

Ethnicity of the Head of State, 1945-1999

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I. Description

This dataset contains the ethnicity of the head of state for 162 countries from 1945 to 1999. The ethnic categories are as defined in Fearon (2003) and the list of leaders and tenure dates is taken from Goemans et al (2004).

This dataset was used to identify minority heads of state in Fearon et al (2007). The replication dataset for that article can be found [here](#).¹ If you use these data, please cite the following:

Fearon, James, Kimuli Kasara, and David Laitin. 2007. Ethnic Minority Rule and Civil War Onset. *American Political Science Review* 101 (1).

For additional information about these heads of state and an updated list of leaders see the Archigos [website](#) and cite

Goemans, Hein, Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, Giacomo Chiozza, and Jinhee L. Choung. 2008. Archigos: A Database on Political Leaders. *Typescript, University of Rochester and University of California, San Diego*.

Variable	Description
leadid_arch04	Leader ID from Goemans et al (2004)
leader_arch04	Leader Name from Goemans et al (2004)
group	Group Name from Fearon (2003)
gcode	Group Code from Fearon (2003)
gpro	Group Size from Fearon (2003)
lessthan1	Dummy variable equaling 1 when the head of state's ethnic group is neither one of the ethnic groups listed in Fearon (2003) as having more than 1 % of the population nor a sub-group of one of the listed groups.
lessthan1_name	Name of the unlisted group
startdate_arch04	First day in power from Goemans et al (2004)
enddate_arch04	Last day in power from Goemans et al (2004)
leadid_arch08	Leader ID from Goemans et al (2008)

¹ You may not be able to recover the exact *mingrp* variable used in Fearon et al (2007) from this dataset because of a few errors in the data we used for that paper. The findings in the article are unaffected by these errors.

II. Sources

The sources we used to find the ethnicity of the head of state are listed below and include country histories, general and country-specific reference works, press reports and official biographies on government websites.² In some cases we looked at books and articles on particular ethnic minorities, on the assumption that, if there had ever been a head of state from that minority group, he or she would have been mentioned.

III. Notes

Users of the dataset should be aware of the following things:

1. Self-Identification vs. Ancestry

The ethnic identity of the head of state may be a political issue. In a small number of cases heads of state choose to stress one of several identities available to them or are accused of passing by their political opponents. Where there is a conflict, we have coded the head of state as being part of the ethnic group that he publicly identifies with rather than with his descent group. If you choose to follow a different rule, these contentious cases are described in the notes below.

2. Ethnically homogenous states

In ethnically homogenous states (e.g. South Korea) the ethnicity of the head of state is frequently not explicitly stated in the secondary source. It is likely that the author assumes his or her readers will know that the head of state is a member of the group that almost the whole population belongs to. In these cases we looked for biographical information on the head of state on the assumption that these sources would have mentioned it if they were from an ethnic group neither listed in nor a subgroup of the groups listed in Fearon (2003).

3. Mestizos (Mixed) in Latin American and the Caribbean

It is often not clear how to differentiate “mestizos” from “whites” and the sources do not often state that a particular head of state is white or light-skinned. In some cases ethnic identity clearly lies along a continuum defined by skin color, but in others everyone is considered “mestizo” apart from those few “whites” of more recent immigrant ancestry. In these cases, we used the sources to determine whether or not a country fell into the former or the latter category and used pictures of the heads of state to classify them. This method is better at establishing that heads of state are not black or indigenous than in determining whether they are white or mestizo. See Fearon et al (2007) for a discussion of how we used the categories white and mestizo in our analysis.

If you find any errors please email Kimuli Kasara [kk2432 \[at\] columbia.edu](mailto:kk2432@columbia.edu).

² Most of the press reports listed here can be found on Lexis Nexis Academic.
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#	Country	Sources
700	Afghanistan	[272] [13]
339	Albania	[105] [340] [327] [351]
615	Algeria	[236] [142] [223] [114] [209]
540	Angola	[43] [170]
160	Argentina	[150] [333] [283] [511] [522] [387]
371	Armenia	[12] [445]
900	Australia	[515]
305	Austria	[108] [194] [276] [5] [415] [462] [469] [472] [425]
373	Azerbaijan	[316] [449] [445] [464] [352]
692	Bahrain	[354] [406]
771	Bangladesh	[144] [34] [35] [397]
370	Belarus	[337] [384]
211	Belgium	[194] [148] [90] [309] [102] [185] [39] [407] [473] [508] [93] [81]
434	Benin	[19] [84] Note: The Fearon (2003) category of Bargu contains a number of northern groups besides the Bariba.
760	Bhutan	[290]
145	Bolivia	[16] [140] [135] [270] [513] [443]
346	Bosnia	[77] [444] [346]

