Armed Conflict Dataset Codebook[1]

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[1] This codebook to the Armed conflict dataset 1946–2001 was written at PRIO in close collaboration with researchers at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University and the Departments of Sociology and Political Science and Geomatics at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). For a description of the division of labor in creating the database, see the first footnote in the published report on the data: Gleditsch, Wallensteen, Sollenberg, Eriksson & Strand (2002: 615). This footnote also lists the financial sources of support for the entire project and credits for comments and advice received along the way.

This is Version 1.0 of the codebook. We anticipate that Version 1.1, incorporating corrections based on feedback from users, will be issued in a few months. For all comments and suggestions on the data and the codebook, please communicate both to jpr@prio.no and to margareta.sollenberg@pcr.uu.se.

When using the data, please cite the published article and (when appropriate) this codebook. Always include the Version number in analyses using the dataset.

1 Introduction

This document describes the Armed Conflict Dataset, a joint project between the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, Uppsala University and the International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO). The dataset is presented in a recent article (Gleditsch, Wallensteen, Eriksson, Sollenberg & Strand 2002), and is available for download from http://www.prio.no/cwp/ArmedConflict/ and from http://www.pcr.uu.se.

2 Definition of conflict

The dataset was originally published in a Word document, with a flexible data structure, which corresponds to the definition presented below in Section 2.1. This document describes a fixed data structure, which is at times incompatible with the flexible structure of the original list. We have been as loyal to the original document as possible, and we will try to clarify how each variable relates to the original dataset[2].

2.1 Armed conflict

We follow the definitions used by the Uppsala University Conflict Data Project: An *armed conflict* is a contested incompatibility that concerns government and/or territory where the use of armed force between two parties, of which at least one is the government of a state, results in at least 25 battle-related deaths.

The separate elements of the definition are operationalized as follows:

(1) *Use of armed force*: use of arms in order to promote the parties' general position in the conflict, resulting in deaths.

(1.1) *Arms*: any material means, e.g. manufactured weapons but also sticks, stones, fire, water, etc.

(2) *25 deaths*: A minimum of 25 battle-related deaths per year and per incompatibility.

(3) *Party*: A government of a state or any opposition organization or alliance of opposition organizations.

(3.1) *Government*: The party controlling the capital of the state.

(3.2) *Opposition organization*: Any non-governmental group of people having announced a name for their group and using armed force.

(4) *State*: A state is

(4.1) an internationally recognized sovereign government controlling a specified territory, *or*

(4.2) an internationally unrecognized government controlling a specified territory whose sovereignty is not disputed by another internationally recognized sovereign government previously controlling the same territory.

[2] The complete list of conflicts is available at: http://www.prio.no/cwp/armedconflict/current/conflic_list_1946-2001.pdf. A second document http://www.prio.no/cwp/armedconflict/current/unclear_cases_1946-2001.pdf lists uncertain cases which might have been included (or upgraded) if more information had been avaliable.

(5) *Incompatibility concerning government and/or territory*:
The incompatibility, as stated by the parties, must concern government and/or territory.

(5.1) *Incompatibility*: the stated generally incompatible positions.

(5.2) *Incompatibility concerning government*: Incompatibility concerning type of political system, the replacement of the central government, or the change of its composition.

(5.3) *Incompatibility concerning territory*: Incompatibility concerning the status of a territory, e.g. the change of the state in control of a certain territory (interstate conflict), secession, or autonomy (intrastate conflict).

The conflicts are grouped into five geographical regions:

- *Europe*: Geographic definition, including the states in the Caucasus.
- *Middle East*: Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, and the states of the Arabian Peninsula.
- *Asia*: Geographic definition, including Oceania, Australia, and New Zealand.
- *Africa*: Geographic definition, excluding states in the Middle East (see above).
- *Americas*: Geographic definition, including states in the Caribbean.

Location refers to the governmental party; *opposition organizations* include all organizations recorded as being in armed conflict with the government.

Subsets of armed conflicts are defined as follows:

- *Minor Armed Conflict*: At least 25 battle-related deaths per year and fewer than 1,000 battle-related deaths during the course of the conflict.
- *Intermediate Armed Conflict*: At least 25 battle-related deaths per year and an accumulated total of at least 1,000 deaths, but fewer than 1,000 per year.
- *War*: At least 1,000 battle-related deaths per year.
- *Major Armed Conflict* includes the two most severe levels of conflict, i.e. intermediate armed conflict and war.

In the case of an interstate armed conflict, both (or all) countries are given as a location in the conflict list in Appendix 3, with a dash between the warring sides. In the case of a colonial conflict, the territory at issue is listed as the location whereas the actors, including the colonial power, are presented as opposition organizations. In the database, one country in an interstate conflict is given as *location* in the database, while the other state actors are presented as opposition organizations. If several countries are listed, the first country is the location.

Names of the opposition organizations are given in the local language, if available, and in English.

2.2 Sub-Conflicts

There is no time aspect to the definition of a conflict. A conflict is still the same conflict if the incompatibility remains the same and the opposition side does not change. This is problematic in relation to defining start dates. To improve this, we introduce the concept of sub-conflict. A conflict is divided into several sub-conflicts if it satisfies one or more of the following criteria:

1. Ten continuous years with less than 25 battle related deaths per year

2. A change in the conflict type from intrastate conflict to internationalised intrastate conflict or vice versa.
3. A complete change in the opposition side in a conflict.

For every sub-conflict we define a new start date. The individual sub-conflict has the same conflict ID, but a different sub-conflict ID.

