Codebook for RAQED: Revolutionary and Quasi-revolutionary Episodes Data*

Version 1.4

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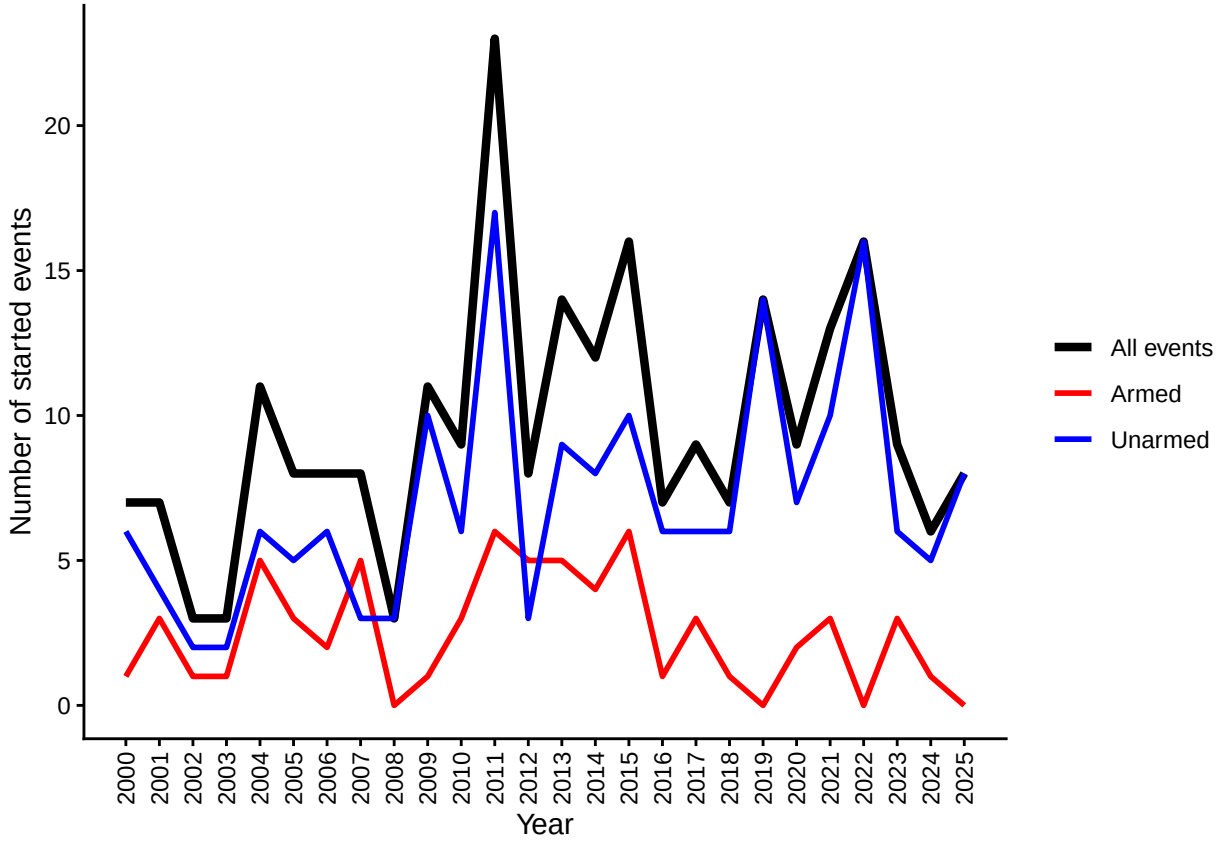
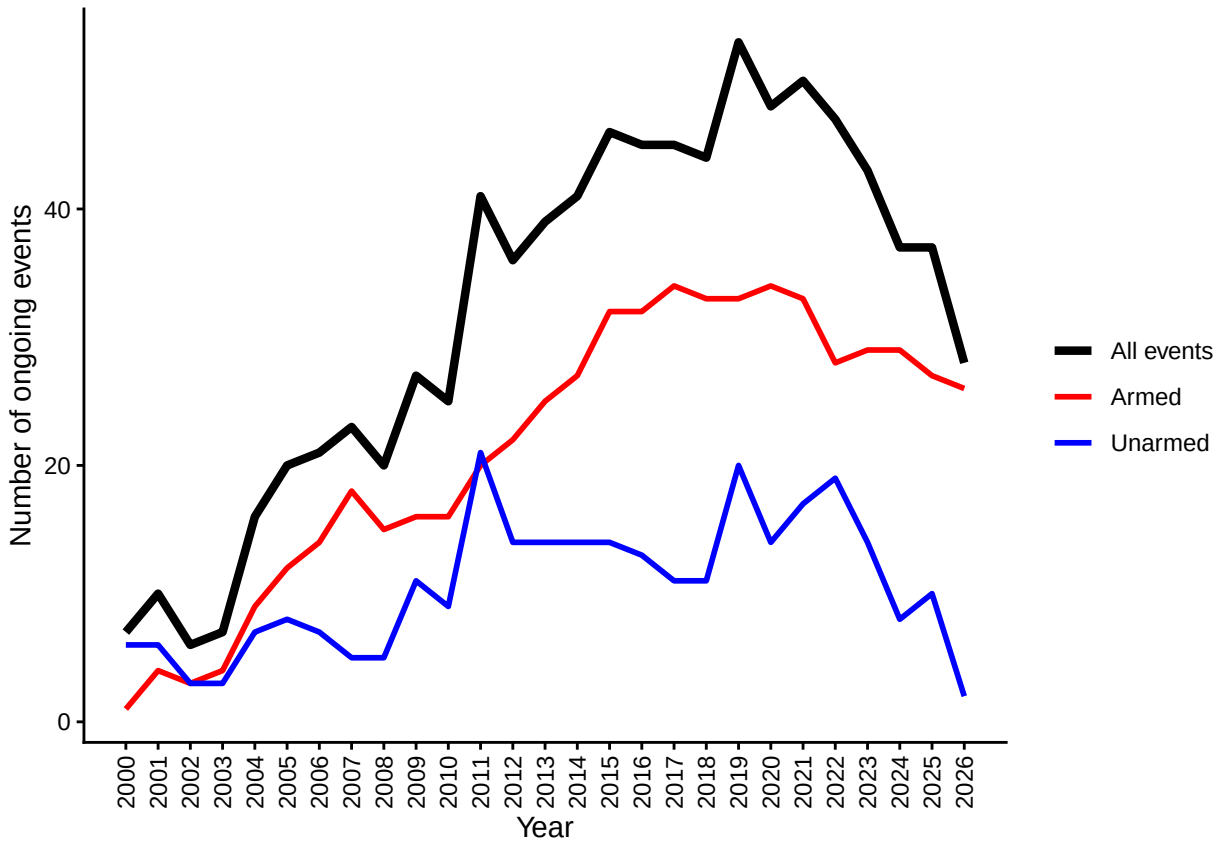
1 Brief description

