

# UN Votes

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Let's take a look at the voting history of countries in the United Nations General Assembly. We will be using data from the **unvotes** package. Additionally, we will make use of the **tidyverse** and **lubridate** packages for the analysis, and the **DT** package for interactive display of tabular output.

```
library(unvotes)
library(tidyverse)
library(lubridate)
library(DT)
```

## Data

The `unvotes` package provides three datasets we can work with:

`un_roll_calls`, `un_roll_call_issues`, and `un_votes`. Each of these datasets contains a variable called `rcid`, the roll call id, which can be used as a unique identifier to join them with each other.

- The `un_votes` dataset provides information on the voting history of the United Nations General Assembly. It contains one row for each country-vote pair.

```
un_votes
```

```
## # A tibble: 738,764 x 4
##   rcid country          country_code vote
##   <int> <chr>          <chr>      <fct>
##
## 1      3 United States of America US        yes
## 2      3 Canada                CA         no
## 3      3 Cuba                  CU         yes
## 4      3 Haiti                 HT         yes
## 5      3 Dominican Republic DO         yes
## 6      3 Mexico                 MX         yes
## 7      3 Guatemala              GT         yes
## 8      3 Honduras               HN         yes
## 9      3 El Salvador             SV         yes
## 10     3 Nicaragua              NI         yes
## # ... with 738,754 more rows
```

- The `un_roll_calls` dataset contains information on each roll call vote of the United Nations General Assembly.

```
un_roll_calls
```

```
## # A tibble: 5,429 x 9
##   rcid session importantvote date      unres am
end para short  descr
##   <int>   <dbl>         <dbl> <date>      <chr> <d
bl> <dbl> <chr>    <chr>
## 1     3     1           0 1946-01-01 R/1/66
1     0 AMENDM... TO ADOPT A...
## 2     4     1           0 1946-01-02 R/1/79
0     0 SECURI... TO ADOPT A...
## 3     5     1           0 1946-01-04 R/1/98
0     0 VOTING... "TO ADOPT ...
## 4     6     1           0 1946-01-04 R/1/1...
0     0 DECLAR... TO ADOPT A...
## 5     7     1           0 1946-01-02 R/1/2...
1     0 GENERA... "TO ADOPT ...
## 6     8     1           0 1946-01-05 R/1/2...
1     0 ECOSOC... TO ADOPT A...
## 7     9     1           0 1946-02-05 R/1/3...
0     0 POST-W... TO OPEN TH...
## 8    10     1           0 1946-02-05 R/1/3...
1     1 U.N. M... "TO ADOPT ...
## 9    11     1           0 1946-02-05 R/1/3...
0     0 TRUSTE... TO ADOPT D...
## 10   12     1           0 1946-02-06 R/1/3...
1     1 COUNCI... TO ADOPT P...
## # ... with 5,419 more rows
```

- The `un_roll_call_issues` dataset contains (topic) classifications of roll call votes of the United Nations General Assembly. Many votes had no topic, and some have more than one.

```
un_roll_call_issues
```

```
## # A tibble: 5,281 x 3
##   rcid short_name issue
##   <int> <chr>      <chr>
## 1  3372 me          Palestinian conflict
## 2  3658 me          Palestinian conflict
## 3  3692 me          Palestinian conflict
## 4  2901 me          Palestinian conflict
## 5  3020 me          Palestinian conflict
## 6  3217 me          Palestinian conflict
## 7  3298 me          Palestinian conflict
## 8  3429 me          Palestinian conflict
## 9  3558 me          Palestinian conflict
## 10 3625 me          Palestinian conflict
## # ... with 5,271 more rows
```

## Analysis

First, let's take a look at how often each country voted "Yes" on a resolution in each year. We'll visualize the results, so let's pick a few countries of interest first,

```
country_list <- c("United States of America", "Cambodia", "Thailand", "Viet Nam")
```

and focus our analysis on them.

