Codebook for key variables in analysis of "Presidential Political Ambition and US Foreign Conflict Behavior, 1816-2010"

The following variables appear in the data set "ambition-cmps-data.csv". The codebook for the coding of the *ambition* variable appears in Section C of the Online Appendix.

year: The year of the observation, from 1816 to 2010. Each date is repeated 4 times, in accordance with the quarterly observations.

pq: The number of quarter years served by the currently observed president.

code: A number for each US president, determined by the order in which they served.

ambition: A dichotomous variable equal to 1 if the current president aspires to be re-elected, and 0 otherwise.

recession: A dichotomous variable equal to 1 if the US is in a recession that quarter, and 0 otherwise.

age_quarterly: Reflect quarter-years since birth of the US President. So, a president who is 60 in the first quarter of the year (if she was born in January) will receive scores of 60.25, 60.50, and 60.75 in the subsequent quarters of that year.

cinc2_interpolated: Comprehensive Index of National Capabilities, from the Correlates of War Project. Referred to more recently on the COW webpage as "National Material Capabilities." It is based on data regarding total population, urban population, iron/steel production, energy consumption, military personnel, and military expenditures. For this variable, the three observations after the one at the beginning of each year are based on interpolations assigning an equal amount of change in the score to each quarter, with the first observation for the next year serving as the target of the interpolation process.

qstartmonth: The month marking the beginning of a quarter.

qendmonth: The month marking the end of a quarter.

mids_init: The number of MIDs initiated by the United States during the current quarter year.

mids_init_dummy: Equals 1 if the United States initiated one or more MIDS during that quarter, and 0 otherwise.

hh_mids_init_dummy: Equals 1 if the United States initiated one or more MIDS scoring a 4 or 5 on the Correlates of War 1-5 hostility index during that quarter, and 0 otherwise.

mids_target_dummy: Equals 1 if the United States was targeted in one or more MIDS during that quarter, and 0 otherwise.

past_mids_leader: Number of MIDs the current president was involved in prior to the current quarter year.

peace_quarters: Numbers of consecutive quarter years immediately prior to the current quarter year in which the US was not involved in a MID.

post22: Equals 1 for presidents after Truman.

rivalries: Number of international rivalries the US was involved in during a given year.

decade: A factor variable for each decade in the analysis.

The following variables appear in the data set "zeigler-replication-initiation.dta". For a complete description of this data set, see the documentation from Zeigler et al. (2014).

cwinit: Equals 1 if the US initiated a MID in the year of observation, and 0 otherwise.

tl2: Equals 1 if a term limit was binding in the US during year of observation, and 0 otherwise.

distance: Distance between the US and the receiving state.

polity2receiver: Polity score of the receiving state in year of observation.

relcap: Relative capabilities between sender and receiver.

majpow2: Equals 1 if receiver is a major power during year of observation, and 0 otherwise.

The following variable appears in the file "MIDB_4.01.csv". We use it as a dependent variable in Section G of the Online Appendix. For a complete description of this data set, see the documentation from Palmer et al. (2015).

HostLev: Hostility level of dispute:

- 1 No militarized action
- 2 Threat to use force
- 3 Display of force
- 4 Use of force
- 5 War