Historical Cabinets (H-CAB) v2.0 Codebook

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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 20 European countries.[1] 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 countries that (a) are in the PAGED dataset post-1945 (Hellström, Bergman, and Bäck 2021) and that (b) according to Boix, Miller, and Rosato (2013) have more than 5 democratic years between 1919 and 1945.[2] Only years under democracy are included. H-DATA v2.0 updates v1.0 with 8 more countries that were not covered in the ParlGov dataset (Döring, Huber, and Manow 2022) between 1919-1945.[3]

Table 1 provides the list of countries in H-CAB, their temporal coverage, and the number of cabinets covered.

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) and country-specific sources (mostly Wikipedia). For results of elections not in ParlGov, data from Döring and Düpont (2020) and Nohlen and Stöver (2010) is used.

Table 1: H-CAB coverage

Country	Min. Start Year	Max Start Year	Total Cabinets
Austria	1919	1945	20
Belgium	1919	1945	24
Czechoslovakia	1920	1938	18
Denmark	1920	1945	14
Estonia	1919	1933	21
Finland	1919	1945	36
France	1919	1958	72
Germany	1919	1933	26
Greece	1926	1933	12

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[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] The eight countries added to v2.0 are: Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Greece, Estonia, Latvia and Czechoslovakia.

Iceland	1919	1944	18
Ireland	1922	1944	11
Latvia	1920	1931	14
Lithuania	1920	1924	5
Netherlands	1918	1945	11
Norway	1920	1945	20
Poland	1919	1923	10
Portugal	1919	1925	27
Spain	1931	1935	16
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 whichever 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 whichever 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.

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.

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.

A general note on independent MPs

Independent member if parliament (MPs) can under rare circumstances be included as a "support party" to the cabinet, but this support must be explicit and mutual.

Country specific explanations

1. Czechoslovakia

In one of the Czechoslovak governments (Beran I), a new party has been formed during the term of office, which is a composite of several parties. It therefore has no election result of its own, but the new party SNJ's election result from 19 May 1935 is calculated on the parties that form the composition. Since SNJ is the only governing party, it is coded as a one-party government.

2. Greece

Greece had multiple cabinets in 1944 and 1945, prior to the 1946 election, but these have been excluded since the last prior election under democracy was in 1935. Moreover, due to the fact that the Greek parties came together in alliances for which there are no official abbreviations, newly created abbreviations appear in the dataset. Here are the full names of the party alliances:

Liberal Union – LU

Popular party – PP

Free minders - FM

Democratic union - DU

Liberals - L

Agriculture and Labour Party - ALP

Populars - P

National radicals - NR

Progressives - Pr

Conservative democrats – CD

3. Lithuania, Poland and Portugal

The cabinets of these three countries contain an unusually large number of independent ministers, or ministers with a very loose connection to a political party in parliament. The variables capturing cabinet support (cab_seattotal, cab_seatshare and cab_majority) should therefore in these countries be interpreted with caution.

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