Historical Cabinets (H-CAB) v1.0 Codebook

Jan Teorell[1], Johan Hellström[2], Joseph Noonan[1]

[1]Stockholm University
[2]Umeå University

Introduction

The Historical Cabinets (H-CAB) dataset is an historical extension of the Party Government in Europe Database (PAGED) and covers cabinets formed between 1919-1945 in 12 European countries.[1,2] The H-CAB dataset provides data on dates of cabinet formation and dissolution allowing for analysis on cabinet formation and duration.

This dataset follows the PAGED definition of a cabinet change which records a change whenever one of the following events occurs:

1. Any change in the set of parties holding cabinet membership.

2. Any change in the identity of the Prime Minister.

3. Any general election.

Country selection is based on both countries that are in the PAGED dataset post-1945 (Hellström, Bergman, and Bäck 2021) and are in the ParlGov dataset (Döring, Huber, and Manow 2022) between 1919-1945. Like ParlGov, H-CAB only includes countries that are democratic according to Boix, Miller, and Rosato (2013). Table 1 provides the list of countries in H-CAB, their temporal coverage, and the number of cabinets covered.[3]

Data on the party composition of cabinets (parties in cabinet, seats, PM party, etc.) and election dates and results are from Döring, Huber, and Manow (2022), with some adjustments made. Specifically, 18 new cabinets have been added, missing elections have been corrected, and election dates have been adjusted to fit the PAGED standardization which uses the last date for elections held over multiple days. For results of elections not in ParlGov, data from Döring and Düpont (2020) is used.

---

[1]See Bergman (2019), Bergman, Bäck, and Hellström (2021) and Hellström, Bergman, and Bäck (2021) for a full description of the PAGED dataset.

[2]New data for France was also collected for the period 1945-1958, covering the Fourth Republic which is not included in PAGED.

[3]There are 8 countries that are in PAGED, and have more than 5 democratic years between 1919 and 1945 according to Boix, Miller, and Rosato (2013), but are not yet included in H-CAB due to their absence in ParlGov between 1919 and 1945: Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Greece, Estonia, Latvia and Czechoslovakia.

Table 1: H-CAB coverage

Country	Min. Start Year	Max Start Year	Total Cabinets
Austria	1919	1945	20
Belgium	1919	1945	24
Denmark	1920	1945	14
Finland	1919	1945	36
France	1919	1958	72
Germany	1919	1933	26
Iceland	1919	1944	18
Ireland	1922	1944	11
Netherlands	1918	1945	11
Norway	1920	1945	20
Sweden	1920	1944	17
United Kingdom	1919	1945	15

Variables

`country`: Name of country.

`paged_country_id`: PAGED numeric country ID.

`vdem_country_id`: V-Dem numeric country ID.

`cow_country_id`: COW numeric country ID.

`cab_id`: A unique ID following this pattern "[paged_country_id]H[cabinet_number]".

`cabname`: Name of the PM consecutively numbered with Roman numerals.

`electdate`: The date of the last election. Date of most recent parliamentary election: (a) two-round elections: date of second round (b) elections held over several days: date of last day.

`date_in`: The start date of a cabinet is determined by which ever of the following conditions first occurs (a) date that PM/cabinet was appointed by head of state (b) date of investiture vote in parliament (c) date of general election.

`date_out`: The end date of a cabinet is determined by which ever of the following conditions first occurs (a) day of cabinet resignation (b) day of general election. In cases where governments go in exile due to invasions, the `date_out` is the date that they left the country. In cases of autocratization, `date_out` is an approximate date when the country ceased to be a democracy.[4]

`cab_duration_days`: Time in days between cabinet's first and last day in office.

`form_duration`: Number of days between `date_out` of previous cabinet and `date_in` of current cabinet. During periods of long gaps due to autocratization or occupation during WWII `form_duration` is recorded as missing.

`form_duration_alt`: Number of days between `date_out` of previous cabinet and `date_in` of current cabinet, unless an election occurs between `date_out` of the previous cabinet and and `date_in` of the current one. In these cases, `form_duration_alt` is the number of days between `electdate` and `date_in`.

`cab_num_parties`: Number of cabinet parties.

---

[4]Germany and Austria are the only two cases of autocratization in the dataset. In the German case, `date_out` for the Hitler cabinet is set to the election of March 5th 1933, where the Nazi party unleashed brutal violence against the opposition. In the Austrian case, `date_out` for the Dollfuss cabinet is set to March 15, 1933, where the Dollfuss government used force to prevent a reconvening of parliament.

`cab_coalition`: Coalition [0: no, 1: yes].

`cab_majority`: Cabinet majority (50% + 1 seat) [0: no, 1: yes].

`cab_surplus`: Cabinet surplus majority [0: no, 1: yes].

`govtype`: Government type.

1. Minority coalition cabinet: Holds less than 50 % plus one seat in parliament. Single-party minority cabinets are likewise coded as 'Min'.

2. Single-party majority cabinet: Holds 50% plus one seat in parliament. Is not a coalition.

3. Minimal winning coalition: Is turned into a losing coalition by the subtraction of any of the coalition parties, i.e., if it loses a coalition party it holds less than 50 % plus one seat.

4. Surplus majority coalition: Can lose a coalition party and still be winning, i.e. control 50 % plus one seat or more in the parliament.

5. A non-partisan cabinet, e.g. appointed by a president to hold an election.

`seats`: Total number of seats.

`cab_seat_share`: Cabinet seat share.

`pm_party`: PM's party (short name).

`cab_party_x`: ParlGov short name of party.

`cab_party_parlgov_id_x`: ParlGov ID for party.

`seats_party_x`: Party seats lower chamber.

Bibliography

Bergman, Torbjörn, ed. 2019. *Coalition Governance in Central Eastern Europe.* Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press.

Bergman, Torbjörn, Hanna Bäck, and Johan Hellström, eds. 2021. *Coalition Governance in Western Europe.* Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press.

Boix, Charles, Michael K. Miller, and Sebastian Rosato. 2013. "A Complete Data Set of Political Regimes, 1800-2007." *Comparative Political Studies* 46 (12): 1523–54.

Döring, Holger, and Nils Düpont. 2020. "Elections Global: Election Results in 207 Countries, 1880–2015." https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/OGOURC.

Döring, Holger, Constantin Huber, and Philip Manow. 2022. "ParlGov 2022 Release." https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/UKILBE.

Hellström, Johan, Torbjörn Bergman, and Hanna Bäck. 2021. "Party Government in Europe Database (PAGED)." https://repdem.org.