Religious and Civilizational Identity Variables for Use with the Minorities at Risk Dataset

Jonathan Fox
Department of Political Studies
Bar Ilan University
Ramat Gan, Israel
foxjon@mail.biu.ac.il

These variables are meant for use with the version of the Minorities at Risk (MAR) dataset which contains data for 1945 to 2000 and includes codings for all 337 groups coded during this period. It contains the following variables:

The religious identity of the majority group (zrelmaj) and minority group (zrelmin) are both coded on the following scale:

1. Catholic
2. Protestant
3. Christian, other or mixed
4. Islam, Sunni
5. Islam, Shi'i
6. Islam, Other or Mixed
7. Buddhist
8. Animist
9. Other

Based on the above variables, the following variable, religious differences (zrelig) measures the differences in religion between majority and minority groups on the following scale:

0. same religion and denomination
1. different denominations of the same religion
2. different religions

The civilizational identity of the majority group (zmajciv) and minority group (zmniciv), based on Samuel Huntington's "Clash of Civilizations" theory are both coded on the following scale:

1. Western
2. Slavic-Orthodox
3. Latin American
4. Hindu
5. Islamic
6. Japanese
7. African
8. Indigenous
9. Mixed
10. Civil War

The category for indigenous minorities (8) was added because indigenous groups do not fit into any of Huntington's civilizations. The category for civil war (10) was coded only for majority groups in cases where a state of civil war makes it impossible to decide which group rules the county.

$Z_{civcl}$ measures whether the conflict is a civilizational conflict with civilizational conflicts coded as 1 and non-civilizational conflicts coded as 2.

$Z_{civind}$ accounts for whether a conflict is civilizational or indigenous on the following scale:

0. Neither
1. civilizational clash
2. Indigenous minority