

REIGN: Variable Descriptions

The Rulers, Elections, and Irregular Governance Dataset

CURTIS BELL*
CoupCast Project Manager
OEF Research

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*Research Associate, OEF Research, 525 Zang Street, Broomfield, CO, USA, 80026 (cbell@oneearthfuture.org).

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1 Observation Identifiers

1.1 ccode

ccode is a one to three digit number that uniquely identifies each of the 201 countries included in the dataset. These numbers align with those used by other large cross-national datasets, including *Correlates of War*.

1.2 country

country provides a three-letter abbreviation for each country in the dataset.

1.3 leadercode

leadercode uniquely identifies each *unbroken leader spell* in the dataset. The leaders of each country are counted up from 1, which always marks the first leader spell in the dataset. Then, this leader number is added to ccode*1000. For example, the recent presidential spells in the United States (ccode= 2) are Bill Clinton (leadercode 2010), George W. Bush (leadercode 2011), and Barack Obama (leadercode 2012). Note that the same leader can have multiple values of leadercode if that leader's time in power is interrupted by another individual's time in power (i.e. Sassou-Nguesso ruled the Republic of the Congo (ccode= 484) from Feb 1979 - Aug 1992 (484006) and again from Oct 1997 - present (484008)).

1.4 leader

leader provides the de facto leader's name. Note: Leader names are **not unique**, so any sorting or panel identification should be done using leadercode and not leader.

1.5 month

month identifies the month number, ranging from 1 (January) to 12 (December).

1.6 year

year is the calendar year, ranging from 1950 to the present year.

2 Leader Characteristics

2.1 elected

elected is 0 for months when the incumbent leader has never been elected to the highest office and 1 if the leader has been elected to that office. For example, American President Lyndon B. Johnson receives 0 for every month from the assassination of his predecessor in November of 1963 to his election victory in November 1964. From November 1964 until the end of his term, elected is equal to 1. Note that elections need not be democratic or competitive. The variable is equal to 1 whenever a leader's rule has been legitimized through some form of election.

2.2 tenure

tenure counts the number of months the leader has been in power in his or her present spell. The inauguration month takes a value of 1. tenure resets every time a leader leaves and reenters office.

2.3 age

age is an approximation of the leader's age calculated by subtracting the leader's birth year from year. This does not account for a leader's specific birth date. It takes the same value for each month in a calendar year.

2.4 male

male equals 1 if the leader is male and 0 if the leader is female.

2.5 militarycareer

militarycareer is equal to 1 if the leader's *primary career and/or source of legitimacy or authority* comes from his or her career in the military, police force, or defense ministry. Previous service is not sufficient. Rather, this designation is reserved for those whose primary affiliation prior to taking power can be described by these specific career categories.

3 Regime Characteristics

3.1 regimetype

regimetype places each month into one of 16 regime types:

DEMOCRACIES

We use a procedural definition of democracy, meaning we are interested in the institutional rules that dictate how leaders gain power and not in other correlates of democracy, including strong traditions of freedom of speech and assembly. Non-competitive single-party systems are classified as such, even if some are somewhat more liberal than others (see Botswana and Namibia). Democracies have reasonably free-and-fair competitions for political power.

- (a) **Presidential Democracy:** Democracy in which the executive is distinct from the legislative branch and considerable decision-making authority is granted to the executive. Presidential systems have presidents who serve as chief executives rather than figureheads.
- (b) **Parliamentary Democracy:** Democracy in which legislatures are more powerful and executives are less autonomous. Generally speaking, countries with powerful prime ministers and general elections are parliamentary democracies. Hybrid semi-presidential systems are classified case-by-case, but are usually grouped with parliamentary democracies.

NON-DEMOCRACIES

The Autocratic Regimes dataset by Professors Barbara Geddes, Joseph Wright, and Erica Frantz classifies all non-democratic governments into one of ten categories. Though our data differs from this dataset in important ways, it uses the same typology. We document major differences in the extended technical notes.

- (a) **Personalist Systems:** Power is highly concentrated in the hands of a non-monarch dictator who is relatively unconstrained by a military or political party. Contemporary examples include Russia, Sudan, and Chad.
- (b) **Monarchies:** Power is highly concentrated in the hands of a monarch who is much more than just a figurehead. Contemporary examples include Swaziland, Kuwait, and Morocco.

- (c) **Single-Party Systems:** Power is held by the head of a party. Executive power is effectively checked by the party or ruling committee. Contemporary examples include China, Angola, and Ethiopia.
- (d) **Oligarchies:** Power is held by the head of party, but unlike other single-party systems this party explicitly represents the interests of one elite segment of society. Past examples include apartheid-era South Africa and Rhodesia under Ian Smith.
- (e) **Party-Personalist Hybrids:** An intermediate hybrid where a party apparatus supports a dictator, yet the party's identity is concentrated around the person in power and it has few meaningful checks on executive power. Examples include Eritrea, and North Korea.
- (f) **Military Juntas:** A military committee runs the country. One officer typically serves as head, but this head serves the interests of the committee and his power is checked by other members of the military. Recent examples include Thailand and Algeria.
- (g) **Indirect Military Juntas:** The military has de facto power, but rules behind a civilian puppet. See pre-Mobutu Zaire and Suriname under Bouterse (1980-1988).
- (h) **Personalist-Military Hybrids:** A hybrid of military and personalist institutions in which a dictator holds most power and is relatively unchecked, yet the dictator's authority is rooted in military support. These systems often evolve from juntas when power is consolidated around a single individual. Examples include Chile under Pinochet, Pakistan under Zia and Musharraf, and Fiji under Bainimarama.
- (i) **Party-Military Hybrids:** Militarized single-party states in which most or all members of the ruling party are military elites. Examples include Algeria from 1962-1992, El Salvador before 1982, and Congo-Brazzaville between the 1968 coup and 1991.
- (j) **Party-Personalist-Military Hybrids:** A dictator rules with the support of a militarized single-party state, but is relatively unchecked by these institutions. Examples include Egypt after 1952, Indonesia under Suharto, and Syria under the Assads.

