Important information: This codebook contains a selection of variables from the V-Dem Project. For a complete codebook including all indices, variables and more detailed information, please see the official V-Dem reference documents.

The data is available for free at: https://www.v-dem.net

Funders: We are very grateful for our funders’ support over the years, which has made this venture possible. To learn more about our funders, please visit: https://www.v-dem.net/en/v-dem-institute/funders/

For data enquires: contact@v-dem.net
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1 Explanatory Notes

1.1 Variable Types

The V-Dem Codebook divides variables into the following variable types:

- **Type A*: Variables coded by Research Assistants**
  This data is based on extant sources and is factual in nature. Country Experts indicate their confidence for this pre-coded data.

- **Type A: Variables coded by Project Managers and Research Assistants**
  This data is based on extant sources and is factual in nature.

- **Type B: Variables coded by Country Coordinators or Research Assistants**
  The coder is typically a graduate student or recent graduate from the country in question. These variables are factual in nature.

- **Type C: Variables coded by Country Experts**
  A Country Expert is typically a scholar or professional with deep knowledge of a country and of a particular political institution. Furthermore, the expert is usually a citizen or resident of the country. Multiple experts (usually 5 or more) code each variable. More information about the Country Experts can be found in the V-Dem Methodology document.

- **Type A,C: Variables coded by Country Experts and crosschecked by Research Assistants**

- **Type D: Indices**
  Variables composed of type A, B, or C variables. This data may be accomplished by adding a denominator (e.g., per capita), by creating a cumulative scale (total number of...), or by aggregating larger concepts (e.g., components or indices of democracy).

- **Type E: Non-V-Dem variables**
  If we import a variable from another source without doing any original coding, except for perhaps imputing missing data, it is not considered a V-Dem product. These variables are found in the sections of the Codebook labeled Background Factors and Other Democracy Indices and Indicators. If, however, we gather data from a number of sources and combine them in a more than purely mechanical fashion (requiring some judgment on our part), we regard this as a V-Dem product and classify it as type A, B, or C. All 'E' variables, except those drawn from sources that have more than 30 variables, are included in the codebook. For this reason, the following examples are not included: Archigos (Goemans et al.), BDM (Bueno de Mesquita et al.), Henisz/POLCON (2000, 2002), Miller (Democratic Pieces), Performance of Nations (Kugler and Tammen), PEI (Norris et al.), PIPE (Przeworski et al.) and QoG (Quality of Government). For these and for similar cases, we ask users to consult separate codebooks, as listed above.

1.2 Variable Versions and Suffixes

The V-Dem Dataset contains several versions of the variables coded by country experts (type C variables).

- **Model Estimates**
  "Model Estimates" — Measurement Model Output:
  This version has no special suffix (e.g. v2elmulpar). This version of the variables provides country-year (country-date in the alternative dataset) point estimates from the V-Dem measurement model (see Pemstein et al. 2019). The measurement model aggregates the ratings provided by multiple country experts and, taking disagreement and measurement error into account, produces a probability distribution over country-year scores on a standardized interval scale (see the V-Dem Methodology document). The point estimates are the median values of these distributions for each country-year. The scale of a measurement model variable is similar to a normal ("Z") score (e.g. typically between -5 and 5, with 0 approximately representing...
the mean for all country-years in the sample) though it does not necessarily follow a normal distribution. For most purposes, these are the preferred versions of the variables for time series regression and other estimation strategies.

'Model Estimates Measure of Uncertainty' — Measurement Model Highest Posterior Density (HPD) Intervals:
This version has the suffixes: 'codelow' and 'codehigh' (e.g. v2elmulpar_codelow and v2elmulpar_codehigh). These two kinds of variables ['code low' and 'code high'] demarcate the interval in which the measurement model places 68 percent of the probability mass for each country-year score, which is approximately equivalent to one standard deviation upper and lower bounds. If the underlying posterior distribution is skewed, the HPDs reflect this with unequal distances between the point estimate and the high and low estimates. We also provide a standard calculation for standard deviation which is marked with the suffix 'sd' (e.g., v2elmulpar_sd). The SD might be used to compute the standard frequentist confidence intervals.

- **Original Scale (** osp **)**

  'Original Scale' — Linearized Original Scale Posterior Prediction:
  This version has the suffix "-_osp," (e.g. v2elmulpar_osp). In this version of the variables, we have linearly translated the measurement model point estimates back to the original ordinal scale of each variable (e.g. 0-4 for v2elmulpar_osp) as an interval measure. The decimals in the _osp version roughly indicate the distance between the point estimate from the linearized measurement model posterior prediction and the threshold for reaching the next level on the original ordinal scale. Thus, a _osp value of 1.25 indicates that the median measurement model posterior predicted value was closer to the ordinal value of 1 than 2 on the original scale. Technically, it calculates the sum of the posterior probabilities that the estimate is in a particular category: If a particular country-year-variable has a probability of 90% to be in category “4”, a 10% probability of being in category “3”, and 0% probability of being in categories “2”, “1”, and “0”, the result is a value of 3.9 (4*0.9 + 3*0.1 = 3.6+0.3). Since there is no conventional theoretical justification for linearly mapping ordinal posterior predictions onto an interval scale, these scores should primarily be used for heuristic purposes. Using the “Ordinal Scale” estimates—or incorporating the properties of ordinal probit models into the estimation procedure—is thus preferable to using the _osp estimates in statistical analyses. However, since the _osp version maps onto the coding criteria found in the V-Dem Codebook, and is strongly correlated with the Measurement Model output (typically at .98 or higher), some users may find the _osp version useful in estimating quantities such as marginal effects with a clear substantive interpretation. If a user uses _osp data in statistical analyses it is imperative that she confirm that the results are compatible with estimations using Measurement Model output.

