"Political Parties, Presidents, Elections, and Governments" (PPEG)

Codebook: Combined Data

Version 2024v1

Contents

General Remarks

The database *Political Parties, Presidents, Elections, and Governments (PPEG)* combines data on election results and governments in 73 democracies in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Australia, and Europe. The current version covers the period between 1942 and 2021 and contains information on 3281 political parties, 1060 parliamentary elections, 380 presidential elections, and 1961 governments.

The data is separated in four different files:

- data on parliamentary elections to the national lower chambers

- data on presidential elections

- data on national governments

- combined data on national governments and corresponding parliamentary elections

You can download each of these datasets on https://www.ppeg.wzb.eu.

The Combined Data includes information on prime ministers, cabinets, and cabinet parties. The data also documents the distribution of ministerial posts across cabinet parties, the type of government, and reasons for termination for the single cabinets. In addition, this data is combined with the election results of all relevant political parties contesting the corresponding elections to the nationl lower houses.

In case of questions or comments, please contact ppeg@wzb.eu.

Coverage

Country	Time	Political Parties	Elections	Cabinets	Unique Observ.
Albania	1991-2021	20	10	19	210
Armenia	1995-2021	37	8	22	262
Australia	1943-2022	27	31	41	377
Austria	1945-2021	22	23	36	285
Azerbaijan	1995-2020	21	6	14	154
Barbados	1986-2022	3	9	12	41
Belgium	1946-2020	46	23	49	628
Bolivia	1989-2020	51	9	15	161
Brazil	1990-2023	46	9	19	494
Bulgaria	1990-2023	46	15	24	263
Canada	1945-2021	24	25	30	295
Chile	1989-2022	38	9	10	187

Country	Time	Political Parties	Elections	Cabinets	Unique Observ.
Colombia	1990-2022	101	10	11	253
Costa Rica	1990-2022	44	9	10	156
Croatia	1990-2020	57	10	16	253
Cyprus	1976-2023	14	10	26	216
Czech Republic	1990-2021	24	10	22	225
Denmark	1945-2022	25	29	41	452
Dominican Republic	1990-2020	25	8	10	110
El Salvador	1988-2021	28	12	17	145
Estonia	1992-2023	23	9	21	188
Finland	1945-2023	22	22	59	626
France	1945-2022	53	21	74	871
Georgia	1992-2021	66	9	23	317
Germany	1949-2021	26	20	32	295
Ghana	1992-2021	18	8	9	76
Greece	1974-2023	43	20	27	316
Guatemala	1985-2020	72	10	12	201
Honduras	1981-2022	11	11	12	76
Hungary	1990-2022	27	9	13	167
Iceland	1942-2021	32	25	35	239
India	1951-2022	123	17	36	1219
Ireland	1944-2022	27	22	31	303
Israel	1949-2023	89	25	77	1302
Italy	1946-2022	92	20	73	1173
Jamaica	1989-2020	2	8	11	39
Japan	1946-2021	40	28	62	561
Latvia	1993-2023	43	10	28	287
Lithuania	1992-2020	38	8	20	300
Luxembourg	1945-2023	21	18	23	152
Malta	1947-2022	13	19	22	97
Mauritius	1987-2019	20	8	17	139
Mexico	1946-2021	25	26	26	199
Moldova	1994-2023	26	10	27	239
Montenegro	1990-2023	55	12	17	190
Netherlands	1946-2022	38	23	34	438
New Zealand	1943-2023	25	28	37	285
Nicaragua	1990-2022	20	7	7	44
North Macedonia	1994-2022	39	9	16	262
Norway	1945-2021	17	20	36	387
Panama	1994-2019	20	6	6	57
Paraguay	1989-2023	33	8	10	93
Peru	1980-2023	70	12	55	836
Poland	1991-2023	67	10	30	500
Portugal	1976-2022	35	16	27	401
Romania	1990-2023	40	9	35	446

