The Autocratic Ruling Parties Dataset Codebook

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Note: This codebook gives further detail on the dataset described in "The Autocratic Ruling Parties Dataset: Origins, Durability, and Death" in *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. Please cite the article when using the data. This is Version 1.0 of the data, which will be periodically updated. The dataset can be found at *JCR*'s online repository and my personal website at sites.google.com/site/mkmtwo/data.

Overview and Sample

The Autocratic Ruling Parties Dataset (ARPD) includes a range of variables for all autocratic ruling parties in the world from 1940–2015, covering 279 autocratic ruling party spells (with 262 unique parties). Although non-party autocracies are not the focus, I include them in the dataset for clarity. As a result, the data covers 479 total autocratic regime spells. This corresponds to 156 countries (including microstates) and 133 countries with at least one ruling party spell.

Two versions of ARPD are available: one with parties as the unit of analysis and one in country-year format. The country-year version includes 6,536 observations. With a few excep—Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, George Washington University. Send all correspondence to: mkm2@gwu.edu. I thank Aleksandr Fisher for valuable research assistance in preparing this dataset.

¹ Sixteen parties had multiple spells in power, including one with three (Guinea-Bissau's PAIGC). This includes some parties ruling in two distinct countries (e.g., the Kuomintang for China and Taiwan).

tions, the variables are the same in both. In addition, each type is available in multiple file formats.

The sample includes any ruling party that had power between 1940 and 2015 within an autocracy, with autocracy defined using Boix et al.'s (2013) most recent update.² A *ruling party* is defined as a political party that is either the supreme ruling power or is used as a significant vehicle of power by the regime and is clearly preeminent among all parties. Where there is any ambiguity, special attention is placed on parties of the executive. The sample therefore includes military regimes, monarchies, and personalistic regimes, as long as the rulers rely to a meaningful degree on a specific party. Cases where there are multiple parties in a legislature or lower-level government, fluid competition, and little to no reliance on parties by a monarch or military dictator (e.g., modern Morocco, Japan in the 1930s) are not included. Parties founded to compete in democratizing elections and parties of the executive in caretaker governments before a democratic transition are also not counted.

The dataset tracks continuous party spells in power. A breakdown is recorded if there is a transfer of power to a distinct party, a transition to a non-party autocratic regime, or democratization. Major splits and mergers are treated as breakdowns, but not changes in name, policy, or when a ruling party absorbs a small party without fundamental change (e.g., the Workers' Party of North Korea's merger with its outlawed South Korean sibling in 1949). Where any change occurred, the cases were checked to ensure the same organization and power structure remained in place.

Each year in each autocracy is assigned to a ruling party or non-party government. If a transition occurs, the regime at the year's end is generally applied to that year. However, if a party gains power, rules for most of the year, then loses power before the year's end, the year is assigned to that party to avoid omitting it entirely. In addition, if a party loses power and there's a short non-party transitional spell crossing into the following year, the year is assigned to the party rather than a non-party interruption. Autocratic years without a party are included with missing values for party characteristics and indicators for the predominant form of regime during the period.

² Boix, Carles, Michael K. Miller, and Sebastian Rosato. 2013. A complete data set of political regimes, 1800–2007. *Comparative Political Studies* 46(12): 1523-54.

As listed below, each ruling party is coded for several characteristics, including its origin,

tenure, and electoral success after democratization. The dataset is based on case studies of

each party's history. A selected list of sources is included at the end. Country-specific sources

were supplemented by various general resources, including Wikipedia, countrystudies.us,

and worldstatesmen.org, especially to confirm founding and party tenure dates.

Variables

I now list the variables in ARPD. The variable names in the R/text and Stata formats are

given in square brackets. In the spreadsheet format, the columns have descriptive titles. Two

variables are included only in the country-year version. Summary statistics are in Table 1.

Country Name [Country]

COW Country Code [ccode]

Year [Year]

Note: This is included in the **country-year version only**.

Party Regime Indicator [Party_Regime]

This is 1 if the country has an autocratic ruling party and 0 otherwise. This is 1 for 58.2% of

the dataset's party-level version and 67.3% of the country-year version.

Party Name [Party]

This is translated into English where possible. If the party's name changes during its spell

in power, all names are listed with a / separating distinct names in chronological order. A

separate variable indicates the years the name changed. In five cases, the same party name

was used by distinct parties in different countries (e.g., the People's Democratic Party); these

are distinguished by the country's name in square brackets. Note: The names are complete in

the R/text and Spreadsheet version, but abbreviated/corrupted in the Stata version.

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Year Party Founded [Year_Founded]

This is the year the party was founded, with the requirement of a direct institutional linkage to the ruling party. Some parties grew out of distinct types of groups, such as the Kuomintang's roots in an anti-monarchist society, but this dates the founding to the establishment as an organized political party.

