

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Africa Data Set (TRCADS)

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Truth and Reconciliation Commissions (TRCs) are investigative bodies mandated to examine legacies of human rights violations following political transitions. Over the past twenty-five years, TRCs have become a very popular institutional mechanism for addressing human rights violations and have been used in more than two dozen countries in every region of the world (Kritz 1995; Hayner 2001). TRCs have become a popular component of many transitional societies, and yet debate persists concerning their desirability (Huyse 1995; McAdams 1997). Some argue that TRCs force an unacceptable compromise upon the victims of past violations (Roht-Arriaza 1990; Kokott 1993) while others question whether the use of amnesties actually entrench a culture of impunity that may increase difficulties in post-authoritarian regimes (Harper 1996). Some of the first TRCs were established in Latin America to address human rights violations committed in the 1980s under authoritarian regimes. However, perhaps the best known TRC was the Commission of Truth and Reconciliation established in 1995 by the South African parliament to investigate human rights violations during the apartheid-era between 1960 and 1994 (Gibson and Gouws 1999; Gibson and Gouws 2000). Since South Africa's use of a TRC, more than ten other African states have used a TRC as a means to address human rights violations, provide reconciliation for society and denote a break with the previous authoritarian regime. This data set was created to examine one of the least researched areas of TRC development, namely why have certain African states adopted TRCs while other states have adopted other justice mechanisms or none at all? Most of the literature has tended to focus either on the factors which affect the structure and the form of a TRC or even more commonly the impact a TRC has on the broader political and social environment.

This data set includes the following variables:

1. Country_and_Year:

List of countries by year (All sub Saharan African countries except Cape Verde, Eritrea, Sao Tome and Principe and Seychelles starting from 1974 or the year after independence).

2. TRC:

Whether the state adopted a TRC between the years 1974-2003 (0 = no; 1 = yes). The list of states includes: Uganda 1974, Zimbabwe 1985, Uganda 1986, Chad 1991, Rwanda 1993, Ethiopia 1993, Burundi 1995, South Africa 1995, Nigeria 1999, Sierra Leone 2000, Nigeria 2001, Central African Republic 2002, Democratic Republic of Congo 2002, Ghana 2002 and Liberia 2003.

3. Democratization_FH:

Level of democratization ranging from free (1) to not free (7). This variable is adapted from the 2006 Freedom House comparative scores as an average of the Political Rights and Civil Liberties score for that year).

4. Democratization:

Level of democratization ranging from fully authoritarian (-10) to fully democratized (10). This variable is adapted from the Polity IV data set using the Polity2 variable).

5. Durability_Regime:

The number of years that the previous regime has been in power (adapted from the Polity IV data set using the Durable variable).

6. Power_Sharing_1:

Extent of constraints on the chief executive (adapted from the Polity IV data set using the XCONST variable).

7. Power_Sharing_2:

Extent to which alternative preferences for policy and leadership may be pursued (adapted from the Polity IV data set using the PARCOMP variable).

8. Power_Sharing_3:

Concept variable incorporating component variables (adapted from the Polity IV data set using the POLCOMP variable).

9. Colonial_Power:

Which state, if any, was the colonizer of the state listed (adapted from the South African Data Archive SADA 0095 data set using the Colonial Power variable).

10. Neighborhood_Effect:

A regional coding variable of Africa (Central, East, West and South which is adapted from the South African Data Archive SADA 0095 data set using the Region variable).

11. Number_Ethnic_Groups:

The effective number of ethnic groups in the state (adapted from the South African Data Archive SADA 0095 data set using the Ethnic Fragmentation variable). The calculation of the effective number of ethnic groups for Djibouti and South Africa was performed by the authors based on data available from the CIA Fact Book.

12. Catholic:

Percentage Catholic in the state (adapted from the South African Data Archive SADA 0095 data set using the Catholic variable baseline 1985).

13. Muslim:

Percentage Muslim in the state (adapted from the South African Data Archive SADA 0095 data set using the Muslim variable baseline 1985).

14. Human_Rights:

Level of human rights violations (adapted from the CIRI Human Rights Data Set using the Physical Integrity Rights Index variable).

15. Regime_Type:

Whether the state has a presidential or a parliamentary regime (0 = presidential; 1 = parliamentary, adapted from Thorsten Beck, George Clarke, Alberto Groff, Philip Keefer, and Patrick Walsh. 2001. "New Tools in Comparative Political Economy: The Database of Political Institutions." *World Bank Economic Review* 15:1 (September):165-176).

16. Leg_Elections:

Whether the state had a legislative election during the calendar year (0 = no; 1 = yes, adapted from Thorsten Beck, George Clarke, Alberto Groff, Philip Keefer, and Patrick Walsh. 2001. "New Tools in Comparative Political Economy: The Database of Political Institutions." *World Bank Economic Review* 15:1 (September):165-176).

17. Exec_Elections:

Whether the state had an executive election during the calendar year (0 = no; 1 = yes, adapted from Thorsten Beck, George Clarke, Alberto Groff, Philip Keefer, and Patrick Walsh. 2001. "New Tools in Comparative Political Economy: The Database of Political Institutions." *World Bank Economic Review* 15:1 (September):165-176).

18. UN_Presence:

Whether there was a UN Peacekeeping Mission within the state during the year (0 = no; 1 = yes, source: <http://www.un.org/Depts/DPKO/missions>).

19. Conflict:

Whether there was reported conflict in any form during the year (0 = no; 1 = yes, adapted from the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict data set, volume 4).

20. Conflict_Intensity:

The level of conflict intensity during the year (0 = 25-999 deaths; 1 = 1,000 and more deaths and 9 = no conflict, adapted from the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict data set, volume 4).

21. Type_of_Conflict:

The type of conflict during the year (1 = extrasystemic armed conflict occurs between a state and a non-state group outside its own territory. 2 = interstate armed conflict occurs between two or more states. 3 = internal armed conflict occurs between the government of a state and one or more internal opposition group(s) without intervention from other states. 4 = internationalized internal armed conflict occurs between the government of a state and one or more internal opposition group(s) with intervention from other states on one or both sides and 9 = no conflict, adapted from the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict data set, volume 4).

22. Years:

The number of years since the last TRC (starting from base year “0”)

23. Years_2:

The number of years squared since the last TRC (starting from base year “0”)

24. Years_3:

The number of cubed years since the last TRC (starting from base year “0”)