UCDP Conflict Termination Dataset Codebook v.3 (2021)

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1 Introduction

Users of the UCDP Conflict Termination Dataset should cite

Kreutz, Joakim, 2010. How and When Armed Conflicts End: Introducing the UCDP Conflict Termination Dataset. *Journal of Peace Research* 47(2): 243-250.

This Codebook explains the variables about dyadic and conflict level conflict terminations for the time period 1946-2019. The data corresponds with the UCDP-PRIO Armed Conflict data v 21.1 and the UCDP Armed Conflict Dyads v 21.1 (Pettersson et al. 2021).

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2 Conflict Onset and Termination

Armed conflict is defined by Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) 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 in a calender-year (Gleditsch et al. 2002).

To identify the beginning and termination of armed conflict, this dataset use the structure of conflict and dyad *episodes*(Kreutz 2010). "Conflict dyads" explore the interaction between two opposing actors (for example, the government of a state and a specific insurgent organization)[1] while "conflicts" are identified around the conflict incompatibility and can thus include several simultaneous or consecutive armed organizations (Harbom, Melander and Wallensteen 2008; Kreutz 2018). An episode begins on the date of the first year that a conflict dyad fulfil the UCDP criteria of active armed conflict. The episode then continues for consecutive years until the last date in the final year when these criteria no longer are fulfilled.

A conflict episode, thus, is defined as the a continuous period of active conflict years in the UCDP-PRIO armed conflict dataset. A conflict episode ends when an active year is followed by a year in which there are fewer than 25 battle-related deaths. In the event that armed activity over the same incompatibility (for conflicts) and involving the same warring sides (dyadic), this is coded as a new episode.

The coding of outcomes are based on the final year of activity and first year of non-activity. While the dataset include some information (i.e. ceasefires and peace agreements) outside this window, it does not follow warring party development beyond this time period. For example, the Algerian rebel group GIA is coded as terminated by low activity in 2003, even though it continued with occasional attacks in 2004 and 2005. By 2010, remaining members of the group had joined AQIM who was still fighting, but since this occurred outside of the window coded in the dataset, this doesn't change the "low activity" outcome.

As UCDP are tracking every violent incident betweeen the warring sides, there are also some instances where occasional violence have occurred after the signing of a ceasefire or a peace agreement *in the same year*, but the following year is registered as a non-conflict. In these cases, the outcome is still the coded

[1] In very few cases, UCDP has not been able to attribute violence to specific organizations, and thus create a single dyad that contain multiple insurgent organizations, e.g. Palestinian insurgents (actor id 202), Non-PLO groups (203), Sikh insurgents (319), Kashmir insurgents (325), Patani insurgents (365), Croatian irregulars (370), Serbian irregulars (371), Syrian insurgents (4456), Ambazonia insurgents (7332).

as the agreement, but the end date may be later than the date of the signing.

Conflicts with multiple dyadic terminations in the same year
As a general rule, a conflict episode and the outcome is determined on the basis of the observation of the last conflict activity in a year. There are, however, two exceptions to this rule.

First, in cases when a conflict ends by a change of control of government but fighting continues for some time with the former regime now coded as a "new" insurgent organization *in the same year*, the conflict-level outcome will be victory for Side B. For example, the NSF are coded as winning the conflict by ousting the Ceausescu regime in Romania on 23 December 1989 but fighting continued until the "Military faction (forces of Nicolae Ceausescu)" was defeated on 25 December. The dyadic outcomes are coded as victory for side B (rebels), and then victory for sida A (government), respectively. In the conflict-level coding, the context of these events are adjusted for in order to code the conflict as ended by victory for side B even though that is not temporally in line with the overall principle.

Second, in cases when a conflict ends with victory or a peace agreement for some conflict dyad, and this is followed by declining violence also in other dyad(s) leading these to "low activity" or "actor ceases to exist" (outcome 5 or 6) in the same year, the conflict level termination is coded as the victory or peace agreement (outcomes 1, 3 or 4). Note, however, that if reports of escalating violence in another dyad after the agreement/victory then the conflict outcome will be determined on the basis of the last active dyad.

The 6 different possible outcomes in the conflict termination dataset:

2.1 1= Peace agreement

A peace agreement, or the first or last in a series of agreements, concerned with resolving or regulating the incompatibility – completely or a central part of – which is signed and/or accepted by all or the main parties active in last year of conflict. The agreement is signed either during the last year of active conflict or the first year of inactivity.

