Armed Conflict Dataset Codebook[1]

Version 3-2005

http://www.prio.no/cscw/armedconflict

Håvard Strand,
Joachim Carlsen,
Nils Petter Gleditsch,
Håvard Hegre,
Christin Ormhaug &
Lars Wilhelmsen

International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO)

in collaboration with

Peter Wallensteen,
Margareta Sollenberg,
Mikael Eriksson
& Lotta Harbom
Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University

and

Halvard Buhaug
& Jan Ketil Rød

Department of Sociology and Political Science/Department of Geography,
Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)

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[1] The first release of the Armed Conflict Dataset was prepared at PRIO in 2002 in close collaboration with researchers at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University and the Departments of Sociology and Political Science and Geomatics at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). For a description of the division of labor in creating the database, see the first footnote Gleditsch et al. (2002: 615). This footnote also lists the financial sources of support for the entire project and credits for comments and advice received along the way.

This is Version 3-2005 of the codebook and associated documents. We are grateful to several colleagues and external users for constructive comments. For our policy on version labeling, see Section 2.4 below, and for a complete history of earlier versions see the document called Version History. For further comments and suggestions on the data and the codebook, please communicate both to project leader in Uppsala Lotta Harbom (lotta.harbom@pcr.uu.se) and to jpr@prio.no.

When using the data, please cite Gleditsch et al. (2002) and (when appropriate) this codebook. Please always include the Version number in analyses using the dataset.

Contents

1 Introduction

This document describes the Armed Conflict Dataset, a joint project between the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, Uppsala University and the Centre for the Study of Civil War at the International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO). The dataset was first presented in Gleditsch, Wallensteen, Eriksson, Sollenberg & Strand (2002), and is available for download from http://www.prio.no/cwp/armedconflict/. The project is part of the larger Uppsala Conflict Data Project, which is thoroughly described at http://www.ucdp.uu.se.

Version 3-2005 is updated in accordance to the changes listed in Harbom & Wallensteen, (2005). The 2004 conflicts have been added to the database. A couple of small corrections have been made relative to the data reported in Harbom and Wallensteen (2005).(See errata *JPR* 42(6);2005) We refer the reader to our Version History document for details of these and other changes. The dataset will continue to be updated with new data annually.

The data are posted in three different formats:

- the 'Main Conflict Table' with one line for each *conflict* for each year
- the 'Monadic Table' with one line for each *country* for each year
- the 'Dyadic Table' with one line for each *pair of countries* for each yaer

The variables in these tables are described in Sections 3, 4, and 5, respectively. In addition, the list of conflicts is posted as text in pdf format.

2 Definition of conflict

The main unit in this database is an 'Armed Conflict', as defined by the Armed Conflict Data Project. This definition is presented unabridged in Section 2.1. Each conflict as defined by this rule is listed in the database and given a unique ID code. The temporal aspect of a conflict is not addressed by this definition, and it is therefore neccesarry for us to operationalize this further. Section 2.2 describes under what conditions an armed conflict can be seen as a sequence of several conflict phases.

The dataset was originally published in a Word document, with a flexible data structure, corresponding to the definition presented below in Section 2.1. The current document describes a fixed data structure, which at times is incompatible with the flexible structure of the original list of conflicts. We have been as loyal to the original document as possible, and we will try to clarify how each variable relates to the original dataset[2]. The major difference between the two is the notion of a sub-conflict, which is described below.

2.1 Armed conflict

The Armed Conflict Data project at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at the University of Uppsala has written the following definition: "An *armed conflict* is a contested incompatibility that concerns government and/or territory where the use of armed force between two parties, of which at least one is the government of a state, results in at least 25 battle-related deaths".

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[2] The complete list of conflicts (1946–2004) is available at:
http://www.prio.no/cwp/armedconflict/current/conflict_list_1946-2004.pdf.

The separate elements of the definition are operationalized as follows:

(1) *Use of armed force*: use of arms in order to promote the parties' general position in the conflict, resulting in deaths.
    (1.1) *Arms*: any material means, e.g. manufactured weapons but also sticks, stones, fire, water, etc.
(2) *25 deaths*: A minimum of 25 battle-related deaths per year and per incompatibility.
(3) *Party*: A government of a state or any opposition organization or alliance of opposition organizations.
    (3.1) *Government*: The party controlling the capital of the state.
    (3.2) *Opposition organization*: Any non-governmental group of people having announced a name for their group and using armed force.
(4) *State*: A state is:
    (4.1) an internationally recognized sovereign government controlling a specified territory, *or*
    (4.2) an internationally unrecognized government controlling a specified territory whose sovereignty is not disputed by another internationally recognized sovereign government previously controlling the same territory.
(5) *Incompatibility concerning government and/or territory*: The incompatibility, as stated by the parties, must concern government and/or territory.
    (5.1) *Incompatibility*: the stated generally incompatible positions.
    (5.2) *Incompatibility concerning government*: Incompatibility concerning type of political system, the replacement of the central government, or the change of its composition.
    (5.3) *Incompatibility concerning territory*: Incompatibility concerning the status of a territory, e.g. the change of the state in control of a certain territory (interstate conflict), secession, or autonomy (internal conflict).

Location refers to the governmental party; *opposition organizations* include all organizations recorded as being in armed conflict with the government. Also see 3.4 and 3.6.

In the case of an interstate armed conflict, both (or all) countries are given as a location in the original conflict list, with a dash between the warring sides. In the case of a colonial conflict, the territory at issue is listed as the location whereas the actors, including the colonial power, are presented as opposition organizations. In the database, one country in an interstate conflict is given as *location* in the database, while the other state actors are presented as opposition organizations. If several countries are listed, the first country is the location.

Names of the opposition organizations are given in the local language, if available, and in English.

2.2 Distinguishing between different phases of conflict: The Conflict ID and the Sub-Conflict ID

For some purposes there is a need to distinguish between different phases of a war. To facilitate this, we have added a Sub-Conflict ID field that identifies distinct phases of the conflict. The first year(s) of a conflict is always coded with Sub-Conflict ID = 0.

