Princes and Townspeople: A Collection of Historical Statistics on German Territories and Cities

6: Conflict Incidents and Wars

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1 Introduction

This dataset traces the development of the 2,390 cities listed in the *Deutsches Städtebuch* (Keyser et al., eds, 1939-2003). We record dates at which settlements experienced incidents of military conflict, categorize the types of these conflict incidents and assign them to major wars, if possible. In the following, this document sketches the various forms of military conflicts encountered in the Holy Roman Empire (HRE). A description of the variables follows in Section 3. Section 4 then documents how we deal with specific issues that arise in the coding process.

2 General Approach

The *Städtebuch* provides information on military incidents which affected the development of the listed settlements. Almost half of these incidents occur in the context of a war. The Hussite Wars (1419–1434) are the first series of conflicts that are detectable in our data as having inflicted significant consequences for involved cities. In the 16th century, the German Peasants' War (1524–1526) follows most prominently. The Thirty Years' War (1616–1648) marks a high point in war activity. In the 18th century, the Seven Years' War (1756–1763), the French Revolutionary Wars (1789–1799) and the Coalition Wars (1792–1815) stand out in rapid succession. In total, we identify 30 wars to which we assign corresponding city-level events; the remainin incidents are recorded, but not assigned to a war.

An entry of the *Städtebuch* on a military conflict was added to our dataset if it fulfilled the following criteria:

- The conflict took place within the city or its close proximity.
- The entry assigns a date or a time span to the conflict.
- The city was somehow affected by the conflict.

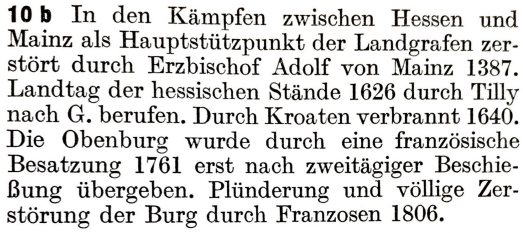
For every conflict, we distinguish a broad as well as a detailed conflict type. We construct an extensive "dictionary" that maps German terms, as used in the *Städtebuch* to describe the events, to conflict types.

Note that we code the type of conflict from the perspective of the attacker. Depending on who is exerting control over the city, the attacker can either be an hostile army or the citizens themselves.

Since the records on military conflicts in the Thirty Years' War are particularly detailed, we add variables specific to this war to depict the additional information. These variables indicate whether the settlement supported the Catholic League or the Protestant Union, as well as the military leader who was in charge of the given settlement. Furthermore, the variables specify the territory and the country their military leader belonged to.

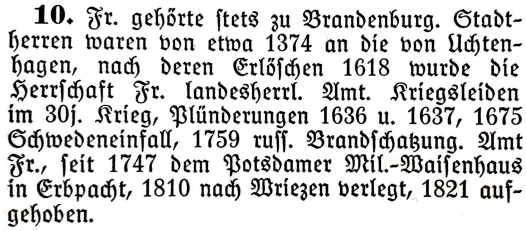
The base of our dataset are the cities listed in the *Städtebuch*. Article 10 or 11 contains information on military conflict incidents in a city in chronological order. Two examples of an

entry under article 10 are shown in Figures 1 and 2 for both the postwar and prewar editions, respectively.



10 b In den Kämpfen zwischen Hessen und Mainz als Hauptstützpunkt der Landgrafen zerstört durch Erzbischof Adolf von Mainz 1387. Landtag der hessischen Stände 1626 durch Tilly nach G. berufen. Durch Kroaten verbrannt 1640. Die Obenburg wurde durch eine französische Besatzung 1761 erst nach zweitägiger Beschießung übergeben. Plünderung und völlige Zerstörung der Burg durch Franzosen 1806.

Figure 1: Gudensberg (Postwar Edition)



10. Fr. gehörte ſtets zu Brandenburg. Stadtherren waren von etwa 1374 an die von Uchtenhagen, nach deren Erlöſchen 1618 wurde die Herrſchaft Fr. landesherrl. Amt. Kriegsleiden im 30j. Krieg, Plünderungen 1636 u. 1637, 1675 Schwedeneinfall, 1759 ruſſ. Brandſchatzung. Amt Fr., ſeit 1747 dem Potsdamer Mil.-Waiſenhaus in Erbpacht, 1810 nach Wriezen verlegt, 1821 aufgehoben.