  'Original Scale Measure of Uncertainty' — Linearized Original Scale HPD Intervals:
  This version has the suffixes – "codelow" and "codehigh" (e.g. v2elmulpar_osp_codelow and v2elmulpar_osp_codehigh). We estimate these quantities in a similar manner as the Measurement Model Highest Posterior Density Intervals. These two variables ['code low' and 'code high'] demarcate the interval in which the measurement model places 70 percent of the probability mass for each country-year score, which is approximately equivalent to one standard deviation upper and lower bounds. If the underlying posterior distribution is skewed, the HPDs reflect this with unequal distances between the point estimate and the high and low estimates. We also provide a standard calculation for standard deviation which is marked with the suffix 'sd' (e.g., v2elmulpar_sd). The SD might be used to compute the standard frequentist confidence intervals.

- **Ordinal Scale (** ord **)**

  'Ordinal Scale' — Measurement Model Estimates of Original Scale Value:
  This version has the suffix "-_ord" (e.g. v2elmulpar_ord). This method translates the measurement model estimates back to the original ordinal scale of a variable (as represented in the Codebook) after taking coder disagreement and measurement error into account. More precisely, it represents the most likely ordinal value on the original codebook scale into which a country-year would fall, given the average coder’s usage of that scale. More specifically, we assign each country-year a value that corresponds to its integerized median ordinal highest posterior probability category over Measurement Model output.
"Ordinal Scale Measure of Uncertainty" — Original Scale Value HPD Intervals:
This version has the suffixes - "codelow" and "codehigh" (e.g. v2elmulpard_ord_codelow and v2elmulpard_ord_codehigh). We estimate these values in a similar manner as the Measurement Model Highest Posterior Density Intervals. These two variables ["code low" and "code high"] demarcate the interval in which the measurement model places 70 percent of the probability mass for each country-year score, which is approximately equivalent to one standard deviation upper and lower bounds. If the underlying posterior distribution is skewed, the HPDs reflect this with unequal distances between the point estimate and the high and low estimates. We also provide a standard calculation for standard deviation which is marked with the suffix "sd" (e.g. v2elmulpard_sd). The SD might be used to compute the standard frequentist confidence intervals.

- **Number of Coders per Country, Variable and Year/Date (*)_nr**
The number of V-Dem Country Experts (regular coders, bridge- and lateral coders) who provided data on country, variable and year. V-Dem's methodology is based on the assumption that we have a minimum of five Country Experts for every single country-variable-year. Sometimes, however, we end up with fewer than five Country Experts. From v7 of the Country-Year, and the Country-Date type datasets, we provide all data we have for full transparency. By providing the number of Country Experts for each country-variable-year/date, we suggest that users primarily base analyses on observations based on five or more coders. We strongly advise against using observations based on three or fewer coders. This concerns all C type variables.

1.3 **Aggregation**

C-variables, ratio/percentage variables, and High-Level/Mid-Level Democracy indices are aggregated from the country-date level to the country-year level by the day-weighted mean. Ordinal A-variables and A*-variables are aggregated by taking the last observation in the year with one exception: event-specific dichotomies or event-specific ordinal variables, which mostly concerns elections or election related data, are aggregated by max (meaning the highest observed value for a given year is retained) to reflect that an 'event' of the coded type occurred within the year.

1.4 **Variable Tags**

Every variable has a name and a tag. The tag consists of three or four parts and has the following structure:

Prefix + Index (if V-Dem index) + Section + Abbreviated title

While the prefix specifies the variable type, the letters that follow indicate which section the variable belongs to.
Prefixes

- v2: V-Dem variables (A, B, C)
- v3: Historical V-Dem only variables (A, B, C)
- v2x_: Main indices and component-indices
- v2x[two-letter designation]_: Indices specific for certain areas (see below). For example, v2xel_ would be an index in the election-specific area. Sometimes used in aggregations of higher-level indices (i.e. v2x_ type indices D)
- e_: Non-V-Dem variables (E) and ordinal versions of V-Dem indices.

Sections

- cl: Civil liberty
- dd: Direct democracy
- de: Demography
- dl: Deliberation
- ni: Miscellaneous (all background variables)
- el: Elections
- ex: Executive
- ju: Judiciary
- lg: Legislature
- me: Media
- pe: Political equality
- ps: Political parties
- sv/st: Sovereignty/State
- x: Index (calculated from variables that are also included in the dataset)
- zz: Post survey questionnaire

1.5 Variable Information

The following information is available per variable (if applicable):

**Project Manager**: The team member(s) primarily responsible for designing the indicator/index, and in some cases responsible for the data collection.

**Additional versions**: Indicates if the variable is also available in the following versions; *_osp, *_ord, *_codelow, *_codehigh, *_sd, *_mean and/or *_nr. Detailed information about the different versions can be found in section 1.5 (Variable Versions and Suffixes).

**Available versions**: Lists the available variable types (Only applicable for ordinalized versions of indices).

**Question**: The question that the variable attempts to measure.

**Clarification**: Definition of key terms, clarification of scope-conditions, contexts, and any other features needed to understand the question (if any). All key terms appear in the Glossary (Appendix B), unless they are specific to a single section (in which case they only appear in the introduction to
that section or in the clarifications for particular questions). Key terms are sometimes cross-referenced with hypertext.