Country	Time	Political Parties	Elections	Cabinets	Unique Observ.
Russia	1993-2021	48	8	19	349
Serbia	1990-2022	105	13	16	273
Slovakia	1990-2023	37	11	23	291
Slovenia	1990-2022	28	10	21	263
South Africa	1994-2019	26	6	10	140
South Korea	1988-2022	31	9	34	250
Spain	1977-2023	74	16	18	374
Sweden	1944-2022	14	24	35	295
Switzerland	1943-2023	33	21	80	1150
The Bahamas	1987-2021	2	8	8	27
Trinidad and Tobago	1986-2020	6	10	10	42
Turkey	1950-2023	37	20	45	385
USA	1948-2023	8	38	40	184
Ukraine	1994-2021	58	8	27	454
United Kingdom	1945-2022	32	21	31	422
Uruguay	1989-2020	13	7	7	45
Venezuela	1988-2019	34	7	14	171

Sources

Election results were collected from the following sources in hierarchical order:

- National election commissions and authorities

- European Journal of Political Research: Political Data Yearbook

- Election Reports in Electoral Studies & West European Politics

- Nohlen, Grotz and Hartmann (2001); Nohlen and Grotz (2004); Nohlen (2005a); Nohlen (2005b); Nohlen and Stöver (2010)

- Mackie and Rose (1991)

- Political Database of the Americas (Georgetown University) http://pdba.georgetown.edu/

- Interparliamentary Union PARLINE database: http://www.ipu.org/parline-e

- International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES): http://www.electionguide.org/

- Adam Carr's Election Archive: http://psephos.adam-carr.net/

- Wikipedia: http://wikipedia.org/

Government data and cabinet compositions were collected from Keesing's Record of World Events, Blondel and Müller-Rommel (2001) and Woldendorp, Keman and Budge (2000).

After 2017, different additional sources were considered. These include government homepages, the European Journal of Political Research (Political Data Yearbook), and Wikipedia.

Notes on included governments

A government is defined as any administration that is formed after an election and continues in the absence of:

- a change of Prime Minister; or

- a change in the party composition of the cabinet; or

- resignation in an inter-election period followed by re-formation of the government with the same Prime Minister and party composition; or

- an election to the national lower chamber on a different date than the presidential election in presidential systems.

This definition is based on Woldendorp, Keman and Budge (2000, 10).

Notes on political parties

Political parties were included following three criteria:

1. The party has won a seat in at least one election covered by the dataset.

2. The party has put a candidate in a presidential election. In presidential elections with many candidates (> 10), however, those contestants gaining less than 0.5% of the vote were subsumed in the residual category "Others".

3. The party has been part of or supported a cabinet during the time covered by the dataset.

If political parties contested elections as part of an electoral pact, the votes and seats of the single parties were documented as far as possible. If this information is missing, only the election results of the corresponding electoral pact is documented. See also the variable *estimate* for more information.

Notes on vote and seat shares

If necessary, single government parties were aggregated as electoral alliances in order to facilitate an optimal match with the corresponding parliamentary election results. Due to this, an electoral alliance can be a government party and a supporting party at the same time.

See the Codebook "Parliamentary Data" for detailed information on the collection and calculation of political parties' vote shares in the lower house elections.

Notes on presidential systems

In presidential systems (e.g. Mexico, Peru, or South Korea) and semi-presidential systems with strong presidents (e.g., Russia or Georgia), the data does not document the total number of ministers, the distribution of ministerial posts, the number of government parties, or the government seat share in the national parliament. Here, the type of government is automatically set to "Presidential Cabinet" (see variable *tog*). Exceptions are Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and the United States. For these countries, all variables are given.

Notes on expert and caretaker governments

In the case of expert and caretaker governments (see variable *tog*), the data does not document the distribution of ministerial posts or the government seat share in the parliament.

Variable Information

iso3c | *ISO 3166-1 alpha-3 codes*

Three-letter country codes defined in ISO 3166-1.

iso2c | *ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 code*

Two-letter country codes defined in ISO 3166-1.

cname_en | *Country name (English)*

edate | *Date of national lower house election*

If the election lasted for several days, the last date was coded. By-elections for single seats or districts are unconsidered.

idate | *Date of inauguration of the Prime Minister/head of state*

The inauguration was coded as the date ...

- the Prime Minister and the Government Programme was confirmed in a formal vote of confidence; or
- on which the Prime Minister was sworn in by the King/Queen; or
- on which the Prime Minister was appointed by the President of the Republic; or
- on which the Ministers were sworn in.

