**Appendix**

Appendix A: Coding Guidelines

Country Name

[country]

 This is the full name for a country. Taken from Comparative Constitutions Project data.

Country Code

 Indicates World Bank country code.

Number of Democratic Amendments

[t\_amend\_democratic]

 The number of democratic amendments. Calculated by counting the number of amendments in years in which polity was 6 or higher over the lifespan of a constitution. Note that this differs from our alternate measure of democratic periods in that any year in which a country has an amendment and has a polity2 score at or above 6 is counted, regardless of whether the country remains a democracy in the future (using our threshold of polity2 >= 6). Calculated using CCP and Polity data

Member of OECD

[oecd]

 Whether a country is a member of the OECD (1) or not (0). Identified using OECD membership roster (http://www.oecd.org/about/membersandpartners/list-oecd-member-countries.htm, last accessed May 2015). Data from OECD.

Country as a Democracy in 2013

[t\_democ\_2013]

 Reflects whether a country is a democracy in 2013 (1) or not (0) using Polity data (Polity2 variable) with a cutoff of 6 or greater for democracies. Missing reflects missing value in Polity.

Unitary-Federal State

[no\_fedtype]

 Fedtype variable from Pippa Norris (2009), Type of unitary‐federal state. Value is zero if non-unitary and 1 if it is unitary. http://www.hks.harvard.edu/fs/pnorris/Data/Data.htm Last accessed July 2015.

Age of the Constitution (2013)

[new\_age\_democ\_const\_2013]

 Age of the constitution. Calculated using the difference between the last year of constitutional data availability, 2013, and the year of the constitution's promulgation, systyear.. CCP data

Year Current Constitution was Introduced (2013)

[systyear\_ccpweb2013]

 Year constitution of 2013 was introduced. Calculated using CCP data.

Legal Origin

[legal\_origin]

 UK legal origin from LaPorta, Rafael, Florencio L´opez de Silanes, and Andrei Shleifer. 2008. The Economic Consequences of Legal Origins. Journal of Economic Literature 46 (2):285–332.

Scope of a Constitution on Selected Topics

[new\_scope\_ccpweb2013]

 Coverage by constitution of 92 selected topics (standardized by CCP authors from zero to 1 relative to maximum value in dataset). In original dataset, there are 92 issues selected by Elkins et al to measure the comparative coverage of a constitution ranging from environmental issues to a document's coverage of different rights. A country's scope is the (standardized) proportion of these 92 issues that its constitution covers. Values obtained from CCP. For more information on selected topics and calculation, see Elkins et al, 2009. http://comparativeconstitutionsproject.org/ccp-rankings/ (last accessed March 2015). CCP website

Detail (Number of words per topic in the Constitution)

[detail\_ccpweb2013]

 Average number of words per topic; intended to reflect the relative verbosity of a document when accounting for the breadth of topics it covers. Calculated using Scope (new\_scope\_ccpweb2013) and Length (new\_length\_ccpweb2013\_2) values from http://comparativeconstitutionsproject.org/ccp-rankings/ (last accessed March 2015). To determine detail, we multiplied the scope value by the number of topics covered (92) to get the number of topics covered. Next, we calculated length/number of topics. We then rescaled detail relative to the largest value of detail calculated (the country with the largest value in our dataset was India). This variable was not available in composite form and was replicated using instructions in Elkins et al (2009) and from discussions with James Melton. For a more detailed explanation on the creation of Detail, see Elkins et al 2009. Calculated using CCP data

Length of Constitution in 2013

[new\_length\_ccpweb2013\_2]

 Length of 2013 constitution from http://comparativeconstitutionsproject.org/ccp-rankings/ (last accessed March 2015).

Logged Value of Constitutional Length

[new\_loglength\_ccpweb2013]

 Logged value (base 10) of constitutional length (logged number of words) from http://comparativeconstitutionsproject.org/ccp-rankings/ (last accessed March 2015).

Frequency of Democratic Amendment

[new\_amend\_freq\_democyear2]

 The rate of democratic amendment. The number of democratic amendments divided by the number of years a country was a democracy within the lifespan of a given constitution (excluding the first year of the the document as no amendment is recorded by the CCP in a country's constitution's first year)(t\_amend\_deomcratic/t\_amend\_democratic\_year2). calculated using CCP and Polity data

Democratic Amendment Frequency Normalized

[norm\_af\_democyear\_final]

 The rate of democratic amendment, normalized (0 to 1). For full description of variable, see “Frequency of Democratic Amendment” variable.

Constitutional Rigidity 1

[apct\_numf]

 Amendment threshold (originally vote threshold from 50-80). Calculated using CCP and Polity data

Constitutional Rigidity 2

[apct\_catf]

 Amendment threshold (originally vote threshold (categorical) from 0 to 4). Calculated using CCP and Polity data.

Constitutional Rigidity 3

[t\_appr\_bodies\_coded]

 Number of elected bodies required to approve a constitutional amendment based on constitution's text (not CCP variables). Possible approvers include executives, legislatures (each chamber counted separately), citizens and states. A country's most basic amendment procedure coded (for example, if more stringent amendment procedures are laid down for certain topics, these procedures are not counted here unless they apply to any type of amendment). To be included in calculations, a body must be elected and repeated approval by a body is only counted if an election intercedes the two approvals.

Normalized Constitutional Rigidity 1

[norm\_apct\_num\_final]

 Amendment threshold (originally vote threshold from 50-80). Normalized (0 to 1). Calculated using CCP and Polity data

Normalized Constitutional Rigidity 2

[norm\_apct\_cat\_final]

 Amendment threshold (originally vote threshold (categorical) from 0 to 4), normalized (0 to1). Calculated using CCP and Polity data.

