Wartime Commercial Policy Dataset

06/09/2021

Mariya Grinberg
mgrinberg@uchicago.edu

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1. Introduction

This data set enumerates the products prohibited from export by the British government during World War I. The data set is composed of two data files.

The first – Proclamation_WCP – provides data on the historical evolution of the British wartime commercial policy as it relates to export prohibitions. Product descriptions are listed as they are named in the proclamations with various variables tracking how these product descriptions were amended over time. This data file also contains citations for each proclamation prohibiting the export of specific products made by the British government during World War I.

The second data file – Product_WCP – tracks the changes of the geographical scope of the export prohibitions over time. The data is at the product level, with product descriptions disaggregated to the lowest possible level, given the information included in the British wartime commercial policy in World War I. This data file additionally includes information on the length of time each product was allowed to be traded during the war and the product's relative position in a supply chain.

2. Proclamation_WCP

In this data file, the same product description can appear numerous times. This represents each time the product was mentioned by a proclamation affecting what could legally be exported from Britain. The set of variables after the citation notes how the given product was affected by later proclamations: was it allowed to be exported again (ie removed from the prohibition list), was the product descriptions changed (ie amended), or was the prohibition made more/less restrictive (ie a change in the destination to which the product could not be exported to).

2.1 Description of Variables

Variable	Description
Date	the date on which the proclamation came into effect (not when it was made)
Product	product description to which the prohibition applies
PartOf	if the product is part of a larger product description, this states the superordinate product name
Category	if the proclamation grouped a set of product descriptions under a specific heading, it is listed here
Category2	if the proclamation contained a sub-grouping under the larger category, it is listed here
Dest#	numerical coding for the geographic scope of the prohibition 1 – cannot leave the country 2 – cannot be sent to neighbors of enemy 3 – cannot leave country except to be sent to colonies 4 – cannot be carried coastwise among own ports 5 – other
DestExpl	the geographic limits that are placed on the export of the product (where is it not allowed to be exported to)
Citation	where the proclamation prohibiting the export of this product can be found
DOC	date of change; the date on which there was some sort of change in the scope of prohibition affecting this product description
CHGinD	change in geographic scope of the prohibition; binary variable; takes value 1 when the geographic scope of the prohibition changes
Amended	changes is the product description; binary variable; takes value 1 when the product description becomes more or less inclusive in subsequent proclamations
Removed	tracks when product descriptions were removed from the prohibition list (ie were allowed to be traded); binary variable; takes values 1 when the product description is removed from the prohibition list
Comment	notes on how the product description was changed by subsequent proclamations
NewDest	tracks the new geographic scope of the prohibition if CHGinD is 1
NewProductName	if product description was amended, this states the new product description

2.2 Coding Manual

- DATE – The date when the proclamation takes effect, NOT necessarily the date of the proclamation
  - While most of the time date of proclamation and date the prohibition takes effect is the same, sometimes they are different. Need to pay careful attention to wording of the proclamation
  - Should be entered in the following format: MM/DD/YYYY

- PRODUCT – Product description of the item that is being prohibited
  - Please capitalize only the first letter of the item (or trademarked names)
  - If product description has only one word – enter it
  - If product description has multiple words
    - Find the main product name, and place the descriptors after it separated by a comma
    - For example:
      - "Pack animals suitable for war" should be entered as "Animals, pack, suitable for war"
      - "Unrefined sugar" should be entered as "Sugar, unrefined"
  - If product description has "**and**" or "**or**" in it:
    - The product description needs to be separated into multiple entries, make as many entries as necessary to describe all of the items separately. Be very careful about which descriptors apply to which parts of the description.
    - Example 1: "Carriages and mountings for cannon and for machine guns, and parts thereof" should be entered as:
      - Cannon, carriages for
      - Cannon, parts for carriages for
      - Cannon, mountings for
      - Cannon, parts for mountings for
      - Machine guns, carriages for
      - Machine guns, parts for carriages for
      - Machine guns, mountings for
      - Machine guns, parts for mountings for
    - Example 2: "Belladonna and its preparations and alkaloids" should be entered as:
      - Belladonna
      - Belladonna, preparations of
      - Belladonna alkaloids
    - Example 3: "Zinc chloride and sulphate and mixtures containing zinc chloride or sulphate" should be entered as:
      - Zinc chloride
      - Zinc chloride, mixtures containing
      - Zinc sulphate
      - Zinc sulphate, mixtures containing
    - If the word "and" or "or" appears in contexts like "up to 1 percent of glycerine or over" or "load of 25 cwt. and upwards" it does not need to be separated into two different products. Use sound judgment, and ask when you are not sure.