The database describes revolutionary events of the 21st century by various characteristics: chronological, geographical, type of protesters' tactics, purpose, degree of success and some others.

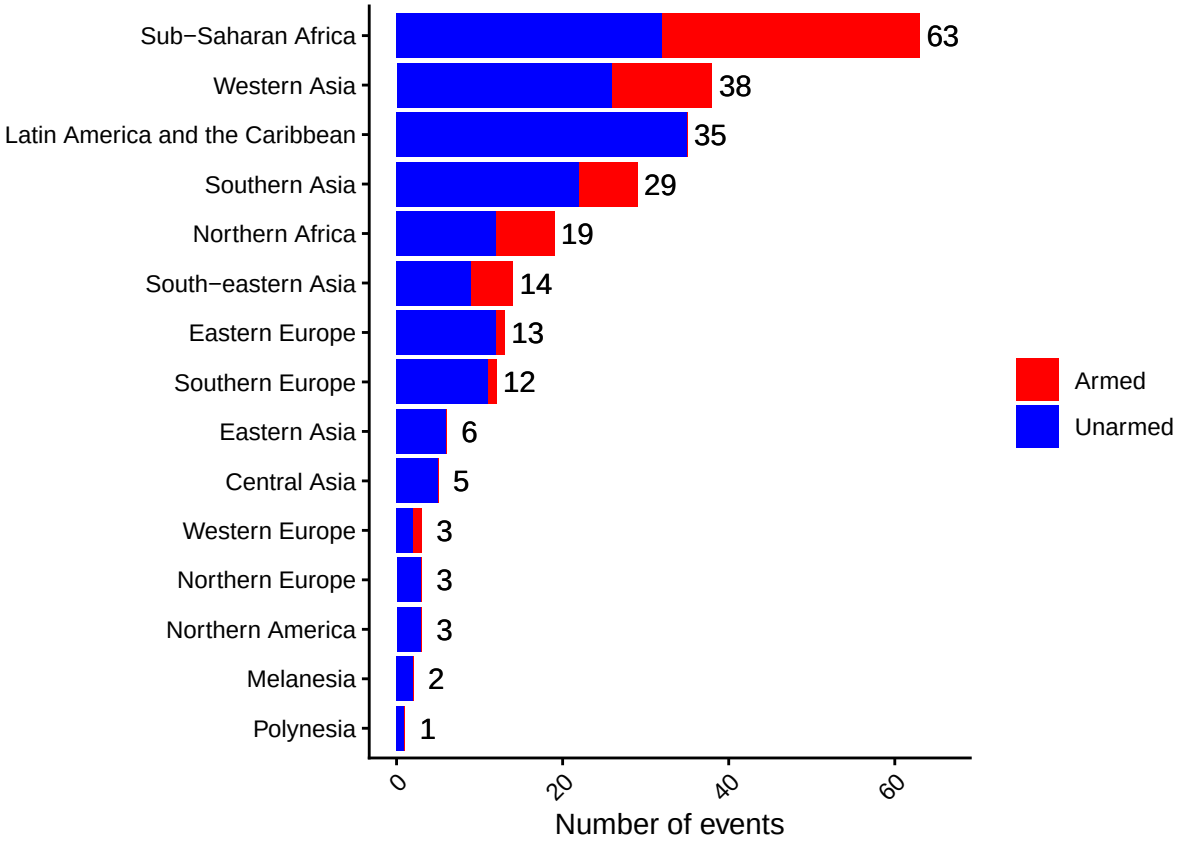
The following figure illustrates the revolutionary process of the 21st century with division of episodes on armed and unarmed. Y-axis shows the total number of events started in some year in the world, while the X-axis shows the year of start.



