The Turkish Political Elites Dataset, 1920-2023

Codebook

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1 Overview

This codebook provides a detailed description of the variables, coding procedures, and data sources used in the Turkish Political Elites dataset (TPED). The dataset includes all members of parliament (MPs) elected for at least one term to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT) between 1920 and 2023. Note that the Republic of Turkey was established in 1923, and the parliament functioned as the 'constituent assembly' from 1920 to 1923. Including those who served in the constituent assembly, the dataset contains approximately 12,500 MPs (non-unique entries).

2 Reference

2.1 Citation

If you use or reference the dataset, please cite it as follows:

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2.2 Acknowledgments

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3 Description of Variables

3.1 Term

The sequential number of the parliamentary term, ranging from 1 (1920–1923) to 27 (2018–2023). Note that the 25th term is excluded from the dataset, as it consisted of only ten plenary sessions between two elections (i.e., June 2015 and November 2015).

3.2 Year

The starting year of the parliamentary term, ranging from 1920 to 2018.

3.3 Province

The name of the electoral province represented in parliament. Note that the names of some electoral provinces have changed over the past century. Examples include, but are not limited to, 'Ayintab', 'Batum', 'Elaziz', 'Biga', and 'Bayazit' (the relevant variables: *province_old* and *province_new*).

3.4 Name of the MP

The name of the parliamentarian, as recorded in the Grand National Assembly archives.

3.5 Gender

The gender of the parliamentarian.

3.6 Meclis-i Mebusan

Indicates whether the MP served in the Meclis-i Mebusan (the lower chamber of the Ottoman parliament) prior to serving in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (1920-1923).

3.7 Localness

Indicates whether the MP was born in the area they represented. The term "area" includes the electoral province and its neighboring provinces. This broader definition of localness was adopted for two reasons: (1) Many MPs were born in towns or villages near provincial borders, creating affinity with a broader region; and (2) provincial border changes were not uncommon. For instance, Kemaliye (formerly Eğin) is currently a town in Erzincan Province but was previously part of Elazığ and Malatya provinces.

3.8 Birthplace

The birthplace of the MP, as recorded in the assembly archives.

3.9 Birth Date

The year the MP was born. Based on this variable, the *Age* variable was created, representing the MP's age at the time of election.

3.10 Parliamentary Experience

The number of legislative terms the MP served in parliament prior to the current term (the relevant variables: *parliamentaryexperience* and *parl_exp*).

3.11 Same District

Indicates whether the MP consistently represented the same district across multiple terms. This variable is missing for MPs who served only one term.

3.12 Civil Status

Indicates whether the MP was married and/or had children at the time of election. Two additional variables were derived from this: *married* (whether the MP was married) and *children* (the number of children).

3.13 Languages

Self-reported foreign languages spoken by the MP.

3.14 Education

The formal education level of the MP, as documented in the assembly archives.

3.15 College

Indicates whether the MP obtained a formal degree from a higher education institution.

3.16 Party

The party affiliation of the MP at the time of election. For MPs who switched parties during their term of office, multiple party names are recorded, separated by a '/'.

3.17 District Magnitude

The total number of MPs elected from a given electoral province.

3.18 Loyalist

Indicates whether the MP has remained with their original party throughout the career term or has switched to another party.

3.19 Government Party MP

Indicates the proportion of the electoral cycle during which the MP's party was part of the government. It is calculated by dividing the number of days the party was in government by the total number of days in the electoral cycle. For example, if an MP from Party X was part of the government for approximately one-quarter of the 1983-1987 electoral cycle, the variable would take a value of 0.25.

3.20 Geographic Coordinates

Indicates the geographical distances from each province to Ankara and Istanbul, measured in kilometers (The relevant variables: *dist_to_istanbul* and *dist_to_ankara*).

3.21 GDP per Capita

Indicates estimates for GDP Per Capita across 58 provinces from 1913 to 2015, normalized to the country average (set to 100), based on data from Aşık, Karakoç, and Pamuk (2023). The specific year of the data is identified in the variable *GDP year*. Due to mismatches between the availability of GDP data and the electoral cycle years, data from adjacent years is often utilized. For example, the GDP data from 1927 was used for both the 1927-1931 and 1931-1935 electoral cycles.

