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PROJECT ON VIOLENT CONFLICT

Big Allied and Dangerous (BAAD) Dataset Version 2.00

Insurgency and Crime Release

May not be used for commercial purposes

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Big Allied and Dangerous Project History

The Big Allied and Dangerous I (BAAD1) has its roots in the summer of 2005 as a project led by Dr. Victor Asal and Dr. Karl Rethemeyer that sought to build a database containing organizational and network variables for modern terrorist organizations both domestically and internationally. The two coders who performed this task were Ian Anderson and Nick Ference. This original dataset contained information from 1998-2004. The main source for BAAD1, the Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism's Terrorism Knowledge Base (MIPT-TKB), was the only data source available that had information on both international and domestic terrorist organizations and attacks. Because MIPT-TKB's coverage began in 1998, the BAAD1 dataset also began in 1998.

Once MIPT-TKB was converted into structured data, it became apparent that there were important holes, so an effort went forward to find information to complete the dataset as best as possible using other academic sources and datasets like ITERATE, GTD, and Military Balance. Eventually enough data was gathered that Dr. Karl Rethemeyer was able to perform a network analysis on the relational data. The first question examined was what factors led to increased lethality of terrorist organizations. Size and network connections came forward as two of the most important factors. Thus Big Allied and Dangerous Version 1 (BAAD1) became the name of this first dataset, which eventually contained information on terrorist organizations active in the period 1998-2005. Much of this research was funded through the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), a Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence established at the University of Maryland after the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001. However, the BAAD1 was not time-series, as it provided only one snapshot of the period 1998-2005. Without time-series

Thus Big Allied and Dangerous Version 2 (BAAD2), work on which began in January 2008, is the continuation of this project that seeks to provide time series data by breaking out into yearly time slices for an 19 year period from 1998-2016. BAAD2 started fresh in terms of coding instead of drawing primarily on the semantic data from MIPT-TKB data. BAAD2's starting point – its inclusion criteria – was also much more expansive. BAAD2 seeks to code information on every terrorist entity recorded in the Global Terrorism Database, each insurgent entity in the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) Battle Deaths dataset, and each terrorist or insurgent entity that has sought a weapon of mass destruction and is recorded in the Profiles of Incidents Involving CBRN Use by Non-state Actors (POICN) database. BAAD2 also began *de novo* with respect to coding, relying on multiple sources, primarily academic and news sources. In order to accomplish this time series element, the Lexis Nexis guided news search of terrorist organizations was a key aspect, though various projects have also funded automated and computer-assisted efforts to code data. BAAD2 also includes many more variables than the original BAAD1, including network coding of rivalrous relationships.

Over the years, nearly 40 undergraduate and graduate students have contributed to the coding and editing of BAAD1 and BAAD2.

BAAD Version 2.00 UCDP Insurgency and Crime Release

1. All violent non-state organizations that perpetrated at least 25 battle-related deaths as defined and recorded by the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) on or after January 1, 1998 through December 31, 2012, for which there is sufficient information to record the organization's founding year, home base country, (in almost all cases) primary ideology, and at least some of the other organizational variables defined below. The definition of battle death is found at http://www.pcr.uu.se/research/ucdp/definitions/. Battle deaths usually refer to killing of armed military, paramilitary, or police forces.

In some cases "organizations" identified in these primary sources were either:

- too amorphous ("Chechens"; "Palestinians"),
- too ephemeral (did not exist for long and/or were poorly covered in the media), and/or
- lacked a clear organizational existence, which we defined as having some clear indication that the entity had corporate property (as opposed to property held by individual members) and some boundary that defined the difference between members and non-members
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to adequately code. The final universe in this release includes 140 violent non-state organizations. Coding continues. If evidence emerges regarding entities originally deemed "uncodable", it will be included in future releases. This release covers the period 1998-2012. Work continues on the period 2013-2016, which will be added in future releases.

Organizational Identification

1. ORG (Primary Name of the Organization)

   The organization's primary organization name based on BAAD's Terrorist Organizations (TORG) master list, which includes more than 2,700 primary entities and more than 3,500 aliases and alternate spellings.

2. TORG (Violent Non-state Organizational Identifier code)

   Unique numeric identifier that represents the primary entity and can be used to look up aliases within BAAD's Terrorist Organizations master list.

3. YEAR (Year of data)

   Year for the data reported in the row.

4. TORG_YEAR

   Unique identifier for an organization-year. Concatenation of the TORG ID number with an underscore ("_") between the TORG ID and year of data reported in the row.

5. HBASE (Organizational Homebase)

   Country where the organization is based (textual). This can be thought of as the "main" base/area of operations, as many violent non-state organizations operate in multiple countries.

6. HBCCODE (Organizational Homebase – COW)

   Numeric country code from the Correlates of War (COW) country identification system.

7. HBISO (Organizational Homebase – ISO Alpha-3 Code)

   Three-letter homebase country codes available from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) accessible at: http://www.iso.org/iso/country_codes.htm.