If the swearing-in of the Prime Minister and the approval of the Government Programme took place on two different days, the swearing-in was considered to be the date of inauguration. If only the approval date of the Government Programme is known, this date was taken as the date of inauguration.

pm | *Name of Prime Minister (Surname, First Name)*

tog

Type of government

Coding:
    SPMa: Single Party Majority
    MWC: Minimum Winning Coalition
    OC: Oversized Coalition
    SPMi: Single Party Minority
    MPMi: Multi Party Minority
    EC: Expert or Caretaker Government
    Pres: Presidential Cabinet
    Other: Other

rft

Reason for termination of government

Coding:
    ElecParl: Election of parliament
    ResPM: Resignation of PM
    ResPMHealth: Resignation of PM due to ill health/death
    Diss: Dissension
    LoPS: Lack of parliamentary support
    IoHS: Intervention of head of state
    ElecPres: Election of president
    Other: Other
    Notappl: Not applicable

The code *Notappl* was used for governments that were still in office
at the time of the data release.

party_id

Alphanumeric party code

Code consists of the iso2c country code and the database-
specific party code (see coding below). E.g., the code FR9 denotes
the French Communist Party (PCF).

Coding:
    1-599: Political parties
    600-799: Electoral pacts and electoral pacts that transformed
             into political parties
    800-879: Regional/Local electoral pacts
    880-989: Other parties that are part of an electoral pact
    993: Special coding, e.g. "Initiative Committee"
    994: Spoilt votes
    995: Against all candidates
    996: Minorities
    997: Others/Independent candidates
    998: Independent/Non-partisan candidates
    998.5: Independent candidates in the cabinet
    999: Other parties
    999.5: Members of "other parties" in the cabinet

cmp

Manifesto Project party code

See https://manifesto-project.wzb.eu.

Use the variables *cname_en*, *edate*, and *cmp* to join this data with the Manifesto Project data. Currently linked to version 2023a of the Manifesto Project Dataset.

cmp_parfam

Manifesto Project party family coding

See *https://manifesto-project.wzb.eu.*

Coding:
   10: Ecological party
   20: Socialist party
   30: Social democratic party
   40: Liberal party
   50: Christian democratic party
   60: Conservative party
   70: Nationalist party
   80: Agrarian party
   90: Ethnic and regional party
   95: Special issue party
   98: Electoral Alliances without a dominant party
   999/NA: Missing information.

pinitials

Party name abbreviation

pname_en

English translation of party name

pname_or

Original party name

pm_party

Party of Prime Minister

Binary variable indicating whether the respective party is the party of the head of state.

gov_party

Government party

Binary variable indicating whether the respective party is a government party.

support_party

Supporting party

Binary variable indicating whether the respective party is a supporting party that has not officialy signed a coalition agreement.

The coding of supporting parties is based on formal support agreements if mentioned in the sources. This information is probably incomplete in some countries.

nmin

Total of number of ministers per government

A minister is defined here as a person who acts as the head of a ministry. In principle, all cases are coded as ministerial posts that refer in some way to the fact that the person heads a ministry. If formulations such as "to act as minister of..." were used in the sources, it was also assumed that this is a ministerial function in the sense of the definition.

Our priority lies with identifying the number of ministerial posts for governments immediately after elections to the national lower chambers took place. The data quality of all other cabinets varies across countries and needs to be inspected individually by the user.

nminpp

Number of ministers per party

This variable is always set to missing for Expert or Caretaker Governments ($tog = $ EC) and Presidential Cabinets ($tog = $ Pres).

Our priority lies with identifying the distribution of ministerial posts for governments immediately after elections to the national lower chambers took place. The data quality of all other cabinets varies across countries and needs to be inspected individually by the user.

If, in the case of single-party governments ($tog = $ SPMa or $tog = $ SPMi), the total number of ministers was documented in the source but the exact party affiliation of the ministers was missing, all posts were assigned to the party of the prime minister.

v_share_wgt | *Weighted share of votes gained by each party in the national lower chamber*

Weighted share of votes gained by each party calculated as follows:

$$v\_share * prop + v\_share\_2ndtier * maj,$$

where *v_share* is the vote share gained by proportional vote and *v_share_2ndtier* is the vote share gained by majority vote. *prop* and *maj* denote the corresponding weights defined as the sizes of the corresponding tiers in relation to the absolute number of seats in the national lower house.

$$prop = seats/total\_seats$$

$$maj = seats\_2ndtier/total\_seats$$

Always set to missing for independent ministers and those who are members of "other parties" (*party_id*: 998.5 and 999.5).