**Responses:** Numeric, Percentage, Text, Date, Countries, or specific response categories (listed below under "Answer-types" and "Scales").

**Answer-Types:**
*Multiple-choice:* Where a coder can select only one answer. This is the usual protocol and is therefore not noted.
*Multiple-selection:* Where a coder can select more than one answer. For most multiple-selection variables, the dataset contains both the original variable as well as a set of dummies for each of the responses.

**Ordering (only applicable to a selection of C variables):** This relates to the ordering of questions when the coding of one indicator depends upon the coding of other indicators (i.e., whenever there is some alteration of the serial ordering of questions as listed in this document).

**Aggregation (only applicable to indices):** Explanation of how an index is constructed.

**Scale:** Dichotomous, Nominal, Ordinal, or Interval/Ratio (Extra response options such as N/A or Other, are not counted as part of this classification).

**Cross-Coder Aggregation (only applicable to C variables):** IRT, Bayesian ordinal item response theory measurement model (see the V-Dem Methodology document). Available in mode and mean.

**Data releases:** Indicates dataset version (1–9). Versions respond to changes to the dataset for V-Dem variables (A, B, C, D), including new variables, new indices, corrections to existing variables, and new iterations of the measurement model. Changes are synchronized with Codebook and Methodology documents so that they all share the same version number. The second number (after the decimal point), refers to sub-versions of the data.

**Releases to date:**
Version 1–4 were only internal releases, thus not publicly available.

- v1: March 31, 2014
- v2: September 11, 2014
- v3: December 17, 2014
- v4: March 31, 2015

Version 5–9 are publicly available free of charge.

- v5: January 4, 2016 (first public release of data for download)
- v6: March 31, 2016
- v6.2: June, 2016
- v7: May 2017
- v7.1: July 2017
- v8: April 2018
- v9: April 2019
- v10: March 2020

**Sources:** Citations for type-A* and A variables are listed, wherever possible, with complete references in the Bibliography. Note that this coding sometimes rests on numerous country-specific sources, in which case it has not been possible to include all citations. Composite indices (type-D) build on other variables in the V-Dem database, which are therefore listed as the source for that index.

**Cleaning:** Specifies if observations are set to missing based on values on other variables.

**Citation:** Suggested citation when using the specific variable.
Years: Available coverage for the respective variable. For more information on country-specific year coverage, see the country table.

Note: Additional information about the variable.
1.6 Suggested Citation

Nota bene: If a variable drawn from the V-Dem dataset plays an important role in your project (published or unpublished), please use the applicable citations below:

- **V-Dem Dataset:**

and:


- **V-Dem Codebook:**

- **V-Dem Methodology:**

- **V-Dem Country Coding Units:**

- **V-Dem Organization and Management:**
### 1.7 Countries

The following table contains all country units (and their year coverage) that are included in the V-Dem Dataset. Some countries are coded prior to independence, and some have gaps in their coding periods. For a more detailed description of the country units and their year coverage please consult the V-Dem Country Coding Units document.

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<td>1918–1948</td>
<td>Tuscany</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>1789–1861</td>
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</table>
1.8 Identifier Variables in the V-Dem Datasets

1.8.1 Country Name (country_name)

Name of coded country. A V-Dem country is a political unit enjoying at least some degree of functional and/or formal sovereignty. For more details on country units consult the V-Dem Country Coding Units document.
Response: Text.

1.8.2 Time-Specific Country Name (histname)

Time-specific name of coded country. Many countries go by different names in different time-periods, for example due to name changes, changes in territory, colonization, occupation, or independence. This variable contains a brief description of the identity of each polity that comprises a country’s history. This variable is based on the V-Dem Country Coding Units document.
Response: Text.

1.8.3 V-Dem Country ID (country_id)

Unique country ID designated for each country. A list of countries and their corresponding IDs used in the V-Dem dataset can be found in the country table in the codebook, as well as in the V-Dem Country Coding Units document.
Response: Numeric.

1.8.4 Country Name Abbreviation (country_text_id)

Abbreviated country names.
Response: Text.

1.8.5 Year (year)

V-Dem year coded annually from 1789–2018. This variable is included in the V-Dem Country Year as well as Country Date datasets.
Response: Date.

1.8.6 Historical Date (historical_date)

This variable is included in the V-Dem Country Date dataset. The default date is December 31st, as in 2018-12-31, referring to the time span from 01-01 to 12-31 in a respective year. Additionally, specific changes, such as the appointment of a Head of State, are coded on the specific date within a certain year. Thus, a code can change within a year, and will be reflected in the 12-31 date.
Response: Date.

1.8.7 Start of Coding Period (codingstart)

V-Dem country coding starts in 1789, or from when a country first enjoyed at least some degree of functional and/or formal sovereignty. For detailed information, please see the V-Dem Country Coding Units document.
Response: Date.

1.8.8 Contemporary Start of Coding Period (codingstart_contemp)

This variable indicates the coding start for the countries coded by Contemporary V-Dem.
Response: Date.
1.8.9 Historical Start of Coding Period (codingstart_hist)
This variable indicates the coding start for the countries coded by Historical V-Dem.
Response: Date.

1.8.10 Gap in Coding Period Starts (gapstart)
Time periods when a country does not fulfill V-Dem’s coding period criteria are not coded. The date that indicates the gap start is the last date coded before the gap. For more details about V-Dem country coding periods, please see the V-Dem Country Coding Units document.
Response: Date.

