Pre-electoral coalitions in parliamentary democracies: a new dataset

Abstract

Keywords

# Introduction

# Defining and measuring pre-electoral coalitions

# Illustration of the data

## Comparison to existing datasets

Compared to extant data collection efforts our data offer extended coverage and higher granularity. First, Sona Golder’s (2006, 15) seminal study covered 364 legislative elections in 23 parliamentary democracies. For the period from 1946 to 2002 Golder coded 240 pre-electoral coalitions. A related study on voter turnout in parliamentary elections between 1970 and 2011 modifies Golder’s data to include information on 223 legislative elections in 19 democracies (Tillman 2015). In extension of these pioneering efforts, our data cover 562 parliamentary elections across 35 EU and OECD democracies. For the period from 1945 to 2015, it identifies 493 pre-electoral coalitions. Second, for each pre-electoral coalition, our data reports information on its type, the existence of a joint program, and incumbency status.[[1]](#footnote-1) It was already possible to study the formation of pre-electoral coalitions at the party-dyad level (Golder 2006b). However, using our data scholars will be able to pose new questions such as when do incumbent government (not) form pre-electoral coalitions or why pre-electoral coalitions put forward joint programs and to what effect?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Election years | | # Elections | # PECs | % Elections w/i PEC | Mean % votes for PECs | no\_inc | no\_prog | Median Type |
| Australia | 1946 | 2013 | 27 | 49 | 1,00 | 0,48 | 16 | 0 | 1 |
| Austria | 1945 | 2013 | 21 | 9 | 0,43 | 0,31 | 7 | 1 | 5 |
| Belgium | 1946 | 2014 | 22 | 20 | 0,59 | 0,09 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| Bulgaria | 1991 | 2014 | 8 | 25 | 0,88 | 0,54 | 4 | 18 | 2 |
| Canada | 1945 | 2015 | 23 | 0 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0 | 0 | NA |
| Croatia | 2000 | 2015 | 5 | 12 | 0,80 | 0,35 | 2 | 5 | 2 |
| Czech Republic | 1990 | 2013 | 8 | 4 | 0,38 | 0,10 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Denmark | 1945 | 2015 | 27 | 32 | 0,81 | 0,43 | 8 | 2 | 5 |
| Estonia | 1992 | 2015 | 7 | 16 | 0,43 | 0,27 | 0 | 11 | 2 |
| Finland | 1945 | 2015 | 20 | 5 | 0,20 | 0,06 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| France | 1945 | 2012 | 19 | 35 | 0,68 | 0,55 | 0 | 0 | NA |
| Germany | 1949 | 2013 | 18 | 36 | 1,00 | 0,64 | 13 | 19 | 1 |
| Greece | 1974 | 2015 | 17 | 9 | 0,41 | 0,12 | 0 | 0 | NA |
| Hungary | 1990 | 2014 | 7 | 10 | 0,71 | 0,38 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| Iceland | 1946 | 2013 | 21 | 9 | 0,33 | 0,10 | 1 | 7 | 2 |
| Ireland | 1948 | 2011 | 19 | 8 | 0,37 | 0,18 | 5 | 3 | 5 |
| Israel | 1949 | 2015 | 20 | 21 | 0,65 | 0,21 | 0 | 9 | 2 |
| Italy | 1946 | 2013 | 18 | 19 | 0,44 | 0,32 | 2 | 13 | 5 |
| Japan | 1946 | 2014 | 26 | 9 | 0,27 | 0,14 | 4 | 0 | 1 |
| Latvia | 1990 | 2014 | 9 | 20 | 0,78 | 0,30 | 3 | 18 | 2 |
| Lithuania | 1990 | 2012 | 7 | 10 | 0,57 | 0,21 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Luxembourg | 1945 | 2013 | 16 | 3 | 0,19 | 0,05 | 1 | 0 | NA |
| Malta | 1947 | 2013 | 17 | 0 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0 | 0 | NA |
| Netherlands | 1946 | 2012 | 21 | 9 | 0,33 | 0,16 | 3 | 6 | 5 |
| New Zealand | 1946 | 2014 | 24 | 8 | 0,25 | 0,08 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Norway | 1945 | 2013 | 18 | 16 | 0,67 | 0,32 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Poland | 1989 | 2015 | 9 | 16 | 0,78 | 0,32 | 1 | 9 | 2 |
| Portugal | 1975 | 2015 | 15 | 18 | 0,80 | 0,21 | 1 | 9 | 2 |
| Romania | 1990 | 2012 | 7 | 13 | 0,86 | 0,41 | 3 | 12 | 2 |
| Slovakia | 1990 | 2012 | 8 | 6 | 0,38 | 0,09 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Slovenia | 1990 | 2014 | 8 | 7 | 0,63 | 0,28 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Spain | 1977 | 2015 | 12 | 13 | 0,83 | 0,15 | 0 | 12 | 2 |
| Sweden | 1948 | 2014 | 21 | 15 | 0,62 | 0,27 | 4 | 8 | 5 |
| Switzerland | 1947 | 2015 | 18 | 0 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0 | 0 | NA |
| United Kingdom | 1945 | 2015 | 19 | 11 | 0,58 | 0,19 | 3 | 9 | 1 |

# Conclusion and implications

1. We code pre-electoral coalitions as incumbent if all members of the coalition enjoyed cabinet rank in the government immediately preceding the elections. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)