

THE IDEOLOGY OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT, 1870–2023, VERSION 2.0

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ABSTRACT. This note introduces version 2.0 of the *Heads of Government* dataset, which provides summary information about the ideological orientation of heads of government (left, center, or right, with separately provided information about religious orientation) in 33 states in Western Europe, the Americas, and the Asia-Pacific region between 1870 and 2023.

The original version of the Heads of Government dataset was published in 2018 and contained observations from 1870 through 2012. The project is described in detail in the research note that was released with the original dataset (Brambor and Lindvall, 2018). Version 2.0 covers the years 1870 through 2023 and includes an encoding update, new leader-year observations, revised individual observations, and recalculated variables. It is available in the leader-year and country-year formats and there is both a .dta and a .csv version. This note contains a codebook with variable descriptions and summary information about the updates in version 2.0.

We ask users of the dataset to cite the following information: Brambor, Thomas, Johannes Lindvall, Ann-Ida Gyllenspetz and Annika Stjernquist. (2024). *Heads of Government dataset* (version 2.0, 16 April 2024). University of Gothenburg.

Encoding update

Special characters in the previous version of the dataset hindered usability for Stata users. Version 2.0 of the dataset is encoded in latin1, which translates special characters. Moreover, leading and trailing blanks in string variables have been removed.

New leader-year observations

Version 2.0 has been updated with new leader-year observations for all countries from 2013 to 2023. A few leader-years before 2013 that were missing in previous versions have also been added in version 2.0.

Individual observations revised

A few reoccurring errors in the *hogoutdate* variable in previous versions of the dataset have been corrected in version 2.0. As new leader-years have been added in version 2.0, some further

corrections have been made to the variables *hogindate* and *hogoutdate* to maintain the proper chronology.

The Archigos v. 4.1 (*archigos_leadid_v41*) variable has been updated for all new leader-years until 2015 (the last year for which Archigos v. 4.1 data are available). A few missing observations for the Archigos v. 4.1 variable before 2013 have been added and a small number of observations have been deleted to correct a previous error.

The variables *hogideo* and *hogrel* have been coded in a few instances which lacked coding in previous versions. Spelling errors have been corrected in *hogname* and *hogid*.

Recalculated variables

The three variables relating to heads of governments' tenure have been updated: *hogtenure*, *hogtenureyear*, and *hogcandnr*. The variables have been updated in their entirety, thus introducing a slightly new way of thinking about tenure. The new calculations of *hogtenure* and *hogtenureyear* account for the first and last day in office – if a head of government took office on the same day on which his or her predecessor left office, that day is counted as 1 office day for both the incoming and outgoing head of government. Practically, it means that 1 is added to the calculated values of *hogtenure* and *hogtenureyear*. The implications for users of version 2.0 are, first, that *hogtenure* will display one more office day compared to previous versions of the dataset, and second, that *hogtenureyear* will display one more office day compared to previous versions of the dataset – unless the value of *hogtenureyear* is equal to an entire calendar year (365 or 366), in which case the value of *hogtenureyear* will be identical to the value in previous versions. The *hogcandnr* variable has then been recalculated and updated to fit revisions made.

The *hogid* variable has also been updated in its entirety, to account for new leader-years. IDs have been assigned using the original approach, based on heads of governments' alphabetical sorting within their respective country. Users should note that IDs in version 2.0 differ from IDs in previous versions.

Codebook

List of variables *Variable information, including 2.0 revisions*

<code>cname</code>	Type: String Description: The name of the country, using naming conventions derived from the Quality of Government dataset (Teorell, et al. 2012). 2.0 revisions: Updated for all countries 2013–2023.
<code>year</code>	Type: Numeric Description: The year. 2.0 revisions: Updated until 2023 for all countries. A few missing leader-years added before 2013.
<code>ccode</code>	Type: Numeric Description: A three-digit numeric country code based on the ISO 3166-1 standard system. 2.0 revisions: Updated for all countries 2013–2023.
<code>ccodecow</code>	Type: Numeric Description: A numeric country code based the classification by the Correlates of War project. 2.0 revisions: Updated for all countries 2013–2023.
<code>ccodeiso</code>	Data type: String Description: A three-letter country code based on the ISO 3166 alpha-3 system. 2.0 revisions: Updated for all countries 2013–2023.
<code>hogname</code>	Type: String Description: The full name of the head of government. 2.0 revisions: Updated for all countries 2013–2023. A few spelling errors corrected. Special characters removed with updated encoding.