571	Botswana	<p>[231] [263] [248] [329] [438]</p> <p>Note: There is some disagreement over the ethnic identity of Festus Mogae. He is a self-described member of a Tswana sub-tribe the Bangwato, but sources describe him as a Batalalote and differ on whether this Batalaote sub-group is genuinely a sub-tribe of the Tswana-speaking Bangwato or of the Kalangala. In addition, there are claims made by his opponents that he is a Shona and not from Botswana at all. As he is a self-described member of a Tswana sub-tribe he is coded as Tswana.</p>
140	Brazil	[499] [159] [510]
355	Bulgaria	Coded by Nikolay Marinov
439	Burkina Faso	[106] [306] [214]
775	Burma	<p>[312] [300] [38] [212]</p> <p>Note: Both Ne Win and San Yu come from Chinese families, but self-identify as ethnic Burmese [300, 312]. Ne Win denied his Sino-Burmese identity saying, “for at least three generations our family has been pure Burmese” [212]</p>
516	Burundi	[237] [275] [241] [196] [104]
811	Cambodia	[68] [278] [76] [393] [373] [396] [383]
471	Cameroon	[175] [292] [91]
20	Canada	[501]
482	Central African Republic	[176] [88] [320] [252]
483	Chad	[52] [83] [86] [244] [195] [198] [339] [523]
155	Chile	[318] [44] [158] [492]
710	China	[314] [362]
100	Colombia	[273] [138] [80] [512]
484	Republic of Congo	<p>[26] [66] [89] [107] [487]</p> <p>Note: In the Fearon (2003) descriptions of ethnic groups the Mbochi and Kouyou are one group (Mbochi-Kouyou). So,</p>

		Nguesso, an Mbochi, has the Kouyou group. Lissouba, a Nzabi, is coded as an Mbete because the Fearon (2003) group probably refers to the M'bede-Nzabi (see [487]).
94	Costa Rica	[70] [238] [496] [482] [516]
344	Croatia	[310] [405]
40	Cuba	[361] [357] [493]
352	Cyprus	[261] [385] [399] [363] [380] [348]
315	Czechoslovakia	[151, 470]
316	Czech Republic	[151] [507]
490	Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	[46] [335] [57] [250]
390	Denmark	[319] [174] [360] [376] [372] [369] [358] [371] [398]
522	Djibouti	[24] [323]
42	Dominican Republic	[232] [224] [122] [489]
130	Ecuador	[336] [251] [48] [136] [205] [494]
651	Egypt	[125] [209]
92	El Salvador	[110] [131] [16] [486]
531	Eritrea	[187] [302]
366	Estonia	[169] [298] [229] [2] [457] [422]
530	Ethiopia	[36] [173] [183] [184] [296] [203] [64] [325] [161]
950	Fiji	[192] [22] [453] [474]
375	Finland	[211] [208] [386] Note: Ahtisaari's father's family roots lay in Norway [208]
220	France	[4] [260] [342]

481	Gabon	[119]
420	Gambia	[160] [284] [332] [285]
372	Georgia	[73] [243] [418] [447]
265	GDR	[55] [29] [463] [448] [471]
260	FDR	[55]
452	Ghana	[15] [37] [61] [246] [247] [257] [256] [41]
350	Greece	[326] [191] [74] [164] [163]
90	Guatemala	[230] [249] [109] [328] [484]
438	Guinea	[254] [253] [411]
404	Guinea Bissau	[112] [59] [200]
110	Guyana	[171] [434] [477] [427]
41	Haiti	[262] [267] [481] [224]
91	Honduras	[226] [220] [16] [490]
310	Hungary	[51] [324] [1] [133] [82] [194] [162]
750	India	[206] [145] [60] [467] [437] [426] [440] [478] [495]
850	Indonesia	[115] [71] [28] [404] [455] [428]
630	Iran	[202] [209]
645	Iraq	[209] [123] [130] [366] [349]
205	Ireland	[215] [49] [485]
666	Israel	
325	Italy	[124] [6] [194]
437	Cote d'Ivoire	[234] [338] [72] [321]

51	Jamaica	[216] [498] [497] [436] [424] [435] [419]
740	Japan	
663	Jordan	[520]
705	Kazakhstan	[454] [390]
501	Kenya	
690	Kuwait	[378]
703	Kyrgyzstan	[8] [442] [445]
812	Laos	[313] [291] [168]
367	Latvia	[259] [2] [456]
660	Lebanon	[11]
570	Lesotho	[134] [277] [304] [303]
450	Liberia	[101] [295] [103]
620	Libya	[120] [308]
368	Lithuania	[3] [193]
343	Macedonia	[121] [451] [465] [500]
580	Madagascar	[21] [20] [23] [69]
553	Malawi	[62] [180] [177]
820	Malaysia	[181] [153]
432	Mali	[40] [42] [167] [154] [433] [429]
435	Mauritania	[264]
590	Mauritius	[228] [307] [294]

