

The Ethnic Power Relations Dataset (EPR-ETH) Version 2.0

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EPR-ETH is an updated and extended version of the Ethnic Power Relations (EPR) dataset Version 1.1. It identifies all politically relevant ethnic groups and records the level of access to state power by their political representatives in all countries of the world where ethnicity has been politicized from 1946-2009.

Citation

When using the EPR-ETH dataset in your research, please indicate the version used and add the following reference:

Cederman, L.-E., A. Wimmer, and B. Min (2010). Why do ethnic groups rebel? New data and analysis. World Politics 62(1), pp. 87-119.

Changes to EPR Version 1.1.

EPR-ETH has lowered the threshold for inclusion of countries. While the previous version included all sovereign states with a population of at least 1 million and a surface area of at least 500,000 square kilometers as of 2005, EPR-ETH covers all sovereign states with a population of at least 500,000.² This has led to the inclusion of a series of new countries into the dataset.³ The main change to the previous version concerns the time frame: All country codings were updated from the year 2005 to 2009. Additionally, some errors in the old codings were corrected based on new evidence.

Data Collection

EPR Version 1.1 was composed on the basis of an online expert survey under the label Expert Survey of Ethnic Groups (ESEG). Nearly one hundred country and regional experts were asked to identify the ethnic categories most salient for national politics in

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² Note that EPR-ETH includes occupied territories which are de-facto controlled by another state and counts them as part of the occupying state. This is the case, for example, with the Gaza Strip and West Bank in Israel, Western Sahara in Morocco, Namibia in South Africa before 1990, etc. Oversea colonies, however, were not included.

³ The newly included countries are: Guyana, Cyprus, Djibouti, Bahrain, Bhutan, and Fiji.

each country. Thus, our coders composed a list of all politically relevant ethnic groups (as defined below) in a country, irrespective of their size. As explicated below, EPR's flexible framework allows this group list to change over time in order to account for possible shifts of the most relevant ethnic cleavages within a country.

During the whole process of the composition of the dataset, several regional workshops were held where every country coding was reviewed and evaluated to ensure inter-coder reliability and consistency.

Coding Procedure

Following the Weberian tradition, we defined ethnicity as a subjectively experienced sense of commonality based on a belief in common ancestry and shared culture. Different markers may be used to indicate such shared ancestry and culture: common language, similar phenotypical features, adherence to the same faith, and so on. Our definition of ethnicity thus includes ethnolinguistic, ethnosomatic (or "racial"), and ethnoreligious groups, but not tribes and clans that conceive of ancestry in genealogical terms, nor regions that do not define commonality on the basis of shared ancestry.

An ethnic category is politically relevant if at least one significant political actor claims to represent the interests of that group in the national political arena, or if members of an ethnic category are systematically and intentionally discriminated against in the domain of public politics. "Significant" political actor refers to a political organization (not necessarily a party) that is active in the national political arena. Discrimination is defined as political exclusion directly targeted at an ethnic community. Indirect discrimination, for example disadvantages in the educational or economic sphere, is not included in this definition.

Note that the group lists of EPR-ETH do not take into account non-citizens, such as migrant workers. The only exceptions to this rule are nomadic people with a long-standing presence in the pertinent country (like the Roma in France, Italy, Spain, and many other countries), and "stranded" populations of former states who lost their citizenship in a successor state (like Russians in Estonia, and Latvia).

All politically relevant ethnic groups were categorized according to the degree of access to central state power by those who claimed to represent them. The coding of access to political power relies exclusively on the executive branch of state power. For this, always the most relevant institutions (e.g. in a military dictatorship, power over the army, and in presidential systems, the senior cabinet, etc.) were considered. Coders were asked to

focus on groups' absolute access to power and not on the question of under- or overrepresentation relative to their demographic size.

Politically relevant ethnic groups may find themselves in the following positions:

- **Monopoly:** Elite members hold monopoly power in the executive to the exclusion of members of all other ethnic groups.
- **Dominance:** Elite members of the group hold dominant power in the executive but there is some limited inclusion of “token” members of other groups.
- **Senior Partner:** Representatives of the group participate as senior partners in a formal or informal power-sharing arrangement. By power sharing, we mean any arrangement that divides executive power among leaders who claim to represent particular ethnic groups.
- **Junior Partner:** Representatives participate as junior partners in government.⁴
- **Regional Autonomy:** Elite members of the group have no central power but some influence at the substate level, that is, one level below the central government. This may be the substate, the provincial, or the district (though not the local) level, depending on the vertical organization of the state.
- **Separatist Autonomy:** A related case is when local governments controlled by representatives of an ethnic category have declared their territory to be independent from the central government. This category differs fundamentally from “regional autonomy” in that group representatives have often excluded themselves from central state power.
- **Powerless:** Elite representatives hold no political power at either the national or the regional level without being explicitly discriminated against.
- **Discrimination:** Group members are subjected to active, intentional, and targeted discrimination, with the intent of excluding them from both regional and national power. Such active discrimination can be either formal or informal.

Both the list of politically relevant ethnic groups and their access to state power may change over time. Thus, the 1946 to 2009 period was divided into different sub-periods reflecting such changes in a country's ethno-political landscape. New periods were introduced when either the list of politically relevant ethnic groups or the power status

⁴ The choice between senior and junior depends on the number and relative importance of the positions controlled by group members.

of any one group in a country changed at a given point of time. For the latter, only major power shifts with substantial changes in the representation of a country's leadership were taken into account, disregarding temporary changes such as cabinet reshuffles or the promotion of certain officer groups in the army.