**Coding Manual**

This appendix provides detailed guidance for replicating the construction of the *Contradiction Debt* (CD) dataset. It defines coding categories, scales, and reliability procedures for each component variable used in computing the repair-to-violation ratio (R/V). All coding was conducted quarterly at the country level, based on triangulation across independent data sources and expert judgment.

**A.1 Overview of Coding Logic**

Each country–quarter observation records:

1. **Violations (V)** — cumulative scope and severity of governance failures across five domains.
2. **Repairs (R)** — institutional and behavioral responses across five mechanisms.
3. **Capacity (C)** — the enabling condition of repair, composed of legitimacy, elite cohesion, and institutional competence.
4. **Derived Metrics** — effective repair (R × C), repair-to-violation ratio (R/V), and predicted rupture window.

All scores are scaled 0 – 1.  
Values reflect the **product of severity and scope** within each domain, where:

* **0.0 – 0.2:** Negligible or localized issue
* **0.3 – 0.5:** Moderate, visible stress
* **0.6 – 0.8:** Severe, widespread failure
* **0.9 – 1.0:** Systemic collapse or non-function

Coders should reference at least two independent sources per domain.

**A.2 Violation Domains**

| **Code** | **Domain** | **Definition** | **Primary Indicators / Sources** | **Notes on Coding** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **V₁** | **Security & Rights** | Physical integrity and basic freedoms; includes repression, police brutality, extrajudicial violence, or conflict deaths. | ACLED, HRW, UN OHCHR, UCDP | Weight events by national coverage. Values > 0.7 require verified civilian targeting. |
| **V₂** | **Rule of Law / Elections** | Judicial independence, electoral fairness, and constitutional order. | WJP, IDEA, Amnesty, national electoral reports | Assign 1.0 when elections are annulled or courts captured. |
| **V₃** | **Center–Local Relations** | Fiscal and administrative coordination between national and sub-national authorities. | ICG, World Bank Gov. Indicators, news archives | 0 = harmonious; 1 = secessionist or non-cooperative. |
| **V₄** | **Narrative Legitimacy** | Information integrity and credibility of public communication. | Freedom House, RSF, V-Dem Media Bias Index | 0.5 = polarized narratives; 1.0 = state-controlled or propaganda environment. |
| **V₅** | **Humanitarian / Service Obligations** | Delivery of welfare, health, and basic needs. | WHO, UN OCHA, WFP, World Bank | Code ≥ 0.8 when systemic shortages or disaster neglect occur. |

**Computation:**

**A.3 Repair Mechanisms**

| **Code** | **Mechanism** | **Definition** | **Observable Indicators** | **Examples** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **R₁** | **Acknowledgment** | Public recognition of failures or grievances. | Official statements, inquiries, media coverage | Government apology after protest deaths. |
| **R₂** | **Reform** | Structural or policy change addressing the violation. | Legislative acts, executive decrees, judicial rulings | Passage of new anti-corruption law. |
| **R₃** | **Compensation** | Material or symbolic redress. | Reparations, budget allocations, victim support | Establishment of compensation fund. |
| **R₄** | **Inclusivity** | Expansion of political participation. | Coalition formation, minority appointments, dialogues | National dialogue including opposition. |
| **R₅** | **Implementation Fidelity** | Execution of announced reforms. | Enforcement rate, budget execution, independent audits | Verified enforcement > 80 % → score ≥ 0.7. |

**Average repair:**

Repairs coded with evidence from both domestic and international sources.

**A.4 Capacity Factors**

| **Code** | **Component** | **Definition** | **Source / Indicator** | **Weight** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **C₁** | **Legitimacy (L)** | Public trust in government and perception of fairness. | V-Dem “Trust in Government,” Gallup World Poll | ⅓ |
| **C₂** | **Elite Cohesion (E)** | Degree of coordination among ruling elites and absence of defection. | ICG, Freedom House “Factionalization,” expert coding | ⅓ |
| **C₃** | **Institutional Competence (K)** | Administrative capacity and bureaucratic performance. | World Bank WGI “Government Effectiveness” | ⅓ |

**Computation:**

**A.5 Derived Variables**

1. **Effective Repair:**
2. **Repair-to-Violation Ratio:**
3. **Forecast Banding:**

| **R/V Range** | **Forecast Horizon** | **Interpretation** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| < 0.30 | 1–2 quarters | Imminent rupture |
| 0.30–0.45 | 2–3 quarters | High risk |
| 0.45–0.60 | 3–6 quarters | Moderate strain |
| ≥ 0.60 | ≥ 8 quarters | Stable |

**A.6 Data Sources and Validation**

* **Structural Data:** World Bank WGI, V-Dem, Freedom House, IDEA, Gallup.
* **Event Data:** ACLED, UCDP, ICEWS, media archives.
* **Qualitative Sources:** ICG reports, UN briefings, verified NGO statements.

Coders must cite source documents and retain archival links.

**A.7 Reliability and Adjudication**

* **Double-coding:** Each case scored independently by two analysts.
* **Disagreement rule:** Any difference > 0.2 reconciled via consensus discussion.
* **Inter-rater reliability:** Report Krippendorff’s α per domain; acceptable ≥ 0.70.
* **Audit trail:** Maintain spreadsheet logs and source screenshots for transparency.

**A.8 Worked Example (Nepal 2025)**

| **Variable** | **Value** | **Notes** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| V₁–V₅ | 0.35, 0.40, 0.30, 0.45, 0.35 | Rising coalition fragmentation and protests. |
| R₁–R₅ | 0.40, 0.30, 0.20, 0.35, 0.25 | Limited reform, weak follow-through. |
| C₁–C₃ | 0.45, 0.50, 0.40 | Mid-range legitimacy, moderate cohesion. |
| R\_eff | 0.30 × 0.45 = 0.135 |  |
| V\_total | 1.85 |  |
| **R/V = 0.073** | **Imminent rupture (1–2 quarters)** |  |

**A.9 Update and Version Control**

All coding scripts and datasets are maintained in the project repository:  
[**https://github.com/dkoepsell/Contradiction-Debt-and-Rupture**](https://github.com/dkoepsell/Contradiction-Debt-and-Rupture)

Each update must record:

* coder initials and date,
* version number,
* rationale for changes,
* changelog of domain revisions.

**A.10 Summary**

This coding manual ensures transparent and replicable transformation of qualitative governance data into the quantitative metrics underlying the CD framework. Adherence to these procedures allows consistent estimation of contradiction debt and facilitates cross-case comparability across time and researchers.