TERRITORIAL CHANGE CODING MANUAL

The territorial change dataset is the result of the effort to identify and code all territorial changes involving at least one nation-state (as defined by the Correlates of War project) for the period 1816-2008. A descriptive analysis of these data is given in Goertz and Diehl (1992).

This manual presents the different dimensions on which the changes are coded. Criteria for inclusion and exclusion and the various coding categories are also defined.

Data in the file are in fixed-width ASCII format, in the following order.

Year
Month
Gaining Side
Type of Change for Gaining State
Procedure
Entity Exchanged
Contiguity of Unit Exchanged to the Gaining State
Area of Unit Exchanged in Square Kilometers
Population of Unit Exchanged
Portion of Unit Exchanged
Losing Side
Type of Change for Losing State
Contiguity of Unit Exchanged to the Losing State
System Entry
System Exit
Territorial Change Number
Independence
Military Conflict

Note: Missing data or irrelevant variables are signaled by a negative nine ("-9").

Variables

States and Political Entities: In order to make the project of coding all territorial changes feasible, it is necessary to delimit in various dimensions the universe of possible cases.

The *temporal domain* begins in 1816 and ends in 2008.

The *spatial domain* excludes areas north of the Arctic Circle and south of the Antarctic Circle because there are conflicting claims, no effective occupation, and the major power states do not recognize claims on these areas. The spatial domain is also limited to changes in territory involving at least one nation-state as defined by the Correlates of War project. Territorial

changes occurring outside this system of states (e.g. the Secession of the United States of Central America from Mexico) are not included.

Non-nation-states according to the Correlates of War definition as well as nation-states are called *political entities;* these are given code numbers following the Correlates of War coding scheme. In all but a few cases the territory exchanged had some generally accepted name; when it did not, the nation number is 001.

For each territorial change the *gaining country,* the *losing* country, and the *territory exchanged* are identified. There may be various combinations of states and non-state political entities, with the only requirement being that either the gaining or the losing country is a recognized Correlates of War state.

One coding problem is the colonial division of Africa. During the late l9th century, the colonial powers often drew lines on maps to decide which territories would belong to which state, but these were not treated as representing territorial changes unless the territory was actuary occupied by European powers.

Independence: Because cases of territories becoming independent are a rather special kind of territorial change, a special variable indicates these cases. This does not necessarily mean that the territory becomes a recognized state of the international system, but rather that the colonial power no longer has control.

Independence refers to the termination of colonial rule over a dependency. This termination must involve the former dependency's attaining effective control over its own foreign affairs and armed forces as wed as achieving some measure of diplomatic recognition. The latter requirement meant, for example, that Rhodesia is not recognized as changing hands through independence until 1980.

Independences are coded as "1," with "0" denoting all other cases

Territorial Change Number: Each territorial change is given a number (arbitrary) that allows it to be unambiguously identified.

Date of the Territorial Change: The date of the territorial change is also recorded. In most cases the year provides no real problem. The main exception is in the case of Russia, where territories are given as being gained by Russia over a period of years. In such cases the final year of that period is used as the date of the entire acquisition. The month, however, is often not ascertained, and in such cases "-9" is coded as the month. There is also some uncertainty as to when some territorial changes actually occurred. Some changes, for example, occur during wartime and are then confirmed after hostilities have been ended by a peace treaty. The rule is to use the date of a treaty as the date when the territorial change actually occurred. If no treaty was involved in the change, then the date (a) when action to take the territorial ceased, (b) a plebiscite occurred, or (c) an act of annexation took place is used as the date of transfer.

Africa presented a second problem as well. In many cases the acquisition of colonial territory occurred piecemeal, involving many minor campaigns. Since it would be virtually impossible to trace accurately, for example, the gradual encroachment of the Portuguese into Angola, the results of these acquisitions are thus coded as a single change. If there was an official proclamation, then the date of this is used as the date of the change.

Type of Territory Exchanged: There are two basic types of territory exchanged: changes of homeland territory, and changes of dependent territory. We code these as "0" for dependent territory and "1" for homeland territory. This was done for both the gaining and losing side as separate variables.

Process of Territorial Change: The process of territorial change includes six possible procedures:

1. Conquest
2. Annexation
3. Cession
4. Secession
5. Unification
6. Mandated territory

Conquest occurs when armed force is the primary agent of the territorial change. It is possible that the conquest tools place with a bare minimum of force and no organized military resistance was encountered. In this case the change is coded as involving no military conflict. Conquests which occurred during ongoing wars are not included at all in the dataset, unless they become permanent after the war.

