

Religion and State Codebook

Jonathan Fox
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I. Introduction

This codebook is intended to describe the codings produced by the religion and state project. This project coded all countries which in 2000 had a population of at least 250,000 and Western Democracies 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, except for the population statistics, were coded yearly from 1990 to 2002. 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.

It is important to emphasize that these 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 majority of local or regional governments engage in a practice it is also coded.

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.

II. Codings for Population

The project codes the religious demography of a state only once for the entire period covered here. The sources for the codings for specific countries vary based on the information available on that state. Some general sources which were consistently used include the World

Christian Encyclopedia,¹ and the CIA World Factbook.² When possible, several estimates were obtained on a state by coders which were evaluated for reliability and accuracy by myself in order to obtain the project codings. The categories of religious denomination included in the project are as follows:

1. All Christians (*dctotal*)
 - a. Catholic (*dccathol*)
 - b. Orthodox (*dcorthod*)
 - c. Protestant (*dcprot*)³
 - d. Other Christian (*dcother*)
2. All Islam (*ditotal*)
 - a. Sunni (*disunni*)
 - b. Shi'i (*dishii*)
 - c. Other Islam (*diother*)
3. Other Religions (*dototal*)
 - a. Buddhists (*dobuddhi*)
 - b. Hindu (*dohindu*)
 - c. Jewish (*dojewis*)
 - d. Animist (*doanimist*)⁴
 - e. Confucian (*doconfuc*)
 - f. Sikh (*dosikh*)
 - g. Bahai (*dobahai*)
 - h. Other (*doother*)
4. Not religious or atheist (*dnone*)

The project also coded the majority religion (*emajrel*) based on the above codings as follows:

0. Catholic
1. Christian, Orthodox
2. Christian, Protestant
3. Christian, Other
4. Islam, Sunni
5. Islam, Shi'i
6. Islam, Other

¹ Barret, D.B., G.T. Kurian, and T.M. Johnson, *World Christian Encyclopedia*, 2nd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.

² <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/fields/2122.html>

³ More specific categories were not included because information on further denominational breakdown was not consistently available in all states.

⁴ This category includes all tribal and indigenous religions.

7. Buddhist
8. Hindu
9. Jewish
10. Animist
11. Other
12. Islam, General
13. Mixed
14. Christian, General

Population diversity was measured by two variables. First, percentage of the largest religion in the country based on the above categories was coded in *emajpct*. Second, the number of minority religions (including no religion) which constituted over 5% of the population was coded in *emin5#*.

III. Separation of Religion and State

There are six variables in this category. The first three are source variables and the second three are derived from the first two variables. The first measures whether the government has an established religion. For a religion to be established there must be a constitutional clause, a law, or the equivalent explicitly stating that a specific religion or specific religions are the official religions of that state. This variable is coded on the following scale:

0. The State has no official religion
1. The state has multiple established religions⁵
2. The state has one established religion

In the dataset this variable is named *sch* followed by the year for the coding. For example, the coding for 1990 is *sch1990*.

The second variable is coded only when the state has no official religion (*sch* = 0). This variable codes the relationship between religion and state in such cases on the following scale:

0. **Hostile:** Hostility and overt prosecution of all religions. (i.e. the ex USSR).
1. **Inadvertent Insensitivity:** There is little distinction between regulation of religious and other types of institutions. (i.e. China)
2. **Separationist:** Official separation of Church and state and the state is slightly hostile toward religion. (i.e. France).
3. **Accommodation:** Official separation of church and state and the state has a benevolent or neutral attitude toward religion in general. (i.e. The United States) .
4. **Supportive:** The state supports all religions more or less equally.
5. **Cooperation:** The state falls short of endorsing a particular church but certain churches benefit from

⁵ This is coded only if the state recognizes more than one religion as the official religion of the state and these religions are given equal status

state support more than others. (i.e. Austria and Belgium).

