Release Notes for Version 4: Correlates of War Formal Interstate Alliance Dataset, 1816-2012

Douglas M. Gibler*

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1 Citation

These release notes describe the variables included in Version 4.0 of the data and several of the most important changes since Version 3.* of the alliance dataset (Gibler and Sarkees 2004). A complete codebook and draft of a data release paper will be available at the end of the summer of 2013. Until then, dataset users should cite Gibler (2009) for the Version 4.0 release of the data and may also want to consult the summaries and coding discussions in that work that are available for most of these alliances. Any remaining questions may be directed to Doug Gibler at dmgibler@bama.ua.edu.

> D.M. Gibler. *International Military Alliances, 1648-2008*. Congressional Quarterly Press. 2009. ISBN: 978-1-56802-824-8

2 Significant Dataset Changes

This dataset expands the original Singer and Small (1966) definitions of alliance types to include neutrality and non-aggression pacts separately. Neutrality pacts are now labeled as Type IIa alliances, and Non-Aggression pacts are labeled as Type IIb alliances. Alliance terms also distinguish between neutrality and non-aggression in the dyadic data.

Second, Version 4.0 of the dataset now differentiates between the overall alliance type and the terms of the alliance by specific member. In the alliance member list of data, for example, both the Singer and Small (1966) alliance type and the specific terms by alliance member are included. Only the terms operational for the specific dyad are included in the dyadic and direct-dyad data [see notes below].

Third, this version will likely expand by several alliances in the next few months as we continue to confirm the terms of several treaties. New editions of the Version 4.0 release will mostly affect the post-2000 period, especially years 2009-2012.

*Professor, and Arts and Sciences Leadership Board Fellow, Department of Political Science, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL

3 Data Files Included with Release

The following six files are included as part of Version 4.0 of the Formal Interstate Alliance Dataset and are available in either Excel or Stata format:

alliance_v4_by_member.* : this file contains one observation for every state in an alliance at the time of their alliance initiation

alliance_v4_by_member_yearly.* : this file expands the alliance initiation format to include one observation for each state-year of the alliance

alliance_v4_by_dyad.* : the file contains one observation for every dyad in an alliance at the time of their alliance initiation

alliance_v4_by_dyad_yearly.* : this file expands the dyadic alliance data to include one observation for each allied dyad-year

alliance_v4_by_directed.* : this file contains one observation for each directed dyad in an alliance at the time of their alliance initiation

alliance_v4_by_directed_yearly.* : this file expands the directed-dyad alliance data to include one observation for each allied directed dyad-year

4 Variable Descriptions

The data is available in three basic formats—by alliance member and by alliance dyad and directed alliance dyad.

4.1 Alliance Member Format

The file named $< alliance_v4_by_member.* >$ contains the alliance dataset distributed by member, with one observation for each alliance member initiation. Note that, if a member exits an alliance and then reenters the same alliance later, then that member will be included in the alliance twice, with the appropriate dates of membership included for each observation. The file named $< alliance_v4_by_member_yearly.* >$ includes an observation for each alliance member year.

version4id : the unique serial identification number for each alliance

ccode : the Correlates of War System Membership number of the alliance member

state_name : the Correlates of War System Membership name of the alliance member

all_st_day/month/year : the day/month/year that the alliance entered the Correlates of War system

all_end_day/month/year : the day/month/year that the alliance is coded as ending; missing data denotes alliance is still in effect as of 12/31/2012

ss_type : the Singer and Small (1966) alliance type that most closely matches the terms and contemporary understanding of the alliance

mem_st_day/month/year : the day/month/year of alliance entry for the ccode observation

mem_end_day/month/year : the day/month/year of alliance entry for the ccode observation

left_censor : coded as (1) if the ccode entered the alliance prior to 1/1/1816

right_censor : coded as (1) if the ccode is still considered in the alliance as of 12/31/2012

defense : coded as (1) if the ccode signed terms that included defense of one or more states in the alliance

neutrality : coded as (1) if the ccode signed terms that included neutrality toward one or more states in the alliance

nonaggression : coded as (1) if the ccode signed terms that included a promise of non-aggression toward one or more states in the alliance

entente : coded as (1) if the ccode signed terms that included an understanding that the state would consult with one or more states in the alliance if a crisis occurred

year : the yearly data adds a variable for the observation year (not included in the dyadic, alliance-initiation data)

version : version number of the data set (4.x)