2.2 2= Ceasefire agreement

Ceasefire agreements, or the first or last in a series of agreements, does not include any resolution of the incompatibility. Typically, ceasefires are but con-

cerned with ending the use of force by the warring sides but they can also offer amnesty for participation in the conflict ("guns for peace"). The agreement is signed and/or accepted either during the last year of active conflict or the first year of inactivity. In cases when a ceasefire agreement is immediately followed by a more comprehensive agreement (peace agreement), the latter is considered the main cause of termination.

2.3 3= Victory for Side A (government side)

Side A (the government side) manages to comprehensively defeat or eliminate the opposition, who may succumb to the power of the other through capitulation or public announcement.

2.4 4= Victory for Side B (non-state side)

Side B (the rebel side) manages to oust the government, or comprehensively defeat or eliminate the opposition, who may succumb to the power of the other through capitulation or public announcement.

2.5 5= Low activity

Conflict activity continues but does not reach the UCDP threshold with regards to fatalities. There is no information in this dataset regarding the group-specific circumstance for when fighting reduces to below the UCDP battle-deaths threshold. In some cases it may be because of successful military operations by the counterpart (similar to victory), but it could also be for a strategic reorientation towards the use of nonviolent or nonfatal methods, to explore the possibility of negotiations, organizational reorganization, or intra-rebel fighting, or a combination of these factors.

2.6 6= Actor ceases to exist

This means that conflict activity continues but at least one of the parties ceases to exist or become another conflict actor. For states, this means for example when Hyderabad became incorporated into India in 1948 (ending *Hyderabad (government)* conflict), when Soviet Union no longer included the territory of subsequent Azerbaijan (ending *Soviet Union (Nagorno-Karabakh)* conflict), or when no central government could be identified by UCDP (Somalia in 1996

and 2002). For rebel organizations, changing the party is not simply a name change but an organizational change such as forming an alliance of many rebel groups (such as in El Salvador 1981) or changing territorial aims (such as *Russia (Chechnya)* becoming *Russia (Caucasus Emirate)* in 2008.

3 Variables in the Conflict Termination Datasets

3.1 Unique variables in the Conflict Termination Dataset

dyadep_id
(Only in the Dyadic Dataset)
The unique identifier for each Dyad-specific conflict episode. Constructed as the combination of the dyad_id and dyadepisode variables.

dyadepisode
(Only in the Dyadic Dataset)
A count of the number of episodes have been observed for this dyad.

conflictep_id
(Only in the Conflict Dataset)
The unique identifier for each conflict episode. Constructed as the combination of the conflict_id and conflictepisode variables.

conflictepisode
(Only in the Conflict Dataset)
A count of the number of episodes have been observed for this conflict.

type_of_conflict2
The same conflict episode, or dyadic conflict episode, may include both years where neither side receive secondary support and years when they do. Type 2 thus combine the categories of internal armed conflict and internationalized armed conflict described below.
1. Extrasystemic armed conflict.
2. Interstate armed conflict.
3. Intrastate armed conflict.

dyadcount
This variable provide information about how many different dyads are active in the conflict this year.

dyadterm
(Only in the Dyad Dataset)

Dyadterm is a dummy variable that codes whether a conflict dyad is inactive the following year and a dyad episode thus ends. If the dyad is inactive the following year(s), this variable is coded as 1. If not, a 0 is coded. In the conflict dataset, this variable indicates whether any dyad (but not necessarily all) end in a given year.

confterm

(Only in the Conflict Dataset)
Confterm is a dummy variable that codes whether the conflict is inactive the following year and an episode of the conflict thus ends. If the conflict is inactive the following year(s), this variable is coded as 1. If not, a 0 is coded.

ependdate

The date, as precise as possible, when a dyad or conflict is terminated.

ependprec

The enddate is coded as precisely as possible. For certain conflicts we can pinpoint the termination of the armed conflict down to a single event, taking place on a specific day. For other conflicts, this is not possible, due to lack of precise information. The Endprec (end precision) is coded to highlight the level of certainty for the date set in the Enddate variable.
1= Day, month and year are precisely coded; we have good information on the event.
2= Day is assigned; month and year are precisely coded. The assigned date can either be one of several events that can be classified as the last; it can be the last day in a period when several fatalities have been reported jointly or it can be an event that different sources claim occurred on different dates.
3= Day is unknown; month and year are precisely coded. The day is known to be in a given month, but we are missing information on an exact date. Day is then set to the last day of the month.
4= Month is assigned; year is coded precisely.
5= Day and month are unknown, year is coded precisely.
6= Year is assigned. There is a wide disagreement between different sources, so that not even year can be coded precisely. The end year is assigned based on subjective judgment.
7= Year is missing. No information on the end date is available; Enddate is set to 31 December of the last year recorded in the conflict.