- NOTE: "and parts thereof" in the product description has nothing to do with the "Part Of" variable

➢ If product description has the word "**including**", "**namely**", "**viz**."
- The product description needs to be separated into a main item and all of the items that come after the "including" which should have the main item listed in the "Part of" variable
- For example:
  - "Petroleum spirit (including Shell spirit) should be entered as:

Product	Part of
Petroleum spirit	
Shell spirit	Petroleum spirit

  - "Confectionary of all kinds, including marmalade, jams and fruit jellies" should be entered as:

Product	Part of
Confectionary of all kinds	
Marmalade	Confectionary
Jams	Confectionary
Fruit jellies	Confectionary

➢ If product description has the words "**and other**"
- The product description needs to be separated into different parts as already state above.
- The product description that comes after the "and other" should be used as the Part Of variable for all the products that came before the "and other"
- For example: "Morphia and other alkaloids of opium" should be entered as

Product	Part of
Morphia	Opium, alkaloids
Opium, alkaloids	

➢ If product description has the word "**except**"
- The clause that follows the "except" should be included in parentheses after the main product description. There is no need to break up the item description into multiple products if there are multiple exceptions
- If product description has some variation of the words "which are prohibited to other destinations" – that does not need to be included in the product description
- For example
  - "Blast furnace oil except creosote and creosote oil" should be entered as "Oil, blast furnace (except creosote and creosote oil)

➢ Pay special attention to names of chemical compounds!
- Chemical compounds can sometimes be listed in different manners and refer to the same product. For example, "nitrate of sodium" is the same thing as "sodium nitrate"
- Always enter the systemic chemical compound name – ie sodium nitrate
- Please check on the Internet that you are in fact adding the correct item!

- PART OF – This variable captures if the item is part of a larger product description
  - Only product descriptions listed on proclamations that have words such as "including", "namely", "viz" should have anything filled in for the this variable

- CATEGORY – Unifying description for a set of different products
  - If the proclamation lists certain products under the same heading, that heading should be included as the category
  - The category description should not be entered as a product
  - The phrases "of the following" or "the following" are good indicators that something is a category

- CATEGORY 2 – Unifying subset that exists within an existing category
  - If the proclamation lists certain products to be under the same subset within a defined category, this subset should be included as Category 2
  - The subcategory should not be entered as a product
  - For example, if the proclamation states the following:

    Forage and food which may be used for animals, the following: –
    Beans
    Lentils
    Maize
    Cakes and meals, the following: –
    Cottonseed cake and cottonseed meal
    Whale cake
    Whale meal

  - You should enter the following:

Product	Category	Category 2
Beans	Forage and food which may be used for animals	
Lentils	Forage and food which may be used for animals	
Maize	Forage and food which may be used for animals	
Cottonseed cake	Forage and food which may be used for animals	Cakes and meals
Cottonseed meal	Forage and food which may be used for animals	Cakes and meals
Whale cake	Forage and food which may be used for animals	Cakes and meals
Whale meal	Forage and food which may be used for animals	Cakes and meals

Biggest difference between a category and a "part of" – a category involves a lot more things than just the products being prohibited, and it is not the whole category but the more limited set that has been prohibited. A "part of" product has been entirely prohibited in all its forms – items that are "part of" help identify which items are prohibited but are not limited to that description. All other things that fit the product description are also prohibited.

