Codebook for "International Law and Public Attitudes toward Torture: An Experimental Study"

The following describes the variables used in the analysis. Unless otherwise noted, the variables are included in both the international law and international legalization experiments.

CASEID: Identifier for respondent.

Dependent Variables

TORTURE7: Support for torture based on level of agreement that United States should use torture against prisoners, where 1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Somewhat disagree; 4 = Neither agree nor disagree; 5 = Somewhat agree; 6 = Agree; 7 = Strongly agree.

TORTURE3: Support for torture based on level of agreement that United States should use torture against prisoners, where 1 = Disagree (either Strongly disagree, Disagree, or Somewhat disagree); 2 = Neither agree nor disagree; 3 = Agree (either Somewhat agree, Agree, or Strongly agree).

TORTURE2: Support for torture based on level of agreement that United States should use torture against prisoners, where 1 = Disagree (either Strongly disagree, Disagree, or Somewhat disagree); 2 = Agree (either Somewhat agree, Agree, or Strongly agree); Neither agree nor disagree excluded and recoded as missing.

Treatment Variables

TREATY: Treatment variable for international law, where treatment/1 = Prompt that torture violates international law; control/0 = Not given prompt. Note: only relevant for international law experiment.

INSURGENT: Treatment variable for type of prisoner, where treatment/1 = Insurgent (not a regular soldier); control/0 = Regular soldier. Note: only relevant for international law experiment.

RECIPROCITY: Treatment variable for opponent abuse, where treatment/1 = Prompt that enemy already tortured U.S. prisoners; control/0 = Not given prompt. Note: only relevant for international law experiment.

OBLIGATION: Treatment variable for level of obligation of international agreement, where treatment/1 = High obligation; control/0 = Low obligation. Note: only relevant for international legalization experiment.

PRECISION: Treatment variable for level of precision of international agreement, where treatment/1 = High precision; control/0 = Low precision. Note: only relevant for international legalization experiment.

DELEGATION: Treatment variable for level of delegation of international agreement, where treatment/1 = High delegation; control/0 = Low delegation. Note: only relevant for international legalization experiment.

Other Explanatory Variables

All of the following variables were provided through Knowledge Network's (KN) standard demographic variables or from its Public Affairs Profile.

IDEOLOGY0: Respondent's political ideology, where 0 = Extremely conservative; 1 = Conservative; 2 = Slightly conservative; 3 = Moderate, middle of the road; 4 = Slightly liberal; 5 = Liberal; 6 = Extremely liberal.

IDEOLOGY2: Binary measure for respondent's political ideology, where 0 = Conservative (either Extremely conservative, Conservative, or Slightly conservative); 1 = Liberal (either Slightly liberal, Liberal, Extremely liberal); Moderate, middle of the road excluded and recoded as missing.

PPAGECAT: Respondent's age, where 1 = 18-24; 2 = 25-34; 3 = 35-44; 4 = 45-54; 5 = 55-64; 6 = 65-74; 7 = 75+.

PPEDUCAT: Respondent's education level, where 1 = Less than high school; 2 = High school; 3 = Some college; 4 = College degree.

MALE: Respondent's sex, where 1 = Male; 0 = Female.

SECURITY: Binary measure for respondent's beliefs regarding whether or not security-related concerns represent the most important issue facing the United States today. Issue choices differ slightly for each experiment due to changes in answer options for KN's Public Affairs Profile. For the international law experiment, 1 = Respondent chose either War on terrorism, or situation in Iraq; 0 = All other choices. For the international legalization experiment, 1 = Respondent chose terrorism, situation in Iraq, foreign policy, or situation in Afghanistan; 0 = All other choices.

MILITARY: Respondent's military background, where 1 = Some form of military experience (active duty in armed forces, previous active duty, or trained for national reserves or guard); 0 = Otherwise.

WHITE: Respondent's race, where 1 = White; 0 = otherwise.

BLACK: Respondent's race, 1 = respondent is Black; 0 = otherwise.

HISPANIC: Respondent's race, 1 = respondent is Hispanic; 0 = otherwise.

NOTE: There are also a number of interaction terms between political ideology and the law treatments. There are as follows: IDEOLOGY0_TREATY, IDEOLOGY0_OBLIGATION, IDEOLOGY0_PRECISION, and IDEOLOGY0_DELEGATION.