

Documentation on the database « politicaldata.dta »

This data was collected by Elise Huillery within the research project "Long Term History and Resources Distribution in Africa" directed by Denis Cogneau (IRD, DIAL, Paris). Financial support from the French Ministry of Research is gratefully acknowledged. Angélique Roblin, has provided excellent research assistance for archive extraction.

Source:

The source is the Annual Political Reports (“Rapports Politiques Annuels”) written by the colony’s (local) Governor to the AOF’s (federal) Governor.

These reports aimed at informing the federal Governor and the French central administration on the political situation in the colony. Most of reports can be found at the colony level on an annual basis, based on quarterly district level reports compiled by the local Governor. Sometimes, the colony level report was not available so the district level reports were used. Sometimes also, but rarely, no report was found as indicated by the dummy “missing” in the database.

These political reports can be found at the Archives Nationales (Centre d’Accueil et de Recherche des Archives Nationales) in Paris in a microfilm format (cote 200MI).

Variables’ definition:

All variables’ name is structured by three letters, then one suffix which is 1, 2 or 3, then sometimes an additional suffix “_” or “_0”. The concatenation of those characters defines the variable. For simplicity purpose, the labels on the variables in the database only refer to the three first characters of variables’ name. Here is the meaning of each component of variables’ name and their resulting definition:

- The **first letter** is either “c” in case of an event that occurred in the district, or a “i” in case of an intervention of the colonial power (generally in response to an event).
- The **second letter** is either “t” in case of an event/intervention related to land property rights, “i” in case of an event/intervention related to taxes, “r” in case of an event/intervention related to military recruitment and “a” otherwise.
- The **third letter** is either “c” in case of an event/intervention due to local chiefs, or “p” in case of an event/intervention due to subjects (normal people in the population).
- The **suffix “1”** refer to expressions of **hostility towards the colonial power**. Examples of events expressing hostility are: refusal to comply to colonial rules, refusal to pay taxes, refusal to enrol in military troops, riots, strikes, open clash with the colonial power, etc. Examples of intervention due to expressions of hostility are: giving a fine or arresting an opponent, firing a chief, military repression, etc. The following table gives the resulting description of all variables with suffix “1”:

Events in the district

Variables	Description
cac1	Chiefs exhibit general hostility towards the colonial power
cac1_	One of few chiefs exhibit general hostility towards the colonial power
cap1	Subjects exhibit general hostility towards the colonial power
cap1_	One of few subjects exhibit general hostility towards the colonial power
cic1	Chiefs exhibit hostility towards the colonial power related to taxes
cip1	Subjects exhibit hostility towards the colonial power related to taxes
ctc1	Chiefs exhibit hostility towards the colonial power related to land property rights
ctc1_	Chiefs exhibit hostility towards the colonial power related to land property rights due to colonial borders
ctp1	Subjects exhibit hostility towards the colonial power related to land property rights
ctp1_	One of few subjects exhibit hostility towards the colonial power related to land property rights
ctp1_0	Subjects exhibit hostility towards the colonial power related to land property rights due to colonial borders
crc1	Chiefs exhibit hostility towards the colonial power related to military recruitment
crp1	Subjects exhibit hostility towards the colonial power related to military recruitment
crp1_	One of few subjects exhibit hostility towards the colonial power related to military recruitment

Interventions from the colonial power in the district

Variables	Description
iac1	Intervention due to chiefs exhibiting general hostility towards the colonial power
iac1_	Intervention due to one or few chiefs exhibiting general hostility towards the colonial power
iap1	Intervention due to subjects exhibiting general hostility towards the colonial power
iap1_	Intervention due to one or few subjects exhibiting general hostility towards the colonial power
iic1	Intervention due to chiefs exhibiting hostility towards the colonial power related to taxes
iip1	Intervention due to subjects exhibiting hostility towards the colonial power related to taxes
itc1	Intervention due to chiefs exhibiting hostility towards the colonial power related to land property rights
itp1	Intervention due to subjects exhibiting hostility towards the colonial power related to land property rights
itp1_	Intervention due to one or few subjects exhibiting hostility towards the colonial power related to land property rights
irc1	Intervention due to chiefs exhibiting hostility towards the colonial power related to military recruitment
irp1	Intervention due to subjects exhibiting hostility towards the colonial power related to military recruitment

- The suffix “2” refer to expressions of **internal conflicts/difficulties in the population**. Examples of events expressing internal conflicts or difficulties are: incompetent chiefs, death of a chief, disputes between chiefs, ethnic groups or fractions of population, etc. Examples of interventions due to internal conflicts or difficulties are: giving a fine or arresting people, firing a chief, organizing negotiation, military support to one group, etc The following table gives an example of such an event for all variables ending by “2”:

