

README file for UCDP/PRIO intrastate conflict onset dataset, 1946-2007

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This file documents the contents of the UCDP/PRIO dataset on intrastate conflict onset, 1946-2005. The onset dataset is generated from the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset, v.4-2008, available from <http://www.prio.no/CSCW/Datasets/Armed-Conflict/UCDP-PRIO/> and 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 2007.

The dataset contains the following 11 variables:

gwno	Gleditsch-Ward country number
year	Year of observation
onset2	Onset of intrastate conflict, 25+ annual battledeaths 1 if new conflict or 2+ years since last observation
onset5	Onset of intrastate conflict, 25+ annual battledeaths 1 if new conflict or 5+ years since last observation
onset8	Onset of intrastate conflict, 25+ annual battledeaths 1 if new conflict or 8+ years since last observation
incidence	Incidence of intrastate conflict Coded 1 in all country years with at least one active conflict
sumconf	Number of conflicts in country-year
peaceyears	Number of consecutive years without any active conflicts

Three 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/ for a larger set of operationalizations and data formats). The onset variables differ with respect to 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 battledeaths).

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.