Party Age Since Founding [Party_Age]

Years since party founding. Note: This is included in the **country-year version only**.

Year Party Gained Power [Year_in_Power]

Last Year Party in Power [Last_Year_of_Power]

These two variables indicate the beginning and end years of the party spell. The end year is generally the last *full* year of power, so the year of transition is the following year. If the party is still in power at the end of 2015, the last year in power is coded as N. The country-year dataset includes all of the party's years in power, with these two variables fixed.

Type of Power Change (Following Year) [Power_Change]

For the party-level dataset, this indicates what followed the party's tenure, with the following options: 0 = Still in power (at end of 2015), 1 = Transition to another ruling-party regime, 2 = Transition to a non-party autocracy, and 3 = Accession to democracy. Cases in which democracy follows the next year, but this was forced by an intervening power, are counted as group 2. However, researchers can use other variables to recode this. For the country-year version, each year is coded separately, indicating what followed the next year, with 0 indicating no change.

Competition [Competition]

This records by year whether the ruling party allowed multiparty competition for national office. For the country-year dataset, this is 0 or 1 and can change within a spell. For the party-

level dataset, a 0 or 1 indicates that value for the whole spell. A positive year indicates competition was allowed starting that year. A negative year indicates competition ended that year. Some entries combine such years (e.g., "-1981, 1992") for multiple changes. For comparison, this agrees with Cheibub et al.'s (2010) coding for multiple parties (*de facto*) in 85.7% of overlapping country-years.³

Party Origin [Origin]

This indicates the founding origin of the party, with the following categories: *Dictator-Created* (by a sitting dictator), *Revolution* (organized as a violent revolutionary organization), *Independence* (organized as a non-revolutionary, pro-independence organization), *Communist* (organized as Communist with international involvement from the Communist International), *Military* (created by the military leadership, usually to represent it), *Elite Coalition* (founded by non-executive elites to compete in politics, possibly in a prior regime or under colonialism), *Merger* or *Split* (from previous parties/party), and *Dictator-Created/Merger* or *Dictator-Created/Split* (forced merger or split by a sitting dictator).

How Party Gained Power [How_Power_Gained]

This indicates how the party rose to power, with the following categories: *Dictator-Created* (new party imposed by a sitting dictator), *Dictator-Supported* (dictator anoints a pre-existing party), *Military* (imposed by the military leadership), *Revolution* (party leads an armed takeover of the state), *Election* (party wins an election, possibly uncompetitive), *Coup* (party leads a coup), *Communist-Imposed* (imposed by Communists/Soviets), and *Foreign-Imposed* (party installed by a non-Communist foreign power). Note that the Communist-Imposed category does not include Communist parties, such as in China and the Soviet Union, that rose to power through primarily domestic means. Five cases are coded as hybrids of these categories.

³ Cheibub, José Antonio, Jennifer Gandhi, and James Raymond Vreeland. 2010. Democracy and dictatorship revisited. *Public Choice* 143: 67-101.

How Party Lost Power [How_Power_Ended]

This indicates how the party lost power at the current spell's end, with the following categories: Coup, Revolution, Civil War (party's end coincides with a prolonged breakdown of state authority), Protests (ousted by a popular protest movement), Election (party loses a contested election), Dictator-Supported (sitting dictator switches support to a possibly new alternative party), Occupation (foreign power ousts the party as part of an armed takeover of the state), Split or Merger, Country Merger (used for South Yemen when the country merged to form Yemen), Continued (spell ends with democratization or a country change but the party retains power), and Still in Power (party is in power at the end of 2015). 17 cases are hybrids of two categories, with 14 of these combining protests and an election.

Democracy Follows Party Spell [Democracy_Year_After]

This indicates whether democracy followed the year after the party's spell in power. This is 0 in non-final years for the country-year dataset.

Party Accedes to Democracy [Accession_to_Democracy]

This indicates whether the party acceded to democracy rather than first being overthrown. This can only be 1 if the previous variable is 1. If desired, this and the previous variable can be used to recode the variable on what followed the party's tenure.

Party Rule from Independence [Power_from_Independence]

This indicates whether the party has held power in the current spell continuously since the country's independence.

Party Renaming [Renaming]

This lists years (if any) that the ruling party's name was changed. There are 45 name changes (across 36 parties) that do not correspond to shifts in party control.

Party Evolution from Preceding Party [Evolution]

This indicates the party was founded by a continuing coalition from the previous party. Since

this was judged as more than a name change, this is treated as a new party spell, but the

variable allows researchers to code this differently. There are 19 occurrences of this in the

data, such as Juan Peron's shift from the Labour Party to the Justicialist Party in 1947.