Figure 2: Freienwalde (Prewar Edition)

3 Description of the Variables

3.1 General Variables

city_id Unique identifier of each city, clustered by *Städtebuch* volume.

comment Relevant information copied from the city's *Städtebuch* entry.

time_point The year corresponding to the documented event.

type_conflict Broad category of the conflict type. For a full list of the terms that belong to each category, see Appendix Section A.1.

1 Unspecified conflict

2 Conflict involving the destruction of capital

3 Conflict involving occupation and / or the loss of financial resources

type_detail A more detailed category of the conflict type. For a list of conflict types and their codes, see Appendix Section A.2.

warlabel The war in which the conflict occurred. For a wars and their codes, see Appendix Table 1. Missing if a conflict cannot be assigned to a war.

overreported Dummy that marks whether there is a risk of overreporting for a given observation. For a detailed explanation and an example of this variable, see Section 4.

0 There is no risk of overreporting.

1 There is a risk of overreporting.

uncertainty Indicator if the date is described as "at the earliest" or "at the latest":

0 This date is accurate.

1 The date is referred to as "at the earliest".

2 The date is referred to as "at the latest".

range The degree of imprecision in time_point:

0 Date is accurate.

1 Date is accurate up to 5 years.

2 Date is accurate up to 25 years.

3 Date is accurate up to 50 years.

4 Date is accurate up to 100 years.

5 Date is not accurate.

source Indicates the (main) source for the information in the entry:

10, 10a, 10b Section 10, 10a or 10b in the *Städtebuch*.

11 Section 11 in the *Städtebuch*.

3.2 Variables Specific to the Thirty Years' War

The following variables are specific to the Thirty Years' War.

ThirtyYW_leader The leading party in the Thirty Years' War each city belongs to in time_point. For a list of leading parties, see Section A.4.

ThirtyYW_conflict_party The main conflict party each city supports in time_point:

0 Information not available.

1 The conflict party is the Catholic League.

2 The conflict party is the Protestant Union.

ThirtyYW_territory The subordinate territory of the conflict party each city belongs to in time_point. For a list of territories, see Section A.5.

ThirtyYW_country The country that the territory of the conflict party belongs to in time_point:

0 Information not available

1 Denmark

2 France

3 Holy Roman Empire

4 Holland

5 Croatia

6 Poland

7 Sweden

8 Spain

4 Specific Issues

Inaccurate Dates In case multiple dates or textual ambiguity, we chose the earliest possible date. Recurring cases are:

- "Beginning of the century": Set time_point =XX00 and range = 3.
- "Mid-century": Set time_point =XX50 and range = 2.
- "End of the Century": Set time_point =XX75 and range = 2.
- "Middle Ages": Set time_point = 1500 and uncertainty = 2.

Potential Overreporting If one entry includes more dates and more conflict types at the same time, there is a risk of overreporting. The following examples illustrate cases where the overreported dummy takes the value 0 or 1:

Example with no overreporting: *"Siege and plunder in 1818."* The following observations are created:

- Siege 1818.
- Plunder 1818.

Since clearly both a siege and a plunder took place in 1818, these events are split into two separate observations. The dummy overreported equals 0.

Example with no overreporting: *"Siege in 1818 and 1820."* The following observations are created:

- Siege 1818.

- Siege 1820.

Since clearly a siege took place in 1818 and in 1820, these events are split into two separate observations. The dummy overreported equals 0.

Example with overreporting: *"Siege and plunder in 1818 and 1820."* The following observations are created:

- Siege 1818.
- Plunder 1818.
- Siege 1820.
- Plunder 1820.

It is not clear whether both types of conflict incidents took place in both years. Therefore, there is a risk of overreporting. The dummy overreported equals 1 for all observations.

5 Contents of the Data Package

conflict_incidents.csv Data on attacks for *Städtebuch* cities.

6 Collaborators

Data collection Anna Caules, Max Höfl, Felix Leiss, Matthias Mall (all LMU)

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A Appendix

A.1 Broad Conflict Type

The following German terms identify the broad category of the conflict type.

