Description: (American) National Election Studies (NES) Extract
Dataset: nes.dta
Source: NES 2000; NES 1980
Notes: This extract was prepared by Jason Beckfield. Because it is intended as a simplification for pedagogical purposes, we have recoded all the “don't know”, “other”, “refused to answer”, and “item not asked” codes to missing (.) . We also ignore slight variations in wording between some of the 2000 and 1980 NES items. In serious data analysis, of course, you need to contemplate carefully how all these issues should be treated. Variables with observations from both the 2000 and 1980 NES are underlined. Numbers in parentheses are original NES variable designations: where two numbers appear, the first is from the 2000 NES.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Observations/Year</th>
<th>Observations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NESID00</td>
<td>NES 2000 Case ID (1a)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NESID80</td>
<td>NES 1980 Case ID (4:1980)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREFTF</td>
<td>Face-to-face pre-election interview? (4)</td>
<td>1=yes 0=no</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSTFTF</td>
<td>Face-to-face post-election interview? (126)</td>
<td>1=yes 0=no .no post interview</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VOTED</td>
<td>Did you vote in the Nov. election?</td>
<td>1=yes 0=no</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THISVOTE</td>
<td>Who did you vote for? (1249/994)</td>
<td>1=Dem (Gore/Carter) 2=Repub (GB2/Reagan) 3=Independent (Nader/Anderson) 4=Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VOTE2000</td>
<td>Who did you vote for? (1249)</td>
<td>1=Gore 2=GB2 3=Nader 4=Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VOTE1980</td>
<td>Who did you vote for? (994:1980)</td>
<td>1=Carter 2=Reagan 3=Anderson 4=Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LASTVOTE</td>
<td>Presidential vote in 1996/76 (304/354)</td>
<td>1=Dem (Clinton/Carter) 2=Repub (Dole/Ford) 3=Perot (1996 only, 3=Other in 1976) 4=Other (1996 only, no “4” in 1976)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VOTE1996</td>
<td>Presidential vote in 1996 (304)</td>
<td>1=Clinton 2=Dole 3=Perot 4=Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMONEY</td>
<td>Would Democrats do a better job handling the US economy? (505)</td>
<td>1=yes (Dems) 0=no (Repubs)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWEEDLDM</td>
<td>Do you think there are any important differences in what the Republicans and Democrats stand for? (1435)</td>
<td>0=yes, differences 1=no, no differences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAIR</td>
<td>How fair was the November election?</td>
<td>1=very fair 2=somewhat fair 3=neither fair nor unfair 4=somewhat unfair 5=very unfair</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USDEMOC</td>
<td>On the whole, are you ... with the way democracy works in the US? (1651)</td>
<td>1=satisfied 2=fairly satisfied 3=not very satisfied 4=not at all satisfied</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VOTEIMPT: So many other people vote in the national election that it doesn't matter much to me whether I vote or not. (1520)

1=agree strongly
2=agree somewhat
3=neither agree nor disagree
4=disagree somewhat
5=disagree strongly

Questions below use same response options

BCMONEY: Since 1992, would you say President Clinton has made the nation's economy... (1603a)

BCMORAL: Has the Clinton administration made the nation's moral climate... (1628a)

GB1MONEY: Would you say President Bush made the nation's economy... (1655)

GB1MORAL: Did the Bush administration make the nation's moral climate... (1667)

1=much better
2=somewhat better
3=no difference
4= somewhat worse
5=much worse

Questions below use same response options

BCAPP: Approve of how Bill Clinton is handling his job as pres.? (341)

CONGAPP: Approve of how Congress has been handling its job? (358)

1=approve strongly
2=approve not strongly
3=disapprove not strongly
4=disapprove not strongly

Questions below use same response options

PARTYID: Do you think of yourself as… (523/775)
0=strong D
1=weak D
2= independent D
3= independent independent
4= independent R
5=weak R
6=strong R

IDEOLOGY: Where are you on the liberal-conservative scale? (446/1037)
1=strong liberal
2=not strong liberal
3=liberal, if had to choose
4=moderate, if had to choose
5=conservative, if had to choose
6=not strong conservative
7=strong conservative

IMMIGLVL: Should the immigration level be... (510)

1=increased a lot
2=increased a little
3=left the same
4=decreased a little
5=decreased a lot

Thermometers: all vary 0 (cold/disapproval) to 100 (warm/approval)

BCTHERM: Bill Clinton (1292)

DCTHERM: Democratic candidate (Gore/Carter) (1293/844)

