

Religion and State Codebook: Round 3

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Introduction

This codebook is intended to describe the codings produced by the religion and state project, round 3. This project coded all countries which have a population of at least 250,000 as well as a sampling of countries with lower populations. The general goal is to provide detailed codings on several aspects of separation of religion and state. This codebook describes both the formal codings and the criteria by which the coders filled these codings.

In general, for each state, the coder would prepare a report on the state based on human rights reports, academic resources, as well as news media sources, primarily taken from the Lexis/Nexis database. Based on this report the coder filled out the codesheet under the supervision of myself. This is in order to assure coder reliability. That is, one of my roles as project director has been to make sure that different coders used the same methodology and criteria when filling out the codesheets. An additional measure to ensure inter-coder reliability is our policy that about one in every four states were recoded by additional coders based on the reports discussed above and compared to the original codings.

All codings discussed below were coded yearly from 1990 to 2014. The only exceptions are states that became independent after 1990, as did many of the former Soviet republics, for which the codings begin in the year they became independent, and states in a state of total civil war where there is no nominal government, such as Bosnia during the early 1990s and Syria since 2012.

It is important to emphasize that the main RAS codings focus on the relationship between religion and the state apparatus. For a variable to be coded, there must either be a law or a consistent government practice. In cases where the two contradict, consistent government practice was coded. These codings also represent the practice of the federal or national governments of states, and not practices by local governments. However, if a significant number of local or regional governments engage in a practice it is also coded.

The societal codings focus on societal discrimination and include only discrimination from non-governmental groups, entities, and individuals in society.

In the description of the variables below, the names of variables in italics are the actual code for the variables in the dataset. The dataset is formatted in SPSS.

A General Note on Variable Names

Each variable in the dataset is coded separately for each year. The name of a variable has a static prefix followed by the year. For example, the *Official Religion* variable begins with the prefix '*sax*.' The 1990 version is names *sax1990*, the 1991 version, *sax1991*, etc. The descriptions below show only the prefix without the year but all variables are modified in this manner based on the year for the coding.

The RAS3 Minorities Module

This module recodes the governmental and societal discrimination variables listed above except that it uses a minority group within a state as the unit of analysis. For example, in the UK, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews, Muslims, Orthodox Christians, and Sikhs are all coded separately. The dataset includes all minorities which are at least 0.2% of the population as well as the following categories of minorities regardless of their population size: (1) Christians in Muslim countries, (2) Muslims in Christian countries, and (3) Jews in Christian-majority and Muslim-majority countries, where present.

Governmental Discrimination

This category recodes the religious discrimination variables on the following scale:

2 = The activity is significantly restricted or the government engages in a severe form of this practice.

1 = The activity is slightly restricted or the government engages in a mild form of this practice.

0 = Not significantly restricted or the government does not engage in this practice for/any.

The list of variables follows the general version of the variable except the variable for foreign proselytizers is omitted because this variable is intended to measure indigenous minorities. The following variables are so coded:

Restrictions on Religious Practices

- **mmx01:** Restrictions on public observance of rel. services, festivals and/or holidays, including the Sabbath.
- **mmx02:** Restrictions on private observance of rel. services, festivals and/or holidays including the Sabbath.
- **mmx03:** Forced observance of religious laws of another group.
- **mmx04:** Restrictions on ability to make/obtain materials necessary for rel. rites/customs/ceremonies.
- **mmx05:** Restrictions on circumcisions or other rite of passage ceremonies.
- **mmx06:** Restrictions on observing dietary laws or access to food appropriate for rel. dietary requirements.
- **mmx07:** Restrictions on the ability to write, publish, or disseminate religious publications.
- **mmx08:** Restrictions on the ability to import religious publications.
- **mmx09:** Restrictions on access to religious publications for personal use.
- **mmx10:** Restrictions on the observance religious laws concerning marriage and divorce.
- **mmx11:** Restrictions on the observance religious laws concerning burial.
- **mmx12:** Restrictions on the wearing of religious symbols or clothing. This includes presence or absence of facial hair but does not include weapons or clothing which covers one's face.

Restrictions on Religious Institutions and the Clergy

- **mmx13:** Restrictions on building, leasing, repairing and/or maintaining places of worship.
- **mmx14:** Restrictions on access to existing places of worship.
- **mmx15:** Restrictions on formal religious organizations.
- **mmx16:** Restrictions on the ordination of and/or access to clergy.
- **mmx17:** Requirement for minority religions (as opposed to all religions) to register in order to be legal or receive special tax status.
- **mmx18:** Restricted access of minority clergy to jails compared to the majority religion.
- **mmx19:** Restricted access of minority clergy to military bases compared to the majority religion.
- **mmx20:** Restricted access of minority clergy to hospitals & other public facilities compared to maj. rel.

Restrictions on Conversion and Proselytizing

- **mmx21:** Restrictions on conversion to minority religions.
- **mmx22:** Forced renunciation of faith by recent converts to minority religions.
- **mmx23:** Forced conversions of people who were never members of the majority religion.
- **mmx24:** Efforts or campaigns to convert members of minority rel. to the maj. rel. which do not use force.
- **mmx25:** Restrictions on proselytizing by permanent residents of state to members of the majority religion.
- **mmx26:** Restrictions on proselytizing by permanent residents of state to members of minority religions.

