Associated Document for the Militarized Interstate Dispute Data, Version 3.0
April 14, 2003

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The Pennsylvania State University
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This document is meant to supplement the documentation of the Militarized Interstate Dispute data set found in Daniel M. Jones, Stuart A. Bremer, and J. David Singer, "Militarized Disputes, 1816-1992: Rationale Coding Rules and Empirical Patterns," *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, Vol. 15, 1996, and in "The Coding of Militarized Interstate Dispute Data, Version 3.0," Faten Ghosn and Glenn Palmer, dated April 14, 2003. Unless otherwise noted below, no significant changes in coding rules were made between the generation of the MID 2.1 and MID 3.0 data sets. Version 3.0 contains all militarized interstate disputes from January 1, 1816 through December 31, 2001.

The MID 3.0 Project was supported by individual but coordinated grants from the National Science Foundation. We are extremely grateful for that support.

The MID 3.0 project began in the summer of 2000 and data entry was largely completed in late 2002. The goal of the project was to record every threat, display, or use of force between or among members of the interstate system between January 1, 1993 and December 31, 2001. Data from 1993 through 2001 were then merged with data from version 2.1 of the data set (which covered 1816-1992). There were eleven primary investigators associated with the project, each of whom was responsible for coding the disputes in a particular geographic region. Those primary investigators were:

Paul Diehl, University of Illinois
Daniel Geller, University of Mississippi
Doug Gibler, University of Kentucky
Charles Gochman, University of Pittsburgh
Paul Hensel, Florida State University
Zeev Maoz, Tel Aviv University
Glenn Palmer, Penn State University
Brian Pollins, Ohio State University
James Lee Ray, Vanderbilt University
Patrick Regan, Binghamton University
Richard Stoll, Rice University

Data were checked and processed under direction of the late Stuart A. Bremer at Penn State University through the summer of 2002. Faten Ghosn and Glenn Palmer completed the work.

NEW VARIABLES IN THE MID 3.0 DATA

There are several new variables in the MID 3.0 data sets, and some minor changes in previously existing ones.

MIDA (Dispute Level):

Variable 11: Precise Fatalities

If the number of battle fatalities is known, it is reported here. -9 indicates the number is unknown. Since the precise number of fatalities was not coded in MID 2.1, this value is missing for disputes prior to 1993 unless that number is known to be zero.

Variable 14: Highest action in dispute.

There are two changes in this variable from the MID 2.1 data.

-Category 16, Attack, was referred to as a "raid" in MID 2.1

-The MID 2.1 data set distinguished shows of force, specifically between shows of troops, ships, and planes. MID 3.0 makes no such distinction. Researchers interested in the effects of those different categories of action are invited to use the MID 2.1 data set.

Variables 19-21: Links

These variables indicate what the three most proximate disputes or wars, if any, are related, or "linked," to the dispute in question. Numbers in these variables refer to the dispute numbers, unless ending with a "w", in which case the reference is to a COW war number.

Variable 22: Ongoing?

This dummy variable indicates whether the dispute was continuing as of December 31, 2001, the last date for which information for the 3.0 data was gathered. There are three disputes coded as ongoing.

MIDB (MID Participant Level):

Variables 12 and 13: Revision Type #1 and #2.

MID 3.0 allows for the coding of two types of revisions sought by the states involved in a dispute. Variable 12 reflects the most important issue, and Variable 13 (if relevant) the second most important issue.

In MID 2.1, at most one issue was coded for each participant. Variable 13 is therefore coded as missing for disputes prior to 1993.

Variable 15: Precise Fatalities

If the number of battle fatalities is known, it is reported here. -9 indicates the number is unknown. Since the precise number of fatalities was not coded in MID 2.1, this value is missing for disputes prior to 1993 unless that number is known to be zero.

Variable 16: Highest action in dispute.

There are two changes in this variables form the MID 2.1 data.

-Category 16, Attack, was referred to as a "raid" in MID 2.1

-The MID 2.1 data set distinguished shows of force, specifically between shows of troops, ships, and planes. The newer version makes no such distinction. Researchers interested in the effects of those different categories of action are invited to use the MID 2.1 data set.

DATA NOTES

Number and Distribution of MIDs

For the period 1993-2001, we have recorded a total of 290 militarized disputes. The distribution of disputes by the beginning years is shown in the following table.