3 Definition of observations

The observation (or unit) in the database is a conflict, a sub-conflict, or a subset of either over a period of time where no element in the definition described in Section 2 is changed. Each conflict is likely to have several observations.

The calendar year is the basic unit of every observation. A period June-September, resulting in 30 casualties will be recorded as a year of conflict, while a period November-February with similar figures might not, if the casualties are spread across the two calendar years and both fail to reach the threshold of 25 battle-related deaths. This has a number of consequences that will be discussed later in the document. Start dates will very often be before the first observation in time, as the start of a conflict might be in a year with less than 25 casualties. Small conflicts might not be included. Certain observations might be based on a single event, such as the Omagh bombing in Northern Ireland in 1997, which exceeded the minimum threshold for armed conflict.

Different observations have a different number of actors, both government and opposition groups. For most purposes, the database has to be converted into a data structure more suitable for analysis, such as a monadic, dyadic, or duration structure.

The observation in this database differs somewhat from the observation used in the previous updates published annually (most recently Wallensteen & Sollenberg, 2001), but is consistent with the latest article covering the whole period from 1946–2001 (Gleditsch, Wallensteen, Eriksson, Sollenberg & Strand, 2002) in that the database does not rely on footnotes. Several fields have been added to the database, but we have aimed to keep as much compatibility as possible to the earlier versions. We have added two fields, Side A and Side B, for precise reference to the two groups of competing actors. We have also added a number of variables that have not been reported earlier, such as start dates, geographical location and a Conflict ID.

4 Definition of variables

No	Variable	Label	Description
1	Primkey	Primary key	The unique identifier of all observations
2	ID	Conflict identifier	The unique identifier of all conflicts
3	SubID	Sub-conflict identifier	Identifying sub-conflicts within a defined conflict
4	Location	Country name(s)	The name(s) of the country/countries whose government(s) have a primary claim to the object in dispute.
5	Side_A	Country name(s)	Identifying the country/countries of side A in a conflict. Always the government side in civil wars
6	Side_B	Country name(s) or Opposition actors	Identifying the names and/or country/countries of side B in a conflict. In a civil conflict, this includes military opposition organizations.
7	Incompatibility	Conflict incompatibility	A general coding of the conflict issue

No	Variable	Label	Description
8	Territory	Name of territory	The name of the territory over which the conflict is fought, provided that the incompatibility is territorial
9	Begin	Start year of observation	
10	End	End year of observation	
11	Intensity	Intensity level	A two + one level assessment of the number of battle related casualties per year in the conflict period covered by the observation, plus a special level indicating conflict history in low-intensity conflicts
12	Type	Conflict type	Four different types of conflict (interstate, extrastate, internal, internationalized internal)
13	Startdate	Date of conflict initiation	The date, as precise as possible, of the first violent action of the conflict resulting in death
14	Startprecision	Precision of Start_date	The level of precision for the initial date
15	Startdate2	Date of conflict initiation	Similar to Start_date, but truncated so that there are no dates earlier than the first year of 25 battle-related deaths
16	Startprecision2	Precision of Start_Date2	The level of precision for the truncated initial date
17	COW_A	COW numbers of Side A	COW numbers of all countries in Side A, separated by semicolons
18	COW_B	COW numbers of Side B	COW numbers of all countries in Side B, separated by semicolons
19	COW_location	COW numbers of location	COW numbers of all location countries, separated by semicolons
20	Continent	Continent of location	
21	Lat	Latitude of conflict centre	First component of the geographic coordinates of center of the conflict
22	Lon	Longitude of conflict center	Second component of the geographic coordinates of center of the conflict
23	Radius	Radius of conflict area	Assuming that all conflict areas are circles, the radius of the conflict area
24	Version	Version Number	The current version of the dataset. See Section 4.24.

4.1 Primkey

The Primkey variable is the primary key in the dataset, and each observation has a unique primary key. This variable is useful for merging the dataset with other datasets. It is built up by three components. The first four digits are the conflict ID. The fifth digit is the sub-conflict ID. The last four digits are the first year of the observation period. $Key = (ID * 100000000) + (SubID * 10000) + Begin$. There are 552 observations in the dataset.

4.2 ID

Every conflict, as defined in Section 2.1, has its own ID. We have chosen a four-digit Conflict ID, ranging from 1010 to 3270. There are 225 different conflicts that are ordered by Start_date and alphabetical value of Location. Hence, conflict 1010 is Bolivia in 1946, as Bolivia is the first country on the alphabetical list of countries experi-

encing conflict in 1946. We have spaced the ID variable so that as yet undisclosed conflicts can fit into the scheme.

4.3 SubID

Every sub-conflict is identified by the SubID variable. The default value is 0, and every new sub-conflict has a new number. Most conflict does not have sub-conflicts, but 45 of the 225 conflicts have been split up into different sub-conflicts.

Number of sub-conflicts	Count
0	180
1	32
2	10
3	3

4.4 Location

Location is defined as the government side of a conflict.

- For intrastate and internationalized intrastate conflicts, only one country name is listed. This is the country whose government or territory is disputed. For certain conflicts, i.e. Kurdistan, the disputed territory will be divided between different countries. Following our definition, we have coded individual conflicts for each country.
- For interstate conflict, the Location field is more problematic. Following the original definition, all governments involved in an interstate conflict are to be included as the location. This leads to an inconsistency, as foreign support for a rebel organization will differ from foreign support to the attacking party in an interstate war. This inconsistency is solved in the original conflict list[3] describing the conflicts by the frequent use of footnotes. The more stringent data structure described in this document does not allow us this freedom. We have solved the problem by only including in the location field the governments with a claim over the territory being disputed. This means France and the UK are included as location countries in the Suez war, while the USA is not included as location in the Vietnam war.
- For extra-state conflicts, Location is set to be the disputed area, not the government of the colonial power. This is a rather difficult problem, as the Location by default is not a member of the international system, and hence it is incompatible with the definition presented in Section 2.