Data

Analysis

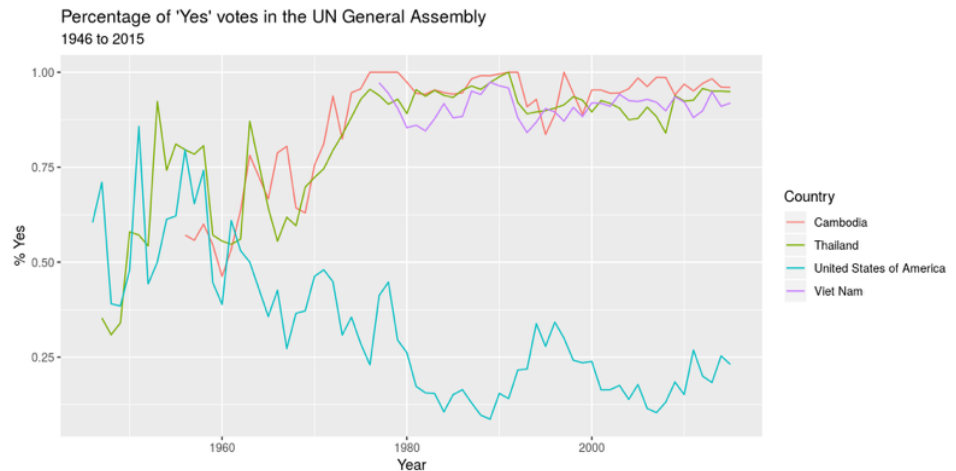
References

Appendix

```

un_votes %>%
  filter(country %in% country_list) %>%
  inner_join(un_roll_calls, by = "rcid") %>%
  group_by(year = year(date), country) %>%
  summarize(
    votes = n(),
    percent_yes = mean(vote == "yes")
  ) %>%
  ggplot(mapping = aes(x = year, y = percent_yes, color = country)) +
  geom_line() +
  labs(
    title = "Percentage of 'Yes' votes in the UN General Assembly",
    subtitle = "1946 to 2015",
    y = "% Yes",
    x = "Year",
    color = "Country"
  )

```

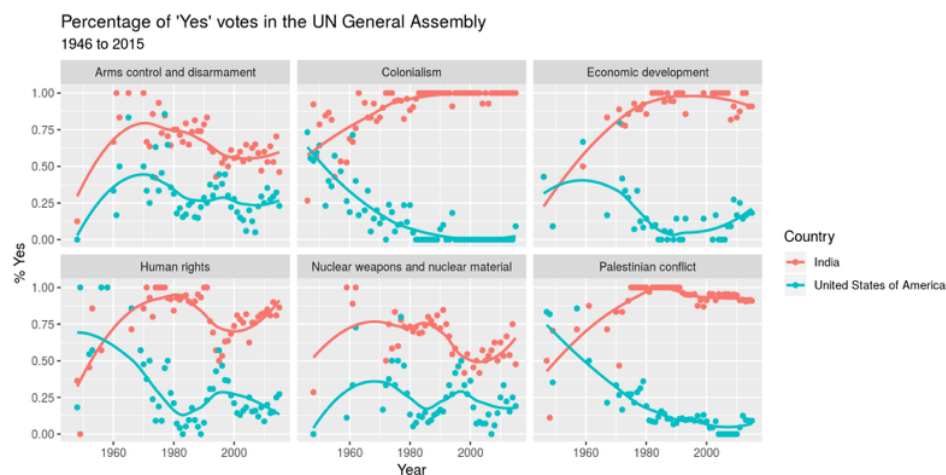


Next, let's create a visualization that displays how the voting record of the United States changed over time on a variety of issues, and compares it to another country. The other country we'll display is Turkey.

```

un_votes %>%
  filter(country %in% c("United States of America", "I
ndia")) %>%
  inner_join(un_roll_calls, by = "rcid") %>%
  inner_join(un_roll_call_issues, by = "rcid") %>%
  group_by(country, year = year(date), issue) %>%
  summarize(
    votes = n(),
    percent_yes = mean(vote == "yes")
  ) %>%
  filter(votes > 5) %>% # only use records where ther
e are more than 5 votes
  ggplot(mapping = aes(x = year, y = percent_yes, colo
r = country)) +
  geom_point() +
  geom_smooth(method = "loess", se = FALSE) +
  facet_wrap(~ issue) +
  labs(
    title = "Percentage of 'Yes' votes in the UN Gen
eral Assembly",
    subtitle = "1946 to 2015",
    y = "% Yes",
    x = "Year",
    color = "Country"
  )

```



We can easily change which countries are being plotted by changing which countries the code above `filter` s for. Note that the country name should be spelled and capitalized exactly the same way as it appears in the data. See the Appendix for a list of the countries in the data.

Source of this activity: *Data Science in a Box*  
(<https://datasciencebox.org/>).

## References

1. David Robinson (2017). unvotes: United Nations General Assembly Voting Data. R package version 0.2.0. <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=unvotes> (<https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=unvotes>).
2. Erik Voeten “Data and Analyses of Voting in the UN General Assembly” Routledge Handbook of International Organization, edited by Bob Reinalda (published May 27, 2013).
3. Much of the analysis has been modeled on the examples presented in the unvotes package vignette (<https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/unvotes/vignettes/unvotes.html>).

## Appendix

Below is a list of countries in the dataset:

```
un_votes %>%  
  select(country) %>%  
  arrange(country) %>%  
  distinct() %>%  
  datatable()
```

Show  entries

Search:

	country
141	Republic of Korea
142	Republic of Moldova
143	Romania
144	Russian Federation
145	Rwanda
146	Saint Kitts and Nevis
147	Saint Lucia

148	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
149	Samoa
150	San Marino

Showing 141 to 150 of 200 entries

Previous1...141516...20

Next