Violence as a Condition: Structure, Composition, and the Use of Lethal Force

Codebook

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Replication Materials: https://github.com/skytheacademic/violence_as_a_condition

This codebook describes the variables for "Violence as a Condition" in the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. The data used (`Kunkel-Ellis-final.RDS`) is an event-level dataset covering the Central African Republic from April 2018 through December 2022. The unit of observation is an individual political violence event involving state forces and/or the Wagner Group. Data are drawn from ACLED and PRIO.

Dataset Sources

This dataset integrates variables from multiple sources. For detailed information about variables from external datasets, please consult the original codebooks:

ACLED Variables

Event-level variables are derived from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data (ACLED) Project. These variables capture information on political violence events, actor types, fatalities, and geographic location. For complete definitions, coding rules, and methodology, please refer to the ACLED Codebook (included in this repository as `ACLED_Codebook_v1_January-2021.pdf`).

Citation: Raleigh, Clionadh, Andrew Linke, Håvard Hegre and Joakim Karlsen. 2010. "Introducing ACLED-Armed Conflict Location and Event Data." *Journal of Peace Research* 47(5): 651-660.

PRIO-GRID Variables

Resource variables (`diam`, `gold`) are derived from the PRIO datasets. PRIO provides a standardized spatial grid structure with global coverage at 0.5 x 0.5 decimal degree resolution, integrating data on geography, resources, and socioeconomic conditions. For complete definitions and methodology, please refer to the PRIO-GRID Codebook (included in this repository as `PRIO-GRID-Codebook.pdf`).

Citation: Tollefsen, Andreas Forø, Håvard Strand & Halvard Buhaug (2012) "PRIO-GRID: A unified spatial data structure." *Journal of Peace Research* 49(2): 363-374.

Resource deposit data are drawn from the following sources:

- **Diamonds**:
  - Gilmore, Elisabeth, Nils Petter Gleditsch, Päivi Lujala & Jan Ketil Rød. 2005. "Conflict Diamonds: A New Dataset." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 22(3): 257–292.
  - Lujala, Päivi, Nils Petter Gleditsch & Elisabeth Gilmore, 2005. "A Diamond Curse? Civil War and a Lootable Resource." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 49(4): 538–562.

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- **Gold**:
  - Balestri, Sara, 2015. "GOLDATA: The Gold deposits dataset codebook", Version 1.2. *UCSC-Cognitive Science and Communication Research Centre* WP 02/15, Milan. doi:10.13140/RG.2.1.1730.8648
  - Balestri, Sara, 2012. "Gold and civil conflict intensity: evidence from a spatially disaggregated analysis", Peace Economics. *Peace Science and Public Policy*, 18(3): 1-17. doi:10.1515/peps-2012-0012.

ACLED Variables (Retained from Source)

The following variables are retained directly from the ACLED source data. Please see the ACLED Codebook for full definitions.

Variable	Description	Type
`event_date`	Date on which the event occurred (YYYY-MM-DD)	Date
`year`	Calendar year of the event	Integer
`time_precision`	Level of certainty of the event date (1 = exact, 2 = week, 3 = month)	Integer
`event_type`	ACLED event type (e.g., Violence against civilians, Explosions/Remote violence)	Character
`sub_event_type`	ACLED sub-event type (e.g., Attack, Abduction/forced disappearance)	Character
`actor1`	Named actor involved in the event	Character
`assoc_actor_1`	Named actor associated with or identifying Actor 1	Character
`inter1`	Numeric code indicating the type of Actor 1	Integer
`actor2`	Named actor involved in the event	Character
`assoc_actor_2`	Named actor associated with or identifying Actor 2	Character
`inter2`	Numeric code indicating the type of Actor 2	Integer
`interaction`	Numeric code indicating the interaction between Actor 1 and Actor 2 types	Integer
`country`	Country in which the event took place (Central African Republic)	Character
`admin1`	Largest sub-national administrative region of the event	Character
`admin2`	Second largest sub-national administrative region of the event	Character
`admin3`	Third largest sub-national administrative region of the event	Character
`location`	Specific location name of the event	Character
`latitude`	Latitude of the event location (decimal degrees)	Numeric

Variable	Description	Type
`longitude`	Longitude of the event location (decimal degrees)	Numeric
`geo_precision`	Level of certainty of the event location (1 = exact, 2 = near, 3 = region)	Integer
`notes`	Short description of the event	Character
`fatalities`	Number of reported fatalities during the event	Integer

Project-Specific Variables

The following variables were created specifically for this analysis:

Treatment & Identification Variables

Variable	Description	Type
`t_ind`	Wagner Group treatment indicator. 1 if Wagner Contractors present during a violent event, 0 otherwise	Binary
`iv`	Instrumental variable for Wagner re-positioning in preparation for and after the invasion of Ukraine. Binary: 1 if the event occurred after November 1, 2021, 0 if before	Binary
`score`	Running variable for regression discontinuity design. Computed as the log-transformed number of days after the November 1, 2021 cutoff: log(days + 1). Events before the cutoff receive a score of log(1) = 0	Numeric

Outcome Variables

Variable	Description	Type
`death`	Binary indicator for lethal violence. 1 if reported fatalities > 0, 0 otherwise	Binary

Control Variables

Variable	Description	Type
`event.lag`	Lagged count of militia/rebel events. Sum of all ACLED events involving rebel groups or militias in the Central African Republic during the preceding calendar month	Integer
`fatalities.lag`	Lagged fatality count from militia/rebel events. Sum of reported fatalities from all ACLED events involving rebel groups	Integer

Variable	Description	Type
	or militias during the preceding calendar month	
`diam`	Diamond deposit indicator. Binary: 1 if secondary (alluvial) or primary (kimberlite) diamond deposits have been found within the PRIO-GRID cell containing the event, 0 otherwise. Combines static (`diamsec_s`, `diamprim_s`) and time-varying (`diamsec_y`, `diamprim_y`) PRIO-GRID indicators	Binary
`gold`	Gold deposit indicator. Binary: 1 if placer, surface, or vein gold deposits have been found within the PRIO-GRID cell containing the event, 0 otherwise. Combines static (`goldplacer_s`, `goldsurface_s`, `goldvein_s`) and time-varying (`goldplacer_y`, `goldsurface_y`, `goldvein_y`) PRIO-GRID indicators	Binary

Notes

- **Output formats:** The final dataset is provided in three formats: `.RDS` (R), `.csv`, and `.dta` (Stata). Variable names containing periods (e.g., `event.lag`) are converted to underscores (e.g., `event_lag`) in the Stata export.