outcome

The coding of outcomes are based on the final year of activity and first year of non-activity. While the dataset include some information (i.e. ceasefires and peace agreements) outside this window, it does not follow warring party development beyond this time period.
1= Peace agreement
2= Ceasefire
3= Victory for Side A /Government Side

4= Victory for Side B /Non-State Side
5= Low activity (less than 25 battle-deaths)
6= Actor ceases to exist

cfiredate
(Only in the Dyad Dataset)
The date, as precise as possible, when a ceasefire is concluded or publicly announced by the parties. In the case of multiple ceasefires with no subsequent fighting, the date listed is of the first agreement.

peagdate
(Only in the Dyad Dataset)
The date, as precise as possible, when a peace agreement is signed or publicly announced by the parties. In so-called peace process agreements, the date observed is either (a) the date of the concluding (last) agreement or (b) the date of the (first) agreement that establishes the process.

recur
A dichotomous measure that this observation is a recurrence of a conflict/dyad which have experienced an spell of non-conflict.

version
The version of the dataset.

3.2 Variables taken from the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict/UCDP Dyadic datasets

For more explanations and information of these variables, please see Pettersson (N.d.).

conflict_id
The unique conflict ID, taken from the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset.

dyad_id
(Only in the Dyad Dataset)
The unique dyad ID, taken from the UCDP Dyadic Dataset.

year
The year of the observation.

location
The location of the conflict, taken from the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict and UCDP Dyadic Dataset. Location is defined as the government side of a conflict,

and should not be interpreted as the geographical location of the conflict.
For internal and internationalized internal conflicts only one country name is listed. This is the country whose government or territory is disputed. For certain conflicts, such as Kurdistan, the disputed territory is divided between different countries. Following our definition, we have coded separate conflicts for each country.
For interstate conflict, both primary parties are listed in the Location field. Even if several governments are involved in the conflict, only countries that fulfill the inclusion criteria for primary actors are listed here. This normally means that two countries are listed, but there are three notable exceptions: In the Arab-Israeli war of 1948–49 as well as the Suez war of 1956 and the war in Iraq in 2003, there are more than two primary parties to the conflict.
For extrastate conflicts, Location is set to be the disputed area, not the government of the colonial power. 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.

side_a
The first primary party to the conflict, taken from the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset. Side A is by definition always a primary party to the conflict. In internal conflicts, side A is always the government side, it is one of the sides in interstate conflicts and the colonial state in extrastate conflicts.

side_a_id
Side A ID is the unique identifier of the actor on side A in the conflict, as specified by the UCDP Actor Dataset (Pettersson et al. 2021).

side_a_2nd
The state which contribute with troops to actively support Side A in the conflict.

side_b
The second primary party to the conflict during the conflict episode, taken from the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict or UCDP Dyadic Dataset. Like Side A, Side B is by definition a primary party to the conflict. Side B is the opposition side of all internal and extrastate conflicts and the second side in an interstate conflict. Thus, side B can include both states and non-governmental opposition groups, depending on the type of conflict.
When the primary party listed on Side B is an opposition group, the column lists the group name in abbreviated form. Even if the group changes its name during the course of the conflict we record them under the same name for all years. See the UCDP Actor Dataset for the full name and name history of opposition groups.

side_b_id

Side B ID is the unique identifier of the actor on side A in the conflict, as specified by the UCDP Actor Dataset (Pettersson et al. 2021).

side_b_2nd
The state which contribute with troops to actively support Side B in the conflict.

incompatibility
The incompatibility for the conflict, taken from the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict and UCDP Dyadic Dataset. The stated incompatibility is what the parties claim to be fighting over.
1= Territory
2= Government
3= Government and Territory

territory_name
The specified contested territory for conflicts over territory, taken from the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict and UCDP Dyadic Dataset. In case the two sides use different names for the disputed territory, the name listed is the one used by the opposition organization.

intensity_level
The intensity variable is coded in two categories:
1. Minor: between 25 and 999 battle-related deaths in a given year.
2. War: at least 1,000 battle-related deaths in a given year.