Location is a string variable, listing the names of the countries involved. These might be fighting together or against each other. The string is split in two ways, hyphen ('-') splits the different sides in an interstate war, and comma (',') splits different countries fighting together on the same side.

4.5 Side_A

Side A is the government side of all intrastate conflicts, one of the sides in an interstate conflict, and the colonial state in extra-state conflicts. By definition, a non-governmental group cannot be part of an armed conflict on this side. For all interstate conflicts, we only list governments, and for all extrastate or internal conflicts, every conflict involving a non-governmental actor on the governments side versus another

[3] http://www.prio.no/cwp/armedconflict/current/conflict_list_1946-2001.pdf

non-governmental actor can be broken up into two conflicts; the government vs. the opposition and the pro-government group vs. the opposition. The latter is a conflict with no government actor and falls outside our definition. Hence, Side A will only list governments. In some interstate conflicts, Side A lists more countries than are listed in the Location field. This is based on a subjective judgment. The UK and France are listed in the Location field in the 1956 war with Egypt, along with Israel, while the US is not listed in the Location field of the interstate war between North and South Vietnam.

Side A is a string variable, where the different country names are separated by a comma (‘,’).

4.6 Side_B

Side B is the opposition side of all intrastate and extra-state conflicts, and the second side in an interstate conflict. Side B can include both countries and non-governmental opposition groups. There might be conflicts where different opposition groups fight each other as well as the government, but this will not be evident from the coding of Side B. Governments listed in Side B can support one or more of the opposition groups, but neither this can be read out of the field. We refer to the conflict list[4] for more information on opposition groups.

Side B is a string variable, where the different country names are separated by a comma (‘,’).

4.7 Incompatibility

As one country can experience several conflicts, we need a way to differentiate between them. Incompatibility can be either over Government or Territory. There can be only one incompatibility over Government in a given year, but there can be several territorial conflicts involving both opposition organizations and other governments in either intrastate or interstate conflicts.

4.8 Territory

If the incompatibility is Territory, this variable will name that territory.

4.9 Begin

The first year of the observation period, as defined in Section 3.

4.10 End

The last year of the observation period, as defined in Section 3. The observation includes the period [Begin, End], including both Begin year and End year. In cases where Begin and End are equal, the period is one year.

4.11 Intensity

The intensity variable is coded in three categories:

1. *Minor*: More than 25 battle-related deaths per year for every year in the period.
2. *Intermediate*: More than 25 battle-related deaths per year and a total conflict history of more than 1000 battle-related deaths.
3. *War*: More than 1000 battle-related deaths per year for every year in the period

[4] See note 3.

This variable is *not* ordinal. The intermediate category is not necessarily more intense than the minor category, but it adds an element of history that is not coded in the categories 'minor' or 'war'. Some users may prefer to recode this variable as a dichotomy (minor conflict/war) and use the historical information (cumulative deaths exceeds 1000: yes/no) as a separate variable.

4.12 Type

We define four types of conflict:

1. *Extra-state*: Extra-state conflict is a conflict over a territory between a government and one or more opposition groups, where the territory is a colony of the government.
2. *Interstate*: Interstate conflict is a conflict between two or more countries and governments.
3. *Internal*: Internal conflict is conflict within a country between a government and one or more opposition groups, with no interference from other countries
4. *Internationalized internal*: Similar to Internal conflict, but where the government, the opposition or both sides receive support from other governments

See also Figure 3 in Gleditsch, Wallensteen, Eriksson, Sollenberg, & Strand (2002: 624).

4.13 Startdate

Start date is coded as the initial event of the conflict, regardless of whether this event took place in a year recorded as having a conflict or not.

4.14 Startprecision

For certain conflicts, we can pinpoint the start of the armed conflict down to a single event, taking place on a given day. For other conflicts, this is not possible, due to operational difficulties or missing information.

Some conflicts have a sliding period of escalation, where it can be difficult to point to a single event being the initial event. In such cases, we have to make a subjective judgement. When the information we have gathered does yield any basis for a decision, we also have to set a date. Both of these problems are reflected in the coding of the Start date precision.

1. Both day and month are precisely coded, based on operational criterions and good information
2. Day is assigned, month and year is precisely coded. This can be due to both kinds of problem discussed above. The assigned date can either be one of several events that can be classified as the first event, or it can be an event that different sources claim occur on different dates.
3. Month and year are precisely coded, day is unknown. The exact day is known to be in a given month, but there are no data available. Day is then set to the first day of the month
4. Month is assigned, year is coded precisely. Similar to item 2 in this list, there is uncertainty regarding the month, not only the day. Month and day assigned based on subjective judgment.
5. Both day and month missing, only year is known and coded precisely. The start date is assigned to 1 January of that year.

6. Year is assigned. Similar to item 2 and item 4, there is wide disagreement between different sources, so that not even year can be coded precisely. The start date is then assigned based on subjective judgment.
7. Year is missing. No information on the start date is available; the start date is set to 1 January of the first year recorded in conflict.

4.15 Startdate2

Due to the incompatibility of the calendar-year observation unit and the event-based coding of start date, a number of conflicts start before the first year recorded as having conflict. This is unfortunate for some applications, and we include a variable where all these start dates have been set to 1 January of the first year recorded in conflict.

