

The Citizenship Laws Dataset

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The Citizenship Laws dataset contains information on citizenship laws in 162 countries of the world with reference to the years 1948, 1975, and 2001. The available information concerns the way in which countries regulate citizenship acquisition at birth, with a distinction among jus soli (i.e., by birthplace), jus sanguinis (i.e., by descent), and mixed regimes. We also collect information about naturalization requirements. Details are provided below in sub-sections 1.1 and 1.2.

The dataset also contains information for the main border changes which have affected the countries in our sample. The dataset further includes the following geo-political dummies: civil law, Latin America, Southern Europe, sub-Saharan Africa, British or Portuguese colony, small country, socialist country, and oil. Details are provided below in sub-sections 1.3 and 1.4.

The dataset is described at length in the following paper:

Graziella Bertocchi and Chiara Strozzi
"The Evolution of Citizenship: Economic and Institutional Determinants"
Journal of Law and Economics, vol. 53, 2010, forthcoming.

The above reference contains a detailed discussion of the underlying research project as well as an empirical implementation of the dataset. The same research project is also developed in Graziella Bertocchi and Chiara Strozzi, "International Migration and the Role of Institutions, Public Choice, vol. 137, 81-102, 2008.

The main sources of information for the dataset are the following: United States Office of Personnel Management (2001), CIA (2002), U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (2003), and Weil (2001).

1.1. Citizenship at Birth

We code each country in 1948, 1975, and 2001. Our codification focuses on the presence of jus soli elements in a country's legislation. This approach is justified by our primary interest, in the underlying research project, in the potential impact of citizenship laws on immigrants, rather than emigrants. For 1948, 1975 and 2001, we divide countries into three groups:

- Group 1 includes countries subject to jus sanguinis without any jus soli element;
- Group 2 includes countries that apply a mixed regime reflecting elements of both jus soli and jus sanguinis;
- Group 3 contains countries subject to full jus soli.

More details on our classification criteria follow below.

Group 1 (jus sanguinis countries): We include countries where citizenship is passed on to a child based upon at least one of the parents being a citizen of that country, regardless of the child's actual country of birth, and where citizenship is not granted due to birth within the country. In the

application of jus sanguinis, countries may differ on some factors, for example on the father's vs. mother's right to transmit citizenship by descent, the requirement of citizenship for one or both parents, the relevance of the marital status of the parents. Most of these factors depend on the interaction between local family law and citizenship law. A common exception to the general principle of jus sanguinis is automatic citizenship attribution to children of unknown parents. Since we focus on the presence of jus soli elements in a country's legislation, our classification does not emphasize how narrowly jus sanguinis can be specifically applied to emigrants. Examples of restrictions are generational requirements limiting the principle of citizenship by descent to the first or second generations of individuals born and residing abroad, residence requirements for parents, and the requirement that parents must be citizens other than by descent.

Group 2 (countries with a mixed regime): We include those countries where elements of jus soli are recognized, albeit in a restrictive form, and coexist with varying degrees of jus sanguinis. For example, a frequent provision that limits jus soli is double jus soli (namely, automatic citizenship for the children of those immigrants who were also born in the country). Another is the ability, for a child born in a country where jus sanguinis prevails, to acquire citizenship at some later point (for example, the age of maturity) subject to either residence requirements or application. Moreover, we interpret as an element of jus soli, that justifies the inclusion of a country within Group 2, the existence of a provision that birth in the country matters for naturalization.

Group 3 (jus soli countries): We include those countries where citizenship is automatically granted due to birth within the country, regardless of the parents' citizenship or status. Normally countries that apply jus soli combine it with jus sanguinis provisions for the children of their citizens born outside of their territory (although limitations to the ability to transmit citizenship acquired in this manner to the next generation usually apply through, for example, residence requirements).

1.2. Citizenship by Naturalization

We code naturalization only for 2001, on the basis of the available information on 142 of our 162 countries. Basic rules for naturalization may include a period of residence, renunciation of other citizenship, familiarity with the language and customs of the country, and the availability of adequate means of support. We classify countries on the basis of the number of years of residence required for naturalization, by constructing the following four classes:

- more than 14 years of residence for naturalization;
- 6 to 14 years of residence for naturalization ;
- 5 years of residence for naturalization;
- 4 or fewer years of residence for naturalization.

1.3. The Border Change Dummies

The underlying information for the presence of a border change is Polity IV (2002). From the Polity IV variable "CHANGE" we record information on four types of events capable of affecting state borders, i.e., State Disintegration, State Transformation, State Demise, and State Creation. We include in our codification events occurring in the 1948-2001 period. However, we also include a few events occurred in the 1943-1948 period that fit within the phase of post-colonial independence. Additional information is obtained from CIA (2002).

We match the above events to the 162 countries appearing in our citizenship laws dataset. For instance, we count as a single event, occurring to Germany, the State Transformation of East and West Germany in 1945, as well as the State Demise of Germany in the same year. Likewise, we

treat as another single event, occurring again to Germany, the State Transformation of Germany in 1990 and the State Demise of East and West Germany in the same year. On the other hand, the separation of Bangladesh from Pakistan counts for two events, because it concerns two countries which are in our sample. On this basis, we construct two border change dummies for each sub-period under consideration, i.e., for 1948-1975 and 1976-2001:

- Decolonisation, which identifies countries which went through a post-colonial redefinition of their borders);
- Other Border Changes, which identifies countries which went through other types of boundary changes (e.g., the split between Pakistan and Bangladesh, and the unification of Vietnam).

Moreover, we construct an additional border change dummy, Berlin Wall, which identifies countries which went through a post-1989 border change related to the fall of the Berlin Wall.

1.4. Additional Geo-political Dummies

The dataset includes a number of additional dummies described as follows.

Civil law: The source is the legal origin classification in La Porta et al. (1999). We retain only the two main families of common and civil law, without distinguishing, within the broader civil law tradition, among the French, German, and Scandinavian versions, since they do not present any significant difference for the issue of citizenship. Moreover, while La Porta et al. (1999) introduce a separate class for socialist-law countries, we assign them to their own class of common or civil law as it prevailed before the communist period.

Latin America, Southern Europe and sub-Saharan Africa: Dummies for countries belonging to Latin America, Southern Europe and sub-Saharan Africa. The classification is from the United Nations (2002).

British or Portuguese colony: Dummy for countries that were British or Portuguese colonies any time after 1918. The source is the Correlates of War 2 Project (2004).

Small country: Dummy for countries with a population size of less than one million over all available years between 1960 and 1995, as in Easterly and Kraay (2000).

Socialist: Dummy for socialist countries. Information is from La Porta et al. (1999).

Oil: Dummy for oil countries (OPEC countries plus Oman, Angola, Qatar, Bahrain, and Brunei).

References

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