List of Possible Datasets

Intended for POLI492 students

Charles Breton
Department of Political Science
University of British Columbia
cbreton@alumni.ubc.ca

Below you will find a list of datasets that could be useful for your thesis. To create the list, I asked Graduate students in the department which datasets they'd recommend and used. The following is what they came up with and I added other datasets I knew or heard of. For some of the datasets, I give a bit of description (often just a copy-paste from the organization's website). For others, you'll have to look at them yourself and see which measures are actually in there. Steven Weldon, a political scientist at Simon Fraser, also has a list of datasets on his website. Some of them are in this list too but he gives a longer description for each.

If you do decide to use one of these, it might be a good idea to look for articles *about* that particular dataset. No dataset is perfect and there will often be debates about the strengths and weaknesses of each. Another thing to keep in mind is that it is now common - and encouraged - for authors to make their data available on their website or on the journal's website. Just have a look. If it's not there, a polite email will often do it. If you'd like to request data from an author, please consult with me first.

1.   IR

Conflict
Correlates of War
Political Terror Scale
Human Security Report Project
Armed Conflicts
Systemic Peace
Minorities at Risk and other data from the University of Maryland.

Environmental agreements
International Environment Agreements Database
Database of international environmental treaties, conventions, and other agreements with links to text, membership, performance data, secretariat, and summary statistics. Over 1100 multilaterals, 1500 bilaterals, and 250 "other" agreements.

---

2.   Comparative Country-level data

The Comparative Constitutions Project
The intent of the project is to investigate the sources and consequences of constitutional choices. Towards this end, the investigators are collecting data on the formal characteristics of written constitutions, both current and historical, for most independent states since 1789

The Standardized World Income Inequality Database
The SWIID currently incorporates comparable Gini indices of market and net income inequality for 173 countries for as many years as possible from 1960 to the present as well as estimates of uncertainty in these statistics.

OECD data
World Bank data
UN data
European Bank of Reconstruction and Development

3.   Elections

Many countries have National election studies, just google them. Here are three examples
Canadian Election Study
American National Election Study
British Election Study

The Manifesto Project
A dataset with content analysis of parties' electoral platforms for more than 50 countries since 1945.

Constituency-Level Elections Archive (CLEA)
The Constituency-Level Elections Archive (CLEA) is a repository of detailed election results at the constituency level for lower house legislative elections from around the world.

4.   Aggregate Public Opinion

The World Values Survey
The International Social Survey Programme
The European Social Survey
The Eurobarometer
The Afrobarometer
The Latinobarometro
LAtin American Public Opinion Project

5. Governance

Quality of Governance
Transparency International
Freedom House

6. U.S. Politics

The Policy Agenda Project
Congressional Bills Project
Vote View

7. Other sources

The Global Database of Events, Language and Tone

You may find other datasets by looking at these more comprehensive lists or portals:

International Studies Association's list of datasets
The Macro data Guide
The Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research
Canadian Opinion Research Archive