflicting news accounts make it difficult to make a non-controversial conclusion regarding the relationship

4.4 if the outgoing leader was in power for less than a full term, but for unknown reasons

Parliamentary Politics [1]– This variable provides additional information regarding the means of exit that are particular to parliamentary systems, and which sometimes make a decision regarding the categories of the primary Means variable difficult. For example, if a prime minister is weakened by divisions within a coalition government it may be difficult to determine from historical and news accounts whether her replacement was accomplished through an internal party nomination contest, a forced retirement, a voluntary retirement, a no-confidence vote, the dissolution of the coalition altogether, etc. Coders should make a determination in the regular means category, tag the Severe Political Pressure indicator if appropriate, and also determine whether any of the following categories of additional information may be useful. If appropriate, more than one of these subcategories may be indicated through their dummy versions, but the ultimate one should be used in the parliamentary politics field. E.g. a prime minister may be submitted to a no confidence vote after losing a coalition partner, but the confidence vote is the ultimate mechanism of removal. In this case, the confidence vote dummy should be ticked as well as the governing coalition dissolved dummy, but the

[1] Available only from 2004-2015.

parliamentary politics field should be filled in with a 1. Or a prime minister may be faced with a no confidence vote, survive it, call snap elections, and then perform so poorly that the party is no longer able to lead a coalition. In this case the snap election is the ultimate mechanism of removal, but the no-confidence vote should not be ticked as the PM survived the vote.

1 PM removed through vote of no confidence in parliament
2 Governing coalition dissolved or demanded change in leadership
3 Loss of party support in formal or informal nomination or leadership confirmation process
4 Snap election loss

Justification – give a brief explanation, using quotes is preferred, of the information in the source which supports the original coding decision

Notes – provide any additional information regarding the original coding decision here

Source and Source2 – the name of the sources used for original coding; two sources are not required, but are often necessary

SourceCode and Sourcecode2 – this variable codes the source of information used for determining coding numerically

1 rulers.org
2 Archigos Codebook
3 general knowledge/common knowledge (USE SPARINGLY)
4 Govt website of home country
5 University of Minnesota Human Rights Library
6 News/Journalistic Source (give full bibliographic entry or link in either the source field or the note field)
7 CIA World Factbook
8 Georgetown Political Database of the Americas
9 U.S. State Dept Background Notes
10 University of California San Diego Latin American Elections Statistics Guide
11 Parties and Elections in Europe
12 Google Books (GIVE BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY IN NOTE/JUSTIFICATION)
13 Wiki-type source – MUST be supported by an alternative source, and provide url
14 African Elections Database
15 Britannica Online
16 The International Comparative Political Parties Project at Northwestern University
17 Election Guide: Democracy assistance and elections news from the Consortium for elections and Political Process Strengthening (USAID/International Foundation for Electoral Systems)
18 Keesing's World News Archive

19 ICPP (The International Comparative Political Parties Project at Northwestern Univ.)
20 Electoral Geography

Other Variables

In addition to the main variables coded for this dataset, spreadsheets will also contain the following information for each leader.

leadid29 – the leadid variable from Archigos 2.9

leadid – the leadid variable from Archigos 4.1

ccode – country code provided by Archigos

Country – country name

leader – leader name as reported in Archigos 4.1

eindate – date-formatted entry date in the form Month/Day/Year (e.g. 3/6/2004, March 6th 2004)

eoutdate – date-formatted exit date in the form Month/Day/Year; this is the censor date of 12/31/2015 for all leaders till in office as of the end of Archigos 4.1's temporal coverage

Data versions

Regular Turnover Details Data is provided in a couple of different formats for user's convenience.

- Full Master Dataset in Excel: The file named Regular Turnover Details 1960-2015 Master.xls is considered the "master" dataset. It contains all of the variables listed above, including the (sometimes long) string fields for justification, notes, and source names. These fields are much easier to access and read in Excel than in software for analysis such as Stata or R.

- Small Dataset in Comma-Separated Values: Regular Turnover Details 1960-2015 Small.csv contains all the turnovers but excludes the long string fields. Sourcing information is still available, but only the numeric codes. The comma-separated format can be imported into most any statistical software without loss of fidelity.

- Small Dataset in Stata Format: Regular Turnover Details 1960-2015 Small.dta provides the trimmed dataset (excluding long string fields) in Stata 15 format. This dataset already contains variable and value labels for ease of use.

Merging with Archigos

Most users will want to merge RTD with Archigos 4.1. The following steps will accomplish this task with Stata:

1. Open Archigos 4.1 in Stata (A Stata14-formatted version is available at: http://www.rochester.edu/college/faculty/hgoemans/data.htm)
2. Save Regular Turnover Details onto your computer. If not using the Stata version, import it into Stata and save as a Stata file.
3. Type or paste the following command into your do-file or the command bar (replace file name and path as appropriate for your machine):

```
merge 1:1 leadid leader eindate eoutdate using "Regular Turnover Details 1960-2015 Small.dta", gen(_RTD)
```