4.16 Startprecision2

The precision coding for Start date 2 differs only from Start date precision on the start dates that have been changed, and these are given the value 11.

4.17 COW_A

To ease analytical use of the dataset, we have coded the COW number for all participating countries/governments for that observation. We have split this into a Side A and a Side B. For interstate conflict, Side A and Side B are assigned arbitrarily, but for the three other categories of conflict some additional explanation is necessary: All countries fighting together on the government side are listed on Side A and all countries aiding opposition groups are listed on Side B. We may safely assume that all countries listed under Side A are fighting together, but this assumption is more problematic for Side B. There might be conflicts where several governments support different opposition groups, which might fight separately against the government or even fight each other. We have not recorded which governments support which opposition groups.

COW_A is a string variable, where the list of numbers are separated by comma (‘,’).

4.18 COW_B

See COW_A.

4.19 COW_location

(See Section 4.4). This field holds the COW numbers of all governments listed in the Location variable. These actors are the primary actors in the conflict, with a claim in the object of dispute. It does, as stated before, not imply that there necessarily is conflict on the territories controlled by the listed actors.

COW location is a string variable, where the numbers are separated by a comma (‘,’).

4.20 Continent

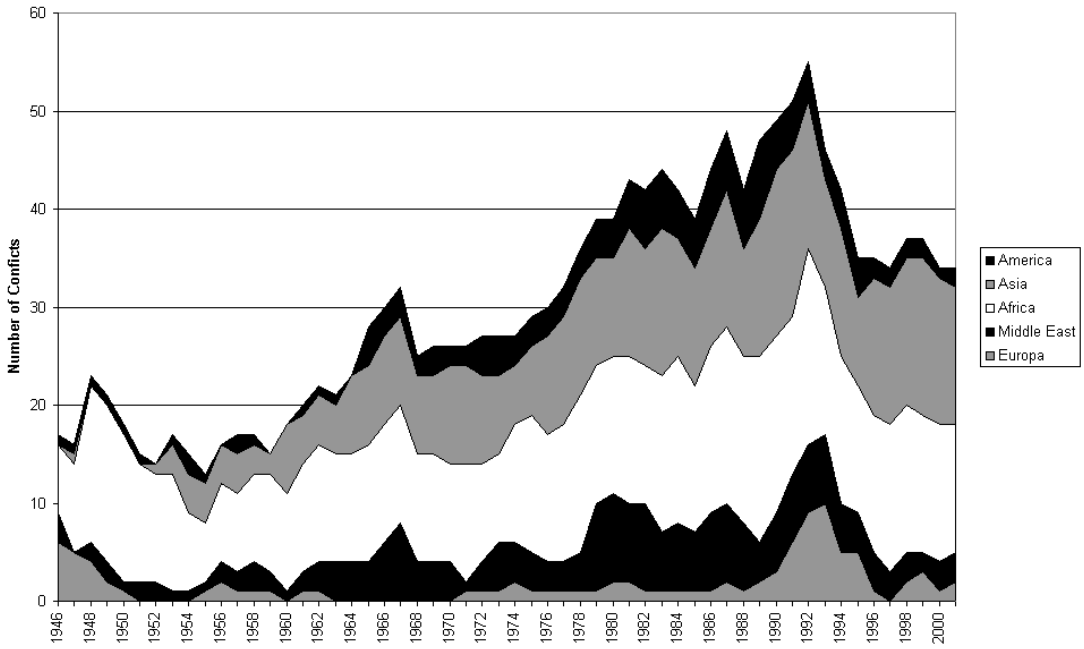
The conflict definition specifies a continent variable, with the following five continents:

1. *Europe*: Geographic definition, including the states in the Caucasus, corresponding to the COW numbers [200,395]

2. *Middle East*: Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, and the states of the Arabian Peninsula, corresponding to the COW numbers [630,698]
3. *Asia*: Geographic definition, including Oceania, Australia, and New Zealand, corresponding to the COW numbers [700,990]
4. *Africa*: Geographic definition, excluding states in the Middle East (see above), corresponding to the COW numbers [400,625]
5. *Americas*: Geographic definition, including states in the Caribbean, corresponding to the COW numbers [2,165]

This definition is the basis of a figure that has been published in the annual update (most recently in Wallensteen & Sollenberg, 2001), and can be used to replicate these graphs. This figure is not included in Gleditsch, Wallensteen, Eriksson, Sollenberg & Strand (2002).

Figure 1: Number of Armed Conflicts by Region, 1946–2001



4.21 Lat

In order to specify the geographic location of each conflict, every observation is assigned a conflict center point by its geographical coordinates (latitude and longitude). The conflict center is fixed, so as to represent the geographic mid-point of all significant battle-zones during the conflict, including territory occupied by the opposition actors. The latitude and longitude variables are represented by decimal degrees on a 360° scale. Southern latitudes and western longitudes have negative values.

