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**Online Appendix for**

**"Searching for nonaggressive targets: Which states attract diversionary actions?"**

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**Table A. Descriptive statistics**

| Variables | N | Mean | Median | SD | Min | Max |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *pi*: potential initiator<br>*pt*: potential target | | | | | | |
| *year* | 1,024,000 | 1,984 | 1,985 | 11.63 | 1,960 | 2,001 |
| *initiate* | 1,021,000 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.04 | 0.00 | 1.00 |
| *pi's unrest* | 959,870 | 0.10 | 0.00 | 0.28 | 0.00 | 2.08 |
| *pt's unrest* | 959,870 | 0.10 | 0.00 | 0.28 | 0.00 | 2.08 |
| *pt's democracy* | 885,984 | -0.29 | -3.00 | 7.52 | -10.00 | 10.00 |
| *pt's trade openness* | 1,002,000 | 0.22 | 0.12 | 0.30 | 0.00 | 3.50 |
| *pt's decline* | 723,946 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.06 | -0.94 | 0.94 |
| *relative power* | 992,536 | 240.70 | 7.96 | 2098.00 | 1.00 | 155713.00 |
| *alliance* | 993,672 | 0.07 | 0.00 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 1.00 |
| *joint minor* | 993,672 | 0.93 | 1.00 | 0.26 | 0.00 | 1.00 |
| *border* | 1,024,000 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.14 | 0.00 | 1.00 |
| *distance* | 1,024,000 | 8.25 | 8.42 | 0.77 | 1.79 | 9.42 |
| *peace years* | 1,021,000 | 27.48 | 19.00 | 29.53 | 0.00 | 185.00 |

**Table B. Collinearity diagnostics**

| Variable | VIF | Tolerance |
|---|---|---|
| *pi's unrest * pt's democracy* | 1.21 | 0.8267 |
| *pi's unrest * pt's trade openness* | 1.65 | 0.6063 |
| *pi's unrest * pt's unrest* | 1.47 | 0.6792 |
| *pi's unrest * pt's decline* | 1.16 | 0.8587 |
| *pi's unrest* | 1.78 | 0.5606 |
| *pt's democracy* | 1.23 | 0.8146 |
| *pt's trade openness* | 1.18 | 0.8504 |
| *pt's unrest* | 1.24 | 0.807 |
| *pt's decline* | 1.15 | 0.8684 |
| *relative power* | 1.02 | 0.9805 |
| *alliance* | 1.21 | 0.8295 |
| *joint minor* | 1.03 | 0.9688 |
| *border* | 1.22 | 0.8193 |
| *distance* | 1.36 | 0.7357 |
| Mean VIF | 1.28 | |

**Table C. Logit Analysis of initiation of militarized conflict short of war**

| | b | | se |
|---|---|---|---|
| *pi*: potential initiator<br>*pt*: potential target | | | |
| *pi's unrest * pt's democracy* | 0.053 | ** | 0.014 |
| *pi's unrest * pt's trade openness* | 0.84 | ** | 0.278 |
| *pi's unrest * pt's unrest* | -0.264 | | 0.266 |
| *pi's unrest * pt's decline* | -8.414 | ** | 1.959 |
| *pi's unrest* | 0.15 | | 0.152 |
| *pt's democracy* | 0.006 | | 0.008 |
| *pt's trade openness* | 0.117 | | 0.197 |
| *pt's unrest* | 0.04 | | 0.151 |
| *pt's decline* | 2.869 | ** | 0.606 |
| *relative power* | -0.001 | | 0.001 |
| *alliance* | -0.305 | * | 0.132 |
| *joint minor* | -1.727 | ** | 0.126 |
| *border* | 1.736 | ** | 0.179 |
| *distance* | -0.597 | ** | 0.088 |
| *peace years* | -0.234 | ** | 0.012 |
| *(peace years)^2* | 0.004 | ** | 0 |
| *(peace years)^3* | 0 | ** | 0 |
| Constant | 2.232 | ** | 0.74 |
| N | 642360 | | |
| log-likelihood | -5000.105 | | |
| LR(17) | 5263.965 | ** | |
| McFadden's R^2 | 0.342 | | |
| AIC | 10036.211 | | |
| BIC | 10240.923 | | |

Note: * .05, ** .01 (two-tailed test); Robust standard errors clustered by *dyadid* (*pi*'s COW country code*1000 + *pt*'s COW country code).