- DESTINATION EXPLANATION – This is the geographical scope placed on the movement of the item. That is, where the item is prohibited to be exported to
  - Enter the description provided on the proclamation. Often these will be repeated from proclamation to proclamation. But be careful to watch for small changes.
  - For example: during WWI, "exportation is prohibited from the United Kingdom" is at some point replaced with "exportation is prohibited to all destinations"
    - While this practically means the same thing, the change in language is significant and should be noted.
  - Example 2: "prohibit the exportation to all foreign ports in Europe and on the Mediterranean and Black Sea, with the exception of those of France, Russia (except the Baltic ports), Spain and Portugal"
    - This was the British method of description that an item was not allowed to be shipped to the enemy or its neutral neighbor states. The list of countries that came after the "except" changed over the course of the war. These are significant changes and should be noted.

- DESTINATION NUMBER – Numerical representation of the geographical scope of the prohibition. Basically, converts the above into a number
  - 0 – not stated
  - 1 – item cannot leave the country
    - Ex: "exportation is prohibited from the United Kingdom"
  - 2 – item cannot be traded with the enemy
    - Ex: "prohibit the exportation to all foreign ports in Europe and on the Mediterranean and Black Sea, with the exception of those of France, Russia (except the Baltic ports), Spain and Portugal"
  - 3 – item cannot leave the country except to be sent to the colonies of that country
    - Ex: "prohibited to all destinations abroad other than British Possessions and Protectorates"
  - 4 – item cannot be carried coastwise among the countries own ports
    - Ex: "carriage coastwise between ports of the United Kingdom"
  - 5 – something else
    - Ex: "prohibited to all destinations abroad other than British Possessions and Protectorates and Allied Countries" – by the addition of "allied countries" this becomes categorized as 5 not 3.
    - Ex: "prohibited to ports in Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden"

- CHG in D – stands for change in destination to which the product is prohibited to be exported. This variable keeps track of when the same item is prohibited to a different geographical scope
  - If the proclamation states that a product that already exists, should now be prohibited to a different geographical scope, the existing entry in the dataset of this item (the latest one, ie one that has Amend and CHG in D set to 0) should have its CHG in D set to 1. At the same time the DOC (ie Date of change) should be set to the date the proclamation making this change takes effect.
  - Otherwise CHG in D should stay at 0.

- REMOVED – This variable keeps track of items that were removed from the prohibition list
  - If a proclamation states that an item is to be removed from the list of prohibitions, when entering the product into the dataset, "Removed" should be set to 1.
  - The product should have already existed in the dataset, the LAST existing item of this exact product description (Amend should be 0), should have it's Removed variables also set to 1. At the same time the DOC (ie Date of change) should be set to the date the proclamation making this change takes effect.
  - Otherwise "Removed" should stay at 0.

- AMENDED – This variable keeps track of items that are amended by proclamations.
  - If a proclamation states that an item description is to change to become more inclusive, or slightly less inclusive (but without including different products), the existing entry in the dataset should have the "Amended" variable set to 1. At the same time the DOC (ie Date of change) should be set to the date the proclamation making this change takes effect. In the "Comments", write which product description is now being used
  - The new entry being made should have "Amended" set to 0.
  - For example:

Date	Product	Dest#	CHGinD	Amend	Rem'd	DOC
10/06/1914	Blankets, coloured, exceeding 3.5 lbs in weight, known as "woollen blankets"	1	1	0	0	02/03/1915
02/03/1915	Blankets, coloured, exceeding 3.5 lbs in weight, known as "woollen blankets"	3	0	1*	0	07/28/1915
07/28/1915	Blankets, coloured, exceeding 3.5 lbs in weight, containing wool	3	0	0	1	10/13/1915
10/13/1915	Blankets, coloured, exceeding 3.5 lbs in weight, containing wool				1	

  - * - this is listed as amended because the main product did not change (ie colored blankets of a specific weight) but the item description became more inclusive
  - NOTE: Amend and Removed will never be set to 1 for the same line in the dataset. Only one of these two variables can be 1 at a time.
    - In very very rare cases CHG in D and Amend can both be 1. But most of the time this will not be the case.

