

## Code Book

**Immigration.** Proportion of population that was born outside the U.S. Based on the data from the U.S. Census Bureau (legal immigration data). Used as a proxy for Labor Oversupply.

**Wage/GDP ratio for blue-collar workers (index, 1860 = 1).** Calculations by the author based on data from MeasuringWorth.com:

- Officer, Lawrence H. (2010) What Was the U.S. GDP Then? MeasuringWorth.
- Officer, Lawrence H. & Samuel H. Williamson (2009) Annual Wages in the United States, 1774-2008. MeasuringWorth.
- <https://www.measuringworth.com/datasets/>

**Height and life expectancy.** Biological proxies of well-being: average population height of native-born American men and life expectancy at 10 years of age. Data were calculated for cohorts by the year of birth. Data sources: Tables Bd653-687 and Ab704-911 in Historical Statistics of the United States:

- Fogel, Robert William (1986) Nutrition and the decline in mortality since 1700: some preliminary findings. In: S L Engerman & R E Gallman (eds) Long-term factors in American economic growth. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Carter, Susan B., Scott Sigmund Gartner, Michael R. Haines, Alan L. Olmstead, Richard Sutch & Gavin Wright (eds) (2004) Historical Statistics of the United States: Millennial Edition. New York: Cambridge University Press.

**Wealth inequality (EVI and HSUS).** To calculate the Extreme Value Index (EVI), the largest privately held fortune (excluding those held by rulers) is identified or estimated. The largest U.S. fortune is then divided by the median annual wage, which represents a typical non-elite wage. This scaled wealth is typically shown on a log scale. The HSUS percentages are estimates of the percentages of total wealth held by the top one percent (by net worth).

- Wolff, Edward N. (1996) Top Heavy. New York: The New Press.
- Wolff, Edward N. (2010) Recent Trends in Household Wealth in the United States: Rising Debt and the Middle-Class Squeeze - an Update to 2007. The Levy Economics Institute of Bard College Working Paper No. 589.
- See table below.

**Political polarization in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1789–2009.** Raw data source: VoteView.com (<http://voteview.com/downloads.asp>, downloaded on Jan. 3, 2011). The index is based on an analysis of voting patterns in the U.S. Congress that quantify polarization among the American political elites (a proxy for intra-elite Competition and Conflict). In brief, members of Congress are scored by a different position on a liberal-conservative spectrum (e.g., by liberal interest groups as the Americans for Democratic Action or the United Auto Workers and conservative ones like the American Conservative Union or the National Taxpayers Union. A measure of political polarization is the distance between the average scores of the Democrats and the Republicans, calculated for each Congress (that is, every two years).

- McCarty, Nolan; Keith T. Poole & Howard Rosenthal (2006) Polarized America: The Dance of Ideology and Unequal Riches. Boston: MIT Press.

**Political Instability.** The instability variable is the log-transformed number of people killed in instability events per one million population per 5 years. Population data are available online, E.g., <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-ushistory2os2xmaster/chapter/united-states-population-chart/>

**Largest Fortunes in the U.S., 1790–2010.** Source: (Phillips, 2002), supplemented by the Forbes Magazine for 2010. Wage data is from (Officer & Williamson, 2009). All data are in the nominal dollars (unadjusted for inflation).

- Phillips, Kevin (2002) *Wealth and Democracy: A Political History of the American Rich*. New York: Broadway Books.
- Officer, Lawrence H. & Samuel H. Williamson (2009) *Annual Wages in the United States, 1774-2008*. MeasuringWorth.

Year	Name	Largest Fortune (\$)	Annual Wage (\$)	EVI / 1000
1790	Elias Derby	1M	40	25
1803	William Bingham	3M	80	38
1830	Stephen Girard	6M	120	50
1848	John J. Astor	20M	140	143
1868	Cornelius Vanderbilt	40M	220	182
1875	Cornelius Vanderbilt	105M	220	477
1890	William H. Vanderbilt	200M	260	769
1912	John D. Rockefeller	1B	380	2632
1921	John D. Rockefeller	1B	960	1042
1940	John D. Rockefeller	1.5B	1340	1119
1962	John Paul Getty	1B	5420	185
1982	Daniel Ludwig	2B	21600	93
1992	Sam Walton	8B	31260	256
2005	William Gates III	46B	47840	972
2010	William Gates III	54B	52300	1033