6. **Civil religion:** While the state does not officially endorse a religion, one religion serves unofficially as the state's civil religion.(i.e. Ireland and Panama).⁶

As a general note support for a religion in this coding can be practical, legal, or monetary. In the dataset this variable is named *srs* followed by the year for the coding. For example, the coding for 1990 is *srs1990*. This variable is based to a large extent on a categorization by Durham of the separation of religion and state.⁷

The third variable in this category measures the extent to which, in practice, a state supports one religion over another. This variable is necessary because while Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UK all have official religions, most would agree that the actual preference given to certain religions in these states is different. In the dataset this variable is named *sil* followed by the year for the coding. For example, the coding for 1990 is *sil1990*. It is coded on the following scale:

0. No (minority) religions are illegal and there are no significant restrictions on minority religions.
1. No (minority) religions are illegal but some or all (minority) religions have practical limitations placed upon them or some religions have benefits not given to others due to some form of official recognition or status not given to all religions.
2. No religions are illegal but some or all (minority) religions have legal limitations placed upon them.
3. Some (minority) religions are illegal.
4. All (minority) religions are illegal

The word "minority" is placed in parentheses in this coding in order to recognize that states with no official or favored religion may discriminate against all religions but states with official or favored religions will discriminate only against minority religions.

The fourth variable in this category combines the first two as follows:

0. Hostile
1. Inadvertent Insensitivity
2. Separationist
3. Accommodation
4. Supportive
5. Cooperation
6. Civil religion

⁶ This includes states which include a special recognition of the cultural or historical importance of a particular religion in their constitution but also affirm separation of religion and state.

⁷ Durham, W. Cole Jr. "Perspectives on Religious Liberty: A Comparative Framework" in John D. van der Vyver & John Witte Jr. *Religious Human Rights in Global Perspective: Legal Perspectives*, Boston: Martinus Nijhoff, 1996. 1-44.

7. The state has multiple established religions
8. The state has one established religion

This variable is intended to measure the entire range of official state relationships with religion. In the dataset this variable is named *s* followed by the year for the coding. For example, the coding for 1990 is *s1990*.

The fifth variable is derived from the above variable and focuses on official support for religion. It is measured on the following scale:

0. No Support
1. Supportive
2. Cooperation
3. Civil religion
4. The state has multiple established religions
5. The state has one established religion

In the dataset this variable is named *sa* followed by the year for the coding. For example, the coding for 1990 is *sa1990*.

The final variable measures official hostility toward religion and is derived from the same variable as the above one on the following scale:

0. No Hostility
1. Separationist
2. Inadvertent Insensitivity
3. Hostile

In the dataset this variable is named *sb* followed by the year for the coding. For example, the coding for 1990 is *sb1990*.

IV. Religious Discrimination Against Minority Religions

This set of variables is designed to examine restrictions the government places on the practice of religion by minority religious groups. It is important to clarify two points. First, this section focuses on restrictions on minority religions. Restrictions that apply to all religions are not addressed in this section but are addressed in the following section. This is because the act of restricting or regulating the religious practices of minorities is qualitatively different from restricting or regulating all religions. Second, this section focuses only on restrictions of the practice of religion itself and does not include other types of restrictions on religious minorities. The reasoning behind this is that there is much more likely to be a religious motivation for restrictions on the practice of religion than there is for political, economic, or cultural restrictions on a religious minority. These secular types of restrictions, while potentially motivated by religion, can also be due to other reasons. That political, economic, and cultural restrictions are often placed on ethnic minorities who share the same religion and the majority group in their

state is proof of this.

This set of variables is essentially a list of specific types of religious restrictions which a government may place on some or all minority religions. Each of these specific types of restrictions are coded on the following scale:

0. Not significantly restricted for any minorities.
1. The activity is slightly restricted for some minorities.
2. The activity is slightly restricted for most or all minorities **or** sharply restricted for some of them.
3. The activity is prohibited or sharply restricted for most or all minorities.

