

Research Methodology - Assignment 4

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For this assignment we will make use of the dataset that accompanies the article of Brinks and Coppedge (2006). In their analysis, they develop a relatively complex model of democratic diffusion, but for this assignment we will use a simple model based on their data:

$$fh = \beta_0 + \beta_1gdpestlo + \beta_2diflag + \beta_3useffect$$

The dataset is available online, as is the codebook describing the variables. We will only use the data from 1980, for which you can use the subset command. The key commands you'll need, independent of any additional things you want to provide, are:

```
library(foreign)
bc <- read.dta(file.choose())
m <- lm(fh ~ gdpestlo + diflag + useffect, data=bc, subset=(year==1980))
summary(m)
```

When the file.choose() window pops up, you select "Data BrinksCoppedge2006.dta".

If you want, you can of course read the original article itself, but since it discusses a lot of additional estimation issues, you should not feel obliged. It might be interesting to see a statistical analysis in political science in practice, however.

For this assignment, write a short essay based on this regression analysis. Include the regression table itself,¹ possible graphs you think are important, and of course a description of the results and conclusions you draw.

References

Brinks, Daniel and Michael Coppedge. 2006. "Diffusion is no illusion. Neighbor emulation in the third wave of democracy." *Comparative Political Studies* 39(4): 463–489.

¹Table 2 in Brinks and Coppedge (2006: 475) provides an example of a regression table, although I would recommend publishing standard errors rather than t scores.