Distribution of Disputes by Year

Start Year	Number of Disputes
1993	33
1994	37
1995	36
1996	33
1997	37
1998	21
1999	33
2000	27
2001	33

Specific Conflicts

Some prominent uses of force in the 1993-2001 may attract particular attention, and we discuss some of those in this section.

The fighting in Bosnia from 1992-1995 is not coded as an interstate war. Yugoslav regular troops appear to have been completely withdrawn from Bosnia perhaps as early as May, 1992. The fighting between Bosnian regulars and the Bosnian-Serbs, which continued through December, 1995, thus does not qualify the conflict as an interstate war.

Fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh between Armenia and Azerbaijan from 1992-1995 (MID 3564) is coded as an interstate war between those two countries. This is consistent with the MID 2.1 data. The MID also has Russia and Turkey involved, but they do not qualify as war participants according to the coding rules.

The conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea from 1998 through 2000 is coded as a war. That the battle-death threshold was passed in this conflict appears certain. This is MID 4258.

Fighting in the Democratic Republic of Congo, 1998-2000, is coded as an interstate war. The MID that has this war – 4339 – is coded as ending June 3, 2001, six months after the last militarized incident following the signing of a peace treaty in 2000.

Fighting between India and Pakistan, May through July1999, is coded as an interstate war. According to sources, there were slightly more than 1000 battle fatalities. Note that the dispute leading to this war, 4007, is coded as beginning in September, 1993.

The "NATO" bombing of Yugoslavia in 1999 over Kosovo is coded as having caused between 501 and 999 battle fatalities, and thus not qualifying as an interstate war under the Correlates of War coding rules. While large numbers of Yugoslav regular troops were killed in the bombing campaign, we found no satisfactory information that the 1000-battle death threshold was reached. It is possible that sources of information will become available that will lead to a change in coding. This is MID 4137.

The war in Afghanistan, 2001, is MID 4283. It appears certain that Afghan military fatalities were greater than 1000.

Updated disputes

Nine disputes (3551, 3552, 3555, 3556, 3557, 3561, 3564, 3568, and 3974) that were on-going as of 12/31/92 have been updated. As a result, there are some changes in start dates and end dates. Three of the disputes have additional changes.

-3551 has been altered so that Belgium, the Netherlands and Rumania are now coded as participants. Further, Yugoslavia is now coded as having reciprocated that dispute.

-3552 has had Russia and Saudi Arabia added as participants.

-3568 has three new participants: the United States, United Kingdom, and France.

Deleted Dispute

One dispute, 3575 in MID 2.1, was removed from the MID 3.0 data set. Papua New Guinea launched a raid against the Solomon Islands on March 12, 1992. Subsequently, Papua New Guinea apologized for the raid, said that it was not authorized and promised to pay compensation. That apology is sufficient for us to delete the dispute.

Questions about specific MIDs

Researchers who have questions about specific disputes (either from the 2.1 or the 3.0 data set) are encouraged to communicate with Glenn Palmer (gpalmer@psu.edu).

Future Update to the MID 3.0 data set

We anticipate the release of an updated MID adapt set (3.1) that reflects changes and corrections to MID 3.0.

FORTHCOMING DATA SETS AND INFORMATION

We anticipate releasing a number of data sets over the course of the next several months. Here we provide very short descriptions of what information will be in those data sets.

MID C will contain names for many of the disputes. This data will probably be released later in 2003.

MID D will contain records for the militarized incidents (specific threats, displays, or uses of force) that comprise the disputes. During the project, we gathered each militarized incident between members of the interstate system. These incidents were then aggregated into disputes, and that information is contained in MID A and MID B. The release of MID D is scheduled for early summer, 2003.

MID E will contain information regarding the participants in the incidents. This data set will be released the same time MID D is released.

MID F will contain narratives about the disputes and notes about specific coding decisions. This data will be available in 2003.

MID G will contain narratives about the incidents and notes about specific coding decision. This data will be available in 2003.

The Dyadic Dispute Dataset, similar to Zeev Maoz' "Dyadic Militarized Interstate Disputes (DYMID1.0)," will be released shortly. In this data set, each record will constitute a dyadic dispute year. We expect this data to be released before the end of summer, 2003.

MID3 Forum: An extensive record of discussions among the participants in the project at every stage will become available on the COW2 website at a later date. That discussion, which was open to the public, addresses questions about the application of the coding rules to specific events, clarifications of the meaning and intent of coding rules, and other issues. We will announce the availability of that record.