type_of_conflict
UCDP define four types of conflict:
1. Extrasystemic armed conflict occurs between a state and a non-state group outside its own territory. (In the COW project, extrasystemic war is subdivided into colonial war and imperial war, but this distinction is not used here.) These conflicts are by definition territorial, since the government side is fighting to retain control of a territory outside the state system.
2. Interstate armed conflict occurs between two or more states.
3.Internal armed conflict occurs between the government of a state and one or more internal opposition group(s) without intervention from other states.
4. Internationalized internal armed conflict occurs between the government of a state and one or more internal opposition group(s) with intervention from other states (secondary parties) on one or both sides.

start_date
The date of the first battle-related death recorded in the conflict is coded as the Startdate in the dataset. The date is set after the conflict fulfils all criteria required in the definition of an armed conflict, except for the number of deaths. In some cases, the initial fatality occurs in a year prior to the first year of activity. For instance, in the conflict in Ethiopia over the territory Eritrea, the first battle-related deaths occurred in September 1961. During the remaining

months of 1961, the conflict did not reach the required total of 25 battle-related deaths and the conflict is thus coded as inactive in 1961. 25 battle-related deaths in a year were not recorded until three years later

start_prec

The Startdate is coded as precisely as possible. For certain conflicts we can pinpoint the start of the armed conflict down to a single event, taking place on a specific day. For other conflicts, this is not possible, due to lack of precise information. Startprec (start precision) is coded to highlight the level of certainty for the date set in the Startdate variable.
1= Day, month and year are precisely coded; we have good information on the event.
2= Day is assigned; month and year are precisely coded. The assigned date can either be one of several events that can be classified as the first; it can be the last day in a period when several fatalities have been reported jointly or it can be an event that different sources claim occurred on different dates.
3= Day is unknown; month and year are precisely coded. The day is known to be in a given month, but we are missing information on an exact date. Day is then set to the first day of the month.
4= Month is assigned; year is coded precisely. Day is set as the first day of the assigned month.
5= Day and month are unknown, year is coded precisely. Day and month are set as the 1 January of the coded year.
6= Year is assigned. There is a wide disagreement between different sources, so that not even year can be coded precisely. The start year is assigned based on subjective judgment.
7= Year is missing. No information on the start date is available; Startdate is set to 1 January of the first year recorded in the conflict.

start_date2

Startdate2 provide information about the date when a conflict episode reach 25 battle-related deaths in a calendar year, thus indicating the date that all criteria required in the definition of armed conflict are fulfilled.

start_prec2

The level of certainty for the coding of StartDate2.
1= Day, month and year are precisely coded; we have good information on the event.
2= Day is assigned; month and year are precisely coded. The assigned date can either be one of several events that can be classified as the first; it can be the last day in a period when several fatalities have been reported jointly or it can be an event that different sources claim occurred on different dates.
3= Day is unknown; month and year are precisely coded. The day is known to be in a given month, but we are missing information on an exact date. Day is then set to the first day of the month.
4= Month is assigned; year is coded precisely. Day is set as the first day of the

assigned month.
5= Day and month are unknown, year is coded precisely. Day and month are set as the 1 January of the coded year.
6= Year is assigned. There is a wide disagreement between different sources, so that not even year can be coded precisely. The start year is assigned based on subjective judgment.
7= Year is missing. No information on the start date is available; Startdate is set to 1 January of the first year recorded in the conflict.

gwno_loc
To facilitate analytical use of the dataset, country codes for the location of the incompatibility are listed in this field. For extrasystemic conflicts, these constitute the contested territory; for international conflicts, both warring sides are listed; while for internal conflicts, this is the country code of the government that is challenged. The country codes are taken from Gleditsch and Ward (2007).

region
The region of the incompatibility: 1 = Europe (GWNo: 200-399) 2= Middle East (GWNo: 630-699) 3= Asia (GWNo: 700-999) 4= Africa (GWNo: 400-626) 5= Americas (GWNo: 2-199).

3.3 Missing Data

The dataset does not include any missing data codes. This should not lead anyone to assume that there are no such problems. A number of conflicts have been recorded as possible in accordance with the criteria for inclusion. Similarly, additional years might have been listed for those conflicts that are included, although so far UCDP have failed to find sufficient evidence for inclusion. These observations are currently coded as absence of conflict.
The data coders have made a decision whether there was an active conflict according to the definition for all countries for all years they are independent after 1945. This does not mean there are no uncertainties regarding the coding, and the UCDP maintains a list of unclear cases (Kreutz 2015).

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