We code a subsequent year of conflict as a new sub-conflict if it satisfies either of the following criteria:

1. It follows ten consecutive years with less than 25 battle-related deaths per year
2. It is the year of a conflict that is coded as changing from 'internal conflict' to 'internationalized internal conflict' or vice versa
3. It is coded with a complete change in the list of opposition organizations

In all other cases, a conflict year is coded as continuation of the previous sub-conflict. The definition of a Sub-Conflict ID has consequences for coding criteria regarding temporal issues. Start Dates are coded with respect to Sub-Conflict ID, so that each new Sub-Conflict has an independent start date. However, it is important to note that since not all Sub-Conflicts are defined based on the temporal criterion, these start dates must not be confused with a definition of conflict onset. There is, at the time of writing, no definition of conflict onset in this database.

2.3 Missing data problems

This dataset does not include any missing data codes. This should not lead anyone to assume there are no such problems. A number of conflicts have been identified as potentially in accordance with the criteria for inclusion. Similarly, additional years might have been listed for those conflicts that are included, although so far we have failed to find sufficient evidence for inclusion. These observations are currently coded as absence of conflict.

The information also varies with regard to the level of precision. For the start date variables, the precision level is recorded in a separate variable. Apart from that, our take is that if we only record and provide information when we are quite confident that it is correct. The bias produced by this approach is against the inclusion of conflicts in the earlier decades and in the less-developed world. An armed conflict in a developed country in the 1990s is more likely to be recorded than a conflict in a less-developed country in the 1950s.

The data coders have made a decision whether there was an active conflict according to the definition for all countries for all years they are independent after 1945. This does not mean there are no uncertainties regarding the codings. For a discussion of unclear cases in 2004, see Appendix 2 in Harbom & Wallensteen (2005).

2.4 Version name convention

The most recent version of the dataset is Version 3-2005 For every new release, substantive changes will be documented in a separate document.[3] This should be helpful to researchers trying to replicate a particular study. We recommend that whenever this dataset is used, the version number should be cited.

The version number is a combination of a number and a year. The number is increased when the definition of the dataset is developed and the table schema is changed. The year refers to when the dataset is updated with new observations. If there is changes in the data between yearly updates a letter is used behind the year.

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[3] http://www.prio.no/cwp/armedconflict/version_history.pdf

3 The Main Conflict Table

The observation (or unit) in the Main Conflict table is a conflict-year. Each conflict is listed every year it is found to be above the threshold. This is in contrast to Version 2.1 (and earlier versions) of the dataset.[4]

The calendar year is the basic unit of every observation. If a conflict during the period June–September results in 30 casualties, that year will be recorded as a year of conflict. If the same number of casualties occurred in the period November–February and that the conflict failed to reach the threshold of 25 battle-related deaths in either calendar year, both years would be recorded as being at peace. This has a number of consequences that will be discussed below. Start dates will very often be recorded prior to the first calendar year of a conflict, as the start of a conflict might be in a year with less than 25 casualties. Small conflicts might not be included. Certain observations might be based on a single event, such as the Omagh bombing in Northern Ireland in 1997, which exceeded the minimum threshold for armed conflict.

Different observations have a different number of actors, both government and opposition groups. For most purposes, the database has to be converted into a data structure more suitable for analysis, such as a monadic, dyadic, or duration structure[5].

Table 1. Definition of Variables in the Main Conflict Table

No	Variable	Label	Description
1	Primkey	Primary key	The unique identifier of all observations
2	ID	Conflict identifier	The unique identifier of all conflicts
3	SubID	Sub-conflict identifier	Identifying sub-conflicts within a defined conflict
4	Location	Country name(s)	The name(s) of the country/countries whose government(s) have a primary claim to the object in dispute.
5	Side_A	Country name(s)	Identifying the country/countries of side A in a conflict. Always the government side in civil wars
6	Side_B	Country name(s) or Opposition actors	Identifying the names and/or country/countries of side B in a conflict. In a civil conflict, this includes military opposition organizations.
7	Incompatibility	Conflict incompatibility	A general coding of the conflict issue
8	Territory	Name of territory	The name of the territory over which the conflict is fought, provided that the incompatibility is territorial
9	Year	Year of observation	

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[4] The previous formulation read 'The observation (or unit) in the database is a conflict-year, a sub-conflict, or a subset of either over a period of time where no element in the definition described in Section 2 is changed. Each conflict is likely to include several observations'. This definition of the primary unit made sense in the text lists that preceded this dataset, where space was an important issue. The data structure was kept in order to stay compatible with previous versions. But while this might be advantageous to old users, it has confused a number of new users. The new annual data structure therefore replaced the old structure in Version 3.0.

[5] By monadic we refer to a data structure where a country is the main unit of analysis. Dyadic refers to a data structure where a pair of countries is the main unit of analysis. In duration analyses the conflict, from start to end, is the main unit of analysis.

No	Variable	Label	Description
10	Intensity	Intensity level	A two + one level assessment of the number of battle-related casualties per year in the conflict period covered by the observation, plus a special level indicating conflict history in low-intensity conflicts
11	Type	Conflict type	Four different types of conflict (inter-state, extrastate, internal, international-ized internal)
12	Startdate	Date of conflict initiation	The date, as precise as possible, of the first violent action of the conflict result-ing in death
13	Startprecision	Precision of Startdate	The level of precision for the initial date
14	Startdate2	Date of conflict initiation	Similar to Start_date, but truncated so that there are no dates earlier than the first year of 25 battle-related deaths
15	Startprecision2	Precision of Startdate2	The level of precision for the truncated initial date
16	COW_A[6]	COW numbers of Side A	COW numbers of all countries in Side A, separated by semicolons
17	COW_B	COW numbers of Side B	COW numbers of all countries in Side B, separated by semicolons
18	COW_location	COW numbers of Loca-tion	COW numbers of all location countries, separated by semicolons
19	Region	Region of Location	See Section 3.19 for the definition of the different regions.
20	Lat	Latitude of conflict centre	First component of the geographic co-ordinates of center of the conflict
21	Lon	Longitude of conflict cen-ter	Second component of the geographic coordinates of center of the conflict
22	Radius	Radius of conflict area	Assuming that all conflict areas are circles, the radius of the conflict area
23	Version	Version number	The current version of the dataset. See Section 2.4.