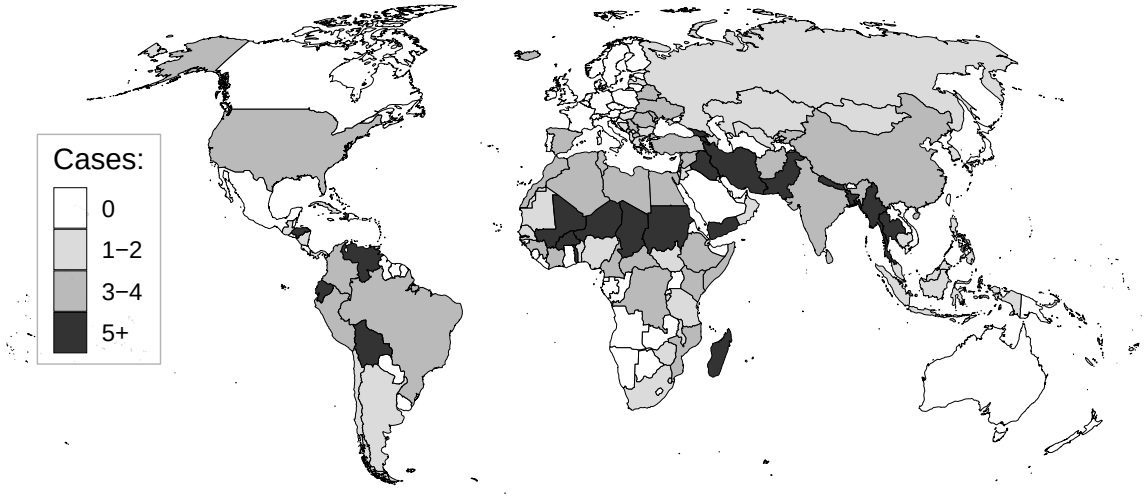
The following figure also illustrates the revolutionary process of the 21st century with division of episodes on armed and unarmed. Y-axis shows the total number of ongoing events in some year in the world, while the X-axis shows the year. This figure differs from the previous one as it includes all active episodes.



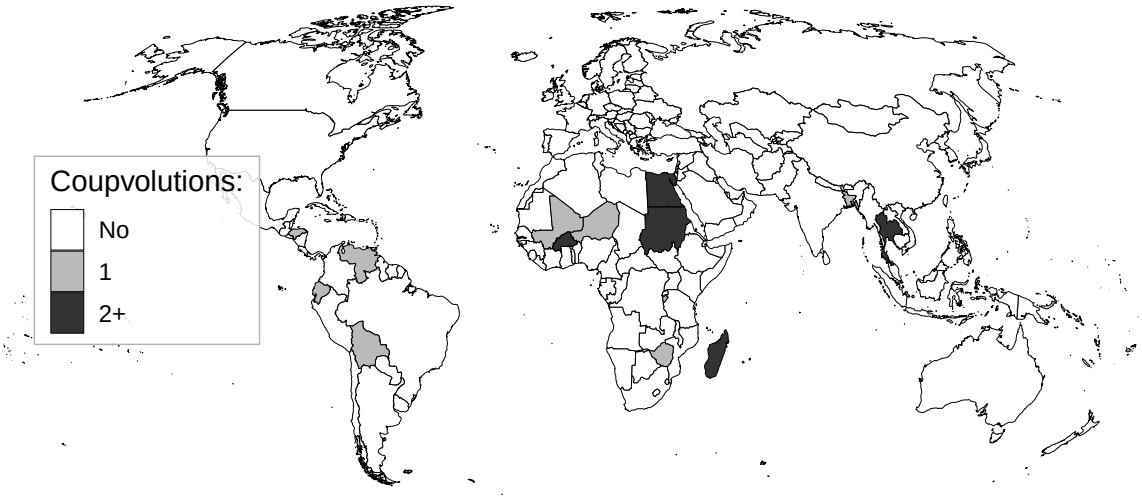
The following figure shows the distribution of events across regions.



