
Comparative politics with rational politicians: Theory and evidence on the size and scope of government

DEFINITIONS AND SOURCES FOR THE DATA SET

VARIABLES IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

CTRYCD	COUNTRY CODE (As used by the IMF).
AFRICA	REGIONAL DUMMY FOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES.
ASIAE	REGIONAL DUMMY FOR EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES.
AVDMA	AVERAGE DISTRICT MAGNITUDE (i.e. seats per district) using definitions and methods as described in TAAGEPERA, R & SOBERG SHUGART, M, (1989) "Seats and Votes; The Effects and Determinants of Electoral Systems", Yale University Press.
AVDMA2	AVERAGE DISTRICT MAGNITUDE using definitions and methods as described in COX, GARY W, (1997) "Making Votes Count", Cambridge University Press.
CEDU	FRACTION OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON EDUCATION. Average for the years 1988-1992. Data from IMF Government Finance Statistics Yearbook 1997.
CENTR	CENTRALISATION OF GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE. (Calculated as CTOTEXP/ GTOTEXP. Average for the years 1988-1992. Data from same source as CEDU.
CHEALTH	FRACTION OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON HEALTH. Average for the years 1988-1992. Data from same source as CEDU.
CORDER	FRACTION OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICES AND PUBLIC ORDER. Average for the years 1988-1992 Data from same source as CEDU.
CPUBG3Y	$(CTRANS + CEDU + CORDER) / GDPSH685$.
CPUBG4Y	$CPUBG3Y + CHEALTH / GDPSH685$.
CTOTEXP	TOTAL CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE. Average for the years 1988-1992. Data from same source as CEDU.
CTRANS	FRACTION OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON TRANSPORT. Average for the years 1988-1992. Data from same source as CEDU.
ETHNO	ETHNOLINGUISTIC FRACTIONALIZATION. Data from Mauro, P., (1995) Corruption and Growth, Quarterly Journal of Economics CX(3), 681-712, Table III.
GDPSH585	GDP PER CAPITA Data from SUMMERS, R. and A. HESTON, Penn World Tables,

Mark 5.6, (available on line at www.nber.org). In the regressions, **INCOME** is defined as the log of GDP5H585.

GTOTEXP	TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE. Average for the years 1988-1992. Data from same source as CEDU.
LAAM	DUMMY FOR LATIN-AMERICAN COUNTRIES.
MAJ	1/AVDMA2 (Close to zero for fully proportional electoral systems and equal to unity for majoritarian electoral systems). It appears in our regressions as MAJORIT .
MAJORIT	DUMMY FOR MAJORITARIAN ELECTORAL RULE. Using COX (1997) & TAAGEPERA (1989). AVDMA <2 is defined as a majority election system. (Otherwise it is proportional). It appears in our regressions as MAJ .
MAJPARL	DUMMY FOR MAJORITARIAN ELECTORAL RULE AND PARLIAMENTARY REGIME TYPE. (Equal to 1 if PRES=0 and MAJORIT=1, and 0 otherwise).
MAJPRES	DUMMY FOR MAJORITARIAN ELECTORAL RULE AND PRESIDENTIAL REGIME TYPE. (Equal to 1 if PRES=1 and MAJORIT=1, and 0 otherwise).
OECD	DUMMY FOR OECD COUNTRIES.
OPEN	TOTAL TRADE OVER GDP. Calculated for 1990. Data from same source as GDP5H685. In our regressions we use the log of OPEN, although we call it OPEN as well.
POP6585	POPULATION PROPORTION OVER 65 IN 1985. Data from BARRO, R, AND LEE. Data set for a panel of 138 countries (available on line at www.nber.org) and UNITED NATIONS DEMOGRAPHICS HANDBOOK. Approximations have been made when data for 1985 were not available. It appears in our regressions as OLD .
POP85	TOTAL POPULATION IN 1985. Same sources as POP6585. In our regressions we use the log of POP85, although we call it POP85 as well.
PRES	PRESIDENTIAL DUMMY (1 means that the country has a president in terms of the model, i.e. not necessarily a function labeled "President"). Combining definitions in SHUGART, M S and CAREY, J M (1992), "Presidents and Assemblies", Cambridge University Press and COX, G W, (1997) "Making Votes Count", Cambridge University Press (Inside upper right quadrant in fig 8.2 in 1990 in SHUGART and CAREY means that the country is presidential. In COX presidential states are listed in appendix C. Ecuador, Peru, Sri Lanka, Namibia, and Switzerland are borderline cases. For countries not listed here readings about the constitutions in e.g. G.E Delun (ed) (1983), World Encyclopedia of Political Systems, were used to decide whether the country is presidential. (If a country is not presidential it is parliamentary).
PROPRES	DUMMY FOR PROPORTIONAL ELECTORAL RULE AND PRESIDENTIAL REGIME TYPE. (Equal to 1 if PRES=1 and MAJORIT=0, and 0 otherwise).