3.1 Primkey

The Primkey variable is the primary key in the dataset, and each observation has a unique primary key. This variable is useful for merging the dataset with other data-sets. It is constructed from three components: The first four digits are the conflict ID. The fifth digit is the sub-conflict ID. The last four digits are the year of the observa-tion. $Key = (ID*100000) + (SubID*10000) + Begin$. There are 1808 observations in the dataset.

3.2 ID

Every conflict, as defined in Section 2.1, has its own ID. We have chosen a four-digit Conflict ID, ranging from 1010 to 3330. There are 229 different conflicts included in the current version. Based on new evidence, earlier coding decisions have and will continue to be revised. Thus, the conflict ID variable can also be subject to changes from version to version.

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[6] COW: Correlates of War project.

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3.3 SubID

Every sub-conflict is identified by the SubID variable. The default value is 0, and every new sub-conflict has a new number. Thus, a conflict with two sub-conflicts is in reality divided into three conflict periods with their individual start dates. Most conflicts do not have sub-conflicts, but 68 of the 229 conflicts have been split up into different sub-conflicts. There is a total of 330 unique combinations of conflict IDs and sub-conflict IDs

Table 2. Frequency Table for SubID Variable

Number of sub-conflicts	Count
1	161
2	44
3	18
4	3
5	3

This frequency table shows the distribution of number of sub-conflicts per conflict. The six conflicts that are divided into four or more different conflict periods are conflicts in Sudan, Congo/Zaire, Afghanistan, Uganda, and Cambodia.

3.4 Location

Location is defined as the government side of a conflict, and should not be interpreted as the geographical location of the conflict.

- For internal and internationalized internal conflicts, only one country name is listed. This is the country whose government or territory is disputed. For certain conflicts, such as Kurdistan, the disputed territory is divided between different countries. Following our definition, we have coded individual conflicts for each country.
- For interstate conflict, governments with a claim over the territory in dispute are listed in the Location field. Even if several governments are involved in the conflict, only the primary parties are listed. This normally means that two countries are listed, but there are two notable exceptions: In the Arab-Israeli war of 1948–49 as well as the Suez war of 1956, there are more than two primary parties to the conflict. In the Arab-Israeli war of 1948–49 five states, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, and Transjordan, made an equal claim against Israel to the Israeli/Palestinian territory. In the case of the Suez war of 1956, Israel, United Kingdom, and France share an equal claim to the Suez territory against Egypt. Thus, the parties cannot be separated into primary and secondary parties with regard to the incompatibility.
- For extra-state conflicts, Location is set to be the disputed area, not the government of the colonial power. This is a rather difficult problem, as the Location by default is not a member of the international system, and hence it is incompatible with the definition presented in Section 2.

Location is a string variable, listing the names of the countries involved. These might be fighting together or against each other. The string is split in two ways, hy-

phen ('-') splits the different sides in an interstate war, and comma (',') splits different countries fighting together on the same side.

3.5 Side_A

Side A is the government side of all internal conflicts, one of the sides in an interstate conflict, and the colonial state in extra-state conflicts. By definition, a non-governmental group cannot be part of an armed conflict on this side. For all interstate conflicts, we only list governments, and for all extrastate or internal conflicts, every conflict involving a non-governmental actor on the governments side versus another non-governmental actor can be broken up into two conflicts; the government vs. the opposition and the pro-government group vs. the opposition. The latter is a conflict with no government actor and falls outside our definition. Hence, Side A will only list governments. In some interstate conflicts, Side A includes more countries than are listed in the Location field. All governments involved in an interstate conflict are listed on Side A or Side B, but only the primary parties with a claim over the territory in dispute are listed in the Location field. (Note the explanation in the previous sections concerning two conflicts where we cannot separate between primary and secondary actors.)

Side A is a string variable, where the different country names are separated by a comma (',').

3.6 Side_B

Side B is the opposition side of all internal and extra-state conflicts and the second side in an interstate conflict. Side B can include both countries and non-governmental opposition groups. There might be conflicts where different opposition groups fight each other as well as the government, but this will not be evident from the coding of Side B. Governments listed in Side B can support one or more of the opposition groups, but neither this nor the precise name of all opposition groups can be read out of this column. We refer to the conflict list for more information on opposition groups.

Side B is a string variable, where the different country names are separated by a comma (',').

3.7 Incompatibility

As one country can experience several conflicts, we need a way to differentiate between them. Incompatibility can be either over Government or Territory. There can be only one incompatibility over Government in a given year, but there can be several territorial conflicts involving both opposition organizations and other governments in either internal or interstate conflicts.

Table 3. Frequency Table for Incompatibility

Incompatibility	Count
Territory: 1	134

Government: 2	95

Extrastate conflicts are by definition territorial, since the government side is fighting to retain control of a territory outside the state system. Insterstate conflicts are also more likely to concern territory than government. The exceptions are invasions aimed at a change of government, such as the US invasions of Grenada (1983) and Panama (1989), and the Soviet invasion of Hungary (1956).

3.8 Territory

If the incompatibility is Territory, this variable will name that territory.

3.9 Year

The first year of the observation period as defined in Section 3.

3.10 Intensity

The intensity variable is coded in three categories:
1. *Minor*: At least 25 battle-related deaths per year for every year in the period.
2. *Intermediate*: More than 25 battle-related deaths per year and a total conflict history of more than 1000 battle-related deaths, but fewer than 1,000 per year.
3. *War*: At least 1000 battle-related deaths per year

This variable is *not* ordinal. The intermediate category is not necessarily more intense than the minor category, but it adds an element of history that is not coded in the categories 'minor' or 'war'. Some users may prefer to recode this variable as a dichotomy (minor conflict/war) and use the historical information (cumulative deaths exceeds 1000: yes/no) as a separate variable.

The intensity coding raises a problem with regard to the definition of subconflicts. The 'total conflict history' category is reset if there are more than 10 continuous years with fewer than 25 battle-related deaths per year, or if there is a complete change in the opposition side. It is, however, *not* reset if the sub-conflict coding is due to an intervention in an ongoing internal war (or the retraction of foreign troops). This is not a coherent coding procedure. Researchers who find this problematic can disregard the 'intermediate' category and rather merge it with the 'minor' category.

