

Global Instances of Coups from 1950 to 2010: A New Dataset

Codebook

Version 2011.04.04

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1. Introduction

This codebook describes the data presented in Powell, Jonathan M., and Clayton L. Thyne (2011). “[Global Instances of Coups from 1950 to 2010: A New Dataset.](#)” *Journal of Peace Research* 48(2):249-259.

Data are available online at: http://www.uky.edu/~clthyn2/coup_data/home.htm

2. Definition of Coups d'état

Coups d'état are defined as... “overt attempts by the military or other elites within the state apparatus to unseat the sitting head of state using unconstitutional means...there is no minimal death threshold for defining a coup. A coup attempt is defined as successful if the coup perpetrators seize and hold power for at least seven days” (Powell & Thyne 2011:252).

3. Dataset 1: Full “Candidate” dataset with coding decisions¹

This dataset provides documentation explaining how we arrived at our final dataset. We present it here for transparency in our coding decisions. It will be of little use to scholars wanting to use our coup dataset, other than providing information if the researcher is interested in the validity of our data.

Variable	Description
country	Country name
ccode	Country codes corresponding to Gleditsch & Ward (1999)
verified	1 = verified as an unsuccessful coup attempt; 2 = verified as a successful coup attempt; missing = not verified as a coup attempt
year	Year of coup attempt defined by primary author
month	Month of coup attempt defined by primary author; -9 = primary author did not list a month for the event
day	Day of coup attempt defined by primary author; -9 = primary author did not list a day for the event
source ²	Primary source used to document the case. “None” indicates that we were unable to find any documentation supporting the case. “Unclear” indicates that the event did not include enough information to be documented. Most of these cases came from authors including only the year for an event (missing month and/or year) in a state that had multiple coups (e.g., observations 15-16). The authors retain all original copies of source documents (available upon request).

mcgowan	Describes events coded by McGowan (2007). 1 = event coded as an unsuccessful coup; 2 = event coded as a successful coup; missing = event not coded
csp	Describes events coded by Marshall & Marshall (2007). 1 = event coded as an unsuccessful coup; 2 = event coded as a successful coup; missing = event not coded
bs	Describes events coded by Belkin & Shofer (2003). 1 = event coded as an unsuccessful coup; 2 = event coded as a successful coup; missing = event not coded
banks	Describes events coded by Banks (2001). 2 = event coded as a successful coup; missing = event not coded. Note: Banks (YEAR) does not code unsuccessful coup attempts.
moreno	Describes events coded by Moreno et al. (2004). 1 = event coded as an unsuccessful coup; 2 = event coded as a successful coup; missing = event not coded
finer	Describes events coded by Finer (1988). 1 = event coded as an unsuccessful coup; 2 = event coded as a successful coup; missing = event not coded
janowitz	Describes events coded by Janowitz (1977). 2 = event coded as a successful coup; missing = event not coded. Note: Janowitz (1977) does not code unsuccessful coup attempts.
kennedy	Describes events coded by Kennedy (1974). 1 = event coded as an unsuccessful coup; 2 = event coded as a successful coup; missing = event not coded
ferguson	Describes events coded by Ferguson (1987). 1 = event coded as an unsuccessful coup; 2 = event coded as a successful coup; missing = event not coded
okane	Describes events coded by O’Kane (1987). 2 = event coded as a successful coup; missing = event not coded. Note: O’Kane (1987) does not code unsuccessful coup attempts.
thompson	Describes events coded by Thompson (1973). 1 = event coded as an unsuccessful coup; 2 = event coded as a successful coup; missing = event not coded
luttwak	Describes events coded by Luttwak (1969). 1 = event coded as an unsuccessful coup; 2 = event coded as a successful coup; missing = event not coded
lunde	Describes events coded by Lunde (1991). 1 = event coded as an unsuccessful coup; 2 = event coded as a successful coup; missing = event not coded
world_hand	Describes events coded by Taylor and Jodice (1983). 1 = event coded as an unsuccessful coup; 2 = event coded as a successful coup; missing = event not coded
combined	Coded 1 if event was collapsed into similar event, 0 otherwise. For example, observations 2 and 4 were collapsed into observation 3 because they capture the same event.
no_evidence	Coded 1 if no evidence was found to verify the event, 0 otherwise.
rebellion	Coded 1 if the event is better described as a rebellion than a coup, 0 otherwise. Most of these events were challenges by actors outside of the state apparatus.

no_overt	Coded 1 if there was no overt action taken to overthrow the executive, 0 otherwise. Most of these events are better described as coup plots or rumors.
legal	Coded 1 if the event was legal, 0 otherwise. Most of these events were the result of impeachment-like proceedings.
no_exec	Coded 1 if the event was not meant to overthrow the chief executive, 0 otherwise.
protest	Coded 1 if the event is better described as a protest or mass demonstration, 0 otherwise. The majority of these cases are coded 1 because the opposition did not include a member of the state apparatus.
autogolpe	Coded 1 if the sitting executive seized power for him/herself, 0 otherwise.
invasion	Coded 1 if the attempt to unseat the sitting executive came from an external force, 0 otherwise.
unclear	Coded 1 if it is unclear what event the case is referring to, 0 otherwise. Most of these cases came from authors including only the year for an event (missing month and/or year) in a state that had multiple coups (e.g., observations 28-29).

3. Dataset 2: Coup Attempts, 1950-Present³

This dataset represents our final dataset, which was created by merging, purging, and updated the information from Dataset 1 (above).

Variable	Description
country	Country name
ccode	Country codes corresponding to Gleditsch & Ward (1999)
year	Year of coup attempt
month	Month of coup attempt
day	Day of coup attempt
coup	1 = unsuccessful coup; 2 = successful coup
source	Primary source used to verify coup.

4. Dataset 3: Coup Attempts in ccode/year format⁴

This dataset provides the exact same information as Dataset 2, but in ccode/year (rather than event) format. This dataset will be useful for those wanting to merge our data into a dataset that is already in ccode/year format because it will avoid duplicating observations.

Variable	Description
ccode	Country codes corresponding to Gleditsch & Ward (1999)
year	Year of coup attempt
coup1	First coup attempt in ccode/year (if any). 0=no coup attempt in ccode/year; 1=failed coup attempt in ccode/year; 2=successful coup attempt in ccode/year
coup2	Second coup attempt in ccode/year (if any). 0=no second coup attempt in ccode/year; 1=second coup attempt in ccode/year failed; 2=second coup attempt

	in ccode/year succeeded
coup3	Third coup attempt in ccode/year (if any). 0=no third coup attempt in ccode/year; 1=third coup attempt in ccode/year failed; 2=third coup attempt in ccode/year succeeded
coup4	Fourth coup attempt in ccode/year (if any). 0=no fourth coup attempt in ccode/year; 1=fourth coup attempt in ccode/year failed; 2=fourth coup attempt in ccode/year succeeded
date1	Date of first coup attempt in ccode/year (if any).
date2	Date of second coup attempt in ccode/year (if any).
date3	Date of third coup attempt in ccode/year (if any).
date4	Date of fourth coup attempt in ccode/year (if any).
version	Date of most recent data upload.

Note: As of 03/03/11, there are zero instances where more than 4 coups have been attempted in a single ccode/year.

5. References

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6. Notes

¹ Dataset can be viewed by typing the following command into Stata:
insheet using http://www.uky.edu/~clthyn2/coup_data/candidate_dataset.txt

² The source listed is the best source to illustrate the event's applicability to our definition. In reality, though, multiple sources were used to verify each event. The authors have retained the original documentation to verify each source (available upon request).

³ Dataset can be viewed by typing the following command into Stata:
insheet using http://www.uky.edu/~clthyn2/coup_data/powell_thyne_coups_final.txt

⁴ Dataset can be viewed by typing the following command into Stata:
insheet using http://www.uky.edu/~clthyn2/coup_data/powell_thyne_ccode_year.txt