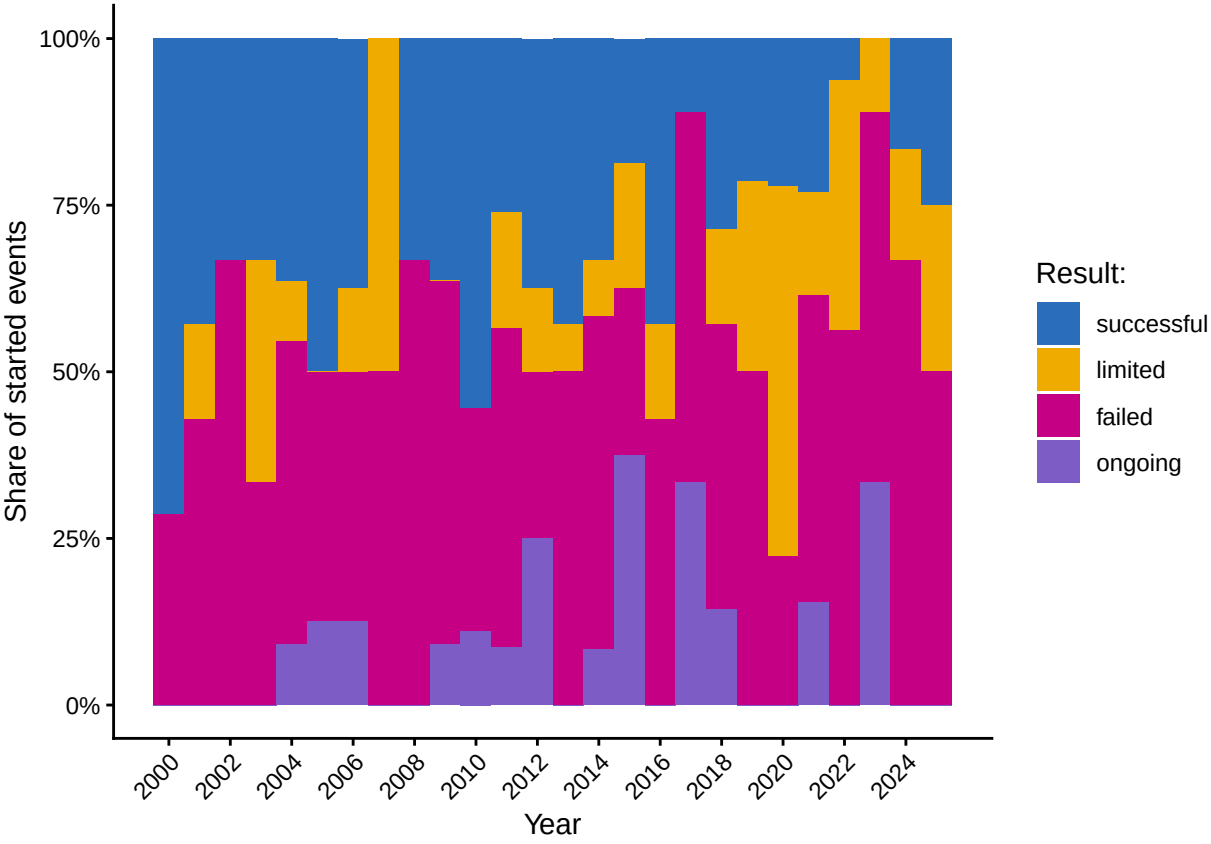
While the map below shows the intensity of revolutionary process across countries.



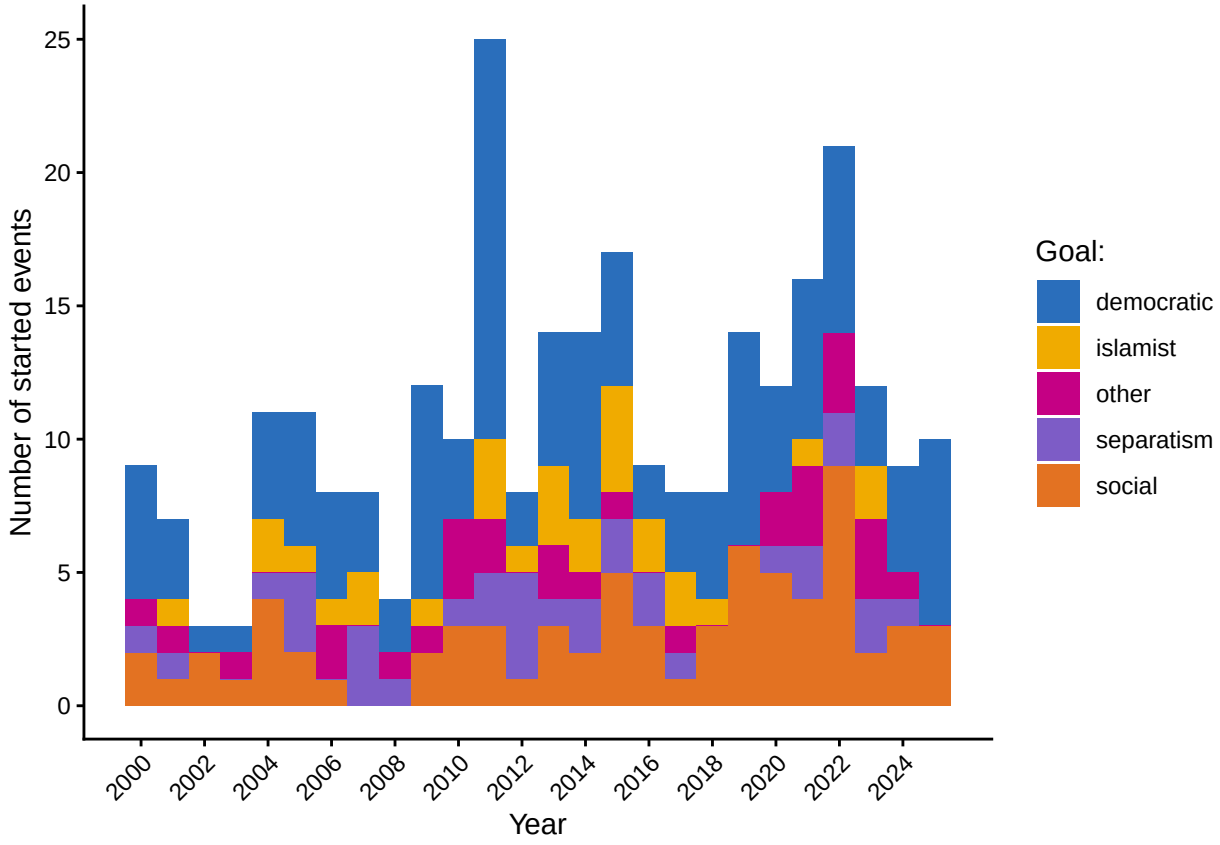
The next map below shows the number of coupvolutions – revolutionary mobilization accompanied by coup.

