

README file for UCDP/PRIO intrastate conflict onset dataset, 1946-2006

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This file documents the contents of the UCDP/PRIO dataset on intrastate conflict onset, 1946-2006. The onset dataset is generated from the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset, v.4-2007, available from [www.prio.no/cscw/armedconflict](http://www.prio.no/cscw/armedconflict) and [www.pcr.uu.se/research/UCDP/our\\_data1.htm](http://www.pcr.uu.se/research/UCDP/our_data1.htm). The Armed Conflict Dataset is described in more detail in Gleditsch et al. (2001) and in the codebook accompanying the current version, available from the websites referred to above. Confer these sources for information on the data not provided here.

The UCDP/PRIO intrastate conflict onset dataset contains annual observations of all members of the international system, as defined by Gleditsch & Ward (1999), between 1946 and 2006.

The dataset contains the following 10 variables:

gwno	Gleditsch-Ward country number.
year	Year of observation.
onset2	Onset of intrastate conflict, 25+ annual battle deaths. 1 if new conflict or 2+ years since last observation of same conflict ID.
onset5	Onset of intrastate conflict, 25+ annual battle deaths. 1 if new conflict or 5+ years since last observation of same conflict ID.
onset8	Onset of intrastate conflict, 25+ annual battle deaths. 1 if new conflict or 8+ years since last observation of same conflict ID.
waronset2	Onset of intrastate war, 1,000+ battle deaths in at least one year. 1 if new war or 2+ years since last observation of same conflict ID. Note: if a conflict escalates to war during its course, the onset is coded for the year the conflict first passed the 25 casualty threshold, even if the conflict reached the status of war (waryear=1) only in later years.
inci	Incidence of intrastate conflict. Coded 1 in all country years with at least one active conflict.
warinci	Incidence of intrastate war. Coded 1 in all country years with at least one active war.
waryear	Incidence of intrastate war year. Coded 1 only in country years with one or more active conflict(s) with 1,000+ battle deaths.
sumconf	Number of active conflicts in country-year.

Four alternative onset variables are provided, based on Håvard Strand's suggested definition of conflict onset (see Strand 2006 for further documentation and Strand's independent datasets available from [www.prio.no/cscw/datasets/](http://www.prio.no/cscw/datasets/) for a larger set of operationalizations and data formats). The onset variables differ with respect to casualty threshold and the minimum intermittency period allowed before a new onset is coded.

Onset2, onset5, and onset8 represent all intrastate conflicts in the Armed Conflict Dataset (at least 25 annual battle deaths). Waronset2 represents a subset of all conflicts, namely those that caused 1,000 or more battle deaths in at least one year during the course of the conflict.

The numbers terminating the variable names indicate the intermittency threshold, i.e. how many calendar years of inactivity there must be between two observations of conflict before a new onset is coded. For example, the Basque separatist conflict in Spain is coded as active (reaching the minimum casualty threshold) in 1980-81, 1987, and 1991-92. Hence, onset2 is assigned a value of "1" (onset) in 1980, 1987, and 1991; onset5 indicates onset in 1980 and 1987, whereas onset8 has one onset, in 1980.

The onset variables are generated specifically for each conflict and then aggregated to the country year. Countries that experience one or more onset(s) in a year are coded "1" on the relevant onset variable; all other observations are coded "0". Note that the intermittency threshold applies to conflicts, not to country years. Hence, Bosnia-Herzegovina (among a number of cases) is coded with onset of conflict in two consecutive years (conflict over Serbian Republic from 1992, and conflict concerning Croatian Republic and Bihaca Krajina, both starting in 1993).

#### References:

Gleditsch, Kristian S., and Michael D. Ward, 1999. "Interstate System Membership: A Revised List of the Independent States since 1816." *International Interactions* 25:393-413.

Gleditsch, Nils Petter, Peter Wallensteen, Mikael Eriksson, Margareta Sollenberg, and Håvard Strand, 2002. "Armed conflict 1946-2001: A new dataset." *Journal of Peace Research* 39(5): 615-37.

Strand, Håvard, 2006. "Onset of Armed Conflict: A New List for the Period 1946-2004, with Applications." Unpublished manuscript.