Codebook

Updated Data and New Insight: A New Version of WTH's Authoritarian Regime Type Dataset

Version: 1.0

1. Dataset overview

This dataset provides a country–year classification of political regimes from 1946 to 2024. It distinguishes democracy from six mutually exclusive autocratic regime types and provides a more detailed subclassification that captures institutional variants (e.g., electoral systems, military involvement, monarchical authority, and conflict/transition states). For detailed information about classification rules for the different categories, see the Coding Manual.

Unit of analysis: Country–year.

Temporal coverage: 1946–2024.

Primary sources: V-Dem indicators and indices; Banks & Wilson 2022

2. Variable organization

Variables are grouped into (A) identifiers, (B) core regime variables, (C) robustness variants, and (D) reference/benchmark variables.

3. Variable list

Variable	Description	Type
Country	Country name (ISO-standard naming).	String
year	Calendar year.	Numeric
country_code	Numeric country identifier.	Numeric
cow	Correlates of War (COW) identifier (country code).	Numeric

regime_type	Main regime type classification.	Categorical
regime_sub_type	Regime sub-type classification (nested under regime_type).	Categorical
democracy_binary	Binary democracy indicator derived from regime_type.	Binary
regime_type_robust	Robustness version of regime_type.	Categorical
regime_sub_type_robust	Robustness version of regime_sub_type.	Categorical
Democracy_binary_robust	Binary democracy indicator derived from regime_type_robust.	Binary
regime_type_WTH	Original WTH regime type variable (same conceptual categories; different coding rules).	Categorical
regime_sub_type_WTH	Original WTH regime sub type variable (same conceptual categories; different coding rules).	Categorical

4. Core regime variables

4.1 Variable: regime_type

Concept: Main regime-type classification distinguishing democracy from mutually exclusive autocratic regime types.

Coding:

Value	Label
1	Monarchy
2	Military
3	One-party autocracy
4	Multiparty autocracy
9	No-party
99	Other
100	Democracy

Each country–year is coded using the regime category whose requirements are satisfied. Categories are mutually exclusive.

Missing values: Missing indicates insufficient information to classify the country–year using the rules above.

4.2 Variable: regime_sub_type

Concept: Sub-classification providing finer-grained institutional detail within main regime types.

Relation to regime_type: Sub-types are assigned after regime_type and do not override it; each country–year receives at most one sub-type.

Coding:

Code	Label
1	Limited Multiparty
3	No-Party
4	Military Trad

5	Military No-Party
6	Military Multiparty
7	Military One-party
8	One-Party
9	Other
16	One-Party Monarchy
17	Monarchy
19	Civil War
20	Occupation
21	Theocracy
22	Transitional Regime
23	No-Party Monarchy
24	Multiparty Monarchy
100	Democracy

Sub-classification rules for Monarchy, Military, and Other are documented in the accompanying Coding manual.

4.3 Variable: Democracy_binary

Concept: Binary democracy indicator derived from regime_type.

Coding: 1 = Democracy; 0 = Autocracy.

Construction: Democracy_binary = 1 if regime_type == 100; otherwise 0. Missing if regime_type is missing.

5. Robustness variables

5.1 regime_type_robust

Concept: Robustness version of regime_type. It contains the same category labels and codes as regime_type, but is generated using a stricter democracy threshold. See Coding Manual for details.

5.2 regime_sub_type_robust

Concept: Robustness version of regime_sub_type. It contains the same sub-type labels and codes as regime_sub_type, but follows the robustness coding logic used for regime_type_robust.

5.3 Democracy_binary_robust

Concept: Binary democracy indicator derived from regime_type_robust (1 if regime_type_robust == 100; else 0).

6. Reference variables

6.1 regime_type_WTH

Description: Original regime type variable from Wahman et al 2013 included for comparability. It captures the same conceptual regime categories as regime_type, but is coded using different rules/thresholds.

Coding:

Value	Label
1	Monarchy
2	Military
3	One-party autocracy
4	Multiparty autocracy
9	No-party
99	Other
100	Democracy

6.2 regime_sub_type_WTH

Original regime type variable from Wahman et al 2013 included for comparability. It captures the same conceptual regime categories as regime_sub_type, but is coded using different rules/thresholds.

Coding:

Code	Label
1	Limited Multiparty
2	Partyless
3	No-Party
4	Military Trad
5	Military No-Party
6	Military Multiparty
7	Military One-party
8	One-Party
9	Other
16	One-Party Monarchy
17	Monarchy
18	Rebel Regime
19	Civil War
20	Occupation
21	Theocracy
22	Transitional Regime
23	No-Party Monarchy
24	Multiparty Monarchy
100	Democracy

7. References

Banks, A. S., & Wilson, K. A. (2022). *Cross-National Time-Series Data Archive*. Databanks International.

Coppedge, M., Gerring, J., Knutsen, C. H., Lindberg, S. I., Teorell, J., Altman, D., … Ziblatt, D. (2025). *V-Dem Codebook v15*. Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Project.

Teorell, J., Coppedge, M., Lindberg, S. I., & Skaaning, S.-E. (2019). *Measuring polyarchy across the globe, 1900–2017*. Studies in Comparative International Development, 54(1), 71–95.

Wahman, M., Teorell, J., & Hadenius, A. (2013). Authoritarian regime types revisited: Updated data in comparative perspective. *Contemporary Politics*, 19(1), 19–34.