Interstate War Battle (IWB) Dataset, version 1.0

Eric Min
University of California, Los Angeles
eric.min@ucla.edu

The Interstate War Battle (IWB) dataset, version 1.0 is a compilation of battles in interstate conflicts between 1823 and 2003.

Criteria for how these variables are coded are supplied in "Interstate War Battle Dataset (1823-2003)" in the *Journal of Peace Research* (Min forthcoming).[1]

Sources

The backbone of the IWB is built on the following:

- Jaques, Tony. 2007. *Dictionary of Battles and Sieges: A Guide to 8,500 Battles from Antiquity through the Twenty-first Century*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.

Additional information was generally obtained through these other references:

- Clodfelter, Micheal C. 2008. *Warfare and Armed Conflicts: A Statistical Encyclopedia of Casualty and Other Figures, 1494-2007*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company.
- Eggenberger, David. 1985. *An Encyclopedia of Battles: Accounts of Over 1,560 Battles from 1479 B.C. to the Present*. New York: Dover Publications.
- Showalter, Dennis E. 2014. *The Encyclopedia of Warfare*. London: Amber Books.

Variables

- **cowNum**: The war's identifying number in the Correlates of War (COW) Project. Wars that do not appear in the COW dataset are labeled as -9.
- **iwdNum**: The war's identifying number in the Interstate War Data (IWD) set; see Reiter, Stam, and Horowitz 2014.[2] The IWD includes some additional wars not originally in the COW Project, but also omits some wars in the COW Project that have subsequently been determined not to reach the 1,000-casualty threshold necessary for inclusion in the COW Project. Wars that do not appear in the IWD are labeled as -9.
- **warName**: The war's name.
- **battleName**: The individual battle's name.

[1] Min, Eric. "Interstate War Battle Dataset (1823-2003)." *Journal of Peace Research* forthcoming.
[2] Reiter, Dan, Allan C. Stam, and Michael C. Horowitz. 2014. "A Revised Look at Interstate Wars, 1816-2007." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 60(5): 956-976. To see slight updates on the original dataset, see, Reiter, Dan, Allan C. Stam, and Michael C. Horowitz. 2016. "A deeper look at interstate war data: Interstate War Data version 1.1." *Research and Politics* (October-December): 1-3.

- **attacker**: The belligerent that starts the battle. For the sake of operationalization, the attacker is the party attempting to take control of a strategic objective and/or is the party on the move.
- **defender**: The belligerent that is subjected to the battle. For the sake of operationalization, the defender is the party attempting to maintain a strategic objective and/or is the party that is stationary or pursued.
- **startYear**: The year in which the battle starts.
- **startMonth**: The month in which the battle starts.
- **startDay**: The day on which the battle starts.
- **startDate**: The entire date on which the battle starts. For the sake of operationalization, a battle starts on the day that hostilities begin. To minimize potential errors from a spreadsheet application automatically attempting to read dates, it is recommended that the researcher reconstructs this variable using startYear, startMonth, and startDay.
- **endYear**: The year in which the battle ends.
- **endMonth**: The month in which the battle ends.
- **endDay**: The day on which the battle ends.
- **endDate**: The entire date on which the battle ends. For the sake of operationalization, a battle starts on the day that hostilities end. To minimize potential errors from a spreadsheet application automatically attempting to read dates, it is recommended that the researcher reconstructs this variable using endYear, endMonth, and endDay.
- **battleLength**: The length of the battle, measured in days.
- **victor**: The name of the belligerent that wins the battle.
- **victorWarLevel**: The identity of the belligerent that wins the battle, in the context of whether this belligerent is the initiator or target of the overall war.
    - *Note:* This variable continues to use COW classifications for war initiators and targets. The researcher may construct a measure that uses alternate IWD classifications as necessary.
- **victorBattleLevel**: The identity of the belligerent that wins the battle, in the context of whether this belligerent is the attacker or defender in the specific battle.
    - The attacker wins a battle when it successfully seizes the strategic objective in contention. This can occur by pushing out, obtaining the surrender of, or destroying the defending forces.
    - The defender wins a battle when it successfully maintains the strategic objective in contention. This can occur by repelling the attacker and may also involve the launching of a counterattack.
    - If there is no clear strategic objective being fought over in a battle, the belligerent that makes the first retreat is considered the loser of the battle.