Rebel Organization Leaders (ROLE) Database

Codebook

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Coding Notes:

Active Leaders:

- For individuals who were still leaders of their organizations at the end of 2018, variables that could change during leadership (e.g., dead vs. alive, cause of death) are coded as of December 31, 2018.

Binary Variables:

- Code binary variables as either 0 or 1 based on the following criteria:

  1. There is evidence in sources that the individual did – or did not – have the relevant attribute or experience; **OR**

  2. It can be credibly inferred that the individual did – or did not – have the relevant attribute or experience. In this case, the coder must justify the inferential decision in the supplement.

- Note that this inference can be made in one of two ways: (1) based on **context**, or (2) based on a **lack of evidence** given sufficient evidence on the leader overall. Example of a contextual inference: coder infers that the leader, who held a bachelor's degree, speaks English because his country is a former British colony where most educated individuals speak English. Example of an inference based on lack of evidence: coder infers that a leader does not have experience working abroad because all information about his time abroad suggests he only studied abroad as a student.

- If none of these criteria are met (that is, there is no evidence in sources and a credible inference cannot be made), code the variable as missing.

Variables:

Leader last name (*nametwo*)

Leader first name (*nameone*)

Organization name (*groupname*)

Country (*stname*): The conflict country against which the leader fought.

Gender (*gender*)

Year of birth (*yearofbirth*)

Year of death (*yearofdeath*)

Deceased (*dead*): Coded as of December 31, 2018.

    0: No
    1: Yes

Place of birth (city, country) (*placeofbirth*)

Age at start of leadership (*leadershipage*)

Leader entry method (*entrymethod*): How did the individual come to lead the organization?

> 1: Founded/co-founded organization
> 2: Appointed/designated
> 3: Elected
> 4: Seized power by force
> 5: Unclear/unknown

Powersharing (*powersharing*): Did the leader share power at the top of the organization? Code 1

if there is no single top leader and power was shared among two or more individuals.

> 0: No
> 1: Yes

- Code 1 sparingly, only after all effort to identify one top leader is exhausted.

Education (*education*)

> 0: Did not finish primary school
> 1: Finished primary school or equivalent
> 2: Finished secondary school or equivalent
> 3: Obtained bachelor's degree or equivalent
> 4: Obtained master's degree or equivalent
> 5: Obtained doctorate degree

- Note that the level of education necessary to earn law, medical, and possibly other professional degrees varies across nations. Where necessary, coders must conduct additional research to determine what educational level a particular professional degree corresponds to and justify the coding decision in the supplement.

Categorial Area of study (*cat_areaofstudy*)

- Enter area of study for the highest degree achieved. If a leader held a dual degree (e.g. JD/PhD) or double major as the highest degree achieved, code one of the two degrees (order doesn't matter) under *area of study 2*.

  Blank: Did not obtain a degree in higher education.
  1: Teaching
  2: Law
  3: Engineering
  4: Medicine
  5: Science

6: Agriculture
7: Military
8: Religion
9: Film/Music
10: Economics
11: Business
12: History
13: Political Science
14: Philosophy
15: Public Affairs
16: Literature
17: Math
18: Vocational Training
19: Other (describe in supplement)
20: Unknown (leader is known to have attained a bachelor's degree or higher, but area of study is unknown)

Western education 1 (*educusuk*)

0: No
1: Yes, if leader obtained a degree (bachelor's, master's, doctorate, or equivalent) from a university in the US or UK.

Western education 2 (*educwest*)[1]

0: No
1: Yes, if leader obtained a degree (bachelor's, master's, doctorate, or equivalent) from a university in the US, UK, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, or Switzerland.

- Honorary degrees do not qualify as university degrees.
- Military training does not qualify as a university degree; code it under "military training abroad."
- Distance education does not qualify as Western education if the leader lived in a non-Western country while studying toward the degree.

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[1] The coding for the two "Western education" variables mirrors the coding scheme used in Gift, Thomas and Daniel Krcmaric, "Who Democratizes? Western-educated Leaders and Regime Transitions," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 61.3 (2017): 671-701.

Ever married? (*married*)

    0: No
    1: Yes

Aged at the time of marriage (*marriagage*)

Any children? (*children*)

    0: No
    1: Yes

Religious identification (*religion*): The religion with which the leader self-identified.

    1: Christianity
    2: Islam
    3: Hinduism
    4: Judaism
    5: Buddhism
    6: Sikhism
    7: Other (describe in supplement)
    8: None (i.e. self-identified as not religious)

Elite Family (*family*): Did the leader come from an elite family with political power or connections?

    0: No

    1: Yes

Political affiliations (*affiliation*): Was the leader a member or active participant in prominent political associations, parties, movements, or intellectual circles prior to becoming organization leader?

    0: No
    1: Yes (describe in supplement)

Pre-leader physical health (*physical*):[2] Code as "sickly" only if there is very strong evidence of

physical health issues before leading the group.

> 0: Healthy
> 1: Sickly

Pre-leader mental health (*mental*): Code as "sickly" only if there is very strong evidence of

mental health issues before leading the group.

> 0: Healthy
> 1: Sickly

Pre-leader occupation (*occupation*):[3] Code the leader's *primary* occupation prior to his/her

becoming rebel organization leader. Where ambiguous, code the vocation the leader held for the

longest period of time prior to rebel leadership.