RCTHERM: Republican candidate (GB2/Reagan) (1294/845)

PBThERM: Pat Buchanan (362)

RNTHERM1: Ralph Nader (Pre-election: v363)

RNTHERM2: Ralph Nader (Post-election: v1295)

DEMTHERM: Democratic party (369/168)

GOPTHERM: Republican party (370/169)

PPTHERM: Political parties in general (372/171)

Questions below use same response options

OURMONEY: Has US economy gotten better or worse over the past year? (491/149)

MYMONEY: Compared to last year, how are you and your family doing financially? (1412a/147)

1=better
2=stayed about the same
3=worse
**FEDSPEND:** The federal government should … (550)

1 = reduce spending & services a great deal
2 = reduce spending & services only some
3 = stay the same as now
4 = increase spending & services only some
5 = increase spending & services a great deal

**DEFSPEDE:** The federal government should … (587)

1 = decrease defense spending a lot
2 = decrease defense spending a little
3 = about the right amount
4 = increase defense spending a little
5 = increase defense spending a lot

**HLTHINS:** Should health insurance be provided by the government, or through private plans? (614)

1 = govt (strongly)
2 = govt (not strongly)
3 = should be no change in provision
4 = private (not strongly)
5 = private (strongly)

**AIDBLKS:** Should government help blacks, or should blacks have to help themselves? (645)

1 = govt help blacks to great extent
2 = govt help blacks to some extent
3 = should help themselves to some extent
4 = should help themselves to a great extent

**BLKSEQUA:** Should the federal govt see to it that black people get fair treatment in jobs or is this not the federal govt’s business? (802)

1 = strongly - govt should
2 = not strongly - govt should
3 = not strongly - not govt’s business
4 = strongly - not govt’s business

**DEATHPEN:** Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder? (752)

1 = favor strongly
2 = favor not strongly
3 = oppose not strongly
4 = oppose strongly

**TAXCUTS:** How do you feel about using surplus for tax cuts? (690)

**SSMED:** How do you feel about using surplus to protect social security and medicare? (693)

1 = approve strongly
2 = approve not strongly
3 = disapprove not strongly
4 = disapprove strongly