3.22 Rural Population

Indicates the percentage of rural population in electoral provinces, taken from Census data. The specific year of the data is identified in the variable *Pop year*. Due to mismatches between the availability of population statistics and the electoral cycle years, data from adjacent years is often utilized. For example, the population data from the 1945 Census was used for both the 1943-1946 and 1946-1950 electoral cycles. Unlike other provinces during the 1991-1995 electoral cycle, which utilize data from the 1990 Census, Karabük, Kilis, Yalova, Ardahan, Bartın, and Iğdır use data from the 2000 Census. These areas were designated as provinces only in the mid-1990s. Finally, due to the Metropolitan Municipality Law, villages have been converted to neighborhood status, and therefore, since 2013, the rural population has not been included in the Census data for the 30 metropolitan areas. For these provinces, I utilized the 2011 data.

3.23 Total Population

Indicates the percentage of total population in electoral provinces, taken from Census data. The specific year of the data is identified in the variable *Pop year*. Due to mismatches between the availability of population statistics and the electoral cycle years, data from adjacent years is often utilized.

3.24 Registered Voters

Indicates the number of registered voters in the district. The data comes from the Supreme Election Council (Turkish: Yüksek Seçim Kurulu; YSK).

3.25 Voter Turnout

Indicates voter turnout in the district. The variable *turnout* shows the number of voters who cast a vote, whereas the variable *turnout_pct* indicates the share of registered voters who actually voted. The data comes from YSK.

3.26 Valid/Invalid Votes

Indicates the number of voters who cast a valid/invalid vote (The relevant variables: *validvote*, *invalidvote*, *validvote_share*, *invalidvote_share*). Note that the data is available for the period of 1961-2023.

3.27 Effective Number of Electoral Parties (ENEP)

The effective number of electoral parties at the local level, calculated using Laakso and Taagepera's formula (1979):

$$ENEP = \frac{1}{\sum p_i^2}$$

where p_i represents the proportion of votes received by the i-th party in a given district. This measure accounts for both the number and relative size of parties, providing a weighted estimate of electoral party competition. The variables *ENEP* and *ENEP2* are based on total votes (party vote/total votes) and total valid votes (party vote/total valid votes), respectively.

3.28 Parliamentary Activities

Indicates the number of legislative speeches, private members' bills, parliamentary questions, off-agenda statements, agenda-related statements, response speeches, oversight, and combined statements by individual MPs in a given legislative term (The relevant variables: *pmb*, *speech*, *parl_questions*, *offagenda_statement*, *agenda_related_statement*, *right_to_respond*, *statement*, *oversight*, *proposal*, *combined_statements*). The data on the content of these activities will be available in a separate data entry on Harvard Dataverse.

3.29 Party Votes in Districts

Indicates the number of votes that each party received in respective districts (The relevant variables: *dp_vote*, *chp_vote*, *mp_vote*, *bagimsiz_vote*, *cmp_vote*, *tkp_vote*, *hp_vote*, *vp_vote*, *ckmp_vote*, *ytp_vote*, *ap_vote*, *millet_partisi_vote*, *bp_vote*, *gp_vote*, *msp_vote*, *tbp_vote*, *cgp_vote*, *halkci_parti_vote*, *mdp_vote*, *anap_vote*, *dyp_vote*, *shp_vote*, *rp_vote*, *mcp_vote*, *idp_vote*, *dsp_vote*, *sp_vote*, *yeni_parti_vote*, *ydh_vote*, *ydp_vote*, *hadeep_vote*, *ip_vote*, *bbp_vote*, *baris_partisi_vote*, *dbp_vote*, *depar_vote*, *dtp_vote*, *emep_vote*, *fp_vote*, *ldp_vote*, *odp_vote*, *sip_vote*, *yurt_p_vote*, *btp_vote*, *genc_parti_vote*, *ak_parti_vote*, *yeniturkiye_vote*, *dhp_vote*, *saadet_partisi_vote*, *atp_vote*, *hyp_vote*, *ep_vote*, *hep_vote*, *has_partisi_vote*, *mmp_vote*, *vatan_partisi_vote*, *hkp_vote*, *hdp_vote*, *komunist_parti_vote*, *hur_dava_partisi_vote*, *iyi_parti_vote*).