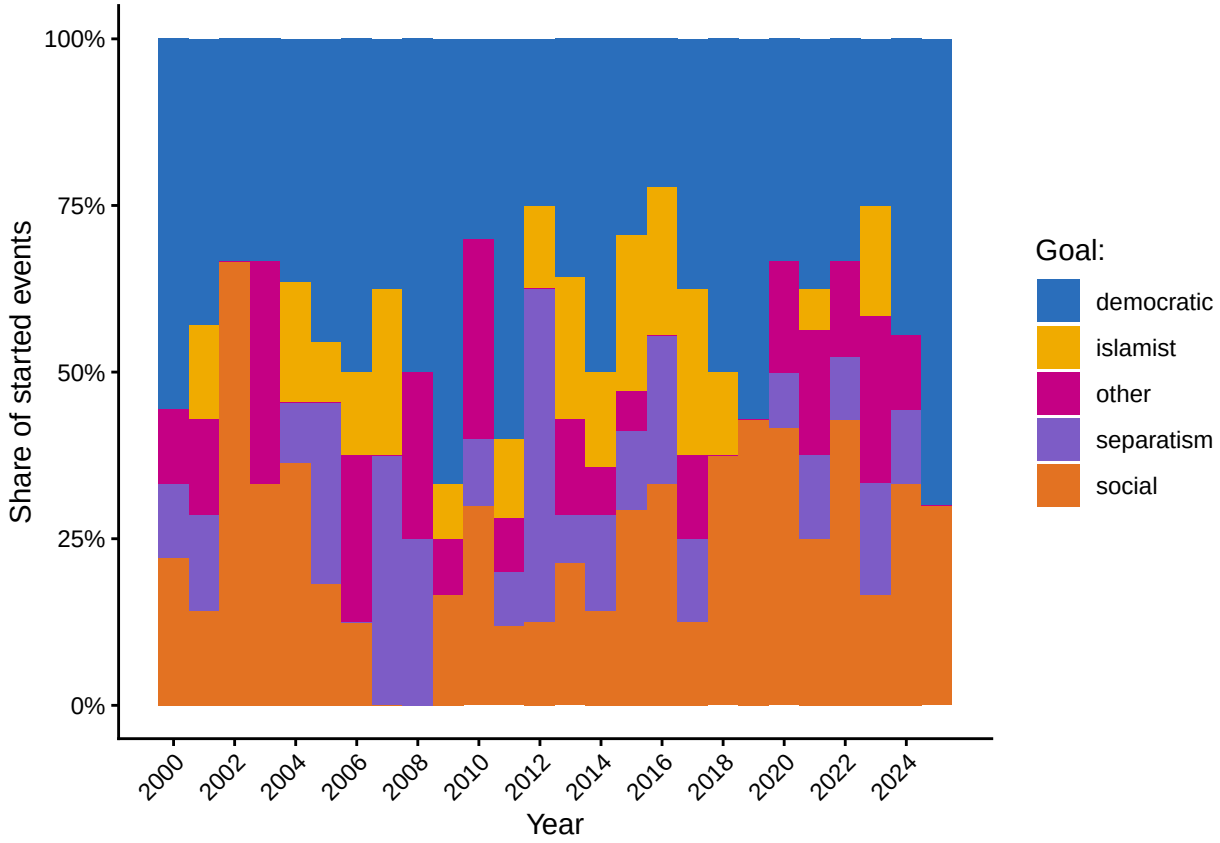


The following figure illustrates the revolutionary process of the 21st century with division of episodes by their result: full success, limited success or failure (as well as ongoing episodes by their start year). Y-axis shows the share of started events in some year in the world according to the result, while the X-axis shows the year of start.



The following figures show the distribution of events by the goals across years.


Number of started events
25
20
15
10
5
0
2000
2002
2004
2006
2008
2010
2012
2014
2016
2018
2020
2022
2024
Year
Goal:
democratic
islamist
other
separatism
social


Share of started events
100%
75%
50%
25%
0%
2000
2002
2004
2006
2008
2010
2012
2014
2016
2018
2020
2022
2024
Year
Goal:
democratic
islamist
other
separatism
social

2 Definitions & Inclusion criteria

For the identification of revolutionary episodes, we rely on the following definitions of revolution:

Revolution is "*an effort to transform the political institutions and the justifications for political authority in a society, accompanied by formal or informal mass mobilization and noninstitutionalized actions that undermine existing authorities*" [Goldstone, 2001, 142].