4.22 Lon

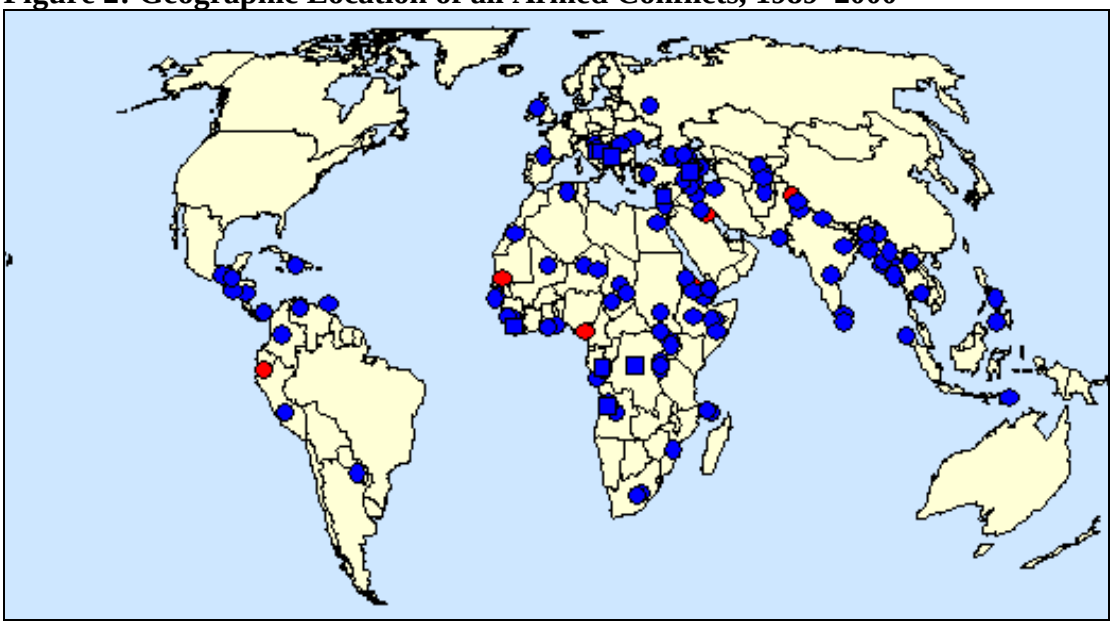
See Lat.

4.23 Radius

The radius variable indicates the largest geographic extent of the conflict zone from the center point during the course of conflict. The radius variable is measured in 50-kilometer intervals. For conflicts that took place within a single spot (city, military

base), the radius variable is set at 50 km. Users should be aware of the limitations of this variable. At a given point in time, the actual conflict zone might be more constrained than the maximum size that is recorded here. Furthermore, we define a circular zone of conflict whereas the actual shape is more likely to follow the contours of international boundaries, mountains, rivers, etc. In fact, the circular conflict zone might also cover territory not directly affected by the conflict, and even the territory of a neighboring country. Work is in progress to refine this variable by introducing polygon-shaped conflict zones.

Figure 2: Geographic Location of all Armed Conflicts, 1989–2000



Plotted by the ViewConflicts program (Rød, Gleditsch & Buhaug, 2002) on the basis of this database. For a map that includes all conflicts 1946–2001, see Figure 1 in Buhaug & Gates (2002: 423).

4.24 Version

The current version of this dataset is 1.0. For every new release, major changes will be documented in a separate section of this document, called Version History. This should be helpful to researchers trying to replicate a particular study. We recommend that whenever this dataset is used, the Version number be cited.

5 Monadic dataset

We have prepared a monadic (or country-year) dataset based on the database. Most analyses of civil conflict are made with this data structure. As there are four different types of conflicts in the database, we have included an extensive set of variables in the monadic file. These variables should, combined, cover most possible uses of the dataset, but they will rarely all be used in the same study.

Since some countries can experience simultaneous conflicts, we report the highest intensity level for each conflict type.

The monadic dataset is available in a number of formats, SPSS, Stata 6, Excel 4, Semi-colon separated text file.

5.1 Variables

No.	Variable	Description
1	year	Year
2	cow	COW country code
3	Type1	0: No extra-state conflict 1: Extra-state minor armed conflict 2: Extra-state intermediate armed conflict 3: Extra-state war
4	Type2	0: No interstate conflict 1: Interstate minor armed conflict 2: Interstate intermediate armed conflict 3: Interstate war
5	Type3	0: No internal conflict 1: Internal minor armed conflict 2: Internal intermediate armed conflict 3: Internal war
6	Type4	0: No Internationalized internal conflict 1: Internationalized internal minor armed conflict 2: Internationalized internal intermediate armed conflict 3: Internationalized internal war
7	Location	0: Country is not listed as location of a conflict 1: Country is listed as location of a conflict (see Sec. 4.4; 4.19)
8	Count	Number of conflicts within a country
9	Version	Version information

6 Dyadic dataset

The dyadic (actually dyad-year) dataset contains a total of 15,185 dyads and 510,835 dyad-years.

6.1 Definition of variables

The descriptions for the variables in the dyadic dataset reference some of the variables in the parent dataset. These variables are listed below. Please also refer to the complete variable descriptions in Section 4 of this document.

Intensity	0: No conflict 1–3: See Section 4.11 A state may be involved in more than one conflict of any type in a given year. The intensity of the highest-level conflict is recorded.
Incompatibility	0: No conflict 1–2: See Section 4.7 3: Both 1 and 2
Type	See Section 4.12

6.2 Variables

	Variable	Description
1	A_COW	Correlates of War ID for State A
2	B_COW	Correlates of War ID for State B
3	Year	Current dyad-year
4	Civ_A	State A's involvement intrastate conflict type 3 (Intensity)
5	Civ_A_Inc	Incompatibility of the above conflict(s)

