Codebook for the Non-State Actor Data[•]

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Overview

The Non-State Actor (hereafter NSA) data provides information on the military capabilities and political opportunities available to non-state actors in on-going civil wars. The NSA data are a direct expansion of the Uppsala Armed Conflict Data, described in greater detail in Gleditsch et al. (2002).

Note that we do not collect original information on conflicts, in terms of identifying when we see events that qualify by the battledeaths criteria used in the Uppsala Armed Conflict Data, but provide additional information for the civil conflicts that are deemed to have met the defining criteria for the Uppsala ACD.

The unit of these data are conflict dyad periods. Each single conflict in the Uppsala data distinguished between side A (government) and side B (a non-state actor). One conflict may have many side B actors; and each separate side B actor forms a conflict dyad with the government.

For example, Conflict 36 between Guatemala and groups contesting the government gives rise to several distinct non-state actors; URNG, Military Faction, Forces of Carlos Castillo Armas, FAR, EGP, ORPA, MR-13/FAR II, many of which are active at different time periods. We treat these as distinct dyadic conflicts, and collect individual information on each of the dyads.

The attributes of a conflict dyad may change over time, and the NSA data reflect this by having separate rows for each consecutive period of a dyad.

The current version of the data (version 3.3) covers the time period 1946 through 2010.

Description of variables

obsid

This is a unique identifier for each row in the dataset. Note that this is generated for each version of the data. It is intended to provide a unique reference within each version, but is not comparable across different versions of the data.

ucdpid

This field indicates the Conflict ID in the ACD data. Note that this is based on incompatibility, and hence codes all conflicts over the government as the "same" conflict, even if they involve different side B actors.

dyadid

This field indicates the Dyad in the ACD data. We adopt their definition of dyads for compatibility, and refer to the UPCD project at http://www.pcr.uu.se/data/ for details on their identification of dyads. We emphasize, however, that some researcher may wish to consider actors assigned different dyad IDs as the same, for example Palestinian insurgents, Fatah, PLO, and the Palestinian Authority.

side_a

This field identifies the name of the state government in the dyad.

acr

This field contains the Gleditsch & Ward acronym for the state whose government is involved in the dyad. For a list of these acronyms, see http://privatewww.essex.ac.uk/~ksg/statelist.html

side_b

This field lists the name of the side B actor in the dyad.

startdate

Start date of the dyad. The dates refer to dyad periods, which are defined either by the start and end dates of the UCDP data, or a change in the attributes of a dyad. Note that intermittent periods without sufficient violence of less than two years between included spells of fighting in the UCDP data have been ignored.

enddate

End date of the dyad, or dyad period

oldid

This field indicates the old ID used in the ACD data, up to version 3-2005b, maintained for compatibility with old versions of the NSA data.

oldconfid

This field indicates the old conflict ID used in the old NSA data. It is included for compatibility purposes. Conflicts were separated based on the identity of the side B actors and the time period. We considered dyads part of the same conflict if they involve the same incompatibility and time period. Periods with a lull of fighting of more than 2 years were considered different conflicts, with separate confids.

olddyadid

This field includes the old dyad code from the NSA, included for compatibility purposes. This separated between different side B vs. government dyads within the same conflict. These were conceptually identified based on (a) whether an organized insurgent group in a conflict has a distinct name, (b) whether this group has a distinct leadership, (c) whether this group has a distinct set of forces under its command, and (d) whether the operations that can be attributed to this group meets the battledeaths threshold, i.e., generates more than 25 deaths in a calendar year.

extraterritorial

This field provides a dummy variable for whether the conflict is fought on extraterritorial soil (i.e., not core territory) for the side A

rebpolwing

This field indicates whether the insurgent group has a political wing.

rebpolwinglegal

This field indicates whether the insurgent political wing is recognized as a legal organization.

rebestimate

This field indicates the best estimate of the size of rebel armed forces.

rebestlow

This field indicates the low estimate of the size of rebel armed forces, if variation.

rebesthigh

This field indicates the high estimate of the size of rebel armed forces, if variation.

rebstrength

This field provides a coding of the strength of the rebel forces relative to the government forces.

centcontrol

This field indicates whether the rebels have a clear central command.

strengthcent

This field indicates the extent to which a central command exercises control over the constituent groups of an insurgent movement.

mobcap

This field indicates the ability of the rebel group to mobilize personnel, rated relative to the government.

armsproc

This field indicates the rebel group's ability to procure arms, relative to the government.

fightcap

This field indicates the rebel group's fighting capacity, rated relative to the government.

terrcont

This field indicates whether the rebel group controls territory.

terrname

This field gives the name of the territory controlled, if applicable.

effterrcont

This variable indicates the degree of effective control the rebel group exercises over the territory.

conflicttype

This field contains an indicator of conflict type. It is not based on a mutually exclusive typology, but can be useful for identifying conflicts observers deem to be coup d'etats or ethnic.

transconstsupp

This field indicates whether the rebel group is supported by transnational non-state actors in a non-military manner

rebextpart

This field indicates whether the rebel group is supported militarily by transnational non-state actors

rebpresosts

This field indicates whether the rebels are physically present in other states, identifying cases where some troops located abroad as well as extensive extraterritorial bases.

presname

Location where rebels present in other states, if applicable.

rebel.support

This field indicates whether the rebel group is supported by government of a foreign state

rtypesup

This field indicates the type of support, if applicable.

rsupname

This field names the supporting party(ies), if applicable

govsupport

This field indicates whether the government is supported by the governments of other states.

gtypesup

This field indicates the type of support, if applicable

gsupname

This field names the supporting party(ies), if applicable

govextpart

This field indicates non-state military support for a government in a civil war

type.of.termination

This field indicates how a dyad conflict ended, following the criteria for the Uppsala CTD. It can take on the following values:

 1: Peace agreement

 2: Ceasefire agreement with conflict regulation

 3: Ceasefire Agreement

 4: Victory

 5: No or Low Activity

 6: Other

 6.1: Dyad ended when groups combined to form a new group (ex. Guatemala)

 7: End of anti-colonial conflict

 NA: Conflict not terminated

Please note that we have not attempted to distinguish between categories 1-3 in the dyadic observations not take from the UCDP Conflict Termination Data. Hence, all agreements are assigned a value of 1.

victory.side

This field indicates the victorious side, if a dyadic conflict ended in military victory (i.e., 4). It is coded 1 if the government side won and 2 if the rebel side won.

prevactive

This field indicates whether this dyad was previously active in conflict, coded 1 if yes.

prevactive.ref

This field contains the obsid values for the other rows corresponding to periods in which the dyad was previously active.

oldobsid

This field contains the observation id for the last version of the data