70	Mexico	[58] [95] [521] [343]
359	Moldova	[50] [445] [388]
712	Mongolia	[287] [280] [31]
600	Morocco	[305]
541	Mozambique	[30] [56] [240]
731	North Korea	[188]
565	Namibia	[128] [394]
790	Nepal	[297] [290]
210	The Netherlands	[194] [165] [502] [364]
920	New Zealand	[503]
93	Nicaragua	[225] [219] [16] [402] [504]
436	Niger	[166] [127] [79] [87] [149] [416] [431]
475	Nigeria	[113] [258] [116]
385	Norway	[78] [94] [441]
698	Oman	[350]
770	Pakistan	[53] [45] [479] [488] [458]
95	Panama	[217] [16] [141] [517] [392]
910	Papua New Guinea	
150	Paraguay	[25] [16] [155] [242] [137] [509]
135	Peru	[157] [118] [311] [18] [16] [480]
840	Philippines	[129] [96] [423] [347]
290	Poland	[194] [334] [367]

235	Portugal	[330] [301]
360	Romania	[322] [32] [162] [452] [459] [518]
365	Russia	[274] [445]
517	Rwanda	[197] [271] [97] Note:
732	South Korea	[235]
670	Saudi Arabia	[400]
433	Senegal	[65] [117]
451	Sierra Leone	[17] [178] [10] [33] [178] [179] [111]
830	Singapore	[381] [420]
317	Slovakia	[189]
349	Slovenia	[268]
520	Somalia	[233] [222]
560	South Africa	[289]
230	Spain	[152] [186] [439] [375] [403] [353] [368]
780	Sri Lanka	[279] [286] [461] [476] [421] [401] [355] [374] [356] [345]
625	Sudan	[201] [14] [221] [92] [199] [207] [483] Note: Nimeiri is coded as an Arab because he self-identifies as an Arab and is “an ardent pan-Arabist” [14]. There are good reasons to believe that Nimeiri is a Nubian, a non-Arab Muslim group in Northern Sudan. His great-grandfather was a tribal leader in Wad Nimiery region in Dongola, a Nubian area. The name Dongolawai (Dunqulawi) is sometimes used to refer to all Nubians [201, 210-11]. Further, Charles Deng describes Nimeiri as “a Nubian who can hardly speak fluent Arabic.” [483]
572	Swaziland	[47]

380	Sweden	[293] [182] [245] [7] [395] [370] [365] [359]
225	Switzerland	<p>[519]</p> <p>Switzerland has 51 heads of state listed in the dataset. The Federal Presidency changes every year and the Federal president is selected from an eight-member Federal Council.</p> <p>To figure out the ethnic identity of the Chairman of the Federal Presidency, we used (1) the last name of the Chairman; (2) the language spoken in their Canton of citizenship; and (3) the language spoken in the Canton they represent. In almost all cases, there was no conflict between these three things.</p>
652	Syria	[67] [209]
713	Taiwan	[505] [379] [362] [382]
702	Tajikistan	[75] [9]
510	Tanzania	[255] [430] [466]
800	Thailand	[299] [344]
461	Togo	[85] [156] [143]
52	Trinidad & Tobago	[27] [216]
616	Tunisia	[239] [266] [209]
640	Turkey	[146] [130] [341]
701	Turkmenistan	[464] [391]
696	United Arab Emirates	[389]
500	Uganda	
200	UK	[126] [210]
369	Ukraine	[190] [377]

165	Uruguay	[218] [331] [16] [514] [506]
2	USA	
364	USSR	[274]
704	Uzbekistan	[445] [460] [468]
101	Venezuela	[282] [132] [491] [450] [446]
816	Vietnam	[288] [100] [63] [227] [265] [475]
679	Yemen	[54] [98] [99] Note: Group definitions used for Yemen (679) apply to Yemen People's Republic (680) and Yemen Arab Republic (678)
342	Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	[315] [276] [310] [268] [409] [408] [413] [417] [412] [414] [432] [410]
345	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	[315]
551	Zambia	[269] [204] [139] [213] Note: Posner (2005) notes that Kaunda's parents were Nyanja-speakers and that for the early part of his career Kaunda was considered a Bemba-speaker, only becoming publicly identified as a Nyanja after the breaking with prominent Bemba politicians from in 1971. Kaunda grew up in Chinsali District in Bembaland. Lubwa, where Kaunda grew up, is in the heart of Bemba country and, according to Hatch (1976) "the Bemba language was the first known to the young Kaunda and it remains his mother-tongue." According to Machpherson (1974) the Kaunda family belonged to a group called Tonga on the west shore of Lake Malawi that shared a common origin with the Zambian Tonga and Kaunda's mother was a Tumbuka. The fact that his parents were from Malawi was used to disqualify him from the presidency in a controversial 1996 constitutional amendment Mbao (1998).
552	Zimbabwe	[281] [147] [317] [172]

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