> 1: Education (teacher/academic/professor)
> 2: Journalism
> 3: Law
> 4: Engineering
> 5: Medicine
> 6: Sciences
> 7: Agriculture
> 8: Military
> 9: Religion
> 10: Laborer
> 11: Activist
> 12: Career politician
> 13: Writer
> 14: Film/music
> 15: Economics
> 16: Aristocrat/landowner
> 17: Police
> 18: Business/entrepreneurship
> 19: Other (describe in supplement)

- Only code a leader as "activist" if s/he was an active member of an activist organization and had made activist his/her vocation (e.g. exclude ad hoc participation in protests or student activism).

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[2] We borrow the physical and mental health coding scheme from the LEAD Dataset (Horowitz et al. 2015).
[3] We adapted this list from the occupation variables in the LEAD Dataset.

Experience in a state military prior to assuming leadership? (*military*)

    0: No
    1: Yes

- Must be the military of an internationally recognized state.

Experience in a nonstate armed group prior to assuming leadership? (*nsmilitary*)

    0: No
    1: Yes

- Code 1 for any experience in a nonstate armed group besides the one s/he leads, including experience in parent organizations of splinter groups.

Combat experience prior to assuming leadership (*combat*)

    0: No
    1: Yes

- Code 1 for any combat experience prior to assuming leadership, even experience within the same organization if the individual had been a combatant and had risen through the ranks to become leader. Combat experience cannot be assumed from leader's experience in a state military or nonstate armed group. Any of the following indicates combat experience (note details in supplement):

    o There is evidence that the leader fought with an army or a group.
    o The leader was a rank-and-file member of a rebel, insurgent, or terrorist group in an active warzone.
    o The leader was a rank-and-file soldier deployed to an active warzone.

Held government position prior to assuming leadership of the rebel organization? (*govpost*)

    0: No
    1: Yes

- Must be the government of an internationally recognized state.
- This variable denotes positions of "political office." People are typically elected or appointed to government positions. It therefore excludes public-sector jobs that are not positions of political office.
- Include experience in both local and national government.

Lived in exile before becoming leader? (*exile*)

> 0: No
> 1: Yes

- Exile is defined as fleeing one's country of birth or long-term residence.

Studied abroad before becoming leader? (*studyab*)

> 0: No
> 1: Yes

- Include formal military training at military schools abroad, but not military training outside of formal school settings (e.g. training under Qaddafi in Libya).
- Where ambiguous – because the term "abroad" is unclear for leaders who were born in one country but grew up in another – use the following rule: If the leader attended any level of schooling for any amount of time in two or more countries, code this as 1. Thus, if a leader was born in Country 1, then moved to Country 2 at the age of 2 (prior to the start of any schooling) and eventually attended university in Country 2, s/he will *not* have studied abroad.
- If a leader was born in Soviet Azerbaijan and later studied in Moscow after the fall of the USSR, this would count as study abroad, since by then Azerbaijan and Russia were separate entities. However, if a leader was born in Soviet Azerbaijan and went to study in Moscow *prior to* the fall of the USSR, it would not count as study abroad. The same principle would apply to other situations of state breakup or dissolution.

Study abroad duration (*studyab_yr_total*): Code the total number of <u>years</u> a leader studied abroad. Code a 0 if *studyab* = 0.

Received military training abroad from a foreign military or foreign rebel group before becoming leader? (*milab*)

> 0: No
> 1: Yes

- A foreign military is a military that belongs to a country other than that of which the leader is a national.

Extensive professional work abroad before becoming leader? (*workab*) (e.g. as ambassador, businessman, etc.)

    0: No
    1: Yes

- "Abroad" is defined as outside one's country of birth or long-term residence.

Imprisoned before becoming leader? (*prison*)

    0: No
    1: Yes

- Do not count house arrest as imprisonment.
- Leader must have been imprisoned for a significant amount of time (over one month) for this to be coded 1.

Assassination attempt by the state before becoming leader? *(assassin)*

    0: No
    1: Yes

Cause of death (*deathcause*)

    1: Disease/natural causes
    2: KIA (killed by hostile forces in battle)
    3: Assassinated by domestic state forces (the state in which leader was killed)
    4: Assassinated by rival nonstate group
    5: Executed
    6: Fratricide (intentionally killed by own forces)
    7: Accident
    8: Suicide
    9: Homicide
    10: Friendly fire (unintentionally killed by own forces)
    11: Assassinated by external state forces (a state other than the one in which leader was killed; cross-border killing)

Notes on language variables

Code a leader as knowing a given language if:

1) Sources state that the leader knows the language; **OR**

2) The leader uses the language to communicate proficiently in writing or speech; **OR**

3) The language is the lingua franca of the leader's communal identity group (e.g. Sindhi among Sindhis in Pakistan) and/or country of origin or schooling (e.g. Arabic in Egypt) and there is otherwise no reason to believe that the leader does not know the language.

Speaks English? (*english*)

    0: No
    1: Yes

Speaks four or more languages? (*polyglot*)

    0: No
    1: Yes

- We acknowledge that what counts as a distinct language (as opposed to a dialect) is at times controversial and politicized. Mutual unintelligibility is often a reasonable starting point for identifying distinct languages but is not always definitive. In the few ambiguous cases, the coding for this variable may reflect the research and judgment of the particular coder(s) and is justified in the case supplement.

Coder (*coder*): Enter coder name