Boix-Miller-Rosato Dichotomous Coding of Democracy, Version 2.0

Date: December 2014


This is an updated version of our data set, now covering all sovereign countries (including micro-states) from 1800 to 2010. The coding rules and data references are included in the above paper. This version includes 16,988 democracy observations across 219 distinct countries. A list of changes to the previous version is included below.

List of Variables

country: Country name

code: COW country code

abbreviation: World Bank 3-letter code

year: Year

democracy: Dichotomous democracy measure

sovereign: Dichotomous indicator of sovereignty/independence (if 0, democracy is NA)

democracy_trans: -1 if democratic breakdown, 0 if no change, 1 if democratic transition

democracy_breakdowns: Previous number of democratic breakdowns

democracy_duration: Consecutive years of current regime type

democracy_omitteddata: This is the same measure as democracy, except it records an NA for countries occupied during an international war (e.g., the Netherlands 1940-44) or experiencing state collapse during a civil war (e.g., Lebanon 1976-89). The democracy variable instead fills in these years as continuations of the same regime type.

Changes from Previous Version

We have changed the dates for three cases of democratization:
• Costa Rica was changed from 1948 to 1949.
• Brazil was changed from 1979 to 1985.
• Bangladesh was changed from 1986 to 1991.