- DOC – Stands for Date of change. This variable keeps track of when changes to the entry in the dataset occur
  - If the product entered into the dataset has any of the variables CHG in D, AMENDED, or REMOVED changed to 1, there should be a corresponding date of when the change takes place – based on the date the proclamation that announced the change takes place.

- COMMENTS – self explanatory
  - Anything unusual goes here. Notes about the product that are in some way seem important but there is no way to record them otherwise.

- NEW DEST – the new geographical scope of the prohibition
  - Use the same numerical codes as for the DESTINATION NUMBER.
  - This field should ALWAYS be filled in when CHGinD is set to 1.
  - The DESTINATION NUMBER of the new entry should always match the NEWDEST of the old entry that has CHGinD set to 1.

- NEW PRODUCT NAME – the new product name that this product falls under
  - This field should ALWAYS be filled in when AMENDED is set to 1. It should indicate what the new product description is.

- CITATION – A citation of where the information came from.

Absurdly difficult example:
Copper, unwrought and part wrought, all kinds, including alloys of copper (such as brass, gun metal, naval brass and delta metal, phosphor copper, phosphor bronze, and solder containing copper), copper and brass circles, slabs, bars, ingots, scrap, rods and plates and also wrought copper of the following descriptions: —Copper and brass pipes, sheets, condenser plates, copper wire, brass wire, bronze wire, perforated brass sheets, perforated brass linings, and copper foil

Product	Part of	Category	Category 2
Copper, unwrought, all kinds			
Copper, part wrought, all kinds			
Alloys of copper	Copper, unwrought and part wrought		
Brass	Copper, unwrought and part wrought	Alloys of copper	
Gun metal	Copper, unwrought and part wrought	Alloys of copper	
Naval brass	Copper, unwrought and part wrought	Alloys of copper	
Delta metal	Copper, unwrought and part wrought	Alloys of copper	
Phosphor copper	Copper, unwrought and part wrought	Alloys of copper	
Phosphor bronze	Copper, unwrought and part wrought	Alloys of copper	
Solder containing copper	Copper, unwrought and part wrought	Alloys of copper	
Circles, copper	Copper, unwrought and part wrought		
Slabs, copper	Copper, unwrought and part wrought		
Bars, copper	Copper, unwrought and part wrought		
Ingots, copper	Copper, unwrought and part wrought		
Scrap, copper	Copper, unwrought and part wrought		
Rods, copper	Copper, unwrought and part wrought		
Plates, copper	Copper, unwrought and part wrought		
Circles, brass	Copper, unwrought and part wrought		
Slabs, brass	Copper, unwrought and part wrought		
Bars, brass	Copper, unwrought and part wrought		
Ingots, brass	Copper, unwrought and part wrought		
Scrap, brass	Copper, unwrought and part wrought		
Rods, brass	Copper, unwrought and part wrought		
Plates, brass	Copper, unwrought and part wrought		
Pipes, copper		Copper, wrought	
Sheets, copper		Copper, wrought	
Condenser plates, copper		Copper, wrought	
Pipes, brass		Copper, wrought	
Sheets, brass		Copper, wrought	
Condenser plates, brass		Copper, wrought	
Wire, copper		Copper, wrought	
Wire, brass		Copper, wrought	
Wire, bronze		Copper, wrought	
Perforated sheets, brass		Copper, wrought	
Perforated linings, brass		Copper, wrought	
Foil, copper		Copper, wrought	

Instructions for adding proclamations to the dataset

Take note if you are working with a simple proclamation or a consolidated list.