Annexation occurs when one political entity unilaterally extends its sovereignty over another political entity when the primary agent of change is diplomacy, although the implied threat of force may be involved.

Cession occurs when part of a political entity is yielded to another entity through plebiscite, purchase, compensating agreement, or as a consequence of hostilities. If the cession was total, then the change is coded as a "conquest."

Secession refers to the dissolution of an existing end as a result of one or more parts of the entity leaving it in order to establish themselves as new independent entities. Attempts by dependencies to gain independence are not included under secession even if the mother country considers such dependencies to be part of the metropole (e.g. Angola or Algeria).

Unification refers to the formation of a new political entity out of two or more pre-existing entities.

A *Mandated Territory is* a territorial unit that is placed under the control of another political entity by the League of Nations or the United Nations.

This variable may not always be applicable, most frequently for independences, in which case it is coded “-9”.

Military Conflict: A major focus of interest in these data is the comparison between those cases that involved violence. This is coded if there was military conflict between organized forces of *both* sides. Unorganized violence, such as riots, is not so classified. This variable is coded "1" for military conflict and "0" for no military conflict.

Portion of the Territory Exchanged: "Portion of unit exchanged" indicates whether part or all of the unit being transferred was involved in the exchange. A "0" means that part of the unit was transferred, a "1" indicates that the entire unit was involved in the exchange, and a "-9" means that this could not be determined.

Contiguity: Contiguity is also coded in the dataset. Two political entities are said to be territorially contiguous to one another if they have either a common land boundary or are separated by a body of water not exceeding 150 statute miles (241 kilometers) in width. This variable indicates whether or not the unit exchanged is contiguous to the two entities involved in the exchange, with "1" indicating contiguous and "0" indicating non-contiguous. A "-9" means that the case involves independence and therefore the territory is in effect contiguous to itself. There are two separate variables, one for the gaining state and one for the losing state.

Population and Area of the Territory: The area of the unit exchanged is recorded as is its population, with area in square kilometers. Population data were not available for every change. Data on the area of the territory were established for every territorial change, with maps being occasionally used to estimate the value. A few unaccounted for cases were small in size, for which one square kilometer is entered as the area

System Enter and Exit: Some states become independent without entering the international system and some states *enter* directly into the system without any territorial change taking place. In the latter case, we have added a separate file to the dataset indicating this. When states *exit* the system this usually involves a territorial change, but in any case these two kinds of events are coded separately. Also, data on the area and population of the original members of the system in 1816 are entered to provide a baseline for initializing the system as well as these states as of this time. These are coded "1" for entry or exit, "-9" otherwise.

Sources: The major source utilized for gathering information concerning many of the territorial changes before 1965 was Langer's *Encyclopedia of World History.* Sources consulted for the post-1965 changes and for some of the pre-1965 exchanges include the *Statesman's Yearbook, The World Almanac, Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations,* and *Webster's Geographical Dictionary.* Palmer's *Historical Atlas of the World* was particularly useful since its maps chart changes in Latin America, Africa, and the regions of Russia in the Caucasus and Central Asia. The pieces of territory shown on his maps were often acquired in campaigns not mentioned by Langer or even by most Russian history books.

Several sources were used to gather the data for the area and population of exchanged territories. *Statesman's Yearbook was* used as much as possible, especially for population data since it is published yearly. But because it only dates back to 1870, *Almanac de Gotha* was used for earlier changes. Other almanacs such as *Information Please* and the *World Almanac* were also

consulted. Sometimes the source used to ascertain the fact of change also presented area and/or population data for the territory in question. Other sources for population data include the *Worldrnark Encyclopedia of Nations, Encyclopedia Britannica, Political Handbook of the World, Webster's Geographical Dictionary,* and *Keesing's Archives.* These same sources were used for change.

Publications Using Territorial Change Dataset

Goertz Gary and Paul Diehl (1992) *Territorial Changes and International Conflict.* London: Routledge.

— and — (1990) "Territorial changes and recurring conflict." Pp. 57-72 in *Prisoners of War? Nation-States in* the *Modern Era*, ed. Charles Gochman and Alan Sabrosky. Lexington, Mass.: Lexington Books.

— and — (1989) "A territorial history of the international system." *International Interactions* 15,1: 81-93.

Diehl, Paul and Gary Goertz (1991a) "Entering international society: military conflict and national independence, 1816-1980." *Comparative Political Studies* 23,4: 497-518.

— and — (1988) "Territorial changes and militarized conflict." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 32,1: 103-122.