4.2 Dyadic Terms Format

The file named $< alliance_v4_by_dyad.* >$ contains the alliance dataset distributed by dyad, with one observation for each dyadic alliance initiation. Note that, if a member exits an alliance and then reenters the same alliance later, then this will inflate the number of dyadic alliance initiations for each particular alliance. Alliance terms in the dyad may not be applicable to each country code. Users should consult the *asymmetric* variable to determine whether the alliance includes terms that only apply to certain members. Specific terms are listed in the directed-dyad format. The file named $< alliance_v4_by_dyad_yearly.* >$ includes an observation for each allied dyad-year.

version4id : the unique serial identification number for each alliance

ccode1 : the lower Correlates of War System Membership number in the dyadic pair

state_name1 : the Correlates of War System Membership name of *ccode*1

ccode2 : the higher Correlates of War System Membership number in the dyadic pair

state_name2 : the Correlates of War System Membership name of *ccode*2

dyad_st_day/month/year : the day/month/year of entry into the Correlates of War system for the allied dyad

dyad_end_day/month/year : the day/month/year of alliance entry for the dyadic observation; missing data denotes alliance is still in effect as of 12/31/2012

left_censor : coded as (1) if the dyad entered the alliance prior to 1/1/1816

right_censor : coded as (1) if the dyad is still considered in the alliance as of 12/31/2012

defense : coded as (1) if one or both states in the dyad had a defense pact with the other state in the dyad

neutrality : coded as (1) if one or both states in the dyad had a neutrality pact with the other state in the dyad

nonaggression : coded as (1) if one or both states in the dyad had a non-aggression pact with the other state in the dyad

entente : coded as (1) if one or both states in the dyad had an understanding that consultations with the other state in the dyad would take place if a crisis occurred

asymmetric : coded as (1) if any of the terms applied to only one state of the dyadic pair

year : the yearly data adds a variable for the observation year (not included in the dyadic, alliance-initiation data)

version : version number of the data set (4.x)

4.3 Directed-Dyad Format

The file named $< alliance_v4_by_directed.* >$ contains the alliance dataset distributed by directed-dyad, with one observation for each directed-dyad alliance initiation. In this format the alliance terms include the specific promises made by *ccode*1 toward *ccode*2. The file named $< alliance_v4_by_directed_yearly.* >$ includes an observation for each allied directed-dyad-year.

version4id : the unique serial identification number for each alliance

ccode1 : the Correlates of War System Membership number of the state initiating alliance terms toward *ccode*2

state_name1 : the Correlates of War System Membership name of *ccode*1

ccode2 : the Correlates of War System Membership number of the state receiving alliance terms from *ccode*1

state_name2 : the Correlates of War System Membership name of *ccode*2

dyad_st_day/month/year : the day/month/year of entry into the Correlates of War system for the allied dyad

dyad_end_day/month/year : the day/month/year of alliance entry for the directed-dyad observation; missing data denotes alliance is still in effect as of 12/31/2012

left_censor : coded as (1) if the directed-dyad entered the alliance prior to 1/1/1816

right_censor : coded as (1) if the directed-dyad is still considered in the alliance as of 12/31/2012

defense : coded as (1) if *ccode*1 signed a defense pact to protect *ccode*2

neutrality : coded as (1) if *ccode*1 agreed to remain neutral toward *ccode*2

nonaggression : coded as (1) if *ccode*1 promised not to attack *ccode*2

entente : coded as (1) if *ccode*1 agreed to consult with *ccode*2 if a crisis occurred

year : the yearly data adds a variable for the observation year (not included in the directed-dyad, alliance-initiation data)

version : version number of the data set (4.x)

References

Gibler, Douglas M. 2009. *International military alliances, 1648-2008.* CQ Press.

Gibler, Douglas M. and Meredith Reid Sarkees. 2004. "Measuring Alliances: The Correlates of War Formal Interstate Alliance Dataset, 1816-2000." *Journal of Peace Research* 41(2):211–222.

Singer, J David and Melvin Small. 1966. "Formal alliances, 1815-1939 A Quantitative Description." *Journal of Peace Research* 3(1):1–31.