National Political Leaders and Causes of Death.

Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and Alastair Smith
Wilf Family Department of Politics
New York University

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Summary: The data update lists of national leaders through January 5th 2022. The data record the date that a leader enters office and exits office. In addition, for the set of leader who die within 10 years of leaving office the data records a cause of death. The data are updates to the data in "Political Loyalty and Leader Health", Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and Alastair Smith (2018), Quarterly Journal of Political Science: Vol. 13: No. 4, pp 333-361.

There are two main files: LeadersData_w_COD_Jan2022.dta is a stata datafile that contains a single observation for each nation leader. LeadersData_w_COD_Jan2022.dta is a stata datafile that is organized at the leader-year level of observation.

Variable	Description
ID	Numerical code for each leader (each leader stint in office gets a separate code, ie. There is a Grover Cleveland 1 and Grover Cleveland 2).
idacr	Country code
ccode	COW/Polity country code
leader	name
wiki_x	Wikipedia page associated with leader
startdate	Date leader enters office YYYY-MM-DD
enddate	Date leader leaves office YYYY-MM-DD
yrborn	Year leader was born
yrdied	Year leader died
Eyear	Year leader leaves office
Syear	Year leader enters office
BornDate	Date of birth (in stata format: day 1 = 1/1/1960)
DeathDate	Date of death (missing if still alive)
Sdate	Date leader enters office in stata format
Edate	Date leader leaves office in stata format
entry	How did leader enter office? Regular/Irregular – as per Archigos coding
exit	How did leader leave office? Regular/Irregular – as per Archigos coding
exitcode	More details of exit method: as per Archigos coding
posttenurefate	What happened to leader after leaving office: as per Archigos coding
gender	Male/female
Cause	Cause of death: coded for leaders who died within 10 years of leaving office
Summary	Information about the Cause of death. Generally this information is simply a cut and paste from an obituary or website summarizing the leader.
born	Date of birth: YYYY-MM-DD
death	Date of death: YYYY-MM-DD

There is data on 3,593 leaders. Data updated through January 5th 2022.

Summary on the Cause of Death for leaders who die within 10 years of leaving office

Cause	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
Acute	140	11.72	11.72
Ambiguous	82	6.86	18.58
Chronic	488	40.84	59.41
Heart Attack	97	8.12	67.53
Incident	26	2.18	69.71
Killed	194	16.23	85.94
Natural Causes	128	10.71	96.65
Preemptive Suicide	11	0.92	97.57
Stroke	4	0.33	97.91
Suicide	8	0.67	98.58
Unknown	17	1.42	100
Total	1,195	100	

Background

In recent decades leader-based analyses have become far more common. To the best of our knowledge the first systematic analysis of leader survival is Bienen and Van de Walle (1991), closely followed by Bueno de Mesquita, Siverson and Woller (1992). We expanded on these data in the Logic of Political Survival. However, in recent years the most commonly used leader data has been Archigos. In addition to the terms of leaders, Archigos coded the methods of entry and exit and the post-tenure fate of the leader. In our 2018 paper we coded the cause of death of leaders who died within ten years of leaving office. We undertook that project with the generous support of a seed grant from the Moore-Sloan Center for Data Science at New York University (http://cds.nyu.edu/nyu-data-science-seed-grant/). The data collection was undertaken in collaboration with Ralph Grishman in NYU's Computer Science department. Carly Abrahams, Sasha Daich, Dongil Lee and Melissa A. Schiff served as superb researchers on the project. In updating these data through January 2022 we are very grateful to Molly McGillivray-Smith. In addition to updating the list of leaders, their terms and causes of death, we also code the Archigos variables for entry, exit and post-tenure fate.

Bienen, Henry, and Nicolas Van de Walle. Of time and power: leadership duration in the modern world. Stanford University Press, 1991.

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, Randolph M. Siverson, and Gary Woller. "War and the fate of regimes: A comparative analysis." American Political Science Review 86.3 (1992): 638-646.

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, Alastair Smith, Randolph M. Siverson., & James D. Morrow (2003). The logic of political survival. MIT press.

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, Alastair Smith "Political Loyalty and Leader Health", (2018), Quarterly Journal of Political Science: Vol. 13: No. 4, pp 333-361.

Goemans, Henk E., Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, and Giacomo Chiozza. "Introducing Archigos: A dataset of political leaders." Journal of Peace research 46.2 (2009): 269-283.