1.8.11 Gap in Coding Period Ends (gapend)
The periods of when a country does not fulfill V-Dem’s coding period criteria are not coded. The date that indicates the gap end is the first date coded after the gap. For more details about V-Dem country coding periods, please see the V-Dem Country Coding Units document.
Response: Date.

1.8.12 End of Coding Period (codingend)
V-Dem country coding ends in 2018, or from when a country formally stopped enjoying at least some degree of functional and/or formal sovereignty. For detailed information, please see the V-Dem Country Coding Units document.
Response: Date.

1.8.13 Historical End of Coding Period (codingend_contemp)
This variable indicates when the coding ends for countries coded by the Contemporary V-Dem project.
Response: Date.

1.8.14 Historical End of Coding Period (codingend_hist)
This variable indicates when the coding ends for countries coded by the Historical V-Dem Project.
Response: Date.

1.8.15 V-Dem Project (project)
This variable indicates which V-Dem project coded that country-year: Contemporary V-Dem (0), Historical V-Dem (1), or both (2).

1.8.16 Historical V-Dem coding (historical)
This variable indicates if the Historical V-Dem project coded a country at any time: No (0), Yes (1).

1.8.17 COW Code (COWcode)
COW country codes according to the Correlates of War Project (2016).
Response: Numeric.
Chapter 2: V-Dem Indicators

2.1 Regimes

2.1.1 Regime support groups (C) (v2regsupgroups)

*Project Manager(s):* Carl Henrik Knutsen

*Additional versions:* *_.nr*

*Question:* Which groups does the current political regime rely on in order to maintain power? (Check all that apply.)

*Clarification:* Consider which group(s) is supportive of the regime, and, if it/they were to retract support would substantially increase the chance that the regime would lose power. Do not code for years denoted as "interregnum" for the previous, pre-coded question on regime information.

*Responses:*

0: The aristocracy, including high status hereditary social groups and castes. [v2regsupgroups_-0]  
1: Agrarian elites, including rich peasants and large landholders. [v2regsupgroups_1]  
2: Party elites (of the party or parties that control the executive). [v2regsupgroups_2]  
3: Business elites. [v2regsupgroups_3]  
4: The state bureaucracy. [v2regsupgroups_4]  
5: The military. [v2regsupgroups_5]  
6: An ethnic or racial group(s). [v2regsupgroups_6]  
7: A religious group(s). [v2regsupgroups_7]  
8: Local elites, including customary chiefs. [v2regsupgroups_8]  
9: Urban working classes, including labor unions. [v2regsupgroups_9]  
10: Urban middle classes. [v2regsupgroups_10]  
11: Rural working classes (e.g., peasants). [v2regsupgroups_11]  
12: Rural middle classes (e.g., family farmers). [v2regsupgroups_12]  
13: A foreign government or colonial power. [v2regsupgroups_13]

*Scale:* Series of dichotomous scales.  
*Answer-type:* Multiple-selection.  
*Data release:* 9-11.  
*Cross-coder aggregation:* Mean.  
*Cleaning:* Set to missing where v2regint is 0  
*Years:* 1789-2020

2.1.2 Regime most important support group (C) (v2regimpgroup)

*Project Manager(s):* Carl Henrik Knutsen

*Additional versions:* *_.nr*

*Question:* Which (one) group does the current political regime rely on most strongly in order to maintain power?  

*Clarification:* Choose the group that, if it were to retract its support to the regime, would most endanger the regime (most strongly increase the chance that it loses power). Do not code for years denoted as “interregnum” for the previous, pre-coded question on regime information.

*Responses:*

0: The aristocracy, including high status hereditary social groups and castes.  
1: Agrarian elites, including rich peasants and large landholders.  
2: Party elites (of the party or parties that control the executive).  
3: Business elites.  
4: Civil servants.  
5: The military.  
6: An ethnic or racial group(s).  
7: A religious group(s).  
8: Local elites, including chiefs.
9: Urban working classes, including labor unions.
10: Urban middle classes
11: Rural working classes (e.g. peasants).
12: Rural middle classes (e.g., family farmers)
13: A foreign government or colonial power.

Data release: 9-11.

Cross-coder aggregation: Mode.

"Ties" between categories are resolved so that the corresponding category in v2regsupgroups with the highest mean for the same country-date is chosen.

Years: 1789-2020

2.1.3 Regime support groups size (C) (v2regsupgroupssize)

Project Manager(s): Carl Henrik Knutsen

Additional versions: *_osp, *_ord, *_codelow, *_codehigh, *_sd, *_mean, *_nr

Question: In total, how large is the percentage share of the domestic adult (18+) population that belongs to the political regime’s supporting groups?

Clarification: You should consider the sum of all the groups (excepting foreign governments and colonial powers) entered in v2regsupgroups. Hence, your answer should take into account the total size of the/those groups that are supportive of the regime, and, if it/they were to retract support would substantially increase the chance that the regime would lose power. Regarding the issue of overlapping identities, and one individual potentially belonging to more than one groups: Individuals should only be "counted" once; thus if the two relevant supporting groups are (4) civil servants, which total about 5%, and all of them belong to a particular ethnic group (6) also coded as a relevant, the overall total size of the supporting groups is still 5% (assuming that no other members of that ethnic group are essential for the regime staying in power). Do not code for years denoted as “interregnum” for the previous, pre-coded question on regime information.