hogideo	<p>Type: String</p> <p>Values: R, L, C, O, NA</p> <p>Description: The ideological orientation of the head of government. The variable takes five values: R(ight), L(eft), C(enter), O(ther) or NA. We use the “Other” category if the head of government’s ideological position does not fit into either of the three main ideologies or if we have insufficient information (for example, if there are competing wings within the head of government’s party and his or her own ideological position cannot be determined). We use the code “NA” if there is no head of government.</p> <p>2.0 revisions: Updated for all countries 2013–2023. A few cases before 2013 coded.</p>
hogrel	<p>Type: Numeric</p> <p>Values: 1/0</p> <p>Description: This variable takes the value 1 for heads of government with explicitly Christian platforms, 0 for all others. Whether the state is secular and whether the leader him or herself is Christian does not in itself determine the coding. Empirically, most of the Christian heads of governments that we identify belong to Catholic or other Christian parties before the Second World War or to Christian democratic parties after the Second World War.</p> <p>2.0 revisions: Updated for all countries 2013–2023. A few cases before 2013 coded.</p>
hogindate	<p>Type: Numeric date</p> <p>Description: The date the head of government took office. Based on the Archigos database (Goemans, Gleditsch, and Chiozza, 2009) and Rulers.org (Schemmel, 2013).</p> <p>2.0 revisions: Updated for all countries 2013–2023. A few incorrect dates revised.</p>
hogoutdate	<p>Type: Numeric date</p> <p>Description: The date the head of government left office. Based on the Archigos (Goemans, Gleditsch, and Chiozza, 2009) and Rulers.org (Schemmel, 2013). If the head of government was still in office by the last day of the end-year of the dataset, hogoutdate is assigned missing value “.”.</p> <p>2.0 revisions: Updated for all countries 2013–2023. A few incorrect dates revised.</p>

hogid	<p>Type: Numeric in .dta, text in .csv</p> <p>Description: A unique identifier code for individual head of government, consisting of the three-letter country code and the last name of the head of government (and, if several heads of government from one country had the same last name, a counter). In .dta format, the variable also contains an underlying numeric ID.</p> <p>2.0 revisions: Updated for all countries 2013–2023. Note that IDs in version 2.0 differ from previous versions.</p>
hogtenure	<p>Type: Numeric</p> <p>Description: The overall length of tenure of the head of government in office days. When the first day of tenure of a head of government occurs on the same day as the last day of tenure of his or her predecessor, that day is counted as 1 day for each individual.</p> <p>2.0 revisions: Entire variable updated with revised calculation (+1 day compared to previous versions).</p>
hogtenureyear	<p>Type: Numeric</p> <p>Values: 1–366</p> <p>Description: The total number of days in office during the calendar year in office days. When the first day of tenure of a head of government occurs on the same day as the last day of tenure of his or her predecessor, that day is counted as 1 day for each individual.</p> <p>2.0 revisions: Entire variable updated with revised calculation (+1 day in all observations less than an entire calendar year compared to previous versions).</p>
hogcandnr	<p>Type: Numeric</p> <p>The order of heads of government within a country-year with respect to the number of days in office (hogcandnr = 1 thus identifies the head of government with the longest time in office during the calendar year).</p> <p>2.0 revisions: Entire variable updated with revised calculation, correcting a few incorrect values in previous versions.</p>
archigos_leadid_v29	<p>Type: String</p> <p>Description: The leader identification code used by the Archigos database version 2.9 (Goemans, Gleditsch, and Chiozza, 2009)</p>

(included to simplify the combination of information from the two databases).