Other Restrictions

- **mmx28:** Restrictions on the running of religious schools and/or religious education in general.
- **mmx29:** Mandatory education in the majority religion.
- **mmx30:** Arrest/detention/harassment of religious figures/officials/members of religious parties for activities other than proselytizing.
- **mmx31:** Severe and willful failure to protect rel. minorities against violence or punish the perpetrators.
- **mmx32:** State surveillance of minority religious activities not placed on the activities of the majority.
- **mmx33:** Custody of children granted to members of majority rel. solely or in part on the basis of religion.
- **mmx34:** Declaration of some minority religions dangerous or extremist sects
- **mmx35:** Anti-religious propaganda in official or semi-official government publications.
- **mmx36:** Restrictions on other types of observance of religious law. Specify:

The variable can be combined to create a scale of 0 to 70 and is called **mmx**.

Societal Discrimination

This category recodes the societal discrimination variables as follows:

Discrimination, harassment, acts of prejudice and violence against minority religions: Minorities

This category refers to actions taken against members of minority religions in a state by non-government actors. It includes 27 types of discrimination which are coded on the following scale:

2 = This action occurs on a substantial level,

1 = This action occurs on a minor level.

0 = There are no reported incidents of this type of action against the specified minority

The following variables are coded on this scale:

wzsocdis01x: Instances of societal economic discrimination against minority religions in the workplace.

wzsocdis02x: Organized boycotts of businesses owned by the minority group or denial of minority access to businesses, stores, restaurants or places of entertainment.

wzsocdis03x: Other forms of economic discrimination. Specify

wzsocdis04x: Anti-religious minority propaganda, statements, articles, or shows in mainstream private media.

wzsocdis05x: Overt anti-religious minority rhetoric from members of the majority religion's clergy.

wzsocdis06x: Presence of anti-religious rhetoric in political campaigns or political party propaganda.

wzsocdis07x: Vandalism against religious property including places of worship, community centers, schools, and cemeteries.

wzsocdis08x: Vandalism against other property (e.g., businesses or homes) owned by a religious minority which is clearly due to their religious affiliation.

wzsocdis09x: Anti-religious graffiti.

wzsocdis10x: Efforts to deny access to / close religious sites including places of worship.

wzsocdis11x: Efforts to prevent places of worship or other religious sites from being built, opened, or rented.

wzsocdis12x: Dissemination of publications against religious minorities.

wzsocdis13x: Harassment of clergy which does not reach the level of violence. This includes "verbal attacks."

wzsocdis14x: Harassment of proselytizers which does not reach the level of violence. This includes "verbal attacks."

- wzsocdis15x:** Harassment of converts away from the majority religion which does not reach the level of violence. This includes “verbal attacks.”
- wzsocdis16x:** Harassment of other members of religious minorities which does not reach the level of violence. This includes “verbal attacks.”
- wzsocdis17x:** Expulsion or harassment so severe that it leads to a significant number of minority members leaving a town or region.
- wzsocdis18x:** Organized demonstrations and public protests against religious minorities.
- wzsocdis19x:** Threats of violence.
- wzsocdis20x:** Physical violence targeted specifically at clergy.
- wzsocdis21x:** Physical violence targeted specifically against proselytizers or people who converted away from the majority religion.
- wzsocdis22x:** Physical violence against other individual members of religious minority which is clearly due to their religious affiliation.
- wzsocdis23x:** Large scale violence against members of religious minority which is clearly due to their religious affiliation. This includes rioting and targeting of entire communities, rioting, and clashes.
- wzsocdis24x:** Lethal violence against any member of minority religions due to their religious affiliation.
- wzsocdis25x:** Arson, bombing, or concerted attacks against religious property.
- wzsocdis26x:** Arson, bombing, or concerted attacks against property (e.g., businesses or homes) owned by a religious minority which is clearly due to their religious affiliation.
- wzsocdis27x:** Other relevant acts against minority religions. Specify:

Minority actions of Discrimination, harassment, acts of prejudice and violence

This section focuses on discriminatory or otherwise conflict-type activities taken by members of minority religions both against members of the majority religion and against members of other minority religions.

Against the majority religion

This category refers to actions taken by minority group members against the majority religion. Each of the five items on this list are coded on the following scale:

- 2 = This action occurs on a substantial level,
 1 = This action occurs on a minor level.
 0 = There are no reported incidents of this type of action.

The following variables are so coded:

- wzmintomaj01x:** Violence against members of the majority religion.
- wzmintomaj02x:** Acts of terror against members of the majority religion.
- wzmintomaj03x:** Harassment against members of the majority religion
- wzmintomaj04x:** Acts of vandalism, graffiti or similar against members of the majority religion.

wzmintomaj05x: Other relevant acts against members of the majority religion.

Specify:

Against the other minority religions

This category refers to actions taken by minority group members against members of other minority religions. Each of the five items on this list are coded on the following scale:

- 3 = This action occurs on a substantial level to members of most or all minority religions.
- 2 = This action occurs on a substantial level to members one or a few minorities but not most or on a minor level to all or most minorities.
- 1 = This action occurs on a minor level to one or a few minorities but not most
- 0 = There are no reported incidents of this type of action against any minorities.

The following variables are so coded:

wzmintomin01x: Violence against members of another minority religion.

wzmintomin02x: Acts of terror against members of another minority religion.

wzmintomin03x: Harassment against members of another minority religion.

wzmintomin04x: Acts of vandalism, graffiti or similar against members of another minority religion.

wzmintomin05x: Other relevant acts against members of another minority religion.

Specify:

General Societal Relations

The following variable is coded on the below scale measuring the general relationship between the members of the majority religion and members of specified minority religion:

- 0. Amicable
- 1. Minor hostility.
- 2. Substantial hostility.