Normalized Constitutional Rigidity 3

[new\_norm\_apprbod]

 Number of elected bodies required to approve a constitutional amendment based on constitution's text (not CCP variables), normalized (0 to 1). For full description of variable, see “Constitutional Rigidity 3” variable.

VP Rigid with Two Chambers

Measure of the numerical rigidity of a constitution by coding a country's most basic amendment procedure, summing the threshold for approval across the different bodies required for approval. For all countries, any elected body that must approve a constitutional amendment is included in the formula with the value representing the threshold by which approval must be granted.  Included in this formula are the executive (if applicable), legislature-- with two chamber legislatures, the value for the formula is the threshold for the lower chamber plus 50% the threshold for the upper chamber. Epsilons are subtracted for every alternate route for amendment passage (for example, if an amendment can be passed by majority and referendum (50% to pass) OR 3/5 majority, the formula is 0.5(majority + 0.5 (referendum)- e(alt: 3/5 majority)=0.99). Last updated August 2015. Data calculated using original texts that were sourced from [constitute.org](http://constitute.org/)

Normalized VP Rigid with Two Chambers

[vpr\_norm2]

vp\_rigid\_2ch normalized (0 to 1).

Time Inconsistency 1: Amendment Frequency and Amendment Threshold Numerical

[TI\_afdy\_apct\_num\_f]

Amendment frequency (normalized 0 to 1) and amendment threshold (originally vote threshold from 50-80) (normalized 0 to 1), summed. For more information on these variables, see descriptions under new\_amend\_freq\_democyear2 and amndapct\_num. Created using variables norm\_apct\_num\_final+norm\_af\_democyear\_final (these variables are in the dataset and are not described here as they are simply the normalized versions of the original variables). calculated using CCP data and Polity data

Time Inconsistency 2: Amendment Frequency and Amendment Threshold Categorical

[TI\_afdy\_apct\_cat\_f]

Amendment frequency (normalized 0 to 1) and amendment threshold (originally vote threshold (categorical) from 0 to 4) (normalized 0 to 1), summed. For more information on these variables, see descriptions under new\_amend\_freq\_democyear2 and amndapct\_cat. Created using variables norm\_apct\_cat\_final+norm\_af\_democyear\_final (these variables are in the dataset and are not described here as they are simply the normalized versions of the original variables). Calculated using CCP data and Polity data

Time Inconsistency 3: Amendment Frequency and Number of Approving Bodies

[TI\_afdy\_apprbod\_f]

 Amendment frequency (normalized 0 to 1) and number of approving bodies required to approve a constitutional amendment based on constitution's text, normalized.

VP Time Inconsistency

[TI\_afdy\_vprigid2]

Amendment frequency (normalized 0 to 1) and vp\_rigid\_2ch (normalized 0 to 1), summed. For more information on these variables, see descriptions under new\_amend\_freq\_democyear2 and vp\_rigid\_2ch Created using variables vpr\_norm2+norm\_af\_democyear\_final (these variables are in the dataset and are not described here as they are simply the normalized versions of the original variables)

Average Government Consumption (2003-2009)

[wdi\_avg2003\_2009gov\_consump]

 Average of general government final consumption expenditure (as % of GDP) between 2003 and 2009 (inclusive) from World Bank data. Indicator: NE.CON.GOVT.ZS Last accessed August 2014 (July 2014 release).

Average Investment (2003-2009)

[wdi\_avg2003\_2009invest]

 Average from 2003 to 2009 (inclusive) of Gross capital formation (as % of GDP). Indicator: NE.GDI.TOTL.ZS Last accessed August 2014 (July 2014 release). From World Bank data.

Average Natural Resources (2003-2009)

[wdi\_avg2003\_2009nat\_res]

 Average of total natural resources rents (as % of GDP) on average between 2003 and 2009 (inclusive). Indicator: NY.GDP.TOTL.RT.ZS Last accessed August 2014 (July 2014 release). From World Bank data.

Average Savings (2003-2009)

[wdi\_avg2003\_2009savings]

 Average of Gross domestic savings (as % of GDP) between 2003 and 2009 (inclusive). Indicator: NY.GDS.TOTL.ZS Last accessed August 2014 (July 2014 release). From World Bank data.

Average Trade (2003-2009)

[wdi\_avg2003\_2009trade]

 Average of Trade (as % of GDP) between 2003 and 2009 (inclusive). Indicator: NE.TRD.GNFS.ZS Last accessed August 2014 (July 2014 release). From World Bank data.

Average Education (2003-2009)

[wdi\_avg2003\_2009ed]

 Average of proportion of population with secondary education measured by assessing the proportion of the population tertiary-level education. Labor force with tertiary education (% of total), averaged between 2003 and 2009 (inclusive). Indicator: SL.TLF.TERT.ZS Last accessed August 2014 (July 2014 release). From World Bank data.

Average Logged GDP Per Capita (2009-2013)

[wdi\_avg2009\_2013loggdp]

 Average gdp (logged) from 2009 to 2013 (inclusive) from World Bank data using GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2011 international $). Indicator code NY.GDP.PCAP.PP.KD. Last accessed August 2014 (July 2014 release). From World Bank data.

Transparency International Corruption Perception (2003-2009)

[tpi\_avg\_2003\_2009\_opp]

 Average score from Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions index (http://www.transparency.org/research/cpi/overview) between 2003 and 2009 (inclusive). Missing values not included in average. Score is multiplied by negative 1 so that higher values represent more corruption. (Last accessed July 2015.)