Codebook for the Intra-State Wars v.4.0.

Definitions and Variables by Meredith Reid Sarkees

The Correlates of War (COW) Project has utilized a classification of wars that is based upon the status of territorial entities, in particular focusing on those that are classified as members of the inter-state system (referred to as "states"). Wars have been categorized by whether they primarily take place between/among states, between/among a state(s) and a non-state entity, and within states. This dataset encompasses wars in this latter category – wars that predominantly take place within the recognized territory of a state, or intra-state war. For a complete description of the COW war typology and for a definition of the major variables as they apply to all wars, see "The COW Typology of War: Defining and Categorizing Wars [Version 4 of the Data]" by Meredith Reid Sarkees, also available on this website. A more detailed discussion can also be found in Chapter 2 of *Resort to War: A Data Guide to Inter-State, Extra-State, Intra-state, and Non-State Wars, 1816-2007* by Meredith Reid Sarkees and Frank Whelon Wayman, (Washington, DC: CQ Press 2010). This volume also contains a brief historical description of each war and a discussion of the coding decisions made in each case. A more extensive discussion of each war will be found in the forthcoming reference work, *A GUIDE TO INTRA-STATE WARS: An Examination of Civil, Regional, and Intercommunal Wars, 1816-2007*, by Jeffrey Dixon and Meredith Reid Sarkees

Within the COW war typology, an intra-state war must meet same definitional requirements of all wars in that the war must involve sustained combat, involving organized armed forces, resulting in a minimum of 1,000 battle-related combatant

fatalities within a twelve month period. When Correlates of War scholars Melvin Small and J. David Singer first extended their study of war to include intra-state wars in *Resort to Arms*, they established the requisite condition that for a conflict to be a war, it must involve armed forces capable of "effective resistance" on both sides. They then developed two alternative criteria for defining effective resistance: "(a) both sides had to be initially organized for violent conflict and prepared to resist the attacks of their antagonists, or (b) the weaker side, although initially unprepared, is able to inflict upon the stronger opponents at least five percent of the number of fatalities it sustains."[1] The effective resistance criteria were specifically utilized to differentiate wars from massacres, one-sided state killings, or general riots by unorganized individuals. Such one-sided violence is not considered to be the same phenomenon as war and is not included here. However this distinction is sometimes difficult to make particularly in intra-state conflict.

Within the new expanded COW typology of wars, intra-state wars have been subdivided into three general types, based upon the status of the combatants: civil wars involve the government of the state against a non-state entity; regional internal wars involve the government of a regional subunit against a non-state entity; and intercommunal wars involve combat between/among two or more non-state entities within the state. Civil wars have then been subdivided further into two types; those for control of the central government, and those involving disputes over local issues. Small and Singer defined the central government as those forces that were at the start of the war in de facto control of

[1] Melvin Small and J. David Singer, *Resort to Arms: International and Civil War, 1816-1980* (Beverly Hills, Calif.: Sage, 1982), 215.

the nation's institutions, regardless of the legality or illegality of their claim. Control of the nation's institutions need not necessarily include control of the armed forces, since in a civil war the armed forces may actually be fighting against the government. In such cases the government must rely on civilian combatants or other branches of the civilian or military infrastructure that remain loyal. Consequently, Small and Singer also included in the general category of "the government," or the side of the national government, all those—from national military forces to local police, and citizens—who enter the conflict in the name of that government.[2] The non-state participants in intra-state wars can be a variety of types of actors, including; regional geopolitical units (GPUs), and nonterritorial entities (NTEs) or nonstate armed groups (NSAs) that have no defined territorial base.