Each of the following variables is coded based on this scale:

- Restrictions on public observance of religious services, festivals and/or holidays, including the Sabbath. (*ma*)
- Restrictions on building, repairing and/or maintaining places of worship. (*mb*)
- Restrictions on access to places of worship.⁸ (*mbb*)
- Forced observance of religious laws of other group. (*mc*)
- Restrictions on formal religious organizations. (*md*)
- Restrictions on the running of religious schools and/or religious education in general. (*me*)
- Arrest, continued detention, or severe official harassment of religious figures, officials, and/or members of religious parties.⁹ (*mee*)
- Restrictions on the ability to make and/or obtain materials necessary for religious rites, customs, and/or ceremonies. (*mf*)
- Restrictions on the ability to write, publish, or disseminate religious publications. (*mg*)
- Restrictions on the observance religious laws concerning personal status, including marriage, divorce, and burial. (*mh*)
- Restrictions on the ordination of and/or access to clergy. (*mi*)
- Restrictions on conversion to minority religions. (*mj*)
- Forced conversions. (*mk*)
- Restrictions on proselytizing. (*ml*)
- Requirement for minority religions (as opposed to all religions) to register in order to

⁸ This does not include former Soviet Republics which are in the process of returning or otherwise making restitution for religious properties seized during the Communist era but does include those that have made no reasonable effort to do so.

⁹ The arrest of people who actually commit acts of terrorism is not coded. If the government uses terrorism as an excuse to crack down on those who were not likely involved in the terrorism and the crackdown is along religious lines, then it is coded.

- be legal or receive special tax status.¹⁰ (*mll*)
- Restrictions on other types of observance of religious law.¹¹ (*mm*)

In the dataset each of the above variables is named as indicated followed by the year for the coding. For example, the coding for the first variable in 1990 is *ma1990*.

A composite variable combining all of the above variables was created. It ranges from 0 to 48. In the dataset this variable is named *m* followed by the year for the coding. For example, the coding for 1990 is *m1990*.

V. Regulation of and Restrictions on the Majority Religion or All Religions

This variable addresses whether the state regulates either all religions or the majority religion. This is qualitatively different from restrictions on minority religions because it indicates a fear, hatred, or suspicion of religion in general rather than this type of attitude toward minority religions. This set of variables is essentially a list of specific types of religious restrictions which a government may place on the majority religion or all religions. Each of these specific types of restrictions are coded on the following scale:

0. No restrictions and no government activity in this category.
1. Slight restrictions including practical restrictions or the government engages in this activity slightly.
2. Significant restrictions including practical restrictions or the government significantly engages in this activity.
3. The activity is illegal or the government engages in this activity on a large scale.

Each of the following variables is coded based on this scale:

- Restrictions on religious political parties. (*naa*)
- Arrest, continued detention, or severe official harassment of religious figures, officials, and/or members of religious parties.¹² (*nbb*)
- Restrictions on formal religious organizations other than political parties. (*ncc*)
- Restrictions on the public observance of religious practices, including religious

¹⁰ This is only coded if either some religious organization need to register but others do not or all religions must register but some or all minority religious organizations have greater difficulty registering than do the organizations of the majority religion.

¹¹ The coders specified the specific reason for coding this variable on the codesheet. As a general rule it must be some form of restriction that does not fit into any of the above categories.

¹² The arrest of people who actually commit acts of terrorism is not coded. If the government uses terrorism as an excuse to crack down on those who were not likely involved in the terrorism and the crackdown is along religious lines, then it is coded.

- holidays and the Sabbath. (*ndd*)
- Restrictions on public religious speech including sermons by clergy. (*nee*)
- Restrictions on access to places of worship. (*nff*)
- Restrictions on the publication or dissemination of written religious material. (*ngg*)
- People are arrested for engaging in religious activities. (*nhh*)
- Restrictions on religious public gatherings that are not placed on other types of public gathering. (*nii*)
- Restrictions on the public display by private persons or organizations of religious symbols, including religious dress, nativity scenes, and icons. (*njj*)
- Other religious restrictions.¹³ (*nzz*)

In the dataset each of the above variables is named as indicated followed by the year for the coding. For example, the coding for the first variable in 1990 is *naa1990*.