	Variable	Description
6	Civ_B	State B's involvement intrastate conflict type 3 (Intensity)
7	Civ_B_Inc	Incompatibility of the above conflict(s)
8	War_A	State A's involvement intrastate conflict type 2 (Intensity)
9	War_A_Inc	Incompatibility of the above conflict(s)
10	War_B	State B's involvement intrastate conflict type 2 (Intensity)
11	War_B_Inc	Incompatibility of the above conflict(s)
12	War_AB	States A-B is involved on opposite sides in an interstate conflict type 2 (Intensity)
13	War_AB_Inc	Incompatibility of the above conflict(s)
14	War_Ally	States A-B is involved on the same side in an interstate conflict type 2 (Intensity)
15	War_Ally_Inc	Incompatibility of the above conflict(s)
16	Typ4L_A	State A is the location of one or more intrastate conflict type 4 (Intensity)
17	Typ4L_A_Inc	Incompatibility of the above conflict(s)
18	Typ4L_B	State B is the location of one or more intrastate conflict type 4 (Intensity)
19	Typ4L_B_Inc	Incompatibility of the above conflict(s)
20	Typ4I_A	State A is involved as an intervening state in one or more intrastate conflict type 4 (Intensity)
21	Typ4I_A_Inc	Incompatibility of the above conflict(s)
22	Typ4I_B	State B is involved as an intervening state in one or more intrastate conflict type 4 (Intensity)
23	Typ4I_B_Inc	Incompatibility of the above conflict(s)
24	Typ4_AB	States A-B is involved on opposite sides in an intrastate w/foreign intervention conflict type 4 (Intensity)
25	Typ4_AB_Inc	Incompatibility of the above conflict(s)
26	Typ4_Ally	States A-B is involved on the same side in an intrastate w/foreign intervention conflict type 4 (Intensity) See Section 6.3.2.
27	Typ4_Ally_Inc	Incompatibility of the above conflict(s)
28	Typ1_A	State A is involved in one or more extra-state conflict type 1 (Intensity)
29	Typ1_A_Inc	Incompatibility of the above conflict(s)
30	Typ1_B	State B is involved in one or more extra-state conflict type 1 (Intensity)
31	Typ1_B_Inc	Incompatibility of the above conflict(s)
32	NumConflicts_A	Number of conflicts recorded for state A in the current year
33	NumConflicts_B	Number of conflicts recorded for state B in the current year
34	Key_A	Comma [,] separated references to the variable Primkey in the parent dataset for each conflict state A is involved in the current year. See Section 4.1
35	Key_B	Comma [,] separated references to the variable Primkey in the parent dataset for each conflict state B is involved in the current year. See Section 4.1

6.3 Notes

1. States intervening on the side of the dependent territory in conflicts type 1 are excluded. This applies only to Cuba, South Africa, and Zaire in the conflict in Angola (1961–74).
2. All countries fighting together on the government side are listed on side A and all countries aiding opposition groups are listed on side B. We can calmly assume that all countries listed under side A are fighting together, but the same assumption is more problematic for side B. (See Section 4.17)

7 Technical Information

7.1 Database

The database is stored in a Microsoft Access 2000 database. The main table [Armed Conflict Database] is defined with the following data types:

No.	Variable	Definition
1	Primkey	LONG INTEGER
2	ID	INTEGER
3	SubID	BYTE
4	Location	TEXT
5	Side_A	TEXT
6	Side_B	TEXT
7	Incompability	BYTE
8	Territory	TEXT
9	Begin	INTEGER
10	End	INTEGER
11	Intensity	BYTE
12	Type	BYTE
13	Startdate	DATE/TIME
14	Startprecision	BYTE
15	Startdate2	DATE/TIME
16	Startprecision2	BYTE
17	COW_A	TEXT
18	COW_B	TEXT
19	COW_location	TEXT
20	Continent	BYTE
21	Lat	DOUBLE
22	Lon	DOUBLE
23	Radius	INTEGER
24	Version	SINGLE

The monadic file is stored in the table [Monadic] with the following definition:

No.	Variable	Definition
1	Year	INTEGER
2	COW	INTEGER
3	Type1	BYTE
4	Type2	BYTE
5	Type3	BYTE
6	Type4	BYTE
7	Location	BYTE
8	Count	BYTE
9	Version	SINGLE

The dyadic file is stored in the table [Dyadic] with the following definition:

	Variable	Definition
1	A_COW_ID	INTEGER
2	B_COW_ID	INTEGER
3	Year	INTEGER
4	Civ_A	BYTE
5	Civ_A_Inc	BYTE
6	Civ_B	BYTE
7	Civ_B_Inc	BYTE
8	War_A	BYTE
9	War_A_Inc	BYTE
10	War_B	BYTE
11	War_B_Inc	BYTE
12	War_AB	BYTE

	Variable	Definition
13	War_AB_Inc	BYTE
14	War_Ally	BYTE
15	War_Ally_Inc	BYTE
16	Typ4L_A	BYTE
17	Typ4L_A_Inc	BYTE
18	Typ4L_B	BYTE
19	Typ4L_B_Inc	BYTE
20	Typ4I_A	BYTE
21	Typ4I_A_Inc	BYTE
22	Typ4I_B	BYTE
23	Typ4I_B_Inc	BYTE
24	Typ4_AB	BYTE
25	Typ4_AB_Inc	BYTE
26	Typ4_Ally	BYTE
27	Typ4_Ally_Inc	BYTE
28	Typ1_A	BYTE
29	Typ1_A_Inc	BYTE
30	Typ1_B	BYTE
31	Typ1_B_Inc	BYTE
32	NumConflicts_A	BYTE
33	NumConflicts_B	BYTE
34	Key_A	TEXT
35	Key_B	TEXT
36	Version	SINGLE

7.2 Text file

The text file is exported from the database with semi-colon (';') as the field separator and in the Western European (Windows) / ISO-8859-1 code page.

7.3 SPSS file

Made with Stat/Transfer 5.1.4.