3.11 Type

We define four types of conflict:
1. *Extrasystemic armed conflict* occurs between a state and a non-state group outside its own territory. (In the COW project, extrasystemic war is subdivided between colonial war and imperial war, but this division is not used here.)
2. *Interstate armed conflict* occurs between two or more states.
3. *Internal armed conflict* occurs between the government of a state and internal opposition groups without intervention from other states.
4. *Internationalized internal armed conflict* occurs between the government of a state and internal opposition groups with intervention from other states.

3.12 Startdate

The start date is coded as the initial fatality of the armed conflict. In several conflicts, this event is more or less temporally isolated, and the year in question does therefore not result in 25 battle related fatalities. The start date can therefore be recorded in a country that is not recorded as being involved in an armed conflict. This is neither self-contradictory nor unfortunate. As described in Sections 2 and 3, the threshold of 25 battle-related deaths per year produces an effective platform for comparing for instance the level of conflict in the world at two different points in time. However, it is less well suited at identifying events of special interest, such as the onset of an armed conflict. When the start date is coded prior to the first year recorded as being in armed conflict, this is an indication of the onset being isolated to the extent that the sum of all events for that year did not meet our threshold of 25 fatalities.

The definition of the start date as the initial event involving a fatality is not self-evident. Two important alternatives were discussed. The initial statement of the political incompatibility could for some researchers be just as interesting. Another alternative would be the event that brought the body count for that year up to 25. Both of these were, however, rejected.

3.13 Startprecision

For certain conflicts, we can pinpoint the start of the armed conflict down to a single event, taking place on a given day. For other conflicts, this is not possible, due to operational difficulties or missing information.

Some conflicts have a sliding period of escalation, where it can be difficult to point to a single event being the initial event. In such cases, we have to make a subjective judgment. When the information we have gathered does yield any basis for a decision, we also have to set a date. Both of these problems are reflected in the coding of the Start date precision.

1. Both day and month are precisely coded, based on operational criteria and good information.
2. Day is assigned, month and year is precisely coded. This can be due to both kinds of problem discussed above. The assigned date can either be one of several events that can be classified as the first event, or it can be an event that different sources claim occured on different dates.
3. Month and year are precisely coded, day is unknown. The exact day is known to be in a given month, but there are no data available. Day is then set to the first day of the month.
4. Month is assigned, year is coded precisely. Similar to item 2 in this list, there is uncertainty regarding the month, not only the day. Month and day assigned based on subjective judgment.
5. Both day and month missing; only year is known and coded precisely. The start date is assigned to 1 January of that year.
6. Year is assigned. Similar to item 2 and item 4, there is wide disagreement between different sources, so that not even year can be coded precisely. The start date is then assigned based on subjective judgment.
7. Year is missing. No information on the start date is available; the start date is set to 1 January of the first year recorded in conflict.

3.14 Startdate2

Startdate2 is set to the date on which have information that at least 25 battle deaths have occurred and all other criteria required to fulfill the definition of an armed conflict. If this date is not precisely known, Startdate2 is set to 1 January of the year the criteria were fulfilled, and Startprecision2 is set to 5. In cases where Startdate2 is known only with precision 5 (only year known), but Startdate1 is known with precision 3 (month known) or better, Startdate2 is set to the same date as Startdate1 and Startprecision2 is set to 4 (month assigned).

This variable is useful for some applications, since Startdate1 in several instances is a date before the first year recorded as having conflict due to the incompatibility of the calendar-year observation unit and the event-based coding of start date.

3.15 Startprecision2

The precision coding for Start date 2 differs only from Start date precision on the start dates that have been changed, and these are given the value 11.

3.16 COW_A

To facilitate analytical use of the dataset, we have coded the Correlates of War (COW) number for all participating countries/governments for that observation. We have split this into a Side A and a Side B. For interstate conflict, Side A and Side B are assigned arbitrarily, but for the three other categories of conflict some additional explanation is necessary: All countries fighting together on the government side are listed on Side A and all countries aiding opposition groups are listed on Side B. We may safely assume that all countries listed under Side A are fighting together, but this assumption is more problematic for Side B. There might be conflicts where several governments support different opposition groups, which might fight separately against the government or even fight each other. We have not recorded which governments support which opposition groups.

COW_A is a string variable, where the list of numbers are separated by comma (',').

3.17 COW_B

See COW_A.

3.18 COW_location

This field holds the COW numbers of all governments listed in the Location variable. These actors are the primary actors in the conflict, with a claim in the object of dispute. It does not, as stated before, necessarily imply that there is conflict on the territories controlled by the listed actors.

COW_location is a string variable, where the numbers are separated by a comma (',').

3.19 Region

The conflict definition specifies a region variable, with the following five regions:

1. *Europe*: Geographic definition, including Russia and the states in the Caucasus, corresponding to the COW numbers [200,395]

2. *Middle East*: Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, and the states of the Arabian Peninsula, corresponding to the COW numbers [630,698]
3. *Asia*: Geographic definition, including Oceania, Australia, and New Zealand, and excluding states in the Middle East, corresponding to the COW numbers [700,990]
4. *Africa*: Geographic definition, excluding states in the Middle East (see above), corresponding to the COW numbers [400,625]
5. *Americas*: Geographic definition, including states in the Caribbean, corresponding to the COW numbers [2,165]