A composite variable combining all of the above variables was created. It ranges from 0 to 33. In the dataset this variable is named *n* followed by the year for the coding. For example, the coding for 1990 is *n1990*.

VI. Specific Types of Religious Legislation

This set of variable measures whether the government legislates religion into law. The set of variables below represent laws or government practices which this project posits are influenced by religion. Each of these is either coded as no (0) or yes (1).

- Dietary laws (restrictions on the production, import, selling, or consumption of specific foods). (*laa*)
- Restrictions or prohibitions on the sale of alcoholic beverages. (*lab*)
- Personal status defined by clergy (i.e. marriage, divorce, and/or burial can only occur under religious auspices.) (*lac*)
- Laws of inheritance defined by religion. (*lad*)
- Restrictions on conversions away from the dominant religion. (*lbd*)
- Restrictions on interfaith marriages. (*lbe*)
- Restrictions on public dress.¹⁴ (*lbf*)
- Blasphemy laws, or any other restriction on speech about religion or religious figures. (*lbg*)
- Censorship of press or other publications on grounds of being anti-religious. (*lch*)
- Mandatory closing of some or all businesses during religious holidays including the Sabbath or its equivalent. (*ldh*)
- Other restrictions on activities during religious holidays including the Sabbath or its

¹³ The coders specified the specific reason for coding this variable on the codesheet. As a general rule it must be some form of restriction that does not fit into any of the above categories. For example, a common reason to code this category was for countries that prohibit clergy from participating in politics or holding political office.

¹⁴ This variable is only coded if restrictions go beyond making a public state of undress illegal.

- equivalent. (“blue laws”).¹⁵ (*ldi*)
- Religious education is standard in public schools but it is possible to opt out of this portion of the education. (*lei*)
 - Mandatory religious education in public schools.¹⁶ (*lej*)
 - Government funding of religious schools or religious educational programs in secular schools.¹⁷ (*lfk*)
 - Government funding of religious charitable organizations. (*lfm*)
 - Government collects taxes on behalf of religious organizations (religious taxes).¹⁸ (*lfn*)
 - Official government positions, salaries or other funding for clergy.¹⁹ (*lgn*)
 - Funding for religious organizations or activities other than those listed above.²⁰ (*lgo*)
 - Clergy and/or speeches in places of worship require government approval.²¹ (*lhp*)
 - Some official clerical positions made by government appointment.²² (*lhq*)
 - Presence of an official government ministry or department dealing with religious affairs. (*liq*)
 - Certain government officials are also given an official position in the state church by virtue of their political office (ie the Queen of England is also head of Anglican Church.) (*ljj*)
 - Certain religious officials become government officials by virtue of their religious position (ie as in Iran). (*ljk*)
 - Some or all government officials must meet certain religious requirements in order to

¹⁵ The coders specified the specific reason for coding this variable on the codesheet. As a general rule it must be some form of restriction that does not fit into any of the above categories.

¹⁶ This includes if all students must have some form of religious education including education in their own religion. Non-religious ethics or philosophy courses do not count as religious education. This category is mutually exclusive with the above category.

¹⁷ If either of the above two categories was coded this category is also coded. It is also coded if the government funds religious education in private schools.

¹⁸ This is only coded if the government collects a separate tax which is reserved specifically for funding religious institutions. Funding for religious institutions from the general government budget was not coded in this variable.

¹⁹ This does not include salaries for teachers.

²⁰ The coders specified the specific reason for coding this variable on the codesheet. As a general rule it must be some form of funding for religion that does not fit into any of the above categories.

²¹ This variable was also coded if the government officially monitors the speech of clergy.

²² This variable is coded if the government participates in any aspect of the appointment process including interfering with clergy appointment processes.