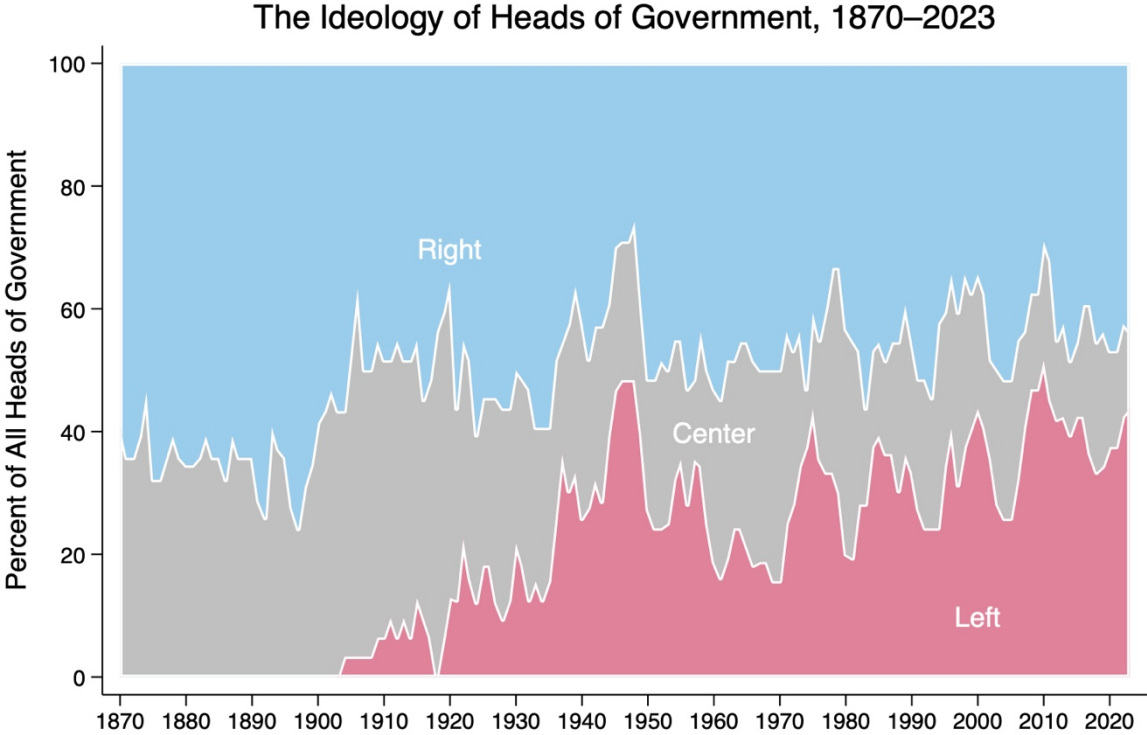
2.0 revisions: Name change. Previously named `archigos_leadid`.

`archigos_leadid_v41` Type: String

Description: The leader identification code used by the Archigos database version 4.1 (Goemans, Gleditsch, and Chiozza, 2016) (included to simplify the combination of information from the two databases).

2.0 revisions: Updated with observations for new leader-years (Archigos version 4.1 provides data until 2015). Missing observations added in a few cases before 2013.

Figure 1. Visualization of the ideology of heads of government over time



References

- Brambor, Thomas, and Johannes Lindvall. (2018). The Ideology of Heads of Government, 1870-2012. *European Political Science*, 17(2), 211-222.
- Goemans, Henk E., Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, and Giacomo Chiozza. (2009). Introducing Archigos: A Dataset of Political Leaders. *Journal of Peace Research* 46 (2), 269–283.
- Goemans, Henk E., Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, and Giacomo Chiozza. (2016). *Archigos: A Dataset of Political Leaders, version 4.1, 1 March 2016* [Dataset].
- Schemmel, Benjamin. (2013). *Rulers Database*. URL <http://www.rulers.org>.
- Teorell, Jan, Marcus Samanni, Sören Holmberg, and Bo Rothstein. (2012). *The Quality of Government Dataset, version 6 April 2011*. University of Gothenburg: The Quality of Government Institute.