7.4 Stata file

Made with Stat/Transfer 5.1.4.

7.5 Excel file

Exported out of the main database. Due to the size of the dyadic file, this file could not be converted to Excel.

8 System membership description

The definition of a state is crucial to our conflict list. The conflict definition is based upon participating governmental actors of independent states, and the classification of a given conflict rests heavily upon the status of the different actors. A conflict between two recognized governments is an interstate war, while a conflict between a recognized government and a party soon to become a recognized government can be classified as either internal war (i.e. Eritrea) or extra-state war (i.e. Laos) or if (4.2) applies, interstate war. The definition of a state in the original conflict definition is as follows:

(4) *State*: A state is
(4.1) an internationally recognized sovereign government controlling a specified territory, *or*
(4.2) an internationally unrecognized government controlling a specified territory whose sovereignty is not disputed by another internationally recognized sovereign government previously controlling the same territory.

This is a very wide definition, which allows us a significant flexibility when it comes to include small and short-lived governments, and thereby classifying conflicts precisely. However, this flexibility is costly when we want to compare conflicts over time. If we want to answer the question 'Is there more conflict now than during the Cold War?', we need to compare the ratio of states in conflict to states in peace at different points in time. To do that, we need a complete list of states over time.

By far the most widely used system membership definition is that of the Correlates of War Project. The most recent update is (COW, 1988). The starting point for this list was Russett et al. (1968). Before 1920 the Russett et al. definition includes countries with a population of more than 10,000 and diplomatic relations with Britain and France. After 1920 countries are included if they have either membership in the League of Nations or the UN, or a population of more than 500,000 and recognition from two *major* powers in the system. Gleditsch & Ward (1999) have proposed an alternative operationalization of system membership. They include countries with a population of more than 250.000, 'an relatively autonomous administration over some territory', and 'considered a distinct entity by local actors or states it is dependent on'.

The Gleditsch & Ward system definition is more flexible and addresses a number of problematic aspects in the earlier Russett et al. definition, and it also fits our definition of state better. Lack of diplomatic recognition by a major power can be an indicator of conflict, and is therefore a problematic aspect of a system membership definition for our use.

However, countries with less than 250,000 inhabitants can also experience conflict, and we would ideally have chosen to include such countries as governmental actors in our dataset. The only case where this is problematic is presented by the armed conflict Hyderabad vs. India. Hyderabad declared itself independent in 1947. A civil war broke out between the Indian government and a rebel movement, ending in an invasion by India.

For most quantitative applications of this dataset this will not be relevant, as the lack of control variables most probably will leave this observation out of the analysis. We have chosen, at this time, to build our monadic and dyadic time frames on the Gleditsch & Ward system membership data, so that there will be an observation (country-year or dyad-year) for the whole Gleditsch & Ward frame.

COW_ID	Abbr.	State name	Start_year	End_year
2	USA	United States of America	1946	2001
20	CAN	Canada	1946	2001
31	BHM	Bahamas	1973	2001
35	BAR	Barbados	1966	2001
40	CUB	Cuba	1946	2001
41	HAI	Haiti	1946	2001
42	DOM	Dominican Republic	1946	2001
51	JAM	Jamaica	1962	2001

COW_ID	Abbr.	State name	Start_year	End_year
52	TRI	Trinidad and Tobago	1962	2001
70	MEX	Mexico	1946	2001
80	BLZ	Belize	1981	2001
90	GUA	Guatemala	1946	2001
91	HON	Honduras	1946	2001
92	SAL	El Salvador	1946	2001
93	NIC	Nicaragua	1946	2001
94	COS	Costa Rica	1946	2001
95	PAN	Panama	1946	2001
100	COL	Colombia	1946	2001
101	VEN	Venezuela	1946	2001
110	GUY	Guyana	1966	2001
115	SUR	Surinam	1975	2001
130	ECU	Ecuador	1946	2001
135	PER	Peru	1946	2001
140	BRA	Brazil	1946	2001
145	BOL	Bolivia	1946	2001
150	PAR	Paraguay	1946	2001
155	CHL	Chile	1946	2001
160	ARG	Argentina	1946	2001
165	URU	Uruguay	1946	2001
200	UK	United Kingdom	1946	2001
205	IRE	Ireland	1946	2001
210	NTH	Netherlands	1946	2001
211	BEL	Belgium	1946	2001
212	LUX	Luxembourg	1946	2001
220	FRN	France	1946	2001
225	SWZ	Switzerland	1946	2001
230	SPN	Spain	1946	2001
235	POR	Portugal	1946	2001
260	GFR	German Federal Republic	1949	2001
265	GDR	German Democratic Republic	1949	1990
290	POL	Poland	1946	2001
305	AUS	Austria	1946	2001
310	HUN	Hungary	1946	2001
315	CZE	Czechoslovakia	1946	1992
316	CZR	Czech Republic	1993	2001
317	SLO	Slovakia	1993	2001
325	ITA	Italy/Sardinia	1946	2001
338	MLT	Malta	1964	2001
339	ALB	Albania	1946	2001
343	MAC	Macedonia	1991	2001
344	CRO	Croatia	1991	2001
345	YUG	Yugoslavia (Serbia)	1946	2001
346	BOS	Bosnia-Herzegovina	1992	2001
349	SLV	Slovenia	1991	2001
350	GRC	Greece	1946	2001
352	CYP	Cyprus	1960	2001
355	BUL	Bulgaria	1946	2001
359	MLD	Moldova	1991	2001
360	RUM	Rumania	1946	2001
365	RUS	Russia (Soviet Union)	1946	2001
366	EST	Estonia	1991	2001