INTERIM PERIODS

Finally, we include four forms of government that are explicitly provisional or transitional:

- (a) **Warlordism:** occurs only in countries that are torn apart by conflict to the extent that they do not have a functional government. As of 2016, only Libya and Yemen meet this definition. War-torn countries like Syria are not included because a strong government continues to hold power in the capital and a significant part of the country.
- (b) **Foreign-Occupied** governments occur where foreign politicians or militaries hold de facto power over a government.
- (c) **Civilian Provisional** and **Military Provisional** governments are explicitly temporary arrangements that usually proceed completed transitions to democracy or follow coups and constitutional crises. Interim regimes are only called "military provisional" if the military is holding power until an election or some other formalized legitimizing event can occur.

3.2 regimeduration

regimeduration is this number of months a specific political regime has been in place.

4 Election Events

For more on qualifying elections, see the extended technical notes.

4.1 **lastelection**

`lastelection` is the number of months since the last qualifying election (election for highest office or referendum that would expand executive power), or, in the absence of previous elections, the number of months since the political system last changed (see Regime Characteristics section).

4.2 **lastloss**

`lastloss` is the number of months since the incumbent or incumbent political party last lost a competitive election, or, in the absence of previous losses, the number of months since the political system last changed (see Regime Characteristics section).

4.3 **lastloss**

`lastloss` is the number of months since the incumbent or incumbent political party last lost a competitive election, or, in the absence of previous losses, the number of months since the political system last changed (see Regime Characteristics section).

4.4 **anticipation**

`anticipation` is equal to 1 if a qualifying election is anticipated within the next six months. This measure is constructed using election announcement dates for all elections that do not occur at regular intervals.

4.5 **ref_ant**

`ref_ant` is equal to 1 if a qualifying referendum is anticipated within the next six months. This measure is constructed using election announcement dates for all elections that do not occur at regular intervals.

4.6 **leg_ant**

`leg_ant` is equal to 1 if a qualifying legislative election or general election is anticipated within the next six months. This measure is constructed using election announcement dates for all elections that do not occur at regular intervals. Note that these elections are only coded if the chief leader of the state is elected through these kinds of elections (e.g. we do not code legislative elections in presidential systems with separate presidential elections).

4.7 **exec_ant**

`exec_ant` is equal to 1 if a qualifying executive elections is anticipated within the next six months. This measure is constructed using election announcement dates for all elections that do not occur at regular intervals. Note that these elections are only coded if the chief leader of the state is elected through these kinds of elections (e.g. we do not code presidential elections in parliamentary systems with general elections).

4.8 **irreg_lead_ant**

`irreg_lead_ant` is equal to 1 if a qualifying *irregular leader election* is scheduled within the next few months. Elections are *irregular* if they are not occurring as part of an established pattern or norm for executive selection. Elections are *leader elections* if they will directly choose the next leader via presidential or general elections. All referendums are irregular by nature, but they are not included here.

4.9 election_now

election_now is equal to 1 if a qualifying election occurs during the month observed.

4.10 election_recent

election_recent is equal to 1 in the six months following a qualifying election.

4.11 leg_recent

leg_recent is equal to 1 in the six months following a qualifying legislative or general election.

4.12 exec_recent

exec_recent is equal to 1 in the six months following a qualifying executive or presidential election.

4.13 leader_recent

leader_recent is equal to 1 in the six months following a qualifying non-referendum election.

4.14 ref_recent

ref_recent is equal to 1 in the six months following a qualifying referendum.

4.15 direct_recent

direct_recent is equal to 1 in the six months following a qualifying direct (popular) election.

4.16 indirect_recent

indirect_recent is equal to 1 in the six months following a qualifying indirect (elite) election.

4.17 victory_recent

victory_recent is equal to 1 in the six months following a victory for the incumbent leader or incumbent political party.

4.18 defeat_recent

defeat_recent is equal to 1 in the six months following a victory for the incumbent leader or incumbent political party.

4.19 change_recent

change_recent is equal to 1 in the six months following an election that forced a change in leadership (individual, not party).

4.20 nochange_recent

nochange_recent is equal to 1 in the six months following an election that did not force a change in leadership (individual, not party).

4.21 delayed

delayed is equal to 1 in the six months following an election cancellation or delay of more than two weeks.

5 Irregular Events

5.1 pt_success

pt_success is equal to 1 if a successful coup occurred against the leader that month.

5.2 pt_attempt

pt_attempt is equal to 1 if a coup attempt occurred against the leader that month.

5.3 prev_conflict

prev_conflict is equal to 1 if a qualifying violent civil conflict occurred somewhere in the country in the previous month. Note: see the extended technical notes for more discussion of qualifying civil conflicts.