**VOUCHERS:** Favor or oppose a school voucher program? (744)

**Dummy outcomes: questions below are all coded 1 for yes and 0 for no**

**AFFACT:** Should companies that have discriminated against blacks have to have an affirmative action program? (674)

**GOVSTRNG:** Do you think the government is getting too strong? (1513/1129)

**GAYADOPT:** Should it be made legal for homosexual couples to adopt children? (748)

**MCCAIN:** Do you believe that we should protect government from excessive influence by campaign contributors? (1489)

**ENGLISH:** Do you favor a law making English the official language of the US? (745)

**IMPRTLVL:** Favor limiting imports? (512)

**TRUST:** Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted? (1475)

**CLOSPOOR:** Do you feel particularly close to poor people? (1543/1150)

**CLOSBLKS:** Do you feel particularly close to blacks? (1551/1156)

**CLOSLABR:** Do you feel particularly close to labor unions? (1553/1157)

**CLOSWOMN:** Do you feel particularly close to women? (1567/1160)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENVVJSJOB</td>
<td>Which is more important, protecting the environment or maintaining jobs/standard or living?</td>
<td>1=environment much more important, 2=environment somewhat more important, 3=jobs somewhat more important, 4=jobs much more important</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVREGUL</td>
<td>Do we need to toughen regulations to protect the environment, or are regulations to protect the environment too much of a burden on business?</td>
<td>1=toughen regulations a lot, 2=toughen regulations a little, 3=regulations somewhat of a burden, 4=regulations way too much burden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAYSGUNS</td>
<td>Do you think homosexuals should be allowed to serve in the US Armed Forces?</td>
<td>1=strongly, should be allowed, 2=not strongly, should be allowed, 3=not strongly, should not be allowed, 4=strongly, should not be allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAKEGUNS</td>
<td>Do you think the federal government should make it harder for people to buy a gun than it is now, make it easier for people to buy a gun, or keep these rules about the same as they are now?</td>
<td>1=a lot more difficult, 2=somewhat more difficult, 3=keep rules about the same, 4=somewhat easier, 5=a lot easier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABORTION</td>
<td>Which of these comes closest to your view?</td>
<td>1=by law, abortion should never be permitted, 2=the law should permit abortion only in case of rape, incest, or when the woman's life is in danger, 3=the law should permit abortion for reasons other than rape, incest, or danger to the woman's life, but only after the need for the abortion has been clearly established, 4=by law, a woman should always be able to obtain an abortion as a matter of personal choice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LESSGOVT</td>
<td>Which comes closest to your view of the role of govt?</td>
<td>1=the less government the better, 0=there are more things government should be doing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVTRUST</td>
<td>How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right?</td>
<td>1=just about always, 2=most of the time, 3=only some of the time, 4=never</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOMENROL</td>
<td>Do you feel that men and women should have equal roles, or that a woman's place is in the home?</td>
<td>1=strongly - women equal role, 2=not strongly - equal role, 3=not strongly - place is in the home, 4=strongly - place is in the home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BREAKDOWN</td>
<td>The newer lifestyles are contributing to the breakdown of our society.</td>
<td>1=agree strongly, 2=agree somewhat, 3=disagree somewhat, 4=disagree strongly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBEY</td>
<td>Please tell me which one you think is more important for a child to have:</td>
<td>1=obedience, 0=self-reliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIFE</td>
<td>In general, how satisfying do you find the way you're spending your life these days?</td>
<td>1=completely satisfying, 2=pretty satisfying, 3=not very satisfying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELIMP</td>
<td>Do you consider religion to be an important part of your life?</td>
<td>1=yes, 0=no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELGUIDE</td>
<td>How much guidance does religion provide in your daily life?</td>
<td>1=some, 2=quite a bit, 3=a great deal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RELBIBLE: Which of these statements comes closest to describing your feelings about the Bible? (876)
1=the bible is the actual word of god and is to be taken literally, word for word.
2=the bible is the word of god but not everything in it should be taken literally, word for word.
3=the bible is a book written by men and is not the word of god.

RELAFFIL: Do you mostly attend a place of worship that is Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, or something else? (882)
1=protestant 2=catholic 3=jewish 4=other

NATLNEWS: Number of days R watched national news last week (329) (0-7 days)
PAPER: Number of days R read daily paper last week (335) (0-7 days)

TVPROG: How many TV campaign programs did you watch? (1203/750)
1=just one or two 2=several 3=a good many

INTERNET: Have you seen any information about this election campaign on the internet? (1434)
1=yes 0=no

RUSH: How often do you listen to political talk radio? (1431)
1=every day 2=most days 3=once or twice a week 4=only occasionally

AMNEWS: How many times in the last week have you watched morning news programs? (1426)
1-6=number of times 0=never

ORGMEM: Not counting membership in a local church or synagogue, are you a member of any organizations? (1494)
1=yes 0=no

ORGS: How many organizations are you currently a member of? (1495)
1-20=number of organizations

UNION: Do you or anyone else in this household belong to a labor union? (990/683)
1=yes 0=no

PROTEST: Aside from a strike against your employer, in the past twelve months, have you taken part in a protest, march, or demonstration on some national or local issue? (1506)
1=yes 0=no

PROTESTS: About how many times have you protested? (1507)
1=1 2=2-3 3=4 or more

AGE: (908/408) in years, top-coded at 97

RACE: What racial or ethnic group or groups best describes you? (1006a/721)
1=black 2=white 3=native american 4=asian/pacific islander 5=hispanic/latino (2000 only)

FEMALE: (1029/720)
1=yes 0=no (male)

EDUC: Highest grade/degree completed? (913/436)
1=8 grades or less and no diploma or equivalency
2=9-12 grades, no hs diploma
3=High school diploma or equivalency
4=More than 12 years of schooling, but no higher degree
5=Junior or community college level
6=BA level degrees
7=Advanced degree, including LLB

HHINCOME: Total income of all members of your family living here in 1999 before taxes. (994)
1=$0-$4,999 2=$5K-$9,999
3=$10K-$14,999 4=$15K-$24,999
5=$25K-$34,999 6=$35K-$49,999
7=$50K-$64,999 8=$65K-$74,999
9=$75K-$84,999 10=$85K-$94,999
11=$95K-$104,999 12=$105K-$114,999
13=$115K-$124,999 14=$125K-$134,999
15=$135K-$144,999 16=$145K-$154,999
17=$155K-$164,999 18=$165K-$174,999
19=$175K-$184,999 20=$185K-$194,999
21=$195K-$199,999 22=$200L and over

CLASS: Which class would you say you belong to? (1005/691)
1=average working class
2=working class - NA if average or upper
3=upper working class
4=average middle class
5=middle class - NA if average or upper
6=upper middle class