Variables	Description
cac2	Chiefs exhibit internal conflicts/difficulties
cac2_	One of few chiefs exhibit internal conflicts/difficulties
cap2	Subjects exhibit internal conflicts/difficulties
cap2_	One of few subjects exhibit internal conflicts/difficulties
cic2	Chiefs exhibit internal conflicts/difficulties related to taxes
cip2	Subjects exhibit internal conflicts/difficulties related to taxes
cip2_	Subjects exhibit internal conflicts/difficulties related to taxes due to a natural disaster
ctc2	Chiefs exhibit internal conflicts/difficulties related to land property rights
ctc2_	Chiefs exhibit internal conflicts/difficulties related to land property rights due to colonial borders
ctp2	Subjects exhibit internal conflicts/difficulties related to land property rights
ctp2_	One of few subjects exhibit internal conflicts/difficulties related to land property rights
ctp2_0	Subjects exhibit internal conflicts/difficulties related to land property rights due to colonial borders
crc2	Chiefs exhibit internal conflicts/difficulties related to military recruitment
crp2	Subjects exhibit internal conflicts/difficulties related to military recruitment
crp2_	One of few subjects exhibit internal conflicts/difficulties related to military recruitment

Interventions from the colonial power in the district

Variables	Description
iac2	Intervention due to chiefs exhibiting internal conflicts/difficulties
iac2_	Intervention due to one or few chiefs exhibiting internal conflicts/difficulties
iap2	Intervention due to subjects exhibiting internal conflicts/difficulties
iap2_	Intervention due to one or few subjects exhibiting internal conflicts/difficulties
ilic2	Intervention due to chiefs exhibiting internal conflicts/difficulties related to taxes
iip2	Intervention due to subjects exhibiting internal conflicts/difficulties related to taxes
itc2	Intervention due to chiefs exhibiting internal conflicts/difficulties related to land property rights
itp2	Intervention due to subjects exhibiting internal conflicts/difficulties related to land property rights
irc2	Intervention due to chiefs exhibiting internal conflicts/difficulties related to military recruitment
irp2	Intervention due to subjects exhibiting internal conflicts/difficulties related to military recruitment

- The suffix “3” refer to expressions of **docility towards the colonial power**. Examples of events expressing docility are obedience to the colonial rules, promptitude in paying taxes or in providing military troops, gifts to the colonial power, etc. Examples of interventions due to docility are: gifts/rewards to local chiefs. The following table gives an example of such an event for all variables ending by “3”:

Events in the district

Variables	Description
cac3	Chiefs exhibit general docility towards the colonial power
cac3_	One of few chiefs exhibit general docility towards the colonial power
cap3	Subjects exhibit general docility towards the colonial power
cap3_	One of few subjects exhibit general docility towards the colonial power
cic3	Chiefs exhibit docility towards the colonial power related to taxes
cip3	Subjects exhibit docility towards the colonial power related to taxes
ctc3	Chiefs exhibit docility towards the colonial power related to land property rights
ctp3	Subjects exhibit docility towards the colonial power related to land property rights
ctp3_	One of few subjects exhibit docility towards the colonial power related to land property rights
crc3	Chiefs exhibit docility towards the colonial power related to military recruitment
crp3	Subjects exhibit docility towards the colonial power related to military recruitment
crp3_	One of few subjects exhibit docility towards the colonial power related to military recruitment

Interventions from the colonial power in the district

Variables	Description
iac3	Intervention due to chiefs exhibiting general docility towards the colonial power
iac3_	Intervention due to one or few chiefs exhibiting general docility towards the colonial power
iap3	Intervention due to subjects exhibiting general docility towards the colonial power
iap3_	Intervention due to one or few subjects exhibiting general docility towards the colonial power
iic3	Intervention due to chiefs exhibiting docility towards the colonial power related to taxes
iip3	Intervention due to subjects exhibiting docility towards the colonial power related to taxes
itc3	Intervention due to chiefs exhibiting docility towards the colonial power related to land property rights
itp3	Intervention due to subjects exhibiting docility towards the colonial power related to land property rights
irc3	Intervention due to chiefs exhibiting docility towards the colonial power related to military recruitment
irp3	Intervention due to subjects exhibiting docility towards the colonial power related to military recruitment

Variables' value:

The variables referring to hostility towards the colonial power can take five values:

- 0 if nothing happened
- 1 if an insignificant event/intervention happened
- 2 if a significant event happened without threatening the colonial power / routine intervention
- 3 if an event threatening the colonial power happened / unusual but moderate intervention
- 4 if a major threat to the colonial power happened / unusual and mass intervention

The variables referring to internal conflicts can take five values:

- 0 if nothing happened
- 1 if an insignificant event/intervention happened
- 2 if a significant event happened without much difficulty for the colonial power/ routine intervention
- 3 if an event putting the colonial power in difficulties happened / unusual but moderate intervention
- 4 if an event putting the colonial power in major difficulties happened / unusual and mass intervention

The variables referring to docility towards the colonial power can take two values:

- 0 if nothing happened
- 1 if anything happened