The NAVCO Data Project: Version Histories

Compiled by Erica Chenoweth, last updated 5 November 2019

The Nonviolent and Violent Campaigns and Outcomes (NAVCO) data project is the first of its kind to collect systematic data on both violent insurgencies and nonviolent civil resistance campaigns. The coverage is global but is excluded to maximalist campaigns (i.e. those seeking to overthrow an incumbent government, expel a foreign military occupation, or secede). The dataset includes information on whether the resistance campaign succeeded or failed, the campaign's resistance strategies, how many people participated, how security forces behaved, whether the government or campaign received external assistance, and degrees of state repression against the campaign and its participants.

NAVCO now has multiple published versions, as well as several others in progress (see Table 1).

Table 1: Versions of NAVCO

Version	Scope	Unit of Analysis	Spatial Coverage	Temporal Coverage	Associated Publication / Citation
SERIES 1					
NAVCO 1.0	323 Maximalist campaigns	Campaign	Global	1900-2006	Stephan & Chenoweth 2008
NAVCO 1.1	323 Maximalist campaigns	Campaign	Global	1900-2006	Chenoweth & Stephan 2011
NAVCO 1.2	389 Maximalist campaigns	Campaign	Global	1945-2014	Chenoweth & Shay 2019
NAVCO 1.3	600+ Maximalist campaigns	Campaign	Global	1900-2019	Chenoweth & Shay in progress (release expected 2020)
SERIES 2					
NAVCO 2.0	250 Maximalist campaigns	Campaign-year	Global	1946-2006	Chenoweth & Lewis 2013
NAVCO 2.1	384 Maximalist campaigns	Campaign-year	Global	1945-2013	Chenoweth & Shay 2019
NAVCO 2.2	500+ Maximalist campaigns	Campaign-year	Global	1945-2019	Chenoweth & Shay in progress (release expected early 2020)
SERIES 3					
NAVCO 3.0	100,000+ Politically relevant events	Event-day	26 countries	1990-2011	Chenoweth, Lewis & Pinckney 2018

NAVCO 1 Series – Campaign Data

NAVCO 1.0 was first published in 2008 along with the article "Why Civil Resistance Works" by Maria Stephan and Erica Chenoweth. The 1.0 version of the data includes a consensus list of 323 major campaigns from 1900 to 2006. The data were updated with minor corrections, and the 1.1 version of NAVCO was published in 2011 along with the book *Why Civil Resistance Works* by Erica Chenoweth and Maria Stephan.

NAVCO 1.2, published at the project dataverse by Erica Chenoweth and Christopher Wiley Shay, consists of 389 campaigns, updates the postwar data through the end of 2014, and adds new cases that were discovered through additional research.

What's next:

Chenoweth and Shay will release NAVCO 1.3, which covers over 600 campaigns from 1900-2019, in early 2020.

Selected publications associated with NAVCO 1:

- Erica Chenoweth and Maria J. Stephan, *Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict* (Columbia University Press, August 2011).
- Maria J. Stephan and Erica Chenoweth, "Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict," *International Security*, Vol. 33, No. 1 (Summer 2008).
- Erica Chenoweth and Kurt Schock, "Do Contemporaneous Armed Challenges Affect the Outcomes of Mass Nonviolent Campaigns?" *Mobilization: An International Quarterly, Vol. 20, No. 4* (December 2015).
- Erica Chenoweth, *Women's Participation and the Fate of Nonviolent Campaigns: A Report on the Women in Resistance (WiRe) Dataset* (One Earth Future Foundation, October 2019).

NAVCO 2 Series – Campaign-Year Data

In 2013, Erica Chenoweth and Orion Lewis introduced the NAVCO 2 data series with the release of NAVCO 2.0—an updated and expanded version of the data that covered 250 campaigns from 1945-2006. In the NAVCO 2 series, the data are disaggregated at the annual level, so that researchers can track changes in the campaign over time. Moreover, each annual observation includes a host of new variables, ranging from the campaign's observed participation size to the diversity of participation to the opponent's response to third-party support to the strategic progress of the campaign.

NAVCO 2.1, which Erica Chenoweth collected with Christopher Wiley Shay, covers campaign-year data for 384 campaigns that set on from 1945-2013. NAVCO 2.1 adds new campaigns, corrects known coding errors and omissions, and adds several new variables, including aggregate participation counts, fatality ranges, and a nuanced set of variables regarding violent flanks. It codes the campaign's outcomes as of 2014. The data, project codebook, and description are available at the project dataverse.

What's next:

In 2020, Chenoweth & Shay plan to release NAVCO 2.2, which updates campaign-year data on well over 500 campaigns through 2019.

Selected publications associated with NAVCO 2:

- Erica Chenoweth and Orion A. Lewis, "Unpacking Nonviolent Campaigns: Introducing the NAVCO 2.0 Dataset," *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 50, No. 3 (May 2013).
- Erica Chenoweth, "Backfire in Action: Insights from Nonviolent Campaigns from 1946-2006," in Lee Smithey and Lester Kurtz, eds. *The Paradox of Repression and Nonviolent Social Movements* (Syracuse University Press, May 2018).

NAVCO 3 Series – Nonviolent Event Data

Erica Chenoweth, Orion Lewis, and Jonathan Pinckney introduced the NAVCO 3 series in 2018. NAVCO 3.0 reports daily resistance events in 26 countries from 1990-2011, with a variety of indicators such as the type, scope, and category of each event.

What's next:

Further versions in the 3.0 series are not expected at this time.

Selected publications associated with NAVCO 3:

- Erica Chenoweth, Orion A. Lewis, and Jonathan Pinckney, "Days of Rage: Introducing the NAVCO 3.0 Dataset," *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 55, No. 4 (July 2018).

How the Data Are Collected

To collect these data, our team has relied on a variety of open sources—from news reports to books to consultation with area experts. But the source materials vary by the series and version, so check out the associated articles & their appendices for detailed information.

The growth of these new data sources is an exciting development in this critical field of study. We hope that the publication of this data will spark new scholarly work that will continue to improve our understanding of this important avenue of political change.

Get the Data

To get the data, go to http://www.navcodata.org/.

Report an Error

Corrections and additions are welcome. Just submit your feedback using the Report an Error link.

Project Sponsors and Supporters

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whose main goal is to spread knowledge about the theory and practice of civil resistance. Additional project supporters include:

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