1: Unspecified conflict *Angriff*, *Aufstand*, *Bedrückung*, *Bestrafung (z. B. Enthauptungen)*, *Degradierung*, *Drangsale*, *Einbruch*, *Einnahme*, *Einmarsch*, *Einzug*, *Eroberung*, *Entwicklung der Stadt gehemmt*, *Entvölkerung*, *Fehde*, *Gefährdung*, *Heimsuchung*, *Hinrichtung*, *in Mitleidenschaft gezogen*, *Krieg*, *Kriegsschauplatz*, *Kriegsteilnahme*, *Heimsuchung*, *Leiden*, *Schlacht vor/um/bei*, *Scharmützel*, *schwer bedroht*, *Streifzug*, *Überfall*, *Unterwerfung*, *Heimsuchung*, *Verpfändung*

2: Conflict involving the destruction of capital *Beschießung*, *Einnahme mit Zerstörung*, *In Brand Setzung*, *Einäscherung*, *Niederbrennung*, *(schwere) Schäden* , *Verwüstung*, *Verheerung*, *Vernichtung*, *Wilde Plünderung*, *Zerstörung*, *(schwerer) Rückschlag für die Stadt*, *Verödung*

3: Conflict involving occupation and / or the loss of financial resources *Besatzung*, *Besetzung*, *Besitznahme*, *Okkupation*, *hausen*, *(vergebliche) Belagerung*, *Brandschatzung*, *Durchzüge*, *Einquartierung*, *Feldlager vor der Stadt*, *Fourageliederung*, *Finanzielle Bestrafung*, *Kontributionen*, *Kosten, die durch kriegerisches Ereignis angefallen sind*, *Kriegslasten*, *(schwere) Plünderung*, *Requisition*, *Beschlagnahmung*, *Truppendurchzug mit Plünderung*, *Truppendurchzug*, *Durchmarsch*

A.2 Detailed Conflict Type

The following German terms identify the detailed category of type_detail.

a1 *Zerstörung*, *Verwüstung*, *Bedrückung*, *Verheerung*, *Vernichtung*, *Zerstörung*, *Schleifen*, *Schäden durch Kriegstaten*, *Kriegsschäden*, *Schäden in der Stadt*, *Beschädigung*

a2 *Beschießung*, *In Brand schießen*

a3 *In Brandsetzung*, *Einäscherung*, *Niederbrennung*

a4 *Sprengung*

ab1 *(schwere) Schäden*, *Schädigung*, *Verödung*

b1 *Kontributionen*

b2 *Fourageliederung*, *Naturalleistungen*, *verproviantieren*, *Requisitionen*, *Verpflegungsgebiet*

b3 *Plünderung*, *Raub*, *Raubüberfall*

b4 *Brandschatzung*

b5 *Loskaufsumme*, *Erpressung*

b6 *Belastung*, *Lasten*, *Leistungen an*, *Kriegslasten*, *ruinierter Wohlstand*

b7 *wirtschaftlich belastet*, *Belastung (finanziell)*, *Geldbusen*, *wirtschaftliche Schäden*, *Kriegskosten*, *wirtschaftlicher Rückschlag*

b8 *Kriegssteuer*, *Schatzung*

b9 *Truppenstellung*, *Aushebung*

c1 *Einquartierung*, *hausen*, *Quartier*, *Unterbringung*

c2 *Person/ Armee in X. lagen in X*

c3 *Person/ Armee vor X*

c4 *Feldlager vor der Stadt*

c5 *Sammelplatz für Truppen oder Aufständische*, *lMusterplatz*

c6 *Stationierung*

c7 *Hauptquartier von*

c8 *X ist Militärlager*, *Stützpunkt*, *Winterlager*

cd1 *Besatzung*, *Besetzung*, *Okkupation*

cd2 *Burg / Feste / Grenzhaus erhält Besatzung*, *Burg / Feste / Grenzhaus wird mit Soldaten belegt*

d1 *Durchzüge*

d2 *Belagerung*, *Blockade*

e1 *Angriff*, *Gefecht mit Stadt*, *Einfall*, *berannt*, *bestürmt*, *Kampf um X*, *Einbruch*, *Kampfhandlungen*, *Stadt wurde verteidigt gegen Y (wenn erfolgreich*, *Vertreibung von Besatzern*, *Kämpfe*, *Invasion*