Responses:
0: Extremely small
    (About 1 percent of the population or less; examples of this could include regimes supported by — and needing the support from — a handful of higher-rank military officers, or by only a royal council and a few hundred landowners)
1: Very small
    (Between 1 percent and 5 percent of the population; examples of this could include regimes supported by — and needing the support from — higher ranking civil servants and the military, or by moderately sized business and agrarian elites)
2: Small
    (Between 5 percent and 15 percent; examples of this could include regimes supported by — and needing the support from — relatively small ethnic groups, or by urban elites and the urban middle classes in predominantly rural societies)
3: Moderate
    (Between 15 percent and 30 percent; examples of this could include regimes supported by — and needing the support from — moderately sized ethnic groups, or by urban middle classes in rural societies, or by urban middle classes in urban societies)
4: Large
    (More than 30 percent; examples of this could include regimes supported by — and needing the support from — large ethnic groups (and then not only the elites/leaders of such groups), or by rural working classes in rural societies.)

Scale: Ordinal, converted to interval by the measurement model.

Data release: 9-11.

Cross-coder aggregation: Bayesian item response theory measurement model (see V-Dem Methodology).

Cleaning: Set to missing where v2regint is 0

Years: 1789-2020
2.1.4  Regime support location (C) (v2regsuploc)

*Project Manager(s):* Carl Henrik Knutsen  
*Additional versions:* * _nr

*Question:* In which geographic area do the support groups for the current political regime mainly reside?

*Clarification:* Do not code for years denoted as 'interregnum'.

*Responses:*
0: Abroad.  
1: In the capital.  
2: In urban areas outside the capital.  
3: In rural areas.  
4: The groups are not concentrated in any particular area.

*Scale:* Nominal

*Data release:* 11.

*Cross-coder aggregation:* Mean.

*Citation:* Pemstein et al. (2018, V-Dem Working Paper Series 2018:21); V-Dem Codebook (see suggested citation at the top of this document).

*Years:* 1789-2020

2.1.5  Regime opposition groups (C) (v2regoppgroups)

*Project Manager(s):* Carl Henrik Knutsen  
*Additional versions:* * _nr

*Question:* Which groups include noteworthy opposition actors – that is, individuals (mobilized or not) who both want to and who could, under favorable circumstances, be able to remove the existing political regime? (Check all that apply.)

*Clarification:* Consider which group(s) include a significant share of individuals who both oppose the regime and pose a non-negligible threat to the regime (either mobilized or dormant). In other words, these individuals must both want to see the regime removed and, at least under hypothetical “favorable conditions”, be capable of removing the regime. Groups need not be actively mobilized or explicitly engaged in high-level opposition activities to be counted; opposition groups also include individuals who oppose the regime without taking particular actions, at the moment. We remind you of the definition of a regime as the set of formal and/or informal rules that are essential for choosing political leaders and/or maintaining political leaders in power. Hence, we are not asking about which groups oppose the current government in a democracy (and who would vote for another party), but still accept the democratic rules as legitimate. We are, instead, asking about groups that want to see the wider political regime removed and replaced. Do not code for years denoted as ‘interregnum’ for the previous, pre-coded question on regime information.

*Responses:*
0: The aristocracy, including high status hereditary social groups and castes. [v2regoppgroups_-0]
1: Agrarian elites, including rich peasants and large landholders. [v2regoppgroups_1]
2: Party elites (of the party or parties that control the executive). [v2regoppgroups_2]
3: Business elites. [v2regoppgroups_3]
4: The state bureaucracy. [v2regoppgroups_4]
5: The military. [v2regoppgroups_5]
6: An ethnic or racial group(s). [v2regoppgroups_6]
7: A religious group(s). [v2regoppgroups_7]
8: Local elites, including customary chiefs. [v2regoppgroups_8]
9: Urban working classes, including labor unions. [v2regoppgroups_9]
10: Urban middle classes. [v2regoppgroups_10]
11: Rural working classes (e.g. peasants). [v2regoppgroups_11]
12: Rural middle classes (e.g., family farmers). [v2regoppgroups_12]
13: A foreign government or colonial power. [v2regoppgroups_13]
2.1.6 Explicit and active Regime opposition groups (C) (v2regoppgroupsact)

Project Manager(s): Sirianne Dahlum, Tore Wig

Additional versions: *_nr

Question: Which (if any) groups include a significant share of individuals who explicitly and actively mobilize against the regime in a particular year? (Check all that apply.)

Clarification: Consider which group(s) include a significant share of individuals who engage in active and explicit opposition to the regime to promote its removal. These actors make explicit statements of dissent from the regime, publicly voice their preference for regime change, and may possibly engage in other actions intended to further the removal of the regime such as anti-regime demonstrations, sit-ins, boycotts, strikes, the formation of anti-system parties, acts of sabotage, or armed rebellion. Please note that only years when anti-regime speech or activity occurs should be coded. In years when groups probably oppose the regime, but are not engaged in any explicit acts of opposition, the group should not be selected. We remind you of the definition of a regime as the set of formal and/or informal rules that are essential for choosing political leaders and/or maintaining political leaders in power. Hence, we are not asking about which groups oppose the current government in a democracy (and who would vote for another party), but still accept the democratic rules as legitimate. We are, instead, asking about groups that want to see the wider political regime removed and replaced. Do not code for years denoted as 'interregnum' for the previous, pre-coded question on regime information.

