

# CIRI Dataset Exercise

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## CIRI Human Rights Data Project

In this short exercise I will explore some of the values collected in the CIRI Human Rights Data Project. This dataset is one of the most prominent and commonly used datasets when testing human rights violations in IR. It contains standards-based quantitative information on government respect for 15 internationally recognized human rights for 202 countries, annually from 1981-2011

I will be looking at three different human rights violations, embodied in a number of International treaties: Political killings or unlawful deprivation of life, torture and abuse and freedom of speech. Variables are coded from 0 to 2, where 0 indicates that the norm is frequently violated (ie. frequent political killings and torture or complete government censorship of media), 1 indicates occasional violations and 2 indicates no reported violations.

I begin by cleaning the data:

```
#Political Killings:
CIRI$KILL[CIRI$KILL==999] <- NA
CIRI$KILL[CIRI$KILL==77] <- NA
CIRI$KILL[CIRI$KILL==66] <- NA
#Torture:
CIRI$TORT[CIRI$TORT==999] <- NA
CIRI$TORT[CIRI$TORT==77] <- NA
CIRI$TORT[CIRI$TORT==66] <- NA
#Freedom of speech:
CIRI$SPEECH[CIRI$SPEECH==999] <- NA
CIRI$SPEECH[CIRI$SPEECH==77] <- NA
CIRI$SPEECH[CIRI$SPEECH==66] <- NA
```

Now, we can use the summarise() function to observe some of the variation in the variables. As mentioned in the previous paragraph, larger numbers will indicate less violations, while smaller numbers indicate frequent violations.

```
CIRI%>%
  filter(!is.na(KILL))%>%
  group_by(CTRY)%>%
  summarise(count_KILL=sum(KILL))%>%
  complete(CTRY)
```

```
## # A tibble: 202 x 2
##   CTRY                count_KILL
##   <fct>                <int>
## 1 Afghanistan         5
## 2 Albania             32
## 3 Algeria             31
## 4 Andorra             20
## 5 Angola              11
## 6 Antigua and Barbuda 20
## 7 Argentina           30
## 8 Armenia             33
```

```
## 9 Australia 61
## 10 Austria 59
## # ... with 192 more rows
```

Unsurprisingly, we learn that undemocratic countries (such as Afghanistan) receive low scores and do not conform with the international norms, while democratic countries such as Austria, receive higher scores.

We observe similar trends with torture and speech:

```
#Torture
CIRI%>%
  filter(!is.na(TORT))%>%
  group_by(CTRY)%>%
  summarise(count_TORT=sum(TORT))%>%
  complete(CTRY)
```

```
## # A tibble: 202 x 2
##   CTRY          count_TORT
##   <fct>          <int>
## 1 Afghanistan      2
## 2 Albania          14
## 3 Algeria          20
## 4 Andorra          20
## 5 Angola           12
## 6 Antigua and Barbuda 10
## 7 Argentina        23
## 8 Armenia           6
## 9 Australia        38
## 10 Austria         39
## # ... with 192 more rows
```

```
#Speech
CIRI%>%
  filter(!is.na(SPEECH))%>%
  group_by(CTRY)%>%
  summarise(count_SPEECH=sum(SPEECH))%>%
  complete(CTRY)
```

```
## # A tibble: 202 x 2
##   CTRY          count_SPEECH
##   <fct>          <int>
## 1 Afghanistan      5
## 2 Albania          25
## 3 Algeria          10
## 4 Andorra          19
## 5 Angola           10
## 6 Antigua and Barbuda 12
## 7 Argentina        44
## 8 Armenia           17
## 9 Australia        60
## 10 Austria         42
## # ... with 192 more rows
```

Indeed, we observe a similar trend. We may want to test in the future, using other datasets, whether there are other variations worth exploring (for example, why do some non-democracies or new democracies violate these rights more frequently than others?, one explanation is the treaties and organizations they are members of, others is whether or not they are frequently targeted by NGOs).