- A consolidated list has all the existing prohibitions as well as amendments and additions
- A simple proclamation does not have a list of all the existing prohibitions on it (consequently much much shorter)

Simple Proclamation - The proclamation will either be ADDing items to the list of prohibited goods, REMOVEing items from the list or SUBSTITUTEing one product description for another

To ADD an item

1. Figure out the correct way to enter the PRODUCT description into the dataset.
2. Check to see if the PRODUCT is already in the dataset.
    a. If not, add the PRODUCT, PART OF, CATEGORY, CATEGORY 2, DESTINATION NUMBER, DESTINATION DESCRIPTION, REASON NUMBER, REASON EXPLANATION, CHG IN D, REMOVED, AMENDED, DOC, COMMENTS, DATE, NUMBER OF LAW, CITATION as the proclamation states (Example: line 2 of dataset)
    b. If the item is already in the dataset, make sure to find the version of the item that has AMENDED = 0, CHG in D =0, and REMOVED = 0. If either is set to 1, keep searching. When you have found the right product, check if the PRODUCT description is identical in the dataset and in the proclamation:
        i. If they are not, determine if the new product description is adding more products to the prohibition list, or slightly amending the existing product description without affecting the number of items being prohibited.
            1. If it is a new product, add all of the relevant variable inputs. (Step 2a)
            2. If it is an amendment to an existing product:
                a. For the existing product, set the Amend variable to 1.
                b. For the existing product, set the DOC to the DATE of the proclamation you are working on.
                c. For the existing product, write in the COMMENTS what they new product description is
                d. Add the new product description as a new line in the dataset with all the relevant variables (Step 2a)
                e. The new product, just added, should have Amend = 0.
                f. Example: lines 153 and 167 in the dataset
        ii. If the new product description to be added is identical to the PRODUCT description in the dataset, check if the DESTINATION NUMBER and DESTINATION DESCRIPTION are the same.
            1. If they are identical, there is no need to add the product to the dataset
                a. NOTE: this should only happen when working on a consolidated list.
            2. If the DESTINATION NUMBER or DESTINATION DESCRIPTION changed:
                a. For the existing product, set the CHG in D variable to 1.
                b. For the existing product, set the DOC to the DATE of the proclamation you are working on

c. If it were the DESCRIPTION that changed, but not the NUMBER - For the existing product, write in the comments what the new scope of the prohibition geographical scope is.
d. Add the product description as a new line in the dataset with all the changes the proclamation necessitates. (Step 2a)
e. Example: lines 132 and 263 in the dataset

3. In all cases, if the proclamation places the product into a specific CATEGORY, take note of that category in the product description you are adding, as well as all previous instances of the identical product in the dataset.
   a. Same for CATEGORY 2
4. Make sure you added ALL the products that made up the description in the proclamation. Frequently there is more than one. Double check.

To REMOVE an item

1. Nothing should ever be deleted from the dataset!
   a. Removing an item from the prohibition list, involves adding more information to the dataset
2. Figure out the correct way to enter the PRODUCT description into the dataset
3. Check to see if the PRODUCT is already in the dataset
   a. If it is not – there is a problem. A proclamation would not ask you to remove a product which was not in the dataset.
      i. Check the product description and spelling
      ii. Search the dataset for the main portion of the product description instead of the entire line. If you find one that looks similar to what you need to remove, look up the proclamation that added it to the dataset and compare product descriptions with that. If the product description that needs to be removed matches the product that should have been added, take a look at how the product description is phrased in the dataset. Is it correct? If yes, return to Step 3ai. If it is not, you have found a mistake.
         1. Flag the mistake in the comments of the badly phrased item
         2. Email the administrator with the contents of the mistake
         3. Assume that the initial product description will be changed to the correct version in the near future, and continue working as if it is correct now. (ie move to Step 3b
   b. If you have located the PRODUCT you need to remove in the dataset, make sure to find the version of the item that has AMENDED = 0, CHG in D =0, and REMOVED = 0.
      i. For the existing product, set REMOVED variable to1.
      ii. For the existing product, set the DOC to the DATE of the proclamation you are working on
      iii. Add the product description as a new line in the dataset, filling in PRODUCT, PART OF, CATEGORY, CATEGORY 2, CHG IN D, REMOVED, AMENDED, DATE, NUMBER OF LAW, CITATION as the proclamation states
         1. For the product just added, set REMOVED variable to 1.
         2. Note: there is no need to fill in anything about the destination or reason for prohibition, or the DOC
      iv. Example: lines 467 and 541 of the dataset

