Grant Gordon & Evann Smith

Re-examining Civil War: Ethnicity, Horizontal Inequality, and Space

Replication Dataset

The literature on conflict claims that ethnicity and inequality don't matter in predicting civil war onset. This article uses spatial data to construct new variables for horizontal inequality between ethnic groups and asserts that ethnicity and inequality do matter. The paper asks, how does the distribution of population density and territorial concentration among ethnic groups impact the risk of civil war onset? And, importantly, how does the spatial composition of a country's ethnic groups illuminate the black box of horizontal political inequality? To contribute to the growing literature on civil war onset, we leverage emerging Geographic Informations Systems (GIS) data to aggregate within country variation and construct to a large-N dataset. We examine how the distribution of ethnic group population density and territorial share structure the opportunities, costs, and grievances associated with civil war.

Variable	Description	Source
ccode	COW country code	
country	Long country name	
cname	Short country name	
year	Observation year	
warl	Prior war	Fearon and Laitin 2003
onset	Civil war onset	
ethonset	Ethnic war onset	
casename	Case description	
waryrs	Years of war duration	
pop	Population	
popl, lpopl1	Logged population	
polity2	Polity score	
polity2l	Lagged Polity score	
gdpen	GDP per capita	
gdpenl, gdpenl1	Logged GDP per capita	
region	Country region	
western	Western dummy variable	
eeurop	Eastern Europe dummy variable	
lamerica	Latin America dummy variable	
ssafrica	Subsaharan Africa dummy variable	
asia	Asia dummy variable	
colbrit	Former British colony	
colfra	Former French colony	
mtnest	Mountainous region	
lmtnest	Logged mountainous region	
elevdiff	Difference in elevation	
Oil	Oil exporter	
mineralpc	Minerals per capita	
ncontig	Non-contiguous territory	
nwstate	First two years of state existence	
instab	Instability (Change of 3 or greater in Polity score in the previous 3 years)	
anocl	Anoncracy dummy variable (Polity score between -5 and 5)	
demol	Democracy dummy variable	

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Variable	Description	Source
ethfrac	Ethnolinguistic fractionalization	Fearon and Laitin 2003
relfrac	Religious fractionalization	
muslim	Percent muslim	
nbwars	Number of neighbors at war	Wimmer and Min 2009
govpower	Ordinal variable (monopoly on central power by a single ethnic group, dominant single ethnic group, coalition)	Constructed from the Ethinic Power Relations Dataset
discrim	Dummy variable (excluded from central power and discriminated)	
sepautonomy	Dummy variable (excluded from central power and secesseionist intentions)	
regautonomy	Dummy variable (excluded from central power and some subnational autonomy)	
conc	Territorial concentration index	Constructed from the Geo-EPR Dataset
avnbs	Average number of neighbors	
relpop	Relative population density (standardized)	Constructed from the Geo-EPR Dataset and the Gridded Population of the World Data
abpop	Relative population density (non-standardized)	
avpop	Average population density	
powerlines	Relative powerline density	Constructed from the Geo-EPR Dataset and Utility Line Features from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency