

Code book Party Government Data Set

This is the code book for the Party Government Data Set (PGDS) files that cover 40 parliamentary democracies from 1945, or the year these countries became a parliamentary democracy (again), through 2008. This update of the PGDS is based on the 2000 edition (Woldendorp et al. 2000). When using this updated data set, please refer to it in the following manner:

Jaap Woldendorp, Hans Keman, Ian Budge (2011), Party Government in 40 Democracies 1945-2008. Composition-Duration-Personnel.

The countries included are:

Australia
Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria
Canada
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France (IVth and Vth republics)
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
India
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Japan
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Macedonia
Malta
Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Turkey
United Kingdom

The definition of *Government* is any administration that is formed after an election and continues in the absence of:

- (a) a change of Prime Minister;
- (b) a change in the party composition of the Cabinet; or
- (c) resignation in an inter-election period followed by re-formation of the government with the same Prime Minister and party composition.

The *Duration* of a government is the number of days between the investiture of a government and the date of investiture of the succeeding government. Days are chosen as days are the most basic unit of measurement. This information will allow every researcher to transform the data in accordance with his or her needs.

Party in Government are those parties that are represented in government by holding one or more offices at the level of (cabinet) minister. *Party in Support of Government* are those parties that are not represented at the ministerial level but which at the same time support the investiture of that government.

For *party government* we focus exclusively on *Cabinet government*. *Cabinet Government* is in our view the core of government as regards decision-making and with respect to the control of ministries.

Reasons for Termination of governments (RfT) are classified as follows:

- 1 = Elections.
These include any election stipulated by law or constitution as well as anticipated elections, which are not required by law;
- 2 = Voluntary resignation of the Prime Minister.
- 3 = Resignation of the Prime Minister due to health reasons.
Both these last two reasons should be considered as non-political ones, but mode 2 may well be a cover-up for factional dispute within a party or government (as for instance occurs frequently in Japan). Yet, since we cannot distinguish 'real' from 'fake' reasons, we have accepted them entirely on face value.
- 4 = Dissension within government.
This covers those instances when either a coalition breaks up without external pressure or when there are publicised quarrels and/or movement of personnel.
- 5 = Lack of parliamentary support.
This reason for termination, of course, lies at the heart of any parliamentary democracy. We have counted here every instance when parties either withdrew support from government, or there occurred a (successful) vote of no confidence (or similar parliamentary action).

- 6 = Intervention by the Head of State.
- 7 = Broadening of the coalition.
This covers any termination of government to allow for a broadening or extension of the existing government coalition with the inclusion of new parties (regardless of the final result).

If no RfT could be determined, this is indicated by 'x'.

Type of Government (ToG) is based on the number of parties participating and their parliamentary status. The following six types of government make up our classification:

- 1 = Single Party Government: one party takes all government seats.
- 2 = Minimal Winning Coalition: all participating parties are necessary to form the government.
- 3 = Surplus Coalition: this comprises those coalition governments, which exceed the minimal-winning criterion.
- 4 = Single Party Minority Government: the party in government does not possess a majority in Parliament.
- 5 = Multi Party Minority Government: the parties in government do not possess a majority in Parliament.
- 6 = Caretaker Government: the government formed is not intended to undertake any kind of serious policy-making, but is only minding the shop temporarily.

The Ideological Complexion of Government and Parliament (CPG) is an indicator, which introduces a more qualitative aspect to government composition. It attempts to account for the relative strength of parties in government with reference to the Left-Right dimension, through a five-point scale in which the proportional shares of the Left, Centre and Right are transformed into scores (1 to 5) representing the degree of dominance of either party both in parliament and government. It is mostly used to relate the degree of party-control of a government to its policy guided actions. It is operationalised as follows:

- 1 = Right-wing dominance (share of seats in Government and supporting parties in Parliament larger than 66.6 per cent)
- 2 = Right-Centre complexion (share of seats of Right and Centre parties in Government and supporting parties between 33.3 and 66.6 per cent each)
- 3 = Balanced situation (share of Centre larger than 50 per cent in Government and in Parliament; or if Left and Right form a government together not dominated by one side or the other)
- 4 = Left-Centre complexion (share of seats of Left and Centre parties in Government and supporting parties between 33.3 and 66.6 per cent each)
- 5 = Left-wing dominance (share of seats in Government and supporting parties in Parliament larger than 66.6 per cent)

These scores have been collected and calculated for the period 1945-1996 on an annual basis and have then been compiled for each government. For the identification of parties on a L-C-R scale, please check the additional codebook for CPG.

The structure of the excel files per country is as follows:

Gov = Identification Number of government

Begin = Date of investiture of government

Dur = Duration of government in days

RfT = Reason for termination of government

ToG = Type of government

Py1, Py2, PyN = Government party(ies), seats in parliament. Parties supporting the government but not in government are shown in brackets [].

Seats = Total elected seats in (the Lower House of) Parliament

CPG = Political complexion of parliament and government

NoM = Number of ministers in government (only full cabinet members)

Prime Minister (py) = Full name (party)

References

Woldendorp, J., H. Keman, I. Budge (2000) *Party government in 48 democracies. Composition – duration – personnel*. Dordrecht etc.: Kluwer Academic Publishers.