Revolution is "*a mass siege of an established government by its own population with the goals of displacing the incumbent regime and substantially altering the political or social order*" [Beissinger, 2022, 3].

Revolution is "*a collective mobilization that attempts to quickly and forcibly overthrow an existing regime in order to transform political, economic, and symbolic relations*" [Lawson, 2019, 5].

Revolution is "*anti-government (very often illegal) mass actions (mass mobilization) with the following aims: (1) to overthrow or replace the existing government within a certain period of time; (2) to seize power or to provide conditions for coming to power; (3) to make significant changes in the regime, social or political institutions*" [Goldstone et al., 2022, 50–51].

Thus, the **key consensus features of revolution** (i.e. *inclusion criteria*) is:

1. **Mass mobilization**

   This excludes almost automatically coups that can well result in "quick and forcible overthrow of an existing regime" (e.g., replacing a partial democracy with autocracy), but that do not involve mass mobilization. *Thus, only that episodes that include at least 1000 participants are included.*

2. **An attempt to overthrow or replace the existing government by non-institutional methods**

   This excludes so-called "*quasi-revolutionary episodes*". Mark Beissinger (who coined this term) introduces it in the following way. He maintains that revolution implies "a resolve and commitment to compelling regime-change that differentiates revolution from quasi-revolutionary protests (such as occasional mass actions that articulate demands for a leader's resignation). The 2011–12 electoral protests in Russia over widespread electoral fraud were the largest manifestations of civic activism in Russia since the collapse of the Soviet Union, involving up to a hundred thousand participants in Moscow alone. While the ruling United Russia Party was branded at the demonstrations as 'the party of swindlers and thieves,' and calls were raised for Vladimir Putin's resignation, no overt effort was made to impose regime-change. Rather, protestors gathered in a public square that had been agreed upon beforehand with the government, voiced their demands, and then dispersed, reassembling intermittently over the following months. The movement even went into abeyance over the summer so that activists could go on their summer vacations. I refer to such protests as 'quasi-revolutionary' in that they articulate demands for regime-change, and thereby bear some resemblance to revolution, but fall short of revolution in that a mass siege aimed at compelling regime-change never materializes" [Beissinger, 2022, 26].

In this respect, for example, the ISIS[1] insurgency in Syria and Iraq fits all the above mentioned criteria of revolutionary episodes very well. It was accompanied by very substantial formal and informal mass mobilization (some of whose survivors could be found till now in a number of special detention camps in Syria and Iraq). It clearly attempted to quickly and forcibly overthrow existing regimes in Syria and Iraq. And it evidently aimed at significant changes in the regime, social or political institutions (though the changes that the Daesh revolutionaries wanted to make, and were actually making would not look attractive to us in any way). Incidentally, this reminds us that revolutions should not look necessarily attractive; in fact, they are sometimes are unequivocally ugly events (another evident example is, of course, the Khmer Rouge revolution in Cambodia).

Note that these definitions do not imply that revolutionary episodes should be necessarily violent, or successful. A salient recent example is the Belorussian revolution of 2020–2021 that was both saliently nonviolent and clearly unsuccessful. But it fit the above specified criteria of the revolutionary episode as perfectly as the very violent and unsuccessful Daesh insurgency, as non-violent and successful Velvet revolutions in Czechoslovakia (1989) and Armenia (2018), or as very violent and successful Taliban[2] insurgency in Afghanistan.

The final remark to be made is that civil wars are revolutions that employ armed tactic, because their core features are also mass mobilization (in the form of an army) with the aim of changing political relationships in a society by illegal mechanisms. As McAdam et al. [2001] posit, both revolutions and civil wars are facets of a more comprehensive concept – "collective political struggle" – and the distinction between them is minimal due to the convergence of mobilization strategies and logic. Accordingly, as Beissinger [2022] (p. 25–26) note, the distinction between revolutions and civil wars is largely artificial. It is important to note, however, that while the majority of civil wars are, in fact, armed revolutions, not all of them can be defined as such. A contemporary example is the civil war in Somalia between the army and security forces. During the transition period, an internal conflict arose between members of the transitional government. The army attempted to assume control under the security forces, resulting in an armed conflict with a significant mobilization of forces, yet there was no maximalist objective among the conflicting parties. Therefore, it can be concluded that this is not a revolution.

[1] Terrorist organization banned in Russia
[2] Terrorist organization banned in Russia

3 Database design

Data is presented as Exel document with 2 sheets:

1. **Event table**. Table with *events*, where unit of analysis is revolution
2. **Panel table**. Table with *event-years*, where unit of analysis is *revolution-year* (event is repeated over ongoing years)

The variables are the same for both sheets. In the following table some short statistics is reported.