Responses:
0: The aristocracy, including high status hereditary social groups and castes. [v2regoppgroupsact_-0]
1: Agrarian elites, including rich peasants and large landholders. [v2regoppgroupsact_1]
2: Party elites (of the party or parties that control the executive). [v2regoppgroupsact_2]
3: Business elites. [v2regoppgroupsact_3]
4: The state bureaucracy. [v2regoppgroupsact_4]
5: The military. [v2regoppgroupsact_5]
6: An ethnic or racial group(s). [v2regoppgroupsact_6]
7: A religious group(s). [v2regoppgroupsact_7]
8: Local elites, including customary chiefs. [v2regoppgroupsact_8]
9: Urban working classes, including labor unions. [v2regoppgroupsact_9]
10: Urban middle classes. [v2regoppgroupsact_10]
11: Rural working classes (e.g., peasants). [v2regoppgroupsact_11]
12: Rural middle classes (e.g., family farmers). [v2regoppgroupsact_12]
13: A foreign government or colonial power. [v2regoppgroupsact_13]

Scale: Series of dichotomous scales.
Answer-type: Multiple-selection.
Data release: 11.
Cross-coder aggregation: Mean.
Years: 1900-2020

2.1.7 Regime most important opposition group (C) (v2regimpoppgroup)

Project Manager(s): Carl Henrik Knutsen

Additional versions: *_nr

Question: Which (one) group constitutes the greatest threat to the current regime?

Clarification: Choose the one group (among those you registered as opposition groups under the
v2regoppgroups question) that is the most dangerous threat to the regime in a given year. That is, the group that could most strongly increase the chance that the regime loses power. The importance/danger associated with an opposition group will be affected both by its level of hostility towards the regime and its power resources/how capable it is of removing the regime should it try to do so. We remind you that groups need not be actively mobilized or explicitly engaged in high-level opposition activities to be counted; key opposition groups may include actors who oppose the regime and constitute a dormant threat to the regime, even though they do not take particular actions in a given year. Do not code for years denoted as “interregnum” for the previous, pre-coded question on regime information.

**Responses:**

0: The aristocracy, including high status hereditary social groups and castes.
1: Agrarian elites, including rich peasants and large landholders.
2: Party elites (of the party or parties that control the executive).
3: Business elites.
4: Civil servants.
5: The military.
6: An ethnic or racial group(s).
7: A religious group(s).
8: Local elites, including chiefs.
9: Urban working classes, including labor unions.
10: Urban middle classes
11: Rural working classes (e.g. peasants).
12: Rural middle classes (e.g., family farmers)
13: A foreign government or colonial power.

**Data release:** 11.

**Cross-coder aggregation:** Mode.

"Ties" between categories are resolved so that the corresponding category in v2regsupgroups with the highest mean for the same country-date is chosen.

**Years:** 1900-2020

### 2.1.8 Regime opposition groups size (C) (v2regoppgroupssize)

**Project Manager(s):** Carl Henrik Knutsen

**Additional versions:** *_osp, *_ord, *_codelow, *_codehigh, *_sd, *_mean, *_nr

**Question:** In total, how large is the share of the domestic adult (18+) population that are noteworthy opposition actors to the current political regime?

**Clarification:** Consider the sum total of all the groups (excepting foreign governments and colonial powers) entered in v2regoppgroups. Hence, your answer should take into account the total size/number of the actors that oppose the regime and pose a threat to the regime maintaining power.

We remind you that groups need not be actively mobilized or explicitly engaged in high-level opposition activities to be counted; key opposition groups may include actors who oppose the regime and constitute a dormant threat to the regime, even though they do not take particular actions in a given year.

Regarding the issue of individuals potentially belonging to more than one “opposition group”: Individuals should only be "counted" once for the purpose of this question. For example, if the two relevant opposition groups are (4) civil servants, which total about 5% of the population, and all of them belong to a particular ethnic group (6) also coded as a relevant, the overall total size of the opposition groups is still 5% (presuming that there are no other members of that ethnic group who oppose the regime).

We remind you of the definition of a regime as the set of formal and/or informal rules that are essential for choosing political leaders and/or maintaining political leaders in power. Hence, we are not asking about which groups oppose the current government in a democracy (and who would vote for another party), but still accept the democratic rules as legitimate. We are, instead, asking about groups that want to see the wider political regime removed and replaced. Do not code for years denoted as “interregnum” for the pre-coded question on regime information.
Responses:
0: Extremely small (About 1 percent of the population or less)
1: Very small (Between 1 percent and 5 percent of the population)
2: Small (Between 5 percent and 15 percent)
3: Moderate (Between 15 percent and 30 percent)
4: Large (More than 30 percent)

Scale: Ordinal, converted to interval by the measurement model.

Data release: 11.

Cross-coder aggregation: Bayesian item response theory measurement model (see V-Dem Methodology).

Years: 1900-2020

2.1.9 Regime opposition location (C) (v2regopploc)

Project Manager(s): Carl Henrik Knutsen

Additional versions: * _nr

Question: In which geographic area do groups opposing the current political regime mainly reside?

Clarification: You should consider the groups entered in v2regoppgroups, hence groups that both want to see the regime removed and (at least under “favorable conditions”) are capable of removing the regime. We remind you that groups need not be actively mobilized or explicitly engaged in high-level opposition activities to be counted; key opposition groups may include actors who oppose the regime and constitute a dormant threat to the regime, even though they do not take particular actions in a given year. We remind you of the definition of a regime as the set of formal and/or informal rules that are essential for choosing political leaders and/or maintaining political leaders in power. Hence, we are not asking about which groups oppose the current government in a democracy (and who would vote for another party), but still accept the democratic rules as legitimate. We are, instead, asking about groups that want to see the wider political regime removed and replaced. Do not code for years denoted as “interregnum”.