e2 *Eroberung*, *Einnahme*, *Besitznahme (nur erfolgreich)*

e3 *Überfall*, *Überrumpelung*

e4 *Einzug*, *Einmarschieren*, *Einrücken*

e5 *Schlacht in/bei*, *Gefecht in/bei*, *Armee wurde bei X geschlagen*, *Sieg des XY gegen YX (Person)*

e6 *ergab sich kampflos*, *Kampflose Einnahme*, *Übergabe der Burg*, *Auslieferung von X*

e7 *geriet in die Hand der X*, *wurde xy*

e8 *Treffen bei*

e9 *berannt*, *bestürmt*

f1 non-specified event; possible terms: *umkämpft*, *Leiden*, *Auseinandersetzung*, *Drangsale*, *Heimsuchung*, *Nennung der Truppen,*, *Widerstand der Bürger*, *abgeschlage*, *Fehde*, *Krieg X hat Entwicklung der Stadt beeinflusst*, *Reichsexekution*, *Kriegshandlung*

f2 *Pest*

f3 *Aufstand*, *Unruhen*, *Teilnahme am Bauernsaufstand ohne nähere Angaben*, *Revolte*

f4 *bedroht*, *gefährdet*, *bedrängt*

f5 *Reichsacht*

g1 *Erschießung*, *Hinrichtungen*

g2 *Entvölkerung speziell durch Truppen*, *Massaker*

g3 *unbestimmte Bevölkerungsverluste*

xy *Durchzug oder Einquartierung oder besetzt oder Kontribution*

ecd *erobert oder kampflos besetzt*

de *belagert oder erobert*

A.3 War labels

The following table lists the wars assigned to the conflict incidents.

Table 1: Dictionary of warlabel values

Variable	Description	Time Period
0	no war assigned to the conflict	
1	Eighty Years' War / Dutch War of Independence	1569–1648
2	Thirty Years' War	1618–1648
3	Seven Years' War	1756–1763
4	Poor Conrad rebellion	1514
5	German Peasants' War	1524–1526
6	War of the Bavarian Succession	1778–1779
7	German Campaign of 1813	1813 –1815
8	First Silesian War	1740–1742
9	French Revolution	1789–1799
10	First Margrave War	1448–1454
11	Hussite Wars	1419–1439
12	Investiture Controversy	1076–1122
13	Coalition Wars	1792–1815
14	The wars of Louis XIV of France (*not* War of the Reunion)	1667–1697
15	Napoleonic Wars	1800–1814
16	Great Northern War	1700–1721
17	Nine Years' War / War of the Grand Alliance / War of the League of Augsburg	1688–1697
18	War of the Austrian Succession	1740–1748
19	War of the Polish Succession	1733–1738
20	War of the Reunion	1683–1684
21	French Revolutionary Wars	1792–1802
22	Silesian Wars (both)	1740–1763
23	Schmalkaldic War	1546–1547
24	War of the Cities	1387–1389
25	War of the Spanish Succession	1701–1714
26	Throne conflict between Louis IV and Frederick the Fair	1314–1325
27	Cologne War	1583–1588
28	War of Vogtland	1354–1358
29	War of Wasungen	1747–1748
30	Second Silesian War	1744–1745

A.4 Leaders of the Thirty Years' War

The following leaders were involved in the Thirty Years' War, as coded in ThirtyYW_leader.