COW_ID	Abbr.	State name	Start_year	End_year
367	LAT	Latvia	1991	2001
368	LIT	Lithuania	1991	2001
369	UKR	Ukraine	1991	2001
370	BLR	Belarus	1991	2001
371	ARM	Armenia	1991	2001
372	GRG	Georgia	1991	2001
373	AZE	Azerbaijan	1991	2001
375	FIN	Finland	1946	2001
380	SWD	Sweden	1946	2001
385	NOR	Norway	1946	2001
390	DEN	Denmark	1946	2001
395	ICE	Iceland	1946	2001
402	CAP	Cape Verde	1975	2001
404	GNB	Guinea-Bissau	1974	2001
411	EQG	Equatorial Guinea	1960	2001
420	GAM	Gambia	1965	2001
426	NIR	Niger	1960	2001
432	MLI	Mali	1960	2001
433	SEN	Senegal	1960	2001
434	BEN	Benin	1960	2001
435	MAA	Mauritania	1960	2001
437	CDI	Cote D'Ivoire	1960	2001
438	GUI	Guinea	1958	2001
439	BFO	Burkina Faso (Upper Volta)	1960	2001
450	LBR	Liberia	1946	2001
451	SIE	Sierra Leone	1961	2001
452	GHA	Ghana	1957	2001
461	TOG	Togo	1960	2001
471	CAO	Cameroon	1960	2001
475	NIG	Nigeria	1960	2001
481	GAB	Gabon	1960	2001
482	CEN	Central African Republic	1960	2001
483	CHA	Chad	1960	2001
484	CON	Congo	1961	2001
490	DRC	Congo, Democratic Republic of (Zaire)	1960	2001
500	UGA	Uganda	1962	2001
501	KEN	Kenya	1963	2001
510	TAZ	Tanzania/Tanganyika	1961	2001
511	ZAN	Zanzibar	1963	1964
516	BUI	Burundi	1962	2001
517	RWA	Rwanda	1962	2001
520	SOM	Somalia	1960	2001
522	DJI	Djibouti	1977	2001
530	ETH	Ethiopia	1946	2001
531	ERI	Eritrea	1993	2001
540	ANG	Angola	1975	2001
541	MZM	Mozambique	1975	2001
551	ZAM	Zambia	1964	2001
552	ZIM	Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)	1965	2001
553	MAW	Malawi	1964	2001
560	SAF	South Africa	1946	2001
565	NAM	Namibia	1990	2001
570	LES	Lesotho	1966	2001

COW_ID	Abbr.	State name	Start_year	End_year
571	BOT	Botswana	1966	2001
572	SWA	Swaziland	1968	2001
580	MAG	Madagascar (Malagasy)	1960	2001
581	COM	Comoros	1975	2001
590	MAS	Mauritius	1968	2001
600	MOR	Morocco	1956	2001
615	ALG	Algeria	1962	2001
616	TUN	Tunisia	1956	2001
620	LIB	Libya	1951	2001
625	SUD	Sudan	1956	2001
630	IRN	Iran	1946	2001
640	TUR	Turkey	1946	2001
645	IRQ	Iraq	1946	2001
651	EGY	Egypt	1946	2001
652	SYR	Syria	1946	2001
660	LEB	Lebanon	1946	2001
663	JOR	Jordan	1946	2001
666	ISR	Israel	1948	2001
670	SAU	Saudi Arabia	1946	2001
678	YEM	Yemen (Arab Republic of Yemen)	1946	2001
680	YPR	Yemen, People's Republic of	1967	1990
690	KUW	Kuwait	1961	2001
692	BAH	Bahrain	1971	2001
694	QAT	Qatar	1971	2001
696	UAE	United Arab Emirates	1971	2001
698	OMA	Oman	1946	2001
700	AFG	Afghanistan	1946	2001
701	TKM	Turkmenistan	1991	2001
702	TAJ	Tajikistan	1991	2001
703	KYR	Kyrgyz Republic	1991	2001
704	UZB	Uzbekistan	1991	2001
705	KZK	Kazakhstan	1991	2001
710	CHN	China	1946	2001
711	TBT	Tibet	1946	1950
712	MON	Mongolia	1946	2001
713	TAW	Taiwan	1949	2001
731	PRK	Korea, People's Republic of	1948	2001
732	ROK	Korea, Republic of	1948	2001
740	JPN	Japan	1946	2001
750	IND	India	1947	2001
760	BHU	Bhutan	1949	2001
770	PAK	Pakistan	1947	2001
771	BNG	Bangladesh	1972	2001
775	MYA	Myanmar (Burma)	1948	2001
780	SRI	Sri Lanka (Ceylon)	1948	2001
781	MAD	Maldives	1965	2001
790	NEP	Nepal	1946	2001
800	THI	Thailand	1946	2001
811	CAM	Cambodia (Kampuchea)	1954	2001
812	LAO	Laos	1954	2001
816	DRV	Vietnam, Democratic Republic of	1954	2001
817	RVN	Vietnam, Republic of	1954	1975
820	MAL	Malaysia	1957	2001

COW_ID	Abbr.	State name	Start_year	End_year
830	SIN	Singapore	1965	2001
835	BRU	Brunei	1984	2001
840	PHI	Philippines	1946	2001
850	INS	Indonesia	1946	2001
900	AUL	Australia	1946	2001
910	PNG	Papua New Guinea	1975	2001
920	NEW	New Zealand	1946	2001
940	SOL	Solomon Islands	1978	2001
950	FJI	Fiji	1970	2001

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