

The Longitudinal Peasant Rebellion Dataset, Europe 1648-1900

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GENERAL

Peasant rebellions are often subsistence-oriented. As James Scott puts it, “peasants rebel because they “prefer to avoid economic disasters rather than take risks to maximize their average income” (1976, vii). This is because peasant rebellions represent producer-side pressures, not consumer-side ones.

GUIDELINES

1. Initiated by food producers – land owners or those who work on farms – residing in rural areas
 - a. Initiated by middle classes – e.g., against non-protective policies by elites in the capital – or low classes – e.g., against exploiting landholders, military draft
 - b. Although nobles could serve as military leaders under some circumstances
 - c. NOT food riots – food riots are about consumers, not producers
 - d. In dataset, write name of rebelling group (if name exists, if not “peasants” or “farmers”) and target (e.g., monarchy, landlords).
2. Classify motivations into six general categories:
 - a. Food prices, tariffs, and protectionist policies
 - b. Land tenure and property rights
 - c. Redistribution, serfdom, and political ideology
 - d. Military draft and taxation (e.g., poll tax)
 - e. Famines, droughts, and natural disasters (e.g., floods, plagues, blight, locust)
 - f. Other
3. Rebellions are coded per country-year
 - a. If information on month available, include it under beginning_month and end_month
4. A rebellion ID is given to all the rebellion events that include the following:
 - a. The same rebelling actors
 - b. The same ultimate aim of rebellion (e.g., removal of a tax, regime change)
 - c. A rebellion with an ID must involve at least one event
 - d. Some rebellions might include multiple event in nonconsecutive years
5. A rebellion event is defined as an event with at least 5 casualties per each year it was ongoing
 - a. An event could last for several consecutive years
 - b. As long as there were at least 5 casualties annually
 - c. Write casualties per event if available, if not by rebellion

SOURCES

Articles

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Books

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Early modern Europe

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General Reference (NOT A SOURCE): https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_peasant_revolts