

List of Datasets for Political Scientists

(Very Incomprehensive Guide to Online Databases)

Ozlem Tuncel *

otuncelgurlek1@gsu.edu

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The following document lists datasets on several topics. I have tried to compile different datasets that can be useful for political science students. If the links are not working, email me! Also, **Please do not share without permission of Ozlem Tuncel!**

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* Georgia State University 38 Peachtree Center Ave SE Langdale Hall 1027, Atlanta, GA 30303

1 General Statistics

- **ICPSR:** <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/>

According to their website: “ICPSR maintains a data archive of more than 250,000 files of research in the social and behavioral sciences. It hosts 21 specialized collections of data in education, aging, criminal justice, substance abuse, terrorism, and other fields”.

- **World Bank:** <https://data.worldbank.org/>

DataBank is an analysis and visualisation tool that contains collections of time series data on a variety of topics.

- **PENN World Table:** <https://www.rug.nl/ggdc/productivity/pwt/>

PWT version 10.0 is a database with information on relative levels of income, output, input and productivity, covering 183 countries between 1950 and 2019.

- **Cross-National Time-Series (CNTS) Data Archive:** <https://www.cntsdata.com/the-data>

More than 200 years of annual Excel data from 1815 onward for over 200 countries, including countries and empires that no longer exist. Warning: requires purchasing!

- **IMF:** <https://www.imf.org/en/Data>

The IMF publishes a range of time series data on IMF lending, exchange rates and other economic and financial indicators. Manuals, guides, and other material on statistical practices at the IMF, in member countries, and of the statistical community at large are also available.

- **United Nations Human Development:** <http://hdr.undp.org/>

- **World Values Survey (WVS):** <http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/wvs.jsp>

The survey, which started in 1981, seeks to use the most rigorous, high-quality research designs in each country. The WVS consists of nationally representative surveys

conducted in almost 100 countries which contain almost 90 percent of the world's population, using a common questionnaire.

- **Database for Political Institutions by World Bank:**

<https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/wps2283-database-political-institutions>

- **Comparative Political Data by Carleton:** <https://gouldguides.carleton.edu/c.php?g=146950&p=965819>

Comprehensive directory to datasets and sources commonly used by political science students by the Carleton College Library.

2 Democracy & Political Regimes

- **xmarquez** compiled a mega GitHub list: <https://xmarquez.github.io/democracyData/>

- **Freedom House:** <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world>

Freedom House's report is the first and best source available on the state of political and civil rights around the world, equally useful to scholars and practitioners interested in the state of democracy and human freedom.

- **Polity IV:** <http://www.systemicpeace.org/polityproject.html>

The Polity IV dataset covers all major, independent states in the global system over the period 1800-2017 (i.e., states with a total population of 500,000 or more in the most recent year; currently 167 countries).

- **Democracy-Dictatorship Index:** <https://sites.google.com/site/joseantoniocheibub/datasets/democracy-and-dictatorship-revisited>

Classification of political regimes as democracy and dictatorship. Classification of democracies as parliamentary, semi-presidential (mixed) and presidential. Classification of dictatorships as military, civilian and royal. Coverage: 202 countries, from 1946 or year of independence to 2008.

- **Svolik’s Data (2012):** <https://campuspress.yale.edu/svolik/the-politics-of-authoritarianism/>
 From the “Politics of Authoritarian Rule”. Contains three different data: Regime Data, Institutions Data, Leader and Ruling Coalition Data.
- **Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem):** <https://www.v-dem.net/en/>
 The V-Dem project distinguishes between five high-level principles of democracy: electoral, liberal, participatory, deliberative, and egalitarian, and collects data to measure these principles.
- **Autocratic Regime Data:** <https://sites.psu.edu/dictators/>
 Project by Geddes, Wright, and Frantz. Similar to Svolik’s data, but extensive in terms of year coverage.
- **Authoritarian Regimes Dataset:** <https://sites.google.com/site/authoritarianregimedata/>
 Project by Wahman, Teorell, and Hadenius - comprehensive dataset on authoritarian regimes in the world between 1972-2017.
- **Global State of Democracy Indices (GSoD Indices):** <https://www.idea.int/gsoc-indices/about>
 The GSoD Indices are based on 116 individual indicators devised by various scholars and organizations using different types of sources: expert surveys, standards-based coding by research groups and analysts, observational data and composite measures.
- **Comparative Political Data Set:** <https://www.cpds-data.org/>
 It consists of annual data for 36 democratic countries for the period of 1960 to 2020 or since their transition to democracy.
- **Presidential Power:** https://presidential-power.net/?page_id=2148
 The Presidential Power Blog was established in September 2013 on the initiative Professor Robert Elgie, bringing together a range of scholars interested in presidents and presidential politics.