See the Codebook "Parliamentary Data" for detailed information on the collection and calculation of political parties' vote and seat shares in the corresponding lower house elections.

estimate | *Estimated election results*

Binary variable indicating whether the number of votes gained by the respective party and the corresponding vote share has been estimated based on the votes gained by an electoral alliance.

Calculated if political parties have been part of an electoral alliance and the seat share of the single parties were known, but not their vote shares. In this case, the vote shares were estimated as follows:

$$(seat\_p/seat\_a) * vote\_a,$$

where seat_*p* denotes the seats won by the party in question, seat_*a* the seats won by the corresponding electoral alliance, and vote_*a* the votes won by the electoral alliance.

In some cases, two or more political parties presented joint lists in single districts (e.g., Belgium 1946-58 or Norway 1949-1981). Here, the votes of the joint lists were distributed to the individual parties according to their total vote share in the respective election.

s_share | *Share of seats gained by each party in the national lower chamber*

Variable includes seats won in all tiers in the case of segmented electoral systems. Always set to missing for independent ministers and those who are members of "other parties" (*party_id*: 998.5 and 999.5).

share_remark | *Remark on missing vote and seat shares*

Gives a brief explanation for missing vote and seat shares of governing parties. Reasons include memberships in electoral alliances, combined lists, the founding of new parties or insufficient information in the sources.

gov_seat | *Total seat share of government parties*

This variable is always set to missing for Expert or Caretaker Governments (*tog* = EC) and Presidential Cabinets (*tog* = Pres).

gov_seat_remark | *Remark on gov_seat*

In some cases, *gov_seat* does not equal the sum of the seat shares of the single governing parties. For example, the variable was adjusted in the event of splits or mergers of existing government parties and resulting changes in the distribution of seats. In addition, in a few cases *gov_seat* contradicts the documented *type of government* (tog) because our sources do not provide sufficient information on the composition of the government.

The variable *gov_seat_remark* comments such special cases and the corresponding adjustments.

ngovparties | *Number of government parties*

This variable is always set to missing for Expert or Caretaker Governments (*tog* = EC) and Presidential Cabinets (*tog* = Pres).

ngovparties_remark | *Remark on number of government parties*

In some cases, the documented number of parties that form a government does not correspond to the listed *type of government*. The reasons for these discrepancies are briefly explicated.

In most cases, such discrepancies result from the circumstance that an electoral alliance is listed as a government party that consists of multiple single parties actually forming the government.

region | *Region of country*

Regions as defined in the World Bank Development Indicators.

continent | *Continent of country*

Continents as defined in the World Bank Development Indicators

eu_member | *Membership European Union*

eu_east | *East European member of the European Union*

eu_since | *Year of entry in European Union*

eu_exit | *Year of withdrawal from the European Union*

oecd | *Membership OECD*

oecd23 | *Membership OECD-23*

oecd_since | *Year of entry in OECD*

References

Blondel, Jean and Ferdinand Müller-Rommel. 2001. *Cabinets in Eastern Europe.* New York: Palgrave.

Mackie, Thomas Taylor and Richard Rose. 1991. *The International Almanac of Electoral History.* Basingstoke: Macmillan.

Nohlen, Dieter, ed. 2005*a*. *Elections in the Americas. A Data Handbook. Volume 1: North America, Central America, and the Caribbean.* New York: Oxford University Press.

Nohlen, Dieter, ed. 2005*b*. *Elections in the Americas. A Data Handbook. Volume 2: South America.* New York: Oxford University Press.

Nohlen, Dieter, Florian Grotz and Christof Hartmann, eds. 2001. *Elections in Asia and the Pacific. A Data Handbook. Volume 1: Middle East, Central Asia, and South Asia.* New York: Oxford University Press.

Nohlen, Dieter and Florian Grotz, eds. 2004. *Elections in Asia and the Pacific. A Data Handbook. Volume 2: South East Asia, East Asia, and the South Pacific.* New York: Oxford University Press.

Nohlen, Dieter and Philip Stöver. 2010. *Elections in Europe. A Data Handbook.* Baden-Baden: Nomos.

Woldendorp, Jaap, Hans Keman and Ian Budge. 2000. *Party Government in 48 Democracies (1945-1998). Composition, Duration, Personnel.* Dordrecht/Boston: Kluwer Academic Publishers.