

Package ‘unvotes’

July 22, 2025

Type Package

Title United Nations General Assembly Voting Data

Version 0.3.0

Description Historical voting data of the United Nations General Assembly. This includes votes for each country in each roll call, as well as descriptions and topic classifications for each vote.

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LazyData TRUE

URL <https://github.com/dgrtwo/unvotes>

VignetteBuilder knitr

BugReports <https://github.com/dgrtwo/unvotes/issues>

Depends R (>= 2.10)

Suggests knitr, dplyr, readxl, countrycode, tidyr, lubridate, devtools, rmarkdown, ggplot2

RoxygenNote 7.1.1

NeedsCompilation no

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Repository CRAN

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un_roll_calls

*Data on each roll call of the United Nations General Assembly***Description**

Information on each roll call vote of the United Nations General Assembly.

Usage

```
un_roll_calls
```

Format

A data frame (specifically a `tbl_df`) with one row for each roll call vote, and the following columns:

rcid The roll call id; used to join with `un_votes` and `un_roll_call_issues`
session Session number. The UN holds one session per year; these started in 1946
importantvote Whether the vote was classified as important by the U.S. State Department report "Voting Practices in the United Nations". These classifications began with session 39
date Date of the vote, as a Date vector
unres Resolution code
amend Whether the vote was on an amendment; coded only until 1985
para Whether the vote was only on a paragraph and not a resolution; coded only until 1985
short Short description
descr Longer description

Details

The yes, no, and abstain columns that were present in the original Voeten data were removed (since they can be retrieved from the `un_votes` dataset)

Source

Erik Voeten "Data and Analyses of Voting in the UN General Assembly" Routledge Handbook of International Organization, edited by Bob Reinalda (published May 27, 2013) <https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=hdl:1902.1/12379>

Examples

```
library(dplyr)

# combine with per-country-vote information
un_votes %>%
  inner_join(un_roll_calls, by = "rcid")
```

un_roll_call_issues	<i>Data on the issue of each roll call of the United Nations General Assembly</i>
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Description

Issue (topic) classifications of roll call votes of the United Nations General Assembly. Many votes had no topic, and some have more than one.

Usage

un_roll_call_issues

Format

A data frame (specifically a `tbl_df`) with one row for each pair of a roll call vote and an issue describing that vote. Contains the following columns:

rcid The roll call id; used to join with `un_votes` and `un_roll_calls`

short_name Two-letter issue codes

issue Descriptive issue name

Source

Erik Voeten "Data and Analyses of Voting in the UN General Assembly" Routledge Handbook of International Organization, edited by Bob Reinalda (published May 27, 2013) <https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=hdl:1902.1/12379>

un_votes	<i>United Nations General Assembly voting data by country and roll call</i>
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Description

Information on the voting history of the United Nations General Assembly. Contains one row for each country-vote pair.

Usage

un_votes

Format

A data frame (specifically a `tbl_df`) with one row for each country-vote pair, and the following columns:

rcid The roll call id; used to join with `un_roll_calls` and `un_roll_call_issues`

country Country name, by official English short name

country_code 2-character ISO country code

vote Vote result as a factor of yes/abstain/no

Details

The original data included cases where a country was absent or was not yet a member. In this dataset these were filtered out to include only votes of Yes, Abstain, and No.

Country name can be converted to other unique country identifiers (such as 2-character or 3-character ISO codes) using the `countrycode` function from the `countrycode` package.

Source

Erik Voeten "Data and Analyses of Voting in the UN General Assembly" Routledge Handbook of International Organization, edited by Bob Reinalda (published May 27, 2013) <https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=hdl:1902.1/12379>

Examples

```
library(dplyr)

# percentage yes by country
by_country <- un_votes %>%
  group_by(country) %>%
  summarize(votes = n(),
            percent_yes = mean(vote == "yes"))

arrange(by_country, percent_yes)
arrange(by_country, desc(percent_yes))

# combine with per-vote information
un_votes %>%
  inner_join(un_roll_calls, by = "rcid")

# combine with issue
votes_issues <- un_votes %>%
  inner_join(un_roll_call_issues, by = "rcid")

# for example, which countries voted yes least often on Colonialism
votes_issues %>%
  filter(issue == "Colonialism") %>%
  group_by(country) %>%
  summarize(percent_yes = mean(vote == "yes")) %>%
  arrange(percent_yes)
```

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