- **Semipresidentialism:** <http://www.semipresidentialism.com/>

Semi-presidentialism is where there is a popularly elected fixed-term president and a prime minister and cabinet who are collectively responsible to the legislature.

- **Democracy Tools:** <https://www.andresduribe.com/democracytools/>

This project, entitled “Developing a Global Early-Warning System for Democratic Erosion,” has led to the creation of three publicly accessible tools to allow all interested parties to study, track, and predict democratic erosion in countries around the world. The tools in the system cover three areas of democratic functioning: 1) tracking global democratic performance, 2) analyzing the rhetorical strategies of politicians, and 3) understanding the role of referendums in healthy democracies.

- **The Episodes of Regime Transformation (ERT) dataset:** <https://v-dem.net/data/ert-dataset/>

Identifies episodes of democratization (liberalizing autocracy, democratic deepening) and autocratization (democratic regression, autocratic regression) in the most recent V-Dem dataset.

- **The Coup Agency and Mechanisms Data:** <https://www.militarycoups.org/>

The Coup Agency and Mechanism data comprise global data on military coups and coup attempts, covering all countries in the period 1950-2018.

- **Mass Mobilization in Autocracies Database:** <https://mmadatabase.org/>

The Mass Mobilization in Autocracies Database (MMAD) contains sub-national data on mass mobilization events in autocracies worldwide. It includes both instances of anti- and pro-regime protest at the level of cities with daily resolution.

- **Freedom and Prosperity Index:** <https://atlantic-council-freedom-prosperity.netlify.app/#about>

3 War, Terrorism, & Civil Wars

- Corralates of War (CoW): <https://correlatesofwar.org/>
- Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization (ELF) Indices: <https://pages.ucsd.edu/~proeder/elf.htm>
- Historical Index of Ethnic Fractionalization Dataset: <https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/4JQRCL>
- ECAV: <https://ecavdata.org/>
- REVMOD: <https://www.revolutionarymilitant.org/>
- FORGE: <https://www.jessicamaves.com/forge.html>
- ACLED: <https://acleddata.com/#/dashboard>
- MGEP: <https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/FBOR8A>
- NELDA 5.0: <https://nelda.co/>
- RGD: <http://www.reykohuang.com/rebel-governance-data.html>
- UCDP: <https://ucdp.uu.se/>
- Armed Group Dataset: <https://armedgroupdataset.org/>
- Carnegie Global Protest Tracker: <https://carnegieendowment.org/publications/interactive/protest-tracker#>
- Political Settlements (PolSett) Dataset: <https://www.effective-states.org/political-settlements/?cn-reloaded=1#case-studies>
- Mass Mobilization Project: <https://massmobilization.github.io/about.html>

- **Anatomy of Resistance Campaigns:** <https://www.arc-project.net/>
- **The Kurdish Insurgency Militants (KIM) Dataset:** <https://www.tezcur.org/kim>
KIM dataset v.2 based on a sample of 9,196 militants killed between 1984 and 2016 and including a variable indicating gender.
- **CRS Datasets Repository:** <https://conflictresearchsociety.org/crs-datasets/>
The CRS Datasets Directory provides a list of datasets on peace and conflict.
- **International Conflict Data Lab:** <https://internationalconflict.ua.edu/>
The International Conflict Data Lab at the University of Alabama offers a suite of logically-consistent, correctly-coded datasets that identify all threats, displays, and uses of force between states from 1816 to 2014.

4 Elections, Executives, & Political Parties

- **CSES: Comparative Study of Electoral Systems:** <https://cses.org/>
- **African Elections:** <http://africanelections.tripod.com/index.html>
- **Psephos Election Archive:** <http://psephos.adam-carr.net/>
- **PARLINE:** <http://archive.ipu.org/parline-e/parlinesearch.asp>
- **Making Electoral Democracy Work:** <https://electoraldemocracy.com/>
- **European elections:**
<https://www.eui.eu/Research/Library/ResearchGuides/Economics/Statistics/DataPortal/EED>
- **Rulers, Elections and Irregular Governance (REIGN):** <https://oefdatascience.github.io/REIGN.github.io/>