Feature	Value
Number of coded events	249
Number of coded event-years	862
Covered years	2000 - 2025
Number of unique countries	108

4 Variables

4.1 Chronological and geographical characteristics

n	start_year	end_year	start_date	end_date	country	iso3c	region	name
218001	2000	2000	2000-01-21	2000-01-22	Ecuador	ECU	Latin America and the Caribbean	Anti-Mahuad uprising
604001	2000	2000	2000-04-10	2000-11-20	Peru	PER	Latin America and the Caribbean	Anti-Fujimori uprising
242001	2000	2001	2000-05-19	2001-03-01	Fiji	FJI	Melanesia	“Anti-Hindu” revolution
324001	2000	2001	2000-09-02	2001-03-09	Guinea	GIN	Sub-Saharan Africa	Uprising of the democratic forces of Guinea
275001	2000	2005	2000-09-28	2005-02-08	Palestine, State of	PSE	Western Asia	Intifadat al-Aqsa

4.1.1 n

Definition: Unique episode number

Coding: Character.

4.1.2 start_year

Definition: Event start year

Coding: Year, integer.

4.1.3 end_year

Definition: Event end year

Coding: Year, integer.

4.1.4 start_date

Definition: Event start date

Coding: Date in Excel format: year-month-day[3].

[3]Note if the start date is not definable, the episode is coded to commence on the first of January.

4.1.5 end_date

Definition: Event end date

Coding: Date in Excel format: year-month-day.

4.1.6 country

Definition: Country name

Coding: Character. For example, "Russia".

4.1.7 iso3c

Definition: Three-letter ISO 3166-1 alpha-3 (iso3c) country code

Coding: Character. For example, "RUS".

4.1.8 region

Definition: The region to which the country where the event took place belongs.

Coding: Character. For example, "Sub-Saharan Africa". It is UN Subregion classification.

4.1.9 name

Definition: Episode name

Coding: Character. For example, "Orange Revolution".

4.2 Degree of success

Following characteristics are mutually exclusive (no overlaps are possible).

name	successful	limited	failed	ongoing
Anti-Mahuad uprising	1	0	0	0
Anti-Fujimori uprising	1	0	0	0
"Anti-Hindu" revolution	1	0	0	0
Uprising of the democratic forces of Guinea	0	0	1	0
Intifadat al-Aqsa	0	0	1	0

4.2.1 successful

Definition: Complete success of revolutionaries.

Coding: Binary variable. 1 = Success, 0 = otherwise (*limited* = 1 OR *failed* = 1)

4.2.2 limited

Definition: Limited success of revolutionaries (only some concessions).

Coding: Binary variable. 1 = Limited success, 0 = otherwise (*successful* = 1 OR *failed* = 1)

4.2.3 failed

Definition: Complete fail of revolutionaries.

Coding: Binary variable. 1 = Fail, 0 = otherwise (*successful* = 1 OR *limited* = 1)

4.2.4 ongoing

Definition: Still not ended episodes.

Description: Usually ongoing episodes have no success classification, though in some cases ongoing episodes can be preliminary classified as successful/limited/failed.

Coding: Binary variable. 1 = Ongoing episode, 0 = Finished episode

4.3 Revolutionary tactic

Following characteristics are mutually exclusive (no overlaps are possible). More on the issue of division between armed/unarmed tactic see Kadivar and Ketchley [2018].

name	armed	unarmed
Anti-Mahuad uprising	0	1
Anti-Fujimori uprising	0	1
“Anti-Hindu” revolution	0	1
Uprising of the democratic forces of Guinea	1	0
Intifadat al-Aqsa	0	1

4.3.1 armed

Definition: Armed tactic

Description: Revolutionaries predominantly used fabric weapons.

Coding: Binary variable. 1 = Armed episode, 0 = Unarmed episode

4.3.2 unarmed

Definition: Unarmed tactic

Description: Revolutionaries predominantly used civil resistance methods or improvised weapons - sticks, stones or even Molotov cocktails

Coding: Binary variable. 1 = Unarmed episode, 0 = Armed episode

4.4 Goal

Following characteristics of event usually overlap.

name	regime_change	islamist	democratic	social	separatism	other
Anti-Mahuad uprising	1	0	1	1	0	0
Anti-Fujimori uprising	1	0	1	0	0	0
"Anti-Hindu" revolution	1	0	0	1	0	1
Uprising of the democratic forces of Guinea	1	0	1	0	0	0
Intifadat al-Aqsa	0	0	0	0	1	0

4.4.1 regime_change

Definition: The goal of revolutionaries was primary to change the regime.

Description: Revolutionaries declare that their main goal is to change institutions and political landscape dramatically. This category includes additional classification in the form of the following variables: *islamist*, *democratic*

Coding: Binary variable. 1 = The goal is regime change, 0 = otherwise

4.4.2 islamist

Definition: The goal of revolutionaries was to change the regime AND was connected to Islam.

Description: Revolutionaries declare that their goal is to change the regime to Islamic state. Thus, this variable can be 1 ONLY IF *regime_change* = 1

Coding: Binary variable. 1 = The goal is to change the regime to Islamic state, 0 = otherwise

4.4.3 democratic

Definition: The goal of revolutionaries was to change the regime AND was connected to democracy transition.

Description: Revolutionaries declare that their goal is to change the regime to more democratic one. Thus, this variable can be 1 ONLY IF *regime_change* = 1

Coding: Binary variable. 1 = The goal is democracy transition, 0 = otherwise

4.4.4 social

Definition: The goal of revolutionaries was primary social, firstly connected with life-conditions.