— and — (1991c) "Interstate conflict over exchanges of homeland territory, 1816-1980." *Political Geography Quarterly.*, 10, 4: 342-355.

— and — (1991d) "Cambiamenti Territoriali e Conflitti del Futuro (Territorial changes and future international conflict)" *Relazioni Internazionali*, 55: 22-33.

Reprints and copies of forthcoming articles available from Paul Diehl at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

APPENDIX A: Corrections to the Data Made in the Update in 2000 (the release of v.3.0 that extended the data till 2000)

Reconciling the State and Entity Codes with the COW Entities list codes.

Corrections to state / entity code 1

According to the original Territorial Change code book, 1 signifies "no political entity". In the COW Entities list, 1 is the UN, and there is no code for "no political entity". So every number 1 under the ENTITY and LOSER variables was replaced with a -9. There are 7 cases where ENTITY is coded 1, and 135 where LOSER is coded 1.

Corrections to state code 998

The original TC data set used code 998 to represent the UN and the League of Nations. According to the COW Entities list, the League is 0 and the UN is 1. The corrected entries are listed below, indexed by case number.

Number	Corrections	
377	gainer 200	gaintype 0
547	gainer 0	gaintype -9
603	gainer 1	gaintype -9
604	gainer 1	gaintype –9
605	gainer 1	
606	gainer 1	
624	gainer 1	gaintype –9
625	gainer 1	gaintype –9
626	gainer 1	gaintype –9
627	gainer 1	gaintype –9
447	loser 200	
542	loser 0	losetype –9
638	loser 1	losetype –9
652	loser 1	losetype –9
653	loser 1	losetype –9
654	loser 1	losetype –9
658	loser 1	losetype –9
659	loser 1	losetype –9
665	loser 1	
666	loser 1	
672	loser 1	losetype -9

Changes to entity codes

The following changes to the ENTITY variable were made to bring the original TC codings in line with the current entities list. The first column is the original code number, the second is the entity name, and last is the corrected code that should replace the old one.

Data list	Entity	Corrected code
163	Falkland Islands	1163

239	Oldenburg	257	
249	Heligoland	2249	
295	Crakow	2292	
347	Herzegovina	3462	
353	Aegean Is.	3353	
476	Lagos/Southern Nigeria	4781	
477	Northern Nigeria	4784	
582	Mayotte	5812	
592	UK Indian Oc. Terr.	5920	
597	French Antarctic Terr.	9970	
598	Heard McDonald Is.	9005	
599	Bouvet	9993	
695	Trucial Oman		696
773	Kashmir	7507	
774	Sind	7693	
818	Cochin China		8151
825	Labuan	8231	
881	Cocos Is.	9002	
942	Nauru	970	
952	Wallis and Futuna Is.		9321
965	Easter Island	1151	
989	Tokelau Is.	9201	
992	Wake	9720	
993	Midway Is.	9730	
995	Johnson Is.	9750	
996	Kingman Reef	9760	

Corrections to Loser and Gainer codes

Number	Corrections	
87	loser 7693	
98	loser 2292	
106	loser 7507	
182	loser 257	
305	entity 9452	
687	entity 9002	loser 200
759	gainer 970	
770	gainer 696	
779	gainer 696	

Changes made to specific cases

Duplicate Cases

(1) Case number 771 is a duplicate of case 770, so case 771 was deleted.

(2) The territorial change following the invasion of Cyprus in 1974 (case 789) is now coded as a military conflict.

(3) Case number 244 was found to be an accidental duplicate of case 243 (1878 exchange between the Ottoman Empire and Rumania), so case 244 was deleted.

(4) Case number 105 uses the code 772 for both the loser and entity. In the original TC data, 772 is "Punjab". There is no code for Punjab in the COW Entities list. So the loser and entity variables for case 105 were coded as missing. The addition of Punjab to the COW entity list will allow the correction of this case in the future.

APPENDIX B: Changes to the Data Made in the Update on January 13, 2010 (the release of v.4.0 that extended the data till 2008)

The following changes were made in the territorial change data set from version 3.0 to the present version 4.0:

1. Missing data for the month of the territorial change were filled in for 52 cases.

2. Missing data for the population of the territorial change were filled in for 15 cases.

3. The data were updated to include the 2001-2008 period and 7 cases of territorial change were added.

4. Two cases from the pre-2001 period were identified and added to the data set.

APPENDIX C: Changes to the Data Made in the Update on April 12, 2010 (the release of v.4.01)

1. Two African cases were corrected.

2. The missing values for the version variable were filled in.