Figure 1. Number of Armed Conflicts by Region, 1946–2004

Armed Conflicts 1946-2004 by Region
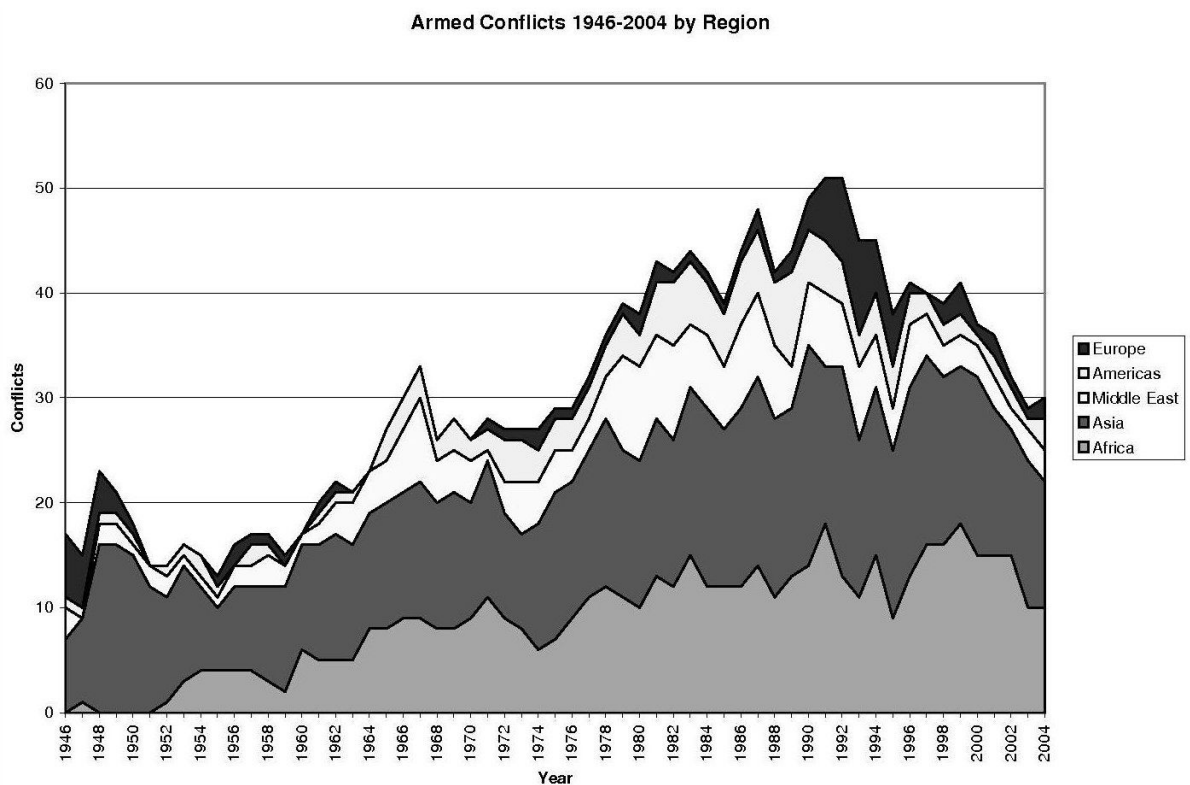
3.20 Lat

In order to specify the geographic location of each conflict, every observation is assigned a conflict center point by its geographical coordinates (latitude and longitude). The conflict center is fixed, so as to represent the geographic mid-point of all significant battle-zones during the conflict, including territory occupied by the opposition actors. The latitude and longitude variables are represented by decimal degrees on a 180˚ scale. Southern latitudes and western longitudes have negative values.

3.21 Lon

See Lat.

3.22 Radius

The radius variable indicates the largest geographic extent of the conflict zone from the center point during the course of conflict. The radius variable is measured in 50-kilometer intervals. For conflicts that took place within a single spot (city, military base), the radius variable is set at 50 km. Users should be aware of the limitations of this variable. At a given point in time, the actual conflict zone might be more constrained than the maximum size that is recorded here. Furthermore, we define a circular zone of conflict whereas the actual shape is more likely to follow the contours of international boundaries, mountains, rivers, etc. In fact, the circular conflict zone might also cover territory not directly affected by the conflict, and even the territory of a neighboring country. Work is in progress to refine this variable by introducing polygon-shaped conflict zones, and these data will be added to the database eventually.

Figure 2. Geographic Location of all Armed Conflicts, 1989–2004
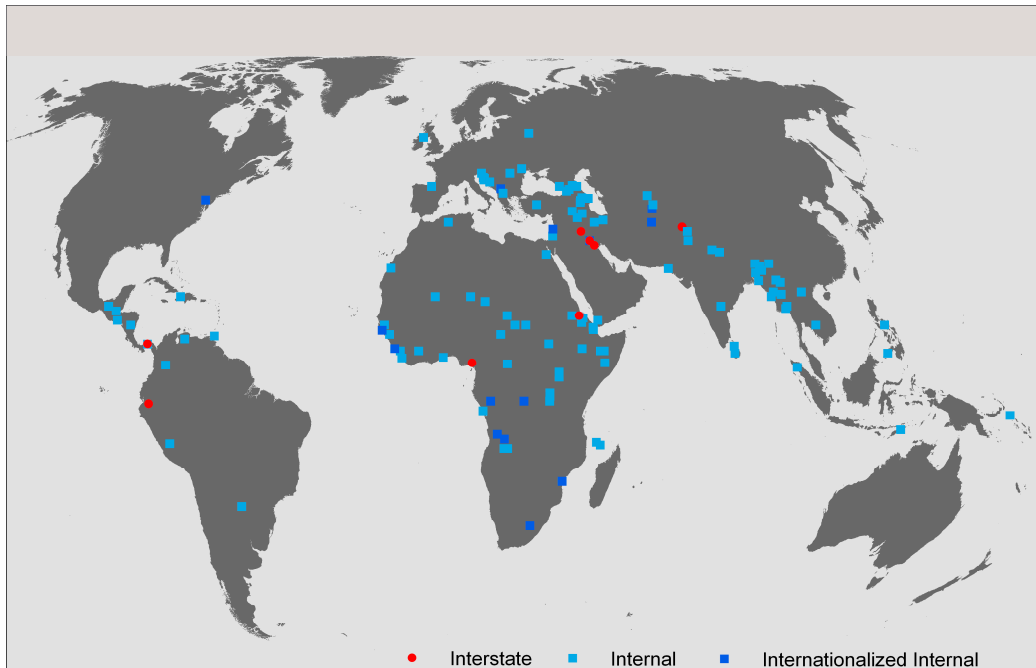
Plotted by the ViewConflicts program (Rød, Gleditsch & Buhaug, 2002) on the basis of Version 3-2005 of this database.

4 Monadic dataset

We have prepared a monadic (or country-year) dataset based on the database. Most analyses of civil conflict are made with this data structure. As there are four different types of conflicts in the database, we have included an extensive set of variables in the monadic file. These variables should, combined, cover most possible uses of the dataset, but they will rarely all be used in the same study.

Since some countries can experience simultaneous conflicts, we report the highest intensity level for each conflict type.

The monadic dataset is available in following formats; SPSS, Stata 7, Excel, semi-colon separated text file.

4.1 Variables

Table 4 lists the variables in the Monadic Table.

