Codebook for ETAD (v.1)*

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1 About ETAD

1.1 Election Timing across Autocracy and Democracy

ETAD stands for *Election Timing acoss Autocracy and Democracy*. It provides comprehensive data on the timing of the national elections in autocracies and democracies between 1945 and 2023. ETAD covers 3,127 legislative and presidential elections in 148 countries. The ETAD dataset can be downloaded from the authors' website (https://yukiyanai.github.io/data_etad/) or installed as an R package (https://github.com/yukiyanai/ETAD).

1.2 Citation

When using the ETAD dataset, please remember to cite the following paper:

- Higashijima, Masaaki, Naoki Shimizu, Hidekuni Washida, and Yuki Yanai. (forthcoming) "Election Timing across Autocracy and Democracy (ETAD): A New Dataset of National Election Dates." *Electoral Studies* (accpeted for publication, 2025).

2 Variables

2.1 Country Identifiers

2.1.1 `country`

Country name. Version 1 contains 150 names.[1]

Values:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo Brazzaville (Republic of Congo), Congo Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo), Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar (Burma), Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Serbia (Yugoslavia), Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland (Eswatini), Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, UAE, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

[1] The number of countries included is 148 instead of 150 because there are two overlaps: “Bosnia” and “Bosnia and Herzegovina”; “Serbia” and “Serbia (Yugoslavia).”

2.1.2 `cowcode`

An integer value showing the country code defined by the Correlates of War (COW). Please visit COW for more information.

Examples:

- `2`: the United States of America
- `70`: Mexico
- `740`: Japan

2.1.3 `iso3`

A 3-letter country code defined by the ISO 3166 standard. Please visit ISO for more information.

Examples:

- `USA`: the United States of America
- `MEX`: Mexico
- `JPN`: Japan

2.2 Institutional Characteristics

2.2.1 `parliamentarism`

Binary variable showing if the country is considered a parliamentary system or a presidential system. We employ a dichotomous measure to determine if the legislature can be dissolved in the middle of its term (`parliamentarism`) or not (`presidentialism`), setting aside other regime differences. The main data source is the Database of Political Institutions and the coding criteria are based on Roberts (2015) and Higashijima and Kasuya (2022).

Values:

- `parlimentarism`
- `presidentialism`

Sources and References:

- Beck, Thorsten, George Clarke, Alberto Groff, Philip Keefer, and Patrick Walsh. 2001. "New Tools in Comparative Political Economy: The Database of Political Institutions." *World Bank Economic Review* 15(1): 165–176.
- Roberts, Tyson. 2015. "The Durability of Presidential and Parliament-based Dictatorships." *Comparative Political Studies* 48(7): 915–948.
- Higashijima, Masaaki and Yuko Kasuya. 2022. "The Perils of Parliamentarism: Executive Selection Systems and Democratic Transitions from Electoral Authoritarianism." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 57: 198–220.

2.2.2 `etype2`

Binary variable indicating the election type.

Values:

- `presidential`: A presidential election.
- `legislative`: A legislative election.

2.2.3 `etype3`

Trichotomous variable indicating the election type. Please note that the current version does not contain upper-house elections. This variable is included for future updates.

Values:

- `presidential`: A presidential election.
- `lower house`: A lower-house (first-chamber) election.
- `upper house`: An upper-house (second-chamber) election.

2.2.4 `termlength`

An integer value showing the term length in year, ranging from 2 to 8.

Sources:

- Elkins, Zachary and Tom Ginsburg. 2022 "Characteristics of National Constitutions, Version 4.0." Comparative Constitutions Project. Last modified: October 24, 2022. Available at https://comparativeconstitutionsproject.org/.
- Various online sources.

2.3 Election Dates

2.3.1 `held_date`

The date when the election was actually held in the format "YYYY-MM-DD." For instance, July 9th, 2025 is recorded as `2025-07-09`. If you use the R package *ETAD*, this variable is saved as `Date` class.

Sources:

- Various articles from each country's newspapers.

2.3.2 `held_year`

Four-digit integer value showing the year when the election was held. This is simply the first four digits of `held_date`.

2.3.3 `held_month`

An integer value showing the month when the election was held, ranging from 1 to 12. This is also taken from `held_date`.

2.3.4 `held_wday`

The day of the week when the election was held. Possible values are `Sunday`, `Monday`, `Tuesday`, `Wednesday`, `Thursday`, `Friday`, and `Saturday`.

2.3.5 `sche_date`

The date when the election was initially scheduled in the format "YYYY-MM-DD." For instance, July 9th, 2025 is recorded as `2025-07-09`. If you use the R package *ETAD*, this variable is saved as `Date` class.

Sources:

- Various articles from each country's newspapers.

2.3.6 `sche_year`

Four-digit integer value showing the year when the election was initially scheduled. This is simply the first four digits of `sche_date`.

2.3.7 `sche_month`

An integer value showing the month when the election was initiallyl scheduled, ranging from 1 to 12. This is also taken from `sche_date`.

2.3.8 `sche_wday`

The day of the week when the election was initially scheduled. Possible values are `Sunday`, `Monday`, `Tuesday`, `Wednesday`, `Thursday`, `Friday`, and `Saturday`.

2.3.9 `dif_days`

Difference in days between `held_date` and `sche_date`. A negative value is assigned to an earlier-than-scheduled election, and a positive value to a delayed election.

2.3.10 `days_fr_last`

An integer value showing the number of days elapsed since the last election.

2.4 Election Timing

2.4.1 `timing1`

Trichotomous variable showing election timing.

Values:

- `1`: An election was held as initially scheduled.
- `2`: An election was put ahead or behind.
- `3`: Unknown (cannot tell if it was on schedule or not).

Sources:

- Hyde, Susan D., and Nikolay Marinov. (2019) "Codebook for National Election Across Democracy and Autocracy Dataset, 5.0." https://nelda.co/ (Last accessed: June 2, 2024).
- Same as `held_date` and `sche_date`.

2.4.2 `timing2`

Trichotomous variable showing election timing. We *judge* if each election was held earlier than scheduled, on time, or later than scheduled.

Values:

- `−1`: An early-election.
- `0`: An on-schedule election.
- `1`: A delayed election.

Sources:

- Hyde, Susan D., and Nikolay Marinov. (2019) "Codebook for National Election Across Democracy and Autocracy Dataset, 5.0." https://nelda.co/ (Last accessed: June 2, 2024).
- Same as `held_date` and `sche_date`.

2.4.3 reason

Categorical variable showing the reasons for the election-timing change.

Values:

- `0`: no change
- `1`: the first election under the new constitution or for the new state
- `2`: re-election due to an invalid election
- `3`: coup
- `4`: natural death of the leader
- `5`: the leader was assassinated
- `6`: civil war
- `7`: no confidence
- `9`: others

Sources:

- Various articles from each country's newspapers.

2.4.4 `concurrent`

Dummy variable indicating that the legislative and presidential elections occurred on the same day.

Values:

- `0`: There are no concurrent national elections within the country.
- `1`: Legislative and presidential elections withing a country were held on the same day.