

Codebook for African Constitutional Design Database

For a detailed explanation of the coding system, please see the book chapter for which this database was compiled:

Poupko, Eli. 2015. "Africa's Domestic Institutions of Integration and Accommodation: A New Database." In *Constitutions and Conflict Management in Africa: Preventing Civil War through Institutional Design*, ed. Alan J. Kuperman. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press, 183-224.

- 1) De facto constitutional design -- numerical between -2 and +2 (Somalia excluded as failed state having no de facto constitutional design as of 1/1/11)
- 2) De jure constitutional design -- numerical between -2 and +2
- 3) Executive system -- text: "presidential," "parliamentary," or "monarchy" (Libya excluded as having no formal executive system as of 1/1/11)
- 4) Presidential electoral system -- text: "majority" or "plurality," with notation of "vote-pooling" or "rotating" elections (not applicable in non-presidential systems)
- 5) Presidential term limits -- categorical: 0/1 (not applicable in non-presidential systems)
- 6) Legislative electoral system -- text: "PR," "plurality/majority SMDs," "mixed," etc., with details of mixed systems provided parenthetically; notations added for minority quotas
- 7) Bicameralism -- categorical: 0/1
- 8) Legislative authority vis-à-vis the executive -- numerical between -1 and +1 (weak, medium, or strong). This field captures the power of the legislature in relation to the executive. A "weak" coding, for example, may reflect de facto centralization of power in a presidential executive, possibly accounting for a difference between overall de facto and de jure coding. A "strong" coding, on the other hand, might simply reflect a de jure parliamentary system with concentration of power in the legislature.
- 9) Administrative structure -- text: "unitary," "unitary with some/full autonomy," "federal." This field captures the division of power—if any—between levels of government, as well as formal grants of governing autonomy to sub-state groups or regions.
- 10) Administrative 'culture' -- numerical between -1 and +1 (integrative, balanced, accommodative). This field captures other variables in the administrative dimension, such as whether there are identity-based restrictions on party formation, the status of national language(s) or religion(s), and provisions for cultural/educational autonomy.

11) Miscellaneous coding adjustments – text. This field captures adjustments to the overall coding not reflected in the other fields. These are mostly de facto political circumstances such as one-party dominance or informal power sharing rules, but may also include de jure institutions such as mandated quotas for the cabinet.

12-17) These fields separately capture the components of de facto and de jure constitutional design in each of the three dimensions, on a scale of -1 to +1 (integrative, balanced, accommodative).