Responses:
0: Abroad.
1: In the capital.
2: In urban areas outside the capital.
3: In rural areas.
4: The groups are not concentrated in any particular area.

Scale: Nominal

Data release: 11.

Cross-coder aggregation: Mode.

Citation: Pemstein et al. (2018, V-Dem Working Paper Series 2018:21); V-Dem Codebook (see suggested citation at the top of this document).

Years: 1900-2020

2.1.10 Strongest pro-regime preferences (C) (v2regproreg)

Project Manager(s): Carl Henrik Knutsen

Additional versions: * _nr

Question: Which (one) group has the strongest pro-regime preferences, irrespective of the group’s resources and capabilities for affecting the regime’s hold on power?

Clarification: Consider only the pro-regime preferences of individuals in this group, and do not take into consideration the abilities of this group to actually affect regime survival. Hence, the group with the strongest pro-regime preferences need not be the most important support group. One way to think about what pro-/anti-regime preferences means is: what would individuals hypothetically (honestly) answer if asked in a survey: “On a scale from 0-10, how pleased are you with the current political regime, with 10 indicating the strongest support?” Select the group with the highest average score in this hypothetical survey.
We remind you of the definition of a regime as the set of formal and/or informal rules that are essential for choosing political leaders and/or maintaining political leaders in power. Hence, we are not asking about which groups oppose the current government in a democracy (and who would vote for another party), but still accept the democratic rules as legitimate. We are, instead, asking about groups that want to see the wider political regime removed and replaced. Do not code for years denoted as “interregnum” for the pre-coded question on regime information.

Responses:
0: The aristocracy, including high status hereditary social groups and castes.
1: Agrarian elites, including rich peasants and large landholders.
2: Party elites (of the party or parties that control the executive).
3: Business elites.
4: Civil servants.
5: The military.
6: An ethnic or racial group(s).
7: A religious group(s).
8: Local elites, including chiefs.
9: Urban working classes, including labor unions.
10: Urban middle classes
11: Rural working classes (e.g. peasants).
12: Rural middle classes (e.g., family farmers)
13: A foreign government or colonial power.

Data release: 11.

Cross-coder aggregation: Mode.
“Ties” between categories are resolved so that the corresponding category in v2regsupgroups with the highest mean for the same country-date is chosen.

Years: 1900-2020

2.1.11 Strongest anti-regime preferences (C) (v2regantireg)

Project Manager(s): Carl Henrik Knutsen

Additional versions: * _nr

Question: Which (one) group has the strongest anti-regime preferences/antipathy against the current regime, irrespective of the group’s resources and capabilities for affecting the regime’s hold on power?

Clarification: Consider only the anti-regime preferences of the actors in this group, and do not take into consideration the abilities of this group to actually affect regime survival and change. Hence, the group with the strongest anti-regime preferences need not be the most important opposition group. Both capable and incapable political actors may have strong anti-regime preferences and want to see the regime removed from power. We also remind that the group needs not be currently mobilized or explicitly engaged in high-level opposition activities to be counted; individuals may strongly resent a regime, without taking particular actions, in a given year.

One way to think about what pro-/anti-regime preferences mean, independently of ability to affect regime survival is: what would individuals hypothetically (honestly) answer if asked in a survey: “On a scale from 0-10, how pleased are you with the current political regime”.

We remind you of the definition of a regime as the set of formal and/or informal rules that are essential for choosing political leaders and/or maintaining political leaders in power. Hence, we are not asking about which groups oppose the current government in a democracy (and who would vote for another party), but still accept the democratic rules as legitimate. We are, instead, asking about groups that want to see the wider political regime removed and replaced. Do not code for years denoted as “interregnum” for the pre-coded question on regime information.

Responses:
0: The aristocracy, including high status hereditary social groups and castes.
1: Agrarian elites, including rich peasants and large landholders.
2: Party elites (of the party or parties that control the executive).
3: Business elites.
4: Civil servants.
5: The military.
6: An ethnic or racial group(s).
7: A religious group(s).
8: Local elites, including chiefs.
9: Urban working classes, including labor unions.
10: Urban middle classes
11: Rural working classes (e.g. peasants).
12: Rural middle classes (e.g., family farmers)
13: A foreign government or colonial power.

Data release: 11.
Cross-coder aggregation: Mode.
'Ties’ between categories are resolved so that the corresponding category in v2regsupgroups with the highest mean for the same country-date is chosen.

Years: 1900-2020

2.1.12 Most powerful group in affecting regime duration and change (C) (v2regpower)

Project Manager(s): Carl Henrik Knutsen
Additional versions: * _nr

Question: Irrespective of its stance toward the regime (pro-, anti-, or neutral), which one group is the most important for affecting the current regime’s chances of staying in power?

Clarification: Here we ask you to disregard group preferences, and only consider a group’s resources and capabilities vis-a-vis affecting regime survival. In other words, do not consider whether this group is pro-regime, anti-regime, or neutral to the regime. Take only into consideration the capabilities of this group to affect regime survival, if key members of the group were to hypothetically mobilize the group in an effort to remove the regime. Politically neutral, as well as pro- and anti-regime groups, may have ample resources and be capable of organizing coordinated action. As a result, all three types of groups may have great influence over regime survival and change. Do not code for years denoted as “interregnum” for the pre-coded question on regime information.