Table 4. Definition of Variables in the Monadic Table

No.	Variable	Description
1	Year	Year
2	cow	COW country code
3	Type1	0: No extra-state conflict 1: Extra-state minor armed conflict 2: Extra-state intermediate armed conflict 3: Extra-state war
4	Type2	0: No interstate conflict 1: Interstate minor armed conflict 2: Interstate intermediate armed conflict 3: Interstate war
5	Type3	0: No internal conflict 1: Internal minor armed conflict 2: Internal intermediate armed conflict 3: Internal war
6	Type4	0: No Internationalized internal conflict 1: Internationalized internal minor armed conflict 2: Internationalized internal intermediate armed conflict 3: Internationalized internal war
7	Location	0: Country is not listed as location of a conflict 1: Country is listed as location of a minor armed conflict 2: Country is listed as location of an intermediate armed conflict 3: Country is listed as location of a war (see Sec. 4.4; 4.19)
8	Count	The number of conflicts in which the government of the country is involved in
9	Version	Version information

5   Dyadic dataset

The dyadic dataset contains one line for each year for each pair of countries that co-exist in a given year (see Section 7 for system membership information). The table consists of 15,354 dyads and 553,573 dyad-years.

5.1 Variables

All the variables in the dyadic dataset are derived from the Main Conflict Table. All variables are listed with short descriptions in Table 5. Table 6 summarizes the coding of the most important variables in the Main Conflict Table to help reading Table 5. The variables in the Dyadic Table have been named according to the following convention: The abbreviation 'TypX' refers to the conflict type the variable represents. The letters A and B denote which the state in the dyad the variable refers to. The variable 'Typ1_A' hence codes whether state A in the dyad is involved in a conflict of type 1 (extra-systemic) in the given year. The component '_CI ' (Conflict Intensity) indicates that the highest intensity level of this conflict is recorded. The component '_Inc' indicates that the incompatibility is recorded.

A variable that contains both A and B in its name is a truly dyadic variable, and indicates whether states A and B were engaged simultaneously in the same war. The label component 'Opp' indicates that the pair of countries were fighting on opposite sides in the conflict. The label component 'Ally' indicates that the pair of countries were fighting on the same side in the conflict.

Note that the variables that do not refer to both state A and B contain information that is essentially at the country level. The variable 'Typ1_A' is therefore identical in all the dyads that country A belongs to in the given year.

The component 'Loc' denotes whether country A or B were the location of the internationalized internal conflict, i.e. the country whose government or territory is contested. Correspondingly, 'IS' denotes whether country A or B were intervening in the conflict in this country.

Table 5. Definition of Variables in the Dyadic Table

	Variable	Description
1	A_COW	Correlates of War ID for State A
2	B_COW	Correlates of War ID for State B
3	Year	Current dyad-year
4	Typ1_A_CI	Whether state A is involved in one or more conflicts type 1 – extra-systemic (Highest Conflict Intensity is recorded)
5	Typ1_A_Inc	Whether state A is involved in one or more conflicts type 1 – extra-systemic (Incompatibility of the conflict is recorded)
6	Typ1_B_CI	Whether state B is involved in one or more conflicts type 1 – extra-systemic (Highest Conflict Intensity is recorded)
7	Typ1_B_Inc	Whether state B is involved in one or more conflicts type 1 – extra-systemic (Incompatibility of the conflict is recorded)
8	Typ2_A_CI	Whether state A is involved in one or more conflicts type 2 – interstate (Highest Conflict Intensity is recorded)
9	Typ2_A_Inc	Whether state A is involved in one or more conflicts type 2 – interstate (Incompatibility of the conflict is recorded)
10	Typ2_B_CI	Whether state B is involved in one or more conflicts type 2 – interstate (Highest Conflict Intensity is recorded)
11	Typ2_B_Inc	Whether state B is involved in one or more conflicts type 2 – interstate (Incompatibility of the conflict is recorded)
12	Typ2_AB_Opp_CI	Whether states A and B are involved on opposite sides in a conflict type 2 - interstate (Highest Conflict Intensity is recorded)
13	Typ2_AB_ Opp_Inc	Whether states A and B are involved on opposite sides in a conflict type 2 – interstate (Incompatibility of the conflict is recorded)
14	Typ2_Ally_CI	Whether states A and B are involved on same sides in a conflict type 2 – interstate (Highest Conflict Intensity is recorded)
15	Typ2_Ally_Inc	Whether states A and B are involved on same sides in a conflict type 2 – interstate (Incompatibility of the conflict is recorded)
16	Typ3_A_CI	Whether state A is involved in one or more conflicts type 3 – internal (Highest Conflict Intensity is recorded)
17	Typ3_A_Inc	Whether state A is involved in one or more conflicts type 3 – internal (Incompatibility of the conflict is recorded)

	Variable	Description
18	Typ3_B_CI	Whether state B is involved in one or more conflicts type 3 – internal (Highest Conflict Intensity is recorded)
19	Typ3_B_Inc	Whether state B is involved in one or more conflicts type 3 – internal (Incompatibility of the conflict is recorded)
20	Typ4_A_Loc_CI	Whether state A is the location of one or more conflicts type 4 – internationalized internal (Highest Conflict Intensity is recorded)
21	Typ4_A_Loc_Inc	Whether state A is the location of one or more conflicts type 4 – internationalized internal (Incompatibility of the conflict is recorded)
22	Typ4_B_Loc_CI	Whether state B is the location of one or more conflicts type 4 – internationalized internal (Highest Conflict Intensity is recorded)
23	Typ4_B_Loc_Inc	Whether state B is the location of one or more conflicts type 4 – internationalized internal (Incompatibility of the conflict is recorded)
24	Typ4_A_IS_CI	Whether state A is involved as an Intervening State in one or more conflicts type 4 – internationalized internal (Highest Conflict Intensity is recorded)
25	Typ4_A_IS_Inc	Whether state A is involved as an Intervening State in one or more conflicts type 4 – internationalized internal (Incompatibility of the conflict is recorded)
26	Typ4_B_IS_CI	Whether state B is involved as an Intervening State in one or more conflicts type 4 – internationalized internal (Highest Conflict Intensity is recorded)
27	Typ4_B_IS_Inc	Whether state B is involved as an Intervening State in one or more conflicts type 4 – internationalized internal (Incompatibility of the conflict is recorded)
28	Typ4_AB_ Opp_CI	Whether states A and B are involved on opposite sides in an conflictof type 4 – internationalized internal (Highest Conflict Intensity is recorded)
29	Typ4_AB_ Opp_inc	Whether states A and B are involved on opposite sides in an conflict of type 4 – internationalized internal (Incompatibility of the conflict is recorded)
30	Typ4_Ally_CI	Whether states A and B are involved on same sides in an conflictof type 4 – internationalized internal (Highest Conflict Intensity is recorded)
31	Typ4_Ally_Inc	Whether states A and B are involved on same sides in an conflict of type 4 – internationalized internal (Incompatibility of the conflict is recorded)
32	NumConflicts_A	Number of conflicts recorded for state A in the current year
33	NumConflicts_B	Number of conflicts recorded for state B in the current year
34	Key_A	Comma [,] separated references to the variable Primkey in the parent dataset for each conflict state A is involved in the current year.

