

# **The Fundamentals of Political Science Research Data Set Overview**

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# 1 Introduction

In this document we provide a an overview of the data sets that were used in the creation of our book The Fundamentals of Political Science Research (FPSR). Whenever possible, we have included the data sets that were used to create our various tables and figures on this website. In the sections that follow we provide a catalog of the uses of empirical data in the book and then short descriptions of each data set.

## 2 Uses of empirical data in FPSR

Empirical data were used throughout the book to create examples. The following list is our attempt to provide a full accounting of which data sets we used to create our different empirical examples:

- Page 24—we used data from *pres7806* to create Figure 2.1
- Page 25—we used data from *milspend2005* to create Figure 2.2
- Page 42—we used data from *usadebt* to create Figure 2.3
- Page 43—we used data from *womenpar2004* to create Figure 2.4
- Page 59—we used data from *weimar* to create Figure 3.3
- Page 60—we used data from *bdr* to create Figure 3.4
- Page 66—we refer to a data set called *BES2005Subset*
- Page 98—we used data from *politypakistan* to create Figure 5.2
- Page 109 and on in Chapter 6—we used data from *nes2004subset* to create Table 6.1, Figures 6.1 and 6.2
- Page 111 and on in Chapter 6—we used data from *fair* to create Figure 6.3 through 6.7 and Table 6.2
- Page 140 and on in Chapter 8—we used data from *nes2004subset* to create Figure Tables 8.2 through 8.8
- Page 147 and on in Chapter 8—we used data from *govts* to create Figures 8.1 and 8.2 and Table 8.9
- Page 151 and on in Chapter 8—we used data from *fair* to create Figures 8.3 and 8.4 and Tables 8.10 and 8.11

- Throughout Chapters 9 and 10 we use data from *fair* to create our figures and tables.
- Page 204 and on in Chapter 11—we used data from *nes1996subset* to create Figures 11.1 to 11.3 and Tables 11.1 to 11.4.
- Page 213 and on in Chapter 11—we used data from *nes2004subset* to create Tables 11.5 to 11.7 and Figure 11.4.
- Page 222 and on in Chapter 11—we used data from *florida2000* to create Tables 11.8 and 11.10 and Figures 11.5 and 11.6.
- Page 230 and on in Chapter 11—we used data from *nes2004subset* to create Tables 11.12 to 11.13.
- Page 237 and on in Chapter 11—we used data from *golf* to create Figures 11.8 to 11.10 and Tables 11.14 to 11.15.

### 3 Data set descriptions

In this section we provide descriptions of the data sets referred to in the previous section. These descriptions are in the order in which uses of each data first appear.

#### 3.1 *presap7806*

This data set contains a monthly time series of US Presidential approval. It was provided to the authors by Harold Clarke who has published many highly influential articles and books on public opinion and political behavior in the Canada, the UK, and the US. Dr. Clarke's website ([www.utdallas.edu/dept/socsci/hclarke](http://www.utdallas.edu/dept/socsci/hclarke)) is a very useful source for public opinion data from these three nations.

#### 3.2 *milspend2005*

This data set contains military spending data for 24 randomly selected nations. These data come from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's (SIPRI) Military Expenditure Database. Their website ([www.sipri.org](http://www.sipri.org)) is a source for data on a variety of security-related topics.

#### 3.3 *usadebt*

This data set was pulled from the Comparative Political Data Set I (Armingeon et al) which is available from the University of Bern's Institute for Political Science. Their website on

comparative political science data (<http://www.ipw.unibe.ch/>) provides an excellent set of data that have been collected in order to maximize comparability of data across nations and over time.

### **3.4 *womenpar2004***

This data set was constructed from randomly sampled data that were found on the Population Reference Bureau's website ([www.prb.org](http://www.prb.org)). This website is a good source for a wide variety of measures that are comparable across nations.

### **3.5 *weimar***

This data set was constructed from electoral data found in Mackie and Rose (1990).

### **3.6 *bdr***

This data set was constructed from electoral data found in Mackie and Rose (1990) and various online sources for later election results.

### **3.7 *BES2005Subset***

This data set was constructed from the British Election Study which is available from the BES webpage (<http://www.essex.ac.uk/bes/>). We have constructed a codebook for this file and included it along with the data set.

### **3.8 *politypakistan***

This data set was constructed from the Polity IV data set which is available at the website (<http://www.systemicpeace.org/polity/polity4.htm>) for the Polity IV project. This is a very popular data source for making comparisons across nations and over time in terms of regime characteristics, international relations, and security-related issues.

### **3.9 *nes1996subset***

This data set was constructed from the American National Election Study which is available from the ANES webpage (<http://www.electionstudies.org/>). We have constructed a codebook for this file and included it along with the data set.

### **3.10**    *fair*

This data set comes from Ray Fair’s website (<http://fairmodel.econ.yale.edu/>) at Yale University. This is a famous website for the forecasting of US national elections.

### **3.11**    *nes2004subset*

This data set was constructed from the American National Election Study which is available from the ANES webpage (<http://www.electionstudies.org/>). We have constructed a codebook for this file and included it along with the data set.

### **3.12**    *govts*

This data set is a subset of the data set “Governments Data, 1950-1995” which is available at Michael McDonald’s website (<http://www2.binghamton.edu/political-science/research/index.html>) at Binghamton University.

### **3.13**    *florida2000*

This data set was downloaded from Richard L. Smith’s website (<http://www.stat.unc.edu/faculty/rs/palmb>) at the University of North Carolina. This website provides a set of sophisticated non-linear analyses of the Florida election results in 2000.

### **3.14**    *golf*

This data set was created from data provided by the National Golf Foundation and the US Department of Census’ Current Population Reports.

## **Citations**

Armington, Klaus, Marlene Gerber, Philipp Leimgruber, and Michelle Beyeler. (2008) Comparative Political Data Set 1960-2006. Institute of Political Science, University of Berne.

Mackie, Thomas and Richard Rose (1990) The International Almanac of Electoral History. Palgrave Macmillan.