Responses:
0: The aristocracy, including high status hereditary social groups and castes.
1: Agrarian elites, including rich peasants and large landholders.
2: Party elites (of the party or parties that control the executive).
3: Business elites.
4: Civil servants.
5: The military.
6: An ethnic or racial group(s).
7: A religious group(s).
8: Local elites, including chiefs.
9: Urban working classes, including labor unions.
10: Urban middle classes
11: Rural working classes (e.g. peasants).
12: Rural middle classes (e.g., family farmers)
13: A foreign government or colonial power.

Data release: 11.
Cross-coder aggregation: Mode.
‘Ties’ between categories are resolved so that the corresponding category in v2regsupgroups with the highest mean for the same country-date is chosen.

Years: 1900-2020
2.1.13 Regime information (A*) (v2reginfo)

Project Manager(s): Carl Henrik Knutsen, Tore Wig, Vilde Lunnan Djuve

Question: What is the regime name as well as start and end dates of this regime?

Clarification: The information on this question has been pre-coded for as many years as possible. Any pre-coded years contain an orange triangle. This means that the identity of the regime, which is given a suggestive name, and its start and end dates have already been entered. We are asking you only to add your confidence in the pre-coded information. This means that the text and/or specific date have already been entered, so we are asking you only to add your confidence in the pre-coded rating; we do not want you to change the rating, as we need all the Country Experts to answer the subsequent questions for the same regime.

Data release: 9-11.
Years: 1789-2020

2.1.14 Regime end type (A*) (v2regendtype)

Project Manager(s): Carl Henrik Knutsen, Tore Wig, Vilde Lunnan Djuve

Question: Could you specify the type of process that you consider the most important in leading to the end of the regime?

Clarification: The information on this question has been pre-coded for as many years as possible. Any pre-coded years contain an orange triangle. This means that what is considered the most important process that eventually ended the relevant regime has already been entered. We are asking you only to add your confidence in the pre-coded information. This means that the information has already been entered, so we are asking you only to add your confidence in the pre-coded rating; we do not want you to change the rating, as we need all the Country Experts to answer the subsequent questions for the same regime.

Responses:
0: A military coup d’etat.
1: A coup d’etat conducted by other groups than the military.
2: A self-coup (autogolpe) conducted by the sitting leader.
3: Assassination of the sitting leader (but not related to a coup d’etat)
4: Natural death of the sitting leader
5: Loss in civil war.
6: Loss in inter-state war.
7: Foreign intervention (other than loss in inter-state war)
8: Popular uprising.
9: Substantial political liberalization/democratization with some form of guidance by sitting regime leaders
10: Other type of directed and intentional transformational process of the regime under the guidance of sitting regime leaders (excluding political liberalization/democratization)
11: Substantial political liberalization/democratization without guidance by sitting regime leaders, occurring from some other process (such as an unexpected election loss for the sitting regime) than those specified by categories 1–10
12: Other process than those specified by categories 1–11.
13: The regime still exists

Data release: 9-11.
Years: 1789-2020

2.1.15 Regime end type, multiple selection version (A) (v2regendtypems)

Project Manager(s): Carl Henrik Knutsen, Tore Wig, Vilde Lunnan Djuve

Question: Could you specify the types of processes (one or more) that led to the end of the regime?

Responses:
0: A military coup d’etat. [v2regendtypems_0]
1: A coup d’etat conducted by other groups than the military. [v2regendtypems_1]
2: A self-coup (autogolpe) conducted by the sitting leader. [v2regendtypems_2]
3: Assassination of the sitting leader (but not related to a coup d'état). [v2regendtypems_3]
4: Natural death of the sitting leader. [v2regendtypems_4]
5: Loss in civil war. [v2regendtypems_5]
6: Loss in inter-state war. [v2regendtypems_6]
7: Foreign intervention (other than loss in inter-state war). [v2regendtypems_7]
8: Popular uprising. [v2regendtypems_8]
9: Substantial political liberalization/democratization with some form of guidance by sitting regime leaders. [v2regendtypems_9]
10: Other type of directed and intentional transformational process of the regime under the guidance of sitting regime leaders (excluding political liberalization/democratization). [v2regendtypems_10]
11: Substantial political liberalization/democratization without guidance by sitting regime leaders, occurring from some other process (such as an unexpected election loss for the sitting regime) than those specified by categories 1-10. [v2regendtypems_11]
12: Other process than those specified by categories 1-11. [v2regendtypems_12]
13: The regime still exists. [v2regendtypems_13]

Scale: Nominal
Answer-type: Multiple selection
Source(s): Encyclopedia Britannica; Wikipedia; various region- and country-specific sources.
Data release: 9-11.
Citation: V-Dem Codebook (see suggested citation at the top of this document).
Years: 1789-2020

2.1.16 Regime interregnum (A) (v2regint)

Project Manager(s): Carl Henrik Knutsen, Tore Wig, Vilde Lunnan Djuve
Question: Does there exist an identifiable political regime?
Clarification: This question is used to identify so-called interregnum periods, where no political regime is in control over the entity. Different types of political situations can lead to periods of time under which there is no identifiable political regime, one example being a civil war in which none of the parties have clear control over political bodies and processes in the country. However, the interregnum coding is employed conservatively, meaning that partial control over political bodies and processes in fairly large parts of the country (which is often the case also during civil wars) is sufficient for a 0 score.

Responses:
0: No.
1: Yes.
Scale: Dichotomous
Source(s): Encyclopedia Britannica; Wikipedia; various region- and country-specific sources.
Data release: 8-11.
Citation: V-Dem Codebook (see suggested citation at the top of this document).
Years: 1789-2020