As with all categories of war, for a state to be considered a war participant, the minimum requirement is that it has to either commit 1,000 troops to the war or suffer 100 battle-related deaths. Since nonstate armed groups are generally smaller than states and have fewer resources than states, we have adopted a more minimalist requirement for an NSA to be considered a war participant. An NSA can be considered a war participant if it either commits 100 armed personnel to the war or suffers 25 battle-related deaths. Admittedly, this lower level to qualify as a war participant may make it more complicated to identify all of the participants in an intra-state war. Relatedly, it is often more difficult to ascertain battle-related deaths in intra-state wars. Nonstate armed groups may or may not wear identifying clothing, so it may be more difficult for observers to distinguish combatant deaths from civilians who may have been killed. Similarly, it is

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[2] Melvin Small and J. David Singer, *Resort to Arms: International and Civil War, 1816-1980* (Beverly Hills, Calif.: Sage, 1982), 213.

frequently difficult to separate wars (or actions by NSAs) from general riots that may result from, or occur along with, armed group actions. Consequently, historians frequently report fatality and casualty numbers that include the deaths of noncombatants. Nevertheless, we have attempted to report only battle-related deaths among the combatants, sometimes by making judgments on fatalities related to the reported sizes of the combatant forces, if available.

Two other definitional issues particularly pertain to intra-state wars. Intra-state wars are classified as "internationalized" when an outside state or states intervenes in the war. The war remains classified as "internationalized" as long as the intervener does not take over the bulk of the fighting from one of the initial parties. However if the intervener takes over the bulk of the fighting, the war ceases to be an intra-state war and is transformed into a war of a different classification. If the intervener comes in on the side of the government and then takes over the bulk of the fighting, the war is transformed into an extra-state war. If the intervener comes in on the side of the non-state entity and takes on the bulk of the fighting, the war is transformed into an inter-state war. Conversely, wars can also be transformed into intra-state wars, for example when a state withdraws from a an inter-state war.

The data-set presented here includes 334 intra-state wars, a significant increase over the initial list of 106 civil wars in *Resort to Arms*. There are several reasons for this significant increase. The first two augmentations were the results of definitional changes. Readers should consult "The COW Typology of War: Defining and Categorizing Wars [Version 4 of the Data]" and *Resort to War* for more detailed discussions of these

revisions. In the initial version of the civil war data, a metropole criteron was used to categorize wars within the metropole of a state as civil wars and those in the periphery of a state as extra-state wars. With the elimination of this distinction, 30 wars that were previously classified as extra-state were transferred to the intra-state category (see the list in Table 1 below).

Table 1 Extra-state Wars re-classified as Intra-state Wars.

1992 Extra-systemic war number	1992 Extra-systemic war name	Current intra-state war number	Start year
304	Greek	506	1821
312	Albanian	512	1830
315	Belgian Independence	515	1830
316	First Polish	517	1831
319	First Syrian	518	1831
322	Texan	527	1835
323	First Bosnian	528	1836
328	Second Syrian	533	1839
333	Second Bosnian	540	1841
340	Hungarian	554	1848
346	First Turco-Montenegran	556	1852
352	Second Turco-Montenegran	562	1858
354	Second Buenos Aires	573	1861
355	Second Polish	580	1863
360	First Cretan	583	1866
366	Mitre Rebellion	600	1874
367	Balkan	601	1875
395	Third Cretan	631	1896
396	Druze-Turkish	630	1895
406	Ilinden	640	1903
408	Yunnan	675	1916
416	Chinese Muslim	703	1928
417	Soviet-Turkistani	711	1931
436	Tibetan	741	1956
437	First Kurdish	752	1961
439	Philippine-MNLF	786	1972
442	Ethiopian-Eritrean	798	1975
443	Kurdish Autonomy	797	1974
451	Ogaden	805	1976
454	Tigrean	808	1978

A second reason for the increase was that initially Small and Singer were only examining battle deaths for the state participants of civil wars, and only included cases in which this number exceeded 1,000 annually. In this version of the data we have tried to include cases that annually entail 1,000 battle-related deaths between/among all war participants, which needless to say increased the number of qualifying wars. Relatedly, some of the more recent research by others on internal conflict has involved detailed investigations into the fatality statistics, and these studies have aided us in identifying additional cases of conflict that meet our war criteria. On the most basic level, merely the passage of time from *Resort to Arms* in 1982 to the end date of this data in 2007 has added numerous wars to this collection. Finally, as noted above, this version of the data has expanded the dataset beyond civil wars to intra-state war by adding two types of war that were not included in *Resort to Arms*; regional internal war and intercommunal war.