- **National Elections Across Democracy and Autocracy (NELDA):** <https://nelda.co/>
- **Party Facts:** <https://partyfacts.herokuapp.com/data/>
This dataset has links to [all datasets and articles related to political parties.](#)
- **IDEA:** <https://www.idea.int/data-tools>
- **Political Parties, Presidents, Elections, and Governments (PPEG):** <https://ppeg.wzb.eu/>
- **Global Elections Database:** <http://www.globalelectionsdatabase.com/index.php/index>
- **Electoral Legacies of War: Political Competition in Postwar Southeast Europe:** <https://elwar.uni.lu/>
- **Archigos - A Data Base on Leaders 1875 - 2004:** <https://www.rochester.edu/college/faculty/hgoemans/data.htm>
- **Political Representation, Executives, and Political Parties Survey (PREPPS):** <http://wiesehomeier.net/prepps/ppla/>
Policy positions of 146 political parties and 18 presidents in 18 Latin American countries. The survey measured policy positions on general dimensions such as economic or social policy, but also on specific dimensions such as minority rights or security questions. Countries covered are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela.
- **Chapel Hill Expert Survey - CHES Data:** <https://www.chesdata.eu/our-surveys>
The first survey was conducted in 1999, with subsequent waves in 2002, 2006, 2010,

2014, and 2019. The number of countries increased from 14 Western European countries in 1999 to 24 current or prospective EU members in 2006 to 32 countries in 2019. In this time, the number of national parties grew from 143 to 277. The 2019 survey includes all EU member states, plus parties in Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, and Turkey.

- **Democratic Accountability and Linkages Project (DALP):** <https://sites.duke.edu/democracylinkage/>

Covers 21 countries in the Americas, 13 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, 18 countries in post-communist Eastern and Central Europe, 16 countries in Western Europe, and 20 countries in Africa and the Middle East for a total of 88 countries. The first wave of 2008-2009 expert surveys (DALP I) involved data collection in more than 80 countries.

- **V-Party by V-Dem:** <https://www.v-dem.net/vpartyds.html>

- **Global Party Survey by Norris (2019):** <https://www.globalpartysurvey.org/>

The Global Party Survey compares the ideology, policy positions, and rhetoric of political parties around the world. The first survey dataset, GPS-2019, draws upon estimates from 1861 experts and covers 1043 political parties in 163 countries.

- **World Statesmen:** <https://www.worldstatesmen.org/>

- **Comparative Constitutions Project:** <http://comparativeconstitutionsproject.org/>

- **Constitute Project:** <https://constituteproject.org/?lang=en>

- **Matt Golder's Elections:** <http://mattgolder.com/elections>

- **Electoral System Change in Europe since 1945:** <https://www.electoralsystemchanges.eu/Public/DatasPage.php?ID=6>

- **Political Party Database:** <https://www.politicalpartydb.org/about/>

- **Voter Turnout Database:** <https://www.idea.int/data-tools/data/voter-turnout>
- **Turkish Elections at Province Level (TEPL) Dataset:** <https://www.tezcur.org/tepl>
The TEPL dataset provides election results and electoral for the Turkish parliamentary elections conducted between 1980 and 2012 (8 elections).
- **Party Families in Western Europe:** <https://sites.google.com/view/peterla/party-families-in-western-europe>
- **Electoral and Parliamentary Data:** <https://www.eui.eu/Research/Library/ResearchGuides/Economics/Statistics/DataPortal/EED>
Directory of electoral and parliamentary data resources.

Miscellaneous

- **Dollar Street:** <https://www.gapminder.org/dollar-street/matrix>
- **Our World in Data:** <https://ourworldindata.org/>
- **Rulers of the world:** <http://www.rulers.org/>
- **SHELDUS:** <https://cemhs.asu.edu/sheldus>
- **Chinese National Survey:** <https://bit.ly/2PPABg3>
- **National Chinese Survey:** <https://dss.princeton.edu/catalog/resource2681>
- **China Data Lab:** <https://chinadatalab.ucsd.edu/resources/>
- **Gleditsch's list of independent states:** <http://ksgleditsch.com/data-4.html>
- **Executive Approval Project:** <http://www.executiveapproval.org/>
- **Google Books Ngram Viewer:** <https://books.google.com/ngrams>

- **Global Database of Events, Language, and Tone (GDELT) Project:**
<https://www.gdeltproject.org/data.html>
- **Library of Congress:** <https://www.loc.gov/film-and-videos>
- **Political Handbook of the World:**
<https://sk.sagepub.com/cqpress/series/political-handbook-of-the-world>
- **The political settlements dataset:** https://www.effective-states.org/wp-content/uploads/esid_wp_165_schulz_kelsall.pdf
- **Mass Mobilization Data Project:** <https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/MMdata>
- **Political Posters:** <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/l/lbc2ic?page=index>
- **Country Studies:** <http://www.countrystudies.us/>

5 Visual & Geographical Data

- **Google Earth's Timelapse:** <https://earthengine.google.com/timelapse/>
- **NGram:** <https://books.google.com/ngrams>
- **MapChart:** <https://www.mapchart.net/index.html>