4. By REMOVEing a product from the dataset, you should have in fact, added a line to the dataset, and set REMOVED to 1 for two lines in the dataset.
5. Make sure you removed ALL the products that made up the description in the proclamation. Frequently there is more than one. Double check.

To SUBSTITUTE an item

1. When a proclamation calls for a substitution, it frequently states to remove one product description and add a more or less inclusive product description in its place. However, that is not what should be done in the datset.
2. Figure out the correct way to enter the PRODUCT description into the dataset – both for the product description that should be removed and the product description that should be added in its place.
   a. Check if any of the PRODUCTs that should be removed are identical to those that should be added back to the dataset. These products should be neither added or removed from the dataset.
      i. However, if the proclamation adds new information as to PART OF, CATEGORY or CATEGORY 2, this information should be added to the dataset for the already existing products.
   b. If there are still some products that should be removed from the dataset (that do not have a corresponding product that should be added)
      i. Follow the REMOVE procedure for these items
   c. If there are still some products that should be added to the dataset (that do not have a corresponding product that should be removed)
      i. Follow the ADD procedure for these items (this might require you to amend an existing item. Be careful)
3. For example:
   a. If the proclamation states "The heading 'thorium nitrate and its preparations' in the list of goods the exportation of which is prohibited to all destinations be deleted, and there should be substituted therefor the heading 'thorium oxide, thorium nitrate, and other salts of thorium.' "
   b. This should lead to the following product descriptions to be added and removed:

Removed	Added
Thorium nitrate	Thorium oxide (PART OF = Thorium, salts of)
Thorium nitrate, preparations of	Thorium nitrate (PART OF = Thorium, salts of)
	Thorium, salts of

   c. "Thorium nitrate" in this example should not be removed from the dataset, nor should it be added again. However, in the existing line in the dataset for "thorium nitrate" PART OF should be filled in with "Thorium, salts of"
   d. "Thorium nitrate, preparations of" should be REMOVEd
   e. "Thorium oxide" and "Thorium, salts of" should be ADDed
4. Make sure you added and removed ALL the necessary products that made up the description in the proclamation. Double check.

Consolidated Proclamation

A consolidated list is basically one large substitution scheme with all the items in the dataset being substituted for all the items on the consolidated list. The basic procedure to follow is that of a SUBSTITUTion. However, the list will not provide specific instructions as to what needs to be added, what needs to be removed, what needs to be amended, what needs to change in destination, etc. That means you will have to keep track yourself.

1. Make a copy of the dataset into a different sheet in the excel document – this will be used to keep track of which items on the consolidated list are already in the dataset
2. Sort PRODUCT alphabetically A to Z. This will make searching for products simpler.
3. Filter CHG in D to only show 0.
4. Filter AMENDED to only show 0.
5. Filter REMOVED to only show 0.
    a. This makes sure that you are looking at a list of products that are currently in effect. It will filter out all those that have already been removed, amended or will show up as double entries.
6. Go through each product description on the consolidated list carefully.
    a. Figure out the correct way to enter the PRODUCT description into the dataset
    b. Follow the ADD procedure
        i. Make sure you are ADDing products to the dataset, not to the copy you made.
    c. Each time you find a product that does not need to be ADDed (ie an identical entry already exists in the dataset) – highlight that product description in the copy of the dataset you have made
    d. Each time you AMEND a product description, highlight the previous description in the copy of the dataset you have made
7. When all of the product descriptions on the consolidated list have been ADDed, there might be some items left unhighlighted on your copy of the dataset.
    a. For each of these:
        i. Double check that the item is in fact not on the consolidated list
        ii. If it is not, REMOVE the item – make sure you remove it on the dataset, not in the copy.
        iii. Highlight the removed item on the copy of the dataset
8. When all the products are highlighted, that should mean you are finished with all the changes of the consolidated list.
9. Repeat steps 1-8, if you have done everything correctly, you should not have had to make any changes to the dataset on this run through. If you had to make changes to the dataset, repeat step 9.