Description: Social, i.e., primarily seeking to solve problems of social injustice, with democratic, political, legal and other transformations being only a tool to solve this main task (Mexican

1910-1917; Spanish Revolution 1931-1939)[4]. *Coding*: Binary variable. 1 = The goal is to change the welfare system dramatically, 0 = otherwise

4.4.5 separatism

Definition: The goal of revolutionaries was to gain independence/autonomy.

Coding: Binary variable. 1 = The goal is to gain independence/autonomy, 0 = otherwise

4.4.6 other

Definition: The goal of revolutionaries cannot be classified as democratic/social/islamist/separatism

Description: Can be overlapped by mentioned goal types.

Coding: Binary variable. 1 = The goal cannot be classified as democratic/social/islamist/separatism, 0 = otherwise

4.5 Loyalty shifts

name	military_defection	coupvolution
Anti-Mahuad uprising	1	1
Anti-Fujimori uprising	0	0
"Anti-Hindu" revolution	1	1
Uprising of the democratic forces of Guinea	0	0
Intifadat al-Aqsa	0	0

4.5.1 military_defection

Definition: Military or security forces defect from the regime and start to support the revolutionaries

Description: Main forms of expressing disloyalty through defection are desertion, side-switching, direct withdrawal of the support to regime, support of opposition and refusal to follow orders by the of regular military or/and security forces [Dahl et al., 2023]. Depending on the type of defection, it might happen with or without the command of high-ranked military/security forces officials. We do not consider shirking or barracking as the disloyalty that can hardly de tracked and usually not mass. Non-resistance or support for revolutionaries by military or security forces should be widespread and take place in the areas significant for the revolution. Military coups can be the part of defection but in case of its presence in revolution we use the variable 'coupvolution'.

Coding: Binary variable. 1 = presence of defection, 0 = absence of defection.

[4]Note, some authors (for ex., Beissinger) define social revolutions following Skocpol as "rapid, basic transformations of a society's state and class structures; and they are accompanied and in part carried through by class-based revolts from below" [Skocpol, 1979, 4]

4.5.2 coupvolution

Definition: The episode can be classified as "coupvolution"

Description: the episode is a "coupvolution": so called "Endgame coup" when revolution is ended by pro-revolutionary coup [see Koehler and Albrecht, 2021]. These events are a rather specific type of revolutionary processes, when revolutionary mass mobilization in the first phase is accompanied by a military coup d'état in the second phase of the revolutionary process; in the course of this coup d'état many of the demands of the participants in the first phase of the "coupvolution" process are realized.

Coding: Binary variable. 1 = the episode is coupvolution, 0 = otherwise.

4.6 Additional characteristics

name	npart_low	npart_high	foreign_support	ethnic
Anti-Mahuad uprising	20000	40000	0	0
Anti-Fujimori uprising	40000	40000	0	0
"Anti-Hindu" revolution	5000	5000	0	0
Uprising of the democratic forces of Guinea	1800	5000	0	0
Intifadat al-Aqsa	1000	5000	1	0

4.6.1 npart_low & npart_high

Definition: estimated number of people participating in the event on a peak day (lower and higher bounds[5]).

Coding: positive integer[6].

4.6.2 foreign_support

Definition: proven support of the revolutionary forces by sovereign states including sending troops, financial support or arms provision.

Description: The support has to be expressed not in the statements of the state leaders but in sending troops, financial support, arms provision or other forms of direct, not rhetorical support. Foreign support has to be admitted by states officially or approved by the reports of international or research organizations, just an alleged supported is not included.

Coding: Binary variable. 1 = presence of support, 0 = absence of support.

[5] In case of the only one known estimation of participants' number 1st and 2nd values are equal; also note, bounds are not symmetric

[6] In case of unclear number of participants ("thousands", "tens of thousands", "hundreds of thousands") number of participants is written approximately in the framework of existent data with regard to the country's population and previous number of participants in similar events

4.6.3 ethnic

Definition: The episode includes ethnic component

Description: In the episode the majority of revolutionaries was from one ethnic group in multinational country. Such an episodes are usually connected to separatism.

Coding: Binary variable. 1 = The episode includes ethnic component, 0 = otherwise

4.7 Episode classification

	name	type
1	Anti-Mahuad uprising	RE
11	Anti-Kumaratunga campaigm	QRE
21	Islamist insurgency in southern Thailand	RE
31	Central African Bush War	QRE
41	April Revolution	RE

4.7.1 type

Definition: The episode's classification.

Description: The episode can be classified as:

1. Revolutionary Episode (RE). This category includes pure revolutions that fulfill the main criteria with (1) mobilization and (2) clear maximalist goals.
2. Revolutionary Episode with question (RE?). This category includes revolutions that can be considered as both revolutions or quasi-revolutionary episodes.
3. Quasi-revolutionary episode (QRE). This category includes only quasi-revolutionary episodes.

Coding: Character. 'RE' – revolutionary episode, 'RE?' – revolutionary episode with question, 'QRE' – quasi-revolutionary episode.

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