8. HB_ISO_CC (Organizational Homebase – ISO Numeric Country Code)

   Three digit homebase country codes available from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) accessible at: http://www.iso.org/iso/country_codes.htm.

Organizational Ideology

Ideology is the guiding principle for the organization and the closest thing to an organization identity. Our system coded 10 possible ideological motivators. Organizations may adhere to multiple ideologies at once (so-called "compound ideologies"). Ideologies may also change over time, but most organizations are relatively invariant with respect to ideology over time.

0 = Does not adhere to ideology
1 = Adheres to ideology

9. LEFT (Leftist Organization)
   The organization promotes economically leftist policies such as redistribution of wealth by the government and nationalization of industry. Most that fall into this category will primarily be communist and socialist organizations and their variants (Marxist, Leninist, Maoist). Examples include the New People's Army (NPA), the Red Brigades and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC).

10. RELI (Religious Organization)
    The organization is guided by some form of religious principles. They may seek to incorporate religious policies into public life or exist to protect a distinct religious group. Examples include al-Qa'ida, Jemaah Islamiya, Kach, and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)

11. ETHN (Ethnic Organization)
    The organization represents a certain ethnic group and advocates for the rights or expansion of that ethnic group. Examples include Fatah, Basque Fatherland and Freedom (ETA), and the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

Organizational Characteristics and Activity

12. AGE (Organizational Age)

    The organization's age, measured in years, is how long a violent nonstate organization has been in existence. Ages are calculated from best known founding date, and founding dates may be well before the BAAD2 data window. For instance, Al Qa'ida is listed as age 10 in 1998. Age increments for each year in the data set. For organizations founded during the BAAD2 window, the age for the organization in its first year of operation is zero (0).

13. SIZE_REC

This is a categorical variable that indicates the approximate number of members in the organization.

1 = unknown/0-100
2 = 100-999
3 = 1000-9999
4 = 10,000+

14. TERRCNTRL (Territorial Control)

We define territorial control as existing when the organization is able to control movement into, out of, or within a given territory. In some instances organizations will perform functions or provide services, similar to that of a legitimate government. Territory may be controlled by threat or use of force, or if the government grants the organization the authority to do so. The territory must be a substantial area (city, region, etc.) and not just an organization occupying a building or a couple of buildings. Thus this excludes military bases and checkpoints. Though bases may indicate that the organization does have control over territory, they may also be covert and thus not exercising social control over civilians in the area of the base. Additionally, the organization must have control over the territory for more than a few days. For instance, seizure and loss of a town in the space of a week does not constitute territorial control.

-99 = Unknown
0 = Does not control territory
1 = Controls territory

15. LEAD_HIERARCH (Hierarchical Leadership)

This variable indicates groups that have leadership structures that are hierarchical. Hierarchical is defined as a group with multiple leaders and is organized as a chain of command where ultimately the top leader has final power to issue/veto orders, but other leaders in the hierarchy may issue orders (usually tactical orders).

0 = Not hierarchical
1 = Hierarchical

16. FDDRUGTK (Drug Trafficking)

The organization trafficked in drugs and/or was the original grower and supplier. A prominent example here is the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC) in Columbia and the Taliban in Afghanistan.

17. FDEXTORT (Extortion)

    Organization collects resources by threatening local businesses or communities with violence unless they pay what is often termed as a “revolutionary tax”. If “donations” are collected through a threat of violence or against persons or other organizations, then that activity was coded as extortion.

18. FDKIDNAP (Kidnapping)

    Organizations that engage in kidnapping for ransom only. Kidnapping to facilitate prisoner exchanges or to further other goals (for instance, holding a government leader to prevent them from running for office) was not coded as kidnapping.

19. FDROB (Robbery)

    Organization engages in robbery for money, most commonly bank robberies like many European organizations did in the 1970s and 1980s. This includes looting after an organization takes over a village or territory. For example, when the Islamic State gained territory in Syria and Iraq, they would loot civilian’s homes and overrun banks. These actions are included under robbery.

20. FDSMUGGL (Smuggling)

    Organizations that smuggles products or people in order to make a profit. The most common types are weapons smuggling and human trafficking, although other schemes like al-Qa’ida’s small cigarette smuggling operation by a few of its US cells also qualify. Drug smuggling is coded separately.

21. FDSTATE (State Sponsor)

    1 = Organization known to be directly supported by a sovereign state in this year
    0 = Organization not known to be directly supported by a sovereign state in this year

22. UCDPBD (Uppsala Conflict Data Program Battle Death count)

    The number of deaths the organization inflicted in battle; derived from the UCDP Battle Deaths dataset.

23. SOCSVCS (Social Services)

    Does the organization provide any medical, welfare, education, infrastructure, protection (or security), or other service?

    0 = No

1 = Yes

24. CRIM_DEGR_PY (Number of alliance connections to organizations engaged in crime in the previous year)

    Count of the number of alliances connections between the focal organization and violent nonstate actors that engaged in crime in the previous year.