3. Product_WCP

In this data file, each row represents a unique product description. As can be seen in the Proclamation_WCP data file, the product descriptions changed over time as the British wartime commercial policy evolved. To derive a set of unique product descriptions, product categories from the Proclamation_WCP file were disaggregated to the lowest possible level. For example, if a prohibition on the export of "apples, red" was later amended to a prohibition on "apples, all", the Product_WCP would list these product descriptions as:

- "Apples, red"
- "Apples, all (except red apples)" – residual category for all other possible types of apples

Only information from the British WWI policy was used for this process. Thus, while the existence of "Apples, green" can be posited, such a product description would not be included in the data file, as there is no way to verify that the British exported green apples at the time of this wartime commercial policy. This does create the potential complication that while some product descriptions in the dataset reference unique products, others reference categories of products. It is impossible to tell how inclusive the residual categories are.

3.1 Description of Variables

Variable	**Description**
Product	product description to which the prohibition applies
PartOf	if the product is part of a larger product description, this states the superordinate product name
Category	if the proclamation grouped a set of product descriptions under a specific heading, it is listed here
Category2	if the proclamation contained a sub-grouping under the larger category, it is listed here
Start	date of the first wartime prohibitions of the war – 8/3/1914; starting date is the same for all products; it is used to determine how long the products are allowed to be traded with the enemy
StartDest	initial geographic scope of the prohibition 0 – not prohibited/no longer prohibited 1 – cannot leave the country 2 – cannot be sent to neighbors of enemy 3 – cannot leave country except to be sent to colonies 4 – cannot be carried coastwise among own ports 5 – other
Date1, 2, etc	date on which the geographic scope of the prohibition on the product was changed
Dest1, 2, etc	new geographic scope of the prohibition
DaysUntil	the number of days before the export of the product was prohibited for the first time
Position	relative position of the product in the manufacturing process 1 – substitute good 2 – raw material 3 – intermediate good 4 – finished good

3.2 Compilation of Position variable

All product descriptions are divided into four categories based on their relative positions in the manufacturing process – finished good, intermediate good, raw materials, and substitute goods. Substitute goods are those used in the manufacturing process after the products they are replacing are no longer available.

Some product descriptions could be intuitively coded as finished goods – ie: airplanes, telegraphs, just as some products could be intuitively coded as intermediate goods – ie filaments for light bulbs, handles for axes. For all products where it was possible, the coding of the position variable was based on the product description. Product descriptions ending with ", raw" or ", ore" are coded as raw materials. Product descriptions ending with ", parts of" are coded as intermediate goods, where as the products for which those parts are needed are coded as finished goods. For example, "bicycles, distinctive component parts" are coded as intermediate goods, where as "bicycles" are coded as finished goods.

When a specific product could be used both as a finished good and as an input into further manufacturing, it is coded as a finished good so as to bias the coding against the predictions of the theory.

The category of substitute goods includes products which were most likely not being used for their intended purpose but for substitution into a different supply chain. For example, "Bakery utensils, wholly or partly made from tinplate" are coded as substitute goods, given that the product description implies that the interest in the bakery utensils stems from them being made from tinplate. In the same vein, in the chemicals category, product descriptions ending with ", mixtures containing" or ", preparations containing" are coded as substitute goods.

For the remainder of the products, if the product descriptions were insufficient to determine position in manufacturing process, the use of the product was researched in WWI era industry. Eight product descriptions remain not coded due to lack of information about their use in the given time period.