Religion in Nonviolent Action (RNVA) Dataset Codebook, v.1.0

Jason Klocek[1]
Assistant Professor
School of Politics and International Relations
University of Nottingham

Senior Researcher
Religion & inclusive societies
U.S. Institute of Peace

Miranda Rivers
Program Specialist
Nonviolent Action Program
University of Nottingham

Sandra Tombe
Research Program Officer
Learning, Evaluation, and Research
U.S. Institute of Peace

[1] Corresponding Author: All enquiries may be sent to jklocek@usip.org.

Introduction

This codebook describes the Religion and Nonviolent Action (RNVA) dataset, 1945 – 2015, which was developed as a cross-team collaboration between the religion and inclusive societies and nonviolent action programs at the U.S. Institute of Peace. The RNVA dataset version 1.0 builds on version 2.1 of the Nonviolent and Violent Campaigns and Outcomes (NAVCO) dataset. It focuses on campaigns whose primary type of resistance method was nonviolence from 1945 to 2013.

The RNVA dataset includes information about the religious dimensions (i.e., ideas, actors, institutions, and symbols) for 183 distinct campaigns between 1945 and 2013. These data are suitable for analyzing the prevalence, dynamics, causes, and outcomes of nonviolent action campaigns that draw on religion. The RNVA dataset is available for download via the Harvard Dataverse (https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/FKVA0G).

Unit of Analysis

While the NAVCO dataset comprises of campaign-year data, the RNVA dataset involves cross-sectional data only. In total, the dataset includes 183 distinct campaigns whose primary type of resistance method was nonviolence from 1945 to 2013. The RNVA dataset utilizes NAVCO's definition of a nonviolent action campaign: a series of observable, continuous, purposive mass tactics or events in pursuit of a political objective whose resistance method was primarily nonviolent (See NAVCO 2.1 codebook for more on this definition). Some campaigns included in the dataset drew on a mix of both nonviolent and violent resistance methods over their course of existence. We included all campaigns coded in the NAVCO 2.1 for which the primary method of resistance was nonviolent for at least one year of their existence.

Religious Dimensions

The NAVCO 2.1 dataset has one variable on the religious dimension of the campaigns – *div_religion*. This is a binary variable that captures whether the campaign exhibited religious diversity.

We built on this approach by coding four additional indicators of religion: ideas, actor, institution, and symbols. Our understanding of religion is in line with other research that explores the spiritual beliefs, behaviors, and belongings of individuals and organizations.[2] We, thus, define religion as a unified system of beliefs and practices relative to sacred things.[3] Empirically, we focus on the major world religions and their primary subgroups (e.g., Sunni or Shia Islam and Protestantism or Roman Catholicism). Table 1 outlines the indicators for each. Each dimension is coded as a binary variable. Details of each coded religious dimension are also included.

[2] Corwin E. Smidt, "Measuring Religion in Terms of Belonging, Beliefs, and Behavior," in *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019).
[3] Emile Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*, trans. Carol Cosman (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008).

The coding of campaigns in the RNVA dataset was based on the original references utilized for the coding of the NAVCO 2.1 dataset. They include narrative summaries from global databases, peer-reviewed publications, academic books, and print media sources.

Table 1: Indicators for Religious Dimensions

Dimension	Indicator
Ideas	Campaign leader(s) made explicit appeal to a religious goal or motivation. Campaign leader(s) or members made appeals to shared religious identities or beliefs to (a) recruit/mobilize supporters *and/or* (b) inspire members.
Actors	Religious actor in leadership position of campaign. Religious actors directly participated in the campaign. Religious actors publicly expressed support for the campaign.
Institutions	Religious institution (domestic or foreign) organized the campaign. Religious institution (domestic or foreign) provided financial resources or training for the campaign. Religious institution (domestic or foreign) permitted the campaign to meet in a formal religious space and/or provided space for the campaign to assemble. Senior representatives of religious institutions publicly expressed support for the campaign.
Symbols	Religious symbols/language on printed propaganda. Religious symbols/language displayed during the campaign. Campaign gathered or demonstrated at a place of worship or sacred site. Campaign organized and/or demonstrated on a holy day or date with religious significance to the members. Campaign included religious rituals or rites before or after demonstrations or other protest activities.

List of Variables

Name	Description
id	Unique campaign ID.
camp_name	Campaign name.
location	Country in which campaign takes place.
region	Geographic region in which a campaign takes place. 1=Asia 2=Latin America and the Caribbean

	3=Middle East and North Africa 4=Sub-Saharan Africa 5=Europe 6=Oceania
target	The target of the campaign.
start_year	First year in which campaign activity is observed.
end_year	Last year in which campaign activity is observed.
camp_duration	Duration (years) of campaign.
success	Campaign's maximalist goal ultimately achieved as a direct result of the campaign. 0=not successful 1= successful
div_religion	NAVCO 2.1 variable that indicates whether campaign participation exhibited religious diversity. 0=no (none discovered) 1=yes
rel	Aggregate variable to indicator at least one of the four religious dimensions was observed for a campaign. 0=no 1=yes
rel_idea	Indicates whether campaign exhibited appeals to religious ideas. 0=no 1=yes
rel_actor	Indicates whether campaign involved religious actors 0=no 1=yes
rel_inst	Indicates whether campaign experienced support from a religious institution. 0=no 1=yes
rel_symbol	Indicates whether campaign exhibited religious symbols or practices. 0=no 1=yes
description	Describes the religious dimensions observed.