- hold office.²³ (*ljl*)
- Presence of religious courts which have jurisdiction over some matters of law. (*lkr*)
 - Seats in Legislative branch and/or Cabinet are by law or custom granted, at least in part, along religious lines. (*lks*)
 - Prohibitive restrictions on abortion.²⁴ (*llt*)
 - The presence of religious symbols on the state's flag. (*llu*)
 - Religion listed on state identity cards.²⁵ (*lmv*)
 - Religious organizations must register with government in order to obtain official status.²⁶ (*lnw*)
 - Presence of an official government body which monitors 'sects' or minority religions. (*loo*)
 - Restrictions on women other than those listed above. (i.e. restrictions on education, jobs that they can hold, or on appearing in public without a chaperon.)²⁷ (*lxx*)
 - Other religious prohibitions or practices that are mandatory.²⁸ (*lyy*)

In the dataset each of the above variables is named as indicated followed by the year for the coding. For example, the coding for the first variable in 1990 is *laa1990*.

A composite variable combining all of the above variables was created. It ranges from 0 to 32 because two of the religious education variables are mutually exclusive. In the dataset this variable is named *k* followed by the year for the coding. For example, the coding for 1990 is *k1990*.

VII. General Legislation Codings

This section is intended to measure, in general, what proportion of the laws in a state are

²³ This excludes positions in religious ministries, head of state church, or the like.

²⁴ This is coded if there is any undue burden placed on a woman's ability to obtain an abortion in the first three months of her pregnancy. In essence, if any adult woman wants an abortion and can not get one due to government restrictions this variable is coded. Waiting periods, mandatory counseling, parent approval for minors to obtain an abortion, and other similar regulations are not coded.

²⁵ This is coded even if only some religions are listed but others are not or if such listing is optional. It is also coded if a number of government documents other than identity cards require that religion be included.

²⁶ This is coded if the registration for a religious organization is in any way different from the registering of any nonprofit organization.

²⁷ The coders specified the specific reason for coding this variable on the codesheet. As a general rule it must be some form of legislation that does not fit into any of the above categories.

²⁸ The coders specified the specific reason for coding this variable on the codesheet. As a general rule it must be some form of legislation that does not fit into any of the above categories.

influenced by religion or based directly on religious codes. While it would have been preferable to have a variable which measures this as a percentage, the level of information available does not allow for this. Instead this project measures this phenomenon on the following scale:

1. No religious laws are legislated as law.
2. Most aspects of the law are secular but there are some isolated instances of religious legislation.
3. A substantial portion of the state's laws are religious or state law is based in great part on religious law but is not 100% religious law.
4. State law is Religious law

In the dataset this variable is named *llg* followed by the year for the coding. For example, the coding for 1990 is *llg1990*.

Because laws that are on the books are not always enforced the project coded a variable for enforcement on the following scale:

0. No substantial restrictions or laws exist.
1. While the laws are on the books, in practice they are rarely enforced.
2. Some of the above restrictions are enforced but not others **or** all of them are enforced sporadically.
3. All the above restrictions are enforced strictly.

In the dataset this variable is named *l2e* followed by the year for the coding. For example, the coding for 1990 is *l2e1990*. It is also important to note that an additional category of “no basis for judging” was included on the codesheet. If this category was coded, the coding for this variable is left blank.

VIII: Composite Variables

Only one composite variable was coded. I combines *sa*, *sb*, *sil*, *m*, *n*, *k*, and *l* into a single variable. Each of the variables was re-scaled to range from 0 to 20 then the result was added. Since *sa* and *sb* can not both be above 0 at the same time, the variable ranges from 0 to 100. In the dataset this variable is named *all* followed by the year for the coding. For example, the coding for 1990 is *all1990*. The formula for *all1990*, for example, is as follows:

$$(sa1990 * 4) + (sb1990 / 3 * 20) + (sil1990 * 5) + (m1990 / 48 * 20) + (n1990 / 33 * 20) + (k1990 / 33 * 20)$$