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	Variable	Description
35	Key_B	Comma [,] separated references to the variable Primkey in the parent dataset for each conflict state B is involved in the current year.

Table 6. Coding Descriptions for the Dyadic Table

Type **(see Section 3.11** for complete variable descriptions**)**	1: Extrasystemic armed conflict 2: Interstate armed conflict 3: Internal armed conflict 4: Internationalized internal armed conflict
Intensity **(see Section 3.10** for complete variable descriptions**)**	0. No conflict 1. Minor: At least 25 battle-related deaths per year for every year in the period. 2. Intermediate: More than 25 battle-related deaths per year and a total conflict history of more than 1000 battle-related deaths, but fewer than 1,000 per year. 3. War: At least 1000 battle-related deaths per year A state may be involved in more than one conflict of any type in a given year. The intensity of the highest-level conflict is recorded.
Incompatibility **(see Section 3.7** for complete variable descriptions**)**	0: No conflict 1–2: Government or Territory 3: Both 1 and 2

5.2 Notes

All countries fighting together on the government side are listed on side A and all countries aiding opposition groups are listed on side B. We may safely assume that all countries listed under side A are fighting together, but the same assumption is more problematic for side B. (See Sections 3.5 and 3.6.)

6   Technical information

6.1 Database

The database is stored in a Microsoft Access 2000 database. The main table [Armed Conflict Database] is defined with the following data types:

Table 7. Technical Spesification of Main Conflict Table

No.	Variable	Definition
1	Primkey	LONG INTEGER
2	ID	INTEGER
3	SubID	BYTE
4	Location	TEXT
5	Side_A	TEXT
6	Side_B	TEXT
7	Incompatibility	BYTE
8	Territory	TEXT
9	Year	INTEGER
10	Begin	INTEGER
11	End	INTEGER

No.	Variable	Definition
12	Intensity	BYTE
13	Type	BYTE
14	Startdate	DATE/TIME
15	Startprecision	BYTE
16	Startdate2	DATE/TIME
17	Startprecision2	BYTE
18	COW_A	TEXT
19	COW_B	TEXT
20	COW_location	TEXT
21	Region	BYTE
22	Lat	DOUBLE
23	Lon	DOUBLE
24	Radius	INTEGER
25	Version	DOUBLE

The monadic file is stored in the table [Monadic] with the following definition:

Table 8. Technical Spesification of the Monadic Table

No.	Variable	Definition
1	Year	INTEGER
2	COW	INTEGER
3	Type1	BYTE
4	Type2	BYTE
5	Type3	BYTE
6	Type4	BYTE
7	Location	BYTE
8	Count	BYTE
9	Version	DOUBLE

The dyadic file is stored in the table [Dyadic] with the following definition:

Table 9. Technical Spesification of the Dyadic Table

	Variable	Definition
1	A_COW_ID	INTEGER
2	B_COW_ID	INTEGER
3	Year	INTEGER
4	Civ_A	BYTE
5	Civ_A_Inc	BYTE
6	Civ_B	BYTE
7	Civ_B_Inc	BYTE
8	War_A	BYTE
9	War_A_Inc	BYTE
10	War_B	BYTE
11	War_B_Inc	BYTE
12	War_AB	BYTE
13	War_AB_Inc	BYTE
14	War_Ally	BYTE
15	War_Ally_Inc	BYTE
16	Typ4L_A	BYTE
17	Typ4L_A_Inc	BYTE
18	Typ4L_B	BYTE
19	Typ4L_B_Inc	BYTE
20	Typ4I_A	BYTE
21	Typ4I_A_Inc	BYTE
22	Typ4I_B	BYTE
23	Typ4I_B_Inc	BYTE

	Variable	Definition
24	Typ4_AB	BYTE
25	Typ4_AB_Inc	BYTE
26	Typ4_Ally	BYTE
27	Typ4_Ally_Inc	BYTE
28	Typ1_A	BYTE
29	Typ1_A_Inc	BYTE
30	Typ1_B	BYTE
31	Typ1_B_Inc	BYTE
32	NumConflicts_A	BYTE
33	NumConflicts_B	BYTE
34	Key_A	TEXT
35	Key_B	TEXT
36	Version	DOUBLE

6.2 Text files

The text files are exported from the database with semi-colon (';') as the field separator and in the Western European (Windows) / ISO-8859-1 code page.

6.3 SPSS files

Created with Stat/Transfer 7.0.02.

6.4 Stata files

Stata (Standard) Version 7. Created with Stat/Transfer 7.0.02.

6.5 Excel file

Exported out of the main database. Due to the size of the dyadic table, this file could not be converted to Excel.

7 System membership description

The definition of a state is crucial to our conflict list. The conflict definition is based upon participating governmental actors of independent states, and the classification of a given conflict rests heavily upon the status of the different actors. A conflict between two recognized governments is an interstate war, while a conflict between a recognized government and a party soon to become a recognized government can be classified as either internal war (i.e. Eritrea) or extra-state war (i.e. Laos) or if (4.2) applies, interstate war. The definition of a state in the original conflict definition is as follows:

(4) *State*: A state is
        (4.1) an internationally recognized sovereign government controlling a specified territory, *or*
        (4.2) an internationally unrecognized government controlling a specified territory whose sovereignty is not disputed by another internationally recognized sovereign government previously controlling the same territory.

