

The Authoritarian Ruling Elite Database (ARED)
Codebook and Sample Description

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Overview

“It is more difficult to study dictatorships than democracies because the internal politics of the former are deliberately hidden from public view...Even so, authoritarian regimes in the modern world must go through the process of renewal and change as they, like democracies, are forced to respond to the political and social pressures of the times. How is it possible, then, to chart the evolution of dictatorships? One way is through their recruitment of personnel into top political positions.” – Paul H. Lewis, *Salazar's Ministerial Elite, 1932-1968*, p. 1

The Authoritarian Ruling Elites Database (ARED) is a collection of biographical and professional information on the individuals who constitute the top elite of authoritarian regimes, generally referred to as the ruling or winning coalition. The sample coverage includes regimes identified by Geddes, Wright, and Frantz (2018) as authoritarian between 1950-2018. There are also a number of pre-1946 regimes covered that clearly constitute authoritarian rule. The unit of observation for the data set is the authoritarian elite, with each row covering a continuous spell of an individual within the ruling institution that is generally accepted as the “winning coalition” group of the regime. The data sets also include a number of regime identification, professional, and personal biographical variables. This project draws upon a vast field of literature from history, political science/international relations, regional studies, and government/media reports on the regimes. This codebook and the overall ARED project are works-in-progress, with more sets to come. You may observe several bibliographical sections for authoritarian regimes that do not have corresponding data sets prepared yet. These are planned expansions. This document includes a codebook of variables and a bibliography of source materials organized by country and authoritarian regime spell.

If you have any source information on any missing data highlighted in yellow or red within the sets, please feel free to contact me at: Austin.Matthews@du.edu

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If any data sets on communist-era Eastern Europe are utilized, please cite the following dissertation:

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Codebook of Variables

CCODE

Unique three-digit numerical identification code for each country. Drawn from the Correlates of War project's designations.

STATE

Common name of the state in English at the time of the authoritarian spell.

REG_START

Regime Start Date: Start date of the authoritarian regime controlled by the ruling elite institution. Drawn from the authoritarian spell dates of Geddes, Wright, and Frantz (2018).

REG_END:

Regime End Date: End date of the authoritarian regime controlled by the ruling elite institution. Drawn from the authoritarian spell dates of Geddes, Wright, and Frantz (2018).

REG_PARTY:

The name and acronym of the ruling political party that organizes members of the authoritarian elite. Left blank if none existed during the authoritarian spell.

REG_REINST

Name of the regime institution in which membership constitutes being considered a member of the ruling authoritarian elite.

ELITE_NAME:

Full name of the authoritarian elite. In the case of individuals who were commonly known by a *nom de guerre*, that name is listed.

ELITE_BIRTHDATE

Birth date of the authoritarian elite. Structured as MM/DD/YY.

ELITE_DEATHDATE

Death date of the authoritarian elite. Left blank if the elite is still living as of the latest update. Structured as MM/DD/YY.

ELITE_FEMALE

Dichotomous variable indicating whether or not the authoritarian elite identified as female. Coded 1 for female, 0 for male.

ELITE_REENTER

Date of the individual's entry into the ruling institution of the authoritarian regime, either as a full member or candidate/alternate. Structured as MM/DD/YY.

ELITE_REEXIT

Date of the individual's exit from the ruling institution of the authoritarian regime. Structured as MM/DD/YY.

ELITE_CANDENTER

Date of the individual's entry into the ruling institution of the authoritarian regime as a candidate/alternate. Structured as MM/DD/YY.

ELITE_CANDEXIT

Date of the individual's exit from the ruling institution of the authoritarian regime as a candidate/alternate. This can be due to them completely exiting the ruling institution at the rank of candidate/alternate or being promoted to full membership. Structured as MM/DD/YY.

ELITE_MEMENTER

Date of the individual's entry into the ruling institution of the authoritarian regime as a full member. This can be due to them being promoted from candidate/alternate status or being introduced at the rank of full membership. Structured as MM/DD/YY.

ELITE_MEMEXIT

Date of the individual's exit from the ruling institution of the authoritarian regime as a full member. Structured as MM/DD/YY.

ELITE_RETENURE

Duration in years of the individual's tenure as a member of the ruling institution of the authoritarian elite, either as a full member, candidate/alternate, or both. This tenure measurement constitutes an uninterrupted spell within the institution, regardless of rank. Separated tenure spells are divided into multiple data observations, because the conditions of exit may be different.

ELITE_ENTERAGE

Age in years of the individual when they entered the ruling institution of the authoritarian regime, either as a full member or a candidate/alternate.

ELITE_EXITAGE

Age in years of the individual when they exited the ruling institution of the authoritarian regime.

ELITE_EXITTYPE

The manner by which the individual exited the ranks of the ruling institution.

1. Death: the individual died as the result of natural causes or an accidental condition.
2. Demotion: the individual was removed from the ranks of the ruling institution, but remained a part of the government and/or party in a different capacity.
3. Expulsion: the individual was fully purged from the ranks of the party and the government.
4. Regime Change: the ruling institution ceased to exist as the result of a forced or unforced regime transition, making the elites no longer the winning coalition of the state.
5. Resignation: the individual resigned from the ranks of the ruling institution, either willingly or through coercion.
6. Ruling Institution Change: the ruling institution was changed while the individual was still within its ranks.

ELITE_EXITFATE

The fate of the individual after they left the ranks of the ruling institution, within the span of one year. Intentionally left blank for those who exited through death, regime change, or ruling institution change. This decision is made because it can be established that their post-office fate under these exit conditions was either decided naturally, by a different regime, or because they were carried over into the new ruling institution.

1. Executed: the individual was executed by the regime after leaving the ruling institution.
2. Exiled: the individual was forced abroad by the regime after leaving the ruling institution.
3. Incarcerated: the individual was placed under house arrest or in some form of penitentiary by the regime after leaving the ruling institution.
4. OK: the individual was not harmed or otherwise negatively punished by the regime after leaving the ruling institution.

ELITE_EXITLEADER

The name of the regime leader at the time the individual left the ranks of the ruling institution. Left blank for leaders who were removed from their top position by a coup from below or as the result of a regime change.

ELITE_REPOSITION

The office name occupied by the individual within the ruling institution of the authoritarian regime, if there were specific portfolios designated, such as in a cabinet. Does not include political party titles.

ELITE_OCCUPATION

The self- or state-identified occupation of the individual before entering the ranks of the regime elite.

Source Material by Regime

Afghanistan, 1973-1978 ***Daoud Cabinet of Ministers***

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Afghanistan, 1978-1992 ***Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the PDPA***

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Afghanistan, 1996-2001 ***Taliban Supreme Council***

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Albania, 1946-1992 ***PPSH Politburo***

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Angola, 1975-Present
Data Set 1: MPLA Politburo
Data Set 2: Council of Ministers

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State Cabinet

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CPK Politburo

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China, 1949-present
CPC Politburo Standing Committee

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Costa Rica, 1949-1949 ***Junta Fundadura***

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Cuba, 1959-present ***PCC Politburo***

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Czechoslovakia, 1946-1989 ***KSČ Presidium***

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Egypt, 1952-2011

Data Set 1: Revolutionary Command Council (1952-1956)

Data Set 2: State Cabinet (1956-2011)

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Ethiopia, 1974-1991

Derg – Provisional Military Government

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German Democratic Republic, 1949-1989

SED Politburo

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