**Truth Commission Characteristics Dataset Codebook**

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Sources: This dataset was created using primary and secondary sources. Namely the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) online truth commission library. Other sources are used when information is missing from USIP.

name: official name of the body.

country: Country where the truth commission takes place.

link: provides a link to the USIP enrty.

nu\_comm: the total number of commissioners presiding over the truth commission.

nu\_women: the total number of female commissioners presiding over the truth commission.

nu\_international: the total number of international commissioners presiding over the truth commission.

ucdp\_conflict: ongoing conflict during years truth commission is in operation according to UCDP.

state\_sponsored: binary variable that indicates whether or not the truth commission is sponsored by the state according to Freeman’s list of truth commissions (citation). (state sponsored==1, not state sponsored==0)

year\_begin: the year the truth commission begins operation.

year\_end: the year the truth commission ends operation.

tc: binary variable indicating whether or not the body identifies itself as a truth commission. (tc==1, not tc==0)

first tc: binary variable indicating whether or not the truth commission is the first in the country. (first==1, not first==0)

yrs\_until\_tc: number of years that pass from the end of the mass violence or conflict until the start of the inquiry.

length\_tc: number of years the truth commission operated.

yr\_invest\_begin: the year the investigations began.

yr\_invest\_end: the year the investigations end.

Commissioners: notes regarding commissioners.

who-whom: this variable represents the relationship between who initiates investigations and who is the subject of those investigations.

new-old: this binary variable indicates whether or not a new regime is investigating an old regime. (new regime investigating old==1, all else==0)

same: this binary variable indicates whether or not the same regime that was in power prior to the period of conflict or abuse is still in power and investigating itself and/or rebel groups.

outside: this binary variable indicates whether or not an external actor (such as the UN) created the truth commission.

unofficial\_2: this binary variable indicates whether or not the body is unofficial. (unofficial==1, official==0)

reason\_tc: notes indicating the reason for the creation of the body

cwar: binary variable that indicates whether or not the body was created to investigate abuses that occurred during a civil war. (yes==1, no==0)

repressive\_regime: binary variable that indicates whether of not the body was created to investigate abuses caused by repressive regime

non-state\_repression: binary variable that indicates whether or not the body was created to investigate abuses caused by non-state repression

elections: binary variable that indicates whether or not the body was created to investigate abuses caused during elections

regime\_change: binary variable that indicates whether or not the body was created to investigates abuses caused during or because of regime change

public\_hearings: binary variable that indicates whether or not the body held public hearings

report\_complete: binary variable that indicates whether or not the body completed a report

report\_released: binary variable that indicates whether or not the body released a report

yr\_report\_released: year the body released a report

report online: binary variable that indicates whether or not the report is published online

transparency: additive index (public hearings + report complete + report released + report online)

findings: binary variable that indicates whether or not the body reached official findings

inquiry: binary variable that identifies bodies of inquiry that are not considered “truth commissions”

charter: who or what initiated the charter that created the body

unofficial: binary variable that indicates whether or not charter is unofficial

peace\_agree: binary variable that indicates whether or not charter is created by a peace agreement

un: binary variable that indicates whether or not charter is created by the UN

parliament\_law: binary variable that indicates whether or not charter is created by a law

executive: binary variable that indicates whether or not charter is created by the executive

mandate: what the mandate specifies the body is created to accomplish

particular\_abuse: binary variable that indicates whether of not the body was created to investigate a particular abuse or set of specified abuses.

broad\_hr: binary variable that indicates whether or not the body was created to investigate broad human rights abuses

reconcile: binary variable that indicates whether or not the mandate calls for the body to contribute to reconciliation in some manner

policy: binary variable that indicates whether or not the mandate calls for the body to make policy recommendations

mandate\_strength: additive index (particular\_abuse + broad\_hr + reconcile + policy)

recommendations: binary variable that indicates whether or not the body made recommendations

recommendation1: notes regarding the primary recommendations made by the body

recommendaton2: notes regarding the secondary recommendations made by the body

prosecutions: binary variable that indicates whether or not at least one criminal trial was completed

other: notes