3.30 Party Vote Shares in Districts

Indicates the vote share of parties in respective districts. There are two versions of this variable; (i) party vote/total votes (the variables ending with "_v") and (ii) party vote/total valid votes (the variables ending with "_v2").

The relevant variables are:

(i)
dp_v, *chp_v*, *mp_v*, *indep_v*, *cmp_v*, *tkp_v*, *hp_v*, *vp_v*, *ckmp_v*, *ytp_v*, *ap_v*, *milletpar_v*, *bp_v*, *gp_v*, *msp_v*, *tbp_v*, *cgp_v*, *halkcipar_v*, *mdp_v*, *anap_v*, *dyp_v*, *shp_v*, *rp_v*, *mcp_v*, *idp_v*, *dsp_v*, *sp_v*, *yenipar_v*, *ydh_v*, *ydp_v*, *hadeep_v*, *ip_v*, *bbp_v*, *barispar_v*, *dbp_v*, *depar_v*, *dtp_v*, *emep_v*, *fp_v*, *ldp_v*, *odp_v*, *sip_v*, *yurtpar_v*, *btp_v*, *gencpar_v*, *akp_v*, *yeniturkpar_v*, *dhp_v*, *saadetpar_v*, *atp_v*, *hyp_v*, *ep_v*, *hep_v*, *haspar_v*, *mmp_v*, *vatanpar_v*, *hkp_v*, *hdp_v*, *komunistpar_v*, *hudapar_v*, *iyi_parti_v*;

(ii)
dp_v2, *chp_v2*, *mp_v2*, *indep_v2*, *cmp_v2*, *tkp_v2*, *hp_v2*, *vp_v2*, *ckmp_v2*, *ytp_v2*, *ap_v2*, *milletpar_v2*, *bp_v2*, *gp_v2*, *msp_v2*, *tbp_v2*, *cgp_v2*, *halkcipar_v2*, *mdp_v2*, *anap_v2*, *dyp_v2*, *shp_v2*, *rp_v2*, *mcp_v2*, *idp_v2*, *dsp_v2*, *sp_v2*, *yenipar_v2*, *ydh_v2*, *ydp_v2*, *hadeep_v2*, *ip_v2*, *bbp_v2*, *barispar_v2*, *dbp_v2*, *depar_v2*, *dtp_v2*, *emep_v2*, *fp_v2*, *ldp_v2*, *odp_v2*, *sip_v2*, *yurtpar_v2*, *btp_v2*, *gencpar_v2*, *akp_v2*, *yeniturkpar_v2*, *dhp_v2*, *saadetpar_v2*, *atp_v2*, *hyp_v2*, *ep_v2*, *hep_v2*, *haspar_v2*, *mmp_v2*, *vatanpar_v2*, *hkp_v2*, *hdp_v2*, *komunistpar_v2*, *hudapar_v2*, *iyi_parti_v2*.

3.31 Party Affiliation

Indicates the party affiliation of the MP. The relevant variables include *AKP_p*, *indep_p*, *Birlik_p*, *DSP_p*, *CumhuriyetciGuven_p*, *CumhuriyetciMillet_p*, *CKMP_p*, *DYP_p*, *SHP_p*, *Adalet_p*, *HalkciParti_p*, *MDP_p*, *Fazilet_p*, *Refah_p*, *BarisveDemokrasi_p*, *BBP_p*, *CHP_p*, *Guven_p*, *ANAP_p*, *KatilimciDemokrasi_p*, *DP_p*, *HP_p*, *Millet_p*, *Hurriyet_p*, *MHP_p*, *MSP_p*, *TBP_p*, *Saadet_p*, *Tip_p*, *Iyi_p*, *YeniTurkiye_p*.

References

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