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Disaggregated Conflict Dataset (DISCON) 1.0

Codebook Version 2-2016

Introduction

This codebook describes the Disaggregated Conflict Dataset (DISCON), which is a joint project of Christoph Trinn and Thomas Wencker (Institute of Political Science, Heidelberg University) as well as the Heidelberg Institute of International Conflict Research (HIHK).

The dataset contains two lists: (1) a list of violent intensities of international, intranational, and subnational conflicts, disaggregated by conflict, subnational division (region), and calendar month; and (2) a list of conflicts which remained non-violent throughout the period under observation. At present DISCON covers the countries of Asia and Oceania in the years from 2000 to 2014. Continuous updates and expansions are scheduled.

When using the data or the codebook, please cite Trinn & HIHK (2016): Disaggregated Conflict Dataset (DISCON) 1.0. For comments and suggestions on the data and the codebook, please communicate both to Christoph Trinn (christoph.trinn@ipw.uni-heidelberg.de) or Thomas Wencker (thomas.wencker@ipw.uni-heidelberg.de).

Definitions of Conflict and Intensity

According to the Heidelberg approach, a political conflict is a positional difference, regarding values relevant to a society between at least two relevant and directly involved actors, which is being carried out using observable and interrelated conflict measures that lie outside established regulatory procedures and threaten core state functions or the international order, or hold out the prospect to do so.

The intensity of a conflict is a property of the sum of conflict measures in a specific political conflict in a given space and time. The Heidelberg approach distinguishes two non-violent intensity levels (dispute, non-violent crisis) and three violent levels (violent crisis, limited war, war). In assessing violent conflict intensity, five indicators measure the means and consequences of violence. The dimension of means is operationalized via the deployment of weapons and personnel. The dimension of consequences comprises the numbers of fatalities and refugees and the amount of destruction. Each indicator is scored on a ternary scale. The total intensity of a region-month is determined by aggregating the five individual scores, resulting in an eleven-point intensity scale. This scale is in turn aggregated to form the three violent intensity levels.

List of Variables

<i>Variable Label</i>	<i>Description</i>
name	name of conflict
ID	ID of conflict
start	start year of conflict
end	end year of conflict
type	
1	international (between states)
2	intranational (between state and non-state actor(s))
3	subnational (between non-state actors)
country	name of affected country
iso1	ISO 3166-1 alpha-2
region	name of affected first-level subnational administrative unit
iso2	ISO 3166-2 alpha-2
hasc	Hierarchical Administrative Subdivision Code
month	affected calendar month
year	affected calendar year
weapons	
0	use of light weapons in most severe individual measure
1	restrictive use of heavy weapons in most severe individual measure
2	extensive use of heavy weapons in most severe individual measure
personnel	
0	< 50 involved persons in most severe individual measure
1	50 - 400 involved persons in most severe individual measure
2	> 400 involved persons in most severe individual measure

<i>Variable Label</i>	<i>Description</i>
fatalities	
0	< 20 fatalities, sum in region-month
1	20 - 60 fatalities, sum in region-month
2	> 60 fatalities, sum in region-month
refugees	
0	< 1,000 refugees and internally displaced persons, sum in region-month
1	1,000 - 20,000 refugees and internally displaced persons, sum in region-month
2	> 20,000 refugees and internally displaced persons, sum in region-month
destruction	
0	no massive destruction in region-month
1	massive destruction in one or two of four dimensions in region-month
2	massive destruction in at least three of four dimensions in region-month
rmi	
3	region-month intensity
4	violent crisis
5	limited war
5	war

References

HIK (2015): Conflict Barometer 2014 (<http://hiik.de/en/konfliktbarometer/index.html>).

Schwank, Nicolas (2012): Konflikte, Krisen, Kriege: Die Entwicklungsdynamiken politischer Konflikte seit 1945, Baden-Baden: Nomos.

Trinn, Christoph (2015): Konflikt und Komplexität: Die Intensität innerstaatlicher Gewaltkonflikte in systemtheoretischer Perspektive, Wiesbaden: Springer VS.

Trinn, Christoph, Thomas Wencker & Nicolas Schwank (2016): Introducing the Heidelberg Approach to Conflict Research (<http://www.uni-heidelberg.de/politikwissenschaften/personal/croissant/trinn.html>).