The variable layout for this version of the data is detailed below. Overall, there is one initial record for a war, and war participants are listed as having fought on Side A or Side B of the war. Additional records are added for wars in which it was possible to identify more than one participant on a side. The letters A and B having no particular meaning, though in civil wars the state government is listed as Side A.

Variables Layout
WarNum - the number assigned to the war
WarName - the name given to the war
WarType - 4 = Civil war for central control; 5 = Civil war over local issues; 6 = Regional
      internal; 7 = Intercommunal

CcodeA – the Country Code or System Membership number for the participant on Side A of the war; -8 = Not Applicable (the participant is not a state)

SideA - the name of the participant on Side A of the war: -8=Not Applicable (no additional party on this side)

CcodeB - the Country Code or System Membership number for the participant on Side B of the war; -8 = Not Applicable (the participant is not a state)

SideB - the name of the participant fighting on the other side of the war (Side B): -8=Not Applicable (no additional party on this side)

Intnl - is the war internationalized? 0=No, 1=Yes

StartMonth1 - the month in which sustained combat began: -9 = month unknown

StartDay1 - the day on which sustained combat began: -9 = day unknown

StartYear1 - the year in which sustained combat began: -9 = year is unknown

EndMonth1 - the month in which sustained combat ended, or the month of the last major engagement after which fatalities declined below the war fatality threshold: -7 = war ongoing as if 12/31/2007, -9 = month unknown

EndDay1- the day on which sustained combat ended, or the day after the last major engagement after which fatalities declined below the war fatality threshold: -7 = war ongoing as if 12/31/2007, -9 = day unknown

EndYear1 - the year in which sustained combat ended, or the year of the last major engagement after which fatalities declined below the war fatality threshold: -7 = war ongoing as if 12/31/2007, -9 = year unknown

StartMonth2 - after a break in the fighting, the month in which sustained combat resumes: -9 = month unknown

StartDay2- after a break in the fighting, the day on which sustained combat resumes: -9 = month unknown

StartYear2 - after a break in the fighting, the year in which sustained combat resumes: -9 = year unknown

EndMonth2 - after fighting resumes, the month in which sustained combat ended, or the month of the last major engagement after which fatalities declined below the war fatality threshold: -7 = war ongoing as if 12/31/2007, -9 = month unknown

EndDay2- after fighting resumes, the day on which sustained combat ended, or the day after the last major engagement after which fatalities declined below the war fatality threshold: -7 = war ongoing as if 12/31/2007, -9 = day unknown

EndYear2 - after fighting resumes, the year in which sustained combat ended, or the year of the last major engagement after which fatalities declined below the war fatality threshold: -7 = war ongoing as if 12/31/2007, -9 = year unknown

TransFrom - the WarNum of a preceding war that was transformed into this intra-state war: -8 = Not applicable

WhereFought - Region where combat occurred. Values are:
1 = W. Hemisphere
2 = Europe
4 = Africa
6 = Middle East
7 = Asia
9 = Oceania

Initiator - the name of the participant that began the war

TransTo - the WarNum of the war that this war transformed into, -8=Not applicable

Outcome: coded as:

       1 - Side A wins

       2 - Side B wins

       3 - Compromise

       4 - The war was transformed into another type of war

       5 - The war is ongoing as of 12/31/2007

       6 - Stalemate

       7 - Conflict continues at below war level

SideADeaths - the battle-related combatant fatalities suffered by the Side A participant: -8 = not applicable, -9= data unknown

SideBDeaths - the battle-related combatant fatalities suffered by the Side B participant: -8 = not applicable, -9= data unknown

Version - Version of the data = 4.0