Party Marxist [Marxist]

This indicates whether the party is Communist, Marxist-Leninist, or radical socialist. This

does not include all left-leaning parties.

Military Regime [Military]

Monarchy [Monarchy]

Violence [Violence]

Occupation [Occupation]

Competitive Authoritarian [Compet_Auth]

These five categories are dummy variables that only apply to the non-party regimes. They in-

dicate the predominant regime type during the given spell and thus are fixed in both datasets.

Non-party regimes can also satisfy multiple categories or none. Although this may be use-

ful to see what followed or preceded party regimes, I do not recommend using this to replace

country-year datasets on regime types.

Competitive Authoritarian Parties [Compet_Parties]

For competitive authoriatian regimes, this lists some of the major electoral parties. None are

referenced in the remaining data.

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Future Democracy Only

The following variables are only coded if the country democratizes after the ruling party's spell and by 2015. Again, democracy is defined by Boix et al. (2013). This specific data was initially collected for the paper "Don't Call It a Comeback: Autocratic Ruling Parties after Democratization" in the *British Journal of Political Science*. For recording parties' electoral results within democracy, parties are still counted if they become altered through minor mergers and splits, but not if they split into several pieces or are absorbed into a larger coalition as a junior partner.

Last Party Before Democracy [Last_Before_Dem]

This indicates whether the party is the last ruling party in the autocracy spell before democracy. Parties that are not last are much less likely to regain power in democracy.

Next Democratic Year [Next_Dem_Year]

This indicates the closest year of democratization following the party spell.

Party Remains in Democracy [Dem_Remains]

This indicates whether the party remains as an active political party at any point in the following democratic spell.

Party Competitive in Democracy [Dem_Competitive]

This indicates whether the party remains a nationally competitive political party at any point in the following democratic spell. Generally, I use a threshold of 10% of legislative seats or the presidential vote, but parties slightly under this that join national cabinets are counted.

Party in Power in Democracy [Dem_Power]

This indicates whether the party has a legislative plurality or control of the executive at any point in the following democratic spell. Cases in power only due to power-sharing agreements or caretaker executive or not counted.

Party Remains in Any Future Democracy [Dem_Remains_Any]

Party Competitive in Any Future Democracy [Dem_Competitive_Any]

Party in Power in Any Future Democracy [Dem_Power_Any]

These three variables are the same as the prior three, but count any future democracy, not just the following democratic spell.

Years Party Remains in Democracy [Dem_Years_Remains]

Years Party Competitive in Democracy [Dem_Years_Competitive]

Years Party in Power in Democracy [Dem_Years_Power]

Each variable lists the years that the ruling party satisfies the condition in *any* future democracy.

Party Ally of Military [Military_Ally]

For the last ruling parties before democracy, this indicates whether the party was a military ally.

Party Style of Governance [Governance]

For the last ruling parties before democracy, this indicates the party's style of governance. Three broad styles are counted: *Clientelist*, *Policy-Based*, and *Repressive*. The variable also allows for combinations of two of these.

Party Favors Ethnic or Other Group [Favors_Ethnic]

For all parties with a future democracy, this indicates whether the party favored a specific ethnic group (or other ascriptive category like a religious or linguistic group).

Table 1: Summary Statistics

Variable	Distinct Values	Mean (Parties)	Mean (Country-Year)
All parties (279 spells)			
Party Name	262		
Party Name Changes	Years		
Party Founding Year	Years	1960.57	
Year in Power	Years	1971.41	
Year Out of Power	Years	1979.88	
Party Duration	57	15.77	17.35
Party Origin	10		
How Party Gained Power	12		
How Party Lost Power	15		
Regime Change	4		
Party Rule from Independence	2	0.251	0.343
Party Marxist	2	0.244	0.367
Competition	2	0.706	0.462
$Coalition\ Evolution$	2	0.067	
Parties followed by democracy	(134 parti	es)	
Party Survives in Democracy	Years	0.612	0.682
Party Competitive in Democracy	Years	0.470	0.564
Party in Power in Democracy	Years	0.328	0.314
Party Favors Ethnicity	2	0.224	
Party Military Ally	2	0.881	
Party Governing Strategy	6		
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Notes: The dataset covers all autocratic ruling parties from 1940–2015. Several of the included variables are listed, with the top set covering all party spells and the bottom set limited to parties in countries that later democratized. For the latter, year ranges are included for party survival, competitiveness, and power within democracy. Means are shown for numerical variables, with the average either taken over parties or their ruling country-years (except the democratic outcome variables, which are averaged over country-years in the following democratic spell). The dataset includes non-party autocratic spells, with information on regime type and competitive oligarchy.

Selected Source List for Autocratic Ruling Parties Dataset

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