Cabinet under Pressure: Survival Analysis of Peru’s Prime Ministers Since 1980

# Abstract

This study examines the political durability of Peru’s Prime Ministers (Presidente del Consejo de Ministros, PCM) since the country’s democratic return in 1980. Using survival analysis, we explore how political context, institutional conditions, and crisis dynamics shape the tenure of these key presidential appointees. Through a Cox proportional hazards model, we test the influence of presidential popularity, legislative fragmentation, cabinet reshuffles, and regime instability on the risk of early dismissal or resignation.

# Introduction

The median Prime-Ministerial tenure is just 254 days (≈8.3 months), yet the variation is significant. Some PMs served briefly, others lasted years. This variation raises the question: why do some PCMs become disposable lightning rods, while others weather legislative censure, scandals, and economic shocks?

# Significance

Although constitutionally a minister, in practice the PCM acts as head of government. The office manages legislative relations, confidence votes, and serves as the executive's public face, making it central to Peru's hyper-presidential governance system.

# Legal Foundations

Article 124 of the 1993 Constitution provides the PCM with key functions including countersigning decrees, presenting policy and budget proposals, and coordinating cabinet actions. These powers position the PCM as crucial for executive-legislative coordination.

# Informal Evolution

From a ceremonial role in the 1980s, the PCM evolved into a critical political operator by the 1990s under Fujimori’s reforms and subsequent confidence-vote politics. The office increasingly serves as both a crisis manager and political negotiator.

# Role During Key Periods

The PCM role varied notably: as coalition broker in the 1980s, an operational shield during Fujimori's era, and a strategic pivot post-2000, reflecting Peru's shifting political landscape and institutional challenges.

# Conclusion

Analyzing PCM survival sheds light on broader issues of governance, accountability, and political stability in presidential regimes, with important implications for understanding executive dynamics.

# Appendix A: Prime Ministers of Peru, 1980 – Present

A complete table including start/end dates, verification flags, and computed durations is provided in the accompanying CSV file.