0 Information not available

m Multiple leaders

1 Electoral Palatinate

2 Speyer

3 Principality of Ansbach

4 Poland

5 Imperial troops

6 Troops of the Catholic League

7 Dragoons of Liechenstein

8 Saxony 1618-1630

9 Saxony 1630-1635

10 Saxony 1635-1645

11 Leopold V, Archduke of Austria

12 Christian the Younger of Brunswick

13 Ernst von Mansfeld

14 Tilly

15 Wallenstein

16 Denmark

17 Johann Jakob, Count of Bronckhorst and Anholt

18 Pappenheim / Gottfried Heinrich, count zu Pappenheim

19 Christian William of Brandenburg

20 Holland

21 Ambrosio Spinola

22 Spanish troops

23 Don Verdugo

24 Bavarian troops

25 Maximilian I, Elector of Bavaria

26 William V, Landgrave of Hesse-Kassel

27 Croatian auxiliaries

28 Sweden

29 Troops of Brandenburg

30 Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden

31 Colonel of Schöneberg

32 Franz Wilhelm, Count von Wartenberg (catholic bishop)

33 Würzburg

34 Colonel of Goetze / Henning von Goetze

35 Heinrich Holk

36 Hesse

37 Charles IV, Duke of Lorraine

38 Otto Louis of Salm-Kyrburg-Mörchingen

39 William, Duke of Saxe-Weimar

40 Schweinefurt

41 Colonel of Rau (Württemberg)

42 Wolf Heinrich von Baudissin

43 Wolfgang Ernst I of Isenburg-Büdingen-Birstein

44 France

45 Johan Banér (Sweden)

46 Colonel of Ossa and Count Ernesto Montecuccoli

47 Hock

48 Lüneburg

49 George, Duke of Brunswick-Calenberg

50 Hanau

51 Colonel of Sperreuth

52 Electoral Max (eventually Maximilian I, Elector of Bavaria)

53 Württemberg

54 Habsburg cavalry / Austrian troops

55 Weimar

56 Gustav Horn, Count of Pori

57 Bernard of Saxe-Weimar

58 Matthias Gallas

59 Vidame

60 Count Johann von Werth

61 Villing

62 Troops of Hatzfeld

63 Gleen

64 Guillaume de Lamboy

65 Ottavio Piccolomini

66 General of Boenninghausen

67 Bielefeld

68 Meissen / Knights of Meissen

69 Colonel of Baumberger / Caspar von Baumberger

70 Philipp von Mansfeld

71 Louis Henry, Prince of Nassau-Dillenburg

72 Osnabrück

73 Carl Gustaf Wrangel

74 Ernst Albrecht von Eberstein

75 Konrad Wiederhold

76 Johann von Götzen, count of Götzen

77 Ottone Enrico del Caretto, Marquis of Savona

78 Colonel of Rostock

79 General Stahlhansch (Sweden)

80 Henri II d'Orléans, Duke of Longueville

81 Hans Christoff von Königsmarck

82 Lennart Torstensson

83 Johann „Hans" Rudolf von Breda

84 Gilles De Haes

85 Augustus the Younger, Duke of Brunswick-Lüneburg

86 Colonel of Eppe

87 Johann Georg von Brandenburg, Duke of Jägerndorf

88 Jean-Baptiste Budes, Comte de Guébriant

89 Kassel

90 Hans Ulrich von Schaffgotsch

91 Georg von Derfflinger

92 Krockow

93 Franz von Mercy

94 Henri de La Tour d'Auvergne, Viscount of Turenne

95 Louis, Grand Condé

96 Johann von Sporck

97 General Axel Lilienstern

98 Colonel Meuter

99 Darmstadt

100 Peter Melander Graf von Holzappel

101 Troops of Lorraine

102 Jean Louis d'Erlach

103 Johann von Aldringen

A.5 Territories of the Thirty Years' War

The following territories are subordinate territories of the conflict party (ThirtyYW_territory) in the Thirty Years' War.

0 Information not available

1 Baden

2 Bavaria

3 Brandenburg

4 Brandenburg-Ansbach

5 Brunswick-Lüneburg

6 Denmark

7 France

8 County of Hanau

9 Hesse

10 Prince-Bishopric of Osnabrück

11 Holland

12 Italy

13 Croatia

14 Electoral Palatinate

15 Liechtenstein

16 Lorraine

17 Margravate of Meissen

18 Poland

19 Saxony

20 Saxe-Weimar

21 Sweden

22 Schweinfurt

23 Spain

24 Speyer

25 Weimar

26 Württemberg

27 Würzburg

28 Austria

29 Austria-Bavaria

30 Private Territory (e.g. Mansfeld, Wallenstein)

References

Keyser, Erich, Peter Johanek, Evamaria Engel, and Heinz Stoob, eds, *Deutsches Städtebuch: Handbuch städtischer Geschichte*, Stuttgart u.a.: Kohlhammer, 1939-2003.