This is a very wide definition, which allows us a significant flexibility when it comes to including small and short-lived governments and thereby classifying conflicts precisely. However, this flexibility is costly when we want to compare conflicts

over time. If we want to answer the question 'Is there more conflict now than during the Cold War?' we need to compare the ratio of states in conflict to states in peace at different points in time. To do that, we need a complete list of states over time.

We use the Gleditsch & Ward (1999) systems membership definition. This definition is based on the Correlates of War project definition. The most recent update is Correlates of War 2 Project (2003). The starting point for that list was Russett et al. (1968). Before 1920 the Russett et al. definition includes countries with a population of more than 10,000 and diplomatic relations with Britain and France. After 1920 countries are included if they have either membership in the League of Nations or the UN, or a population of more than 500,000 and recognition from two *major* powers in the system.

Gleditsch & Ward include countries with a population of more than 250.000 that have 'a relatively autonomous administration over some territory', and is 'considered a distinct entity by local actors or the state it is dependent on' (Gleditsch & Ward, 1999: 398).

The Gleditsch & Ward system definition is more flexible and addresses a number of problematic aspects in the earlier Russett et al. definition, and it also fits our definition of state better. Lack of diplomatic recognition by a major power can be an indicator of conflict, and is therefore a problematic aspect of a system membership definition for our use. However, countries with less than 250,000 inhabitants can also experience conflict, and we would ideally have chosen to include such countries as governmental actors in our dataset. The only case where this is problematic is presented by the armed conflict Hyderabad vs. India. Hyderabad declared itself independent in 1947. A civil war broke out between the Indian government and a rebel movement, ending in an invasion by India.

Most quantitative applications of this dataset will not be affected by this problem, as the lack of control variables most probably will leave this observation out of the analysis. We build our monadic and dyadic time frames on the Gleditsch & Ward system membership data, so that there is one observation (country-year or dyad-year) for the whole Gleditsch & Ward frame. Gleditsch & Ward use a slightly modified version of the COW numbering system. Table 10 presents the system membership table that we base our data tables on. These data are updated through 31 December 2004 by us, based on the assumption that no country has entered or left the international system after the most recent version of the Gleditsch & Ward data.

Table 10. Gleditsch & Ward System Membership Table

StateNum	StateAbb	StateName	StartYear	EndYear
2	USA	United States of America	1946	2004
20	CAN	Canada	1946	2004
31	BHM	Bahamas	1973	2004
53	BAR	Barbados	1966	2004
40	CUB	Cuba	1946	2004
41	HAI	Haiti	1946	2004
42	DOM	Dominican Republic	1946	2004
51	JAM	Jamaica	1962	2004
52	TRI	Trinidad and Tobago	1962	2004
70	MEX	Mexico	1946	2004
80	BLZ	Belize	1981	2004

90	GUA	Guatemala	1946	2004
91	HON	Honduras	1946	2004
92	SAL	El Salvador	1946	2004
93	NIC	Nicaragua	1946	2004
94	COS	Costa Rica	1946	2004
95	PAN	Panama	1946	2004
100	COL	Colombia	1946	2004
101	VEN	Venezuela	1946	2004
110	GUY	Guyana	1966	2004
115	SUR	Surinam	1975	2004
130	ECU	Ecuador	1946	2004
135	PER	Peru	1946	2004
140	BRA	Brazil	1946	2004
145	BOL	Bolivia	1946	2004
150	PAR	Paraguay	1946	2004
155	CHL	Chile	1946	2004
160	ARG	Argentina	1946	2004
165	URU	Uruguay	1946	2004
200	UK	United Kingdom	1946	2004
205	IRE	Ireland	1946	2004
210	NTH	Netherlands	1946	2004
211	BEL	Belgium	1946	2004
212	LUX	Luxembourg	1946	2004
220	FRN	France	1946	2004
225	SWZ	Switzerland	1946	2004
230	SPN	Spain	1946	2004
235	POR	Portugal	1946	2004
260	GFR	German Federal Republic	1949	2004
265	GDR	German Democratic Republic	1949	1990
290	POL	Poland	1946	2004
305	AUS	Austria	1946	2004
310	HUN	Hungary	1946	2004
315	CZE	Czechoslovakia	1946	1992
316	CZR	Czech Republic	1993	2004
317	SLO	Slovakia	1993	2004
325	ITA	Italy/Sardinia	1946	2004
338	MLT	Malta	1964	2004
339	ALB	Albania	1946	2004
343	MAC	Macedonia	1991	2004
344	CRO	Croatia	1991	2004
345	YUG	Yugoslavia (Serbia)	1946	2004
346	BOS	Bosnia-Herzegovina	1992	2004
349	SLV	Slovenia	1991	2004
350	GRC	Greece	1946	2004
352	CYP	Cyprus	1960	2004
355	BUL	Bulgaria	1946	2004
359	MLD	Moldova	1991	2004
360	RUM	Rumania	1946	2004
365	RUS	Russia (Soviet Union)	1946	2004
366	EST	Estonia	1991	2004

367	LAT	Latvia	1991	2004
368	LIT	Lithuania	1991	2004
369	UKR	Ukraine	1991	2004
370	BLR	Belarus	1991	2004
371	ARM	Armenia	1991	2004
372	GRG	Georgia	1991	2004
373	AZE	Azerbaijan	1991	2004
375	FIN	Finland	1946	2004
380	SWD	Sweden	1946	2004
385	NOR	Norway	1946	2004
390	DEN	Denmark	1946	2004
395	ICE	Iceland	1946	2004
402	CAP	Cape Verde	1975	2004
404	GNB	Guinea-Bissau	1974	2004
411	EQG	Equatorial Guinea	1968	2004
420	GAM	Gambia	1965	2004
436	NIR	Niger	1960	2004
432	MLI	Mali	1960	2004
433	SEN	Senegal	1960	2004
434	BEN	Benin	1960	2004
435	MAA	Mauritania	1960	2004
437	CDI	Cote D'Ivoire	1960	2004
438	GUI	Guinea	1958	2004
439	BFO	Burkina Faso	1960	2004
450	LBR	Liberia	1946	2004
451	SIE	Sierra Leone	1961	2004
452	GHA	Ghana	1957	2004
461	TOG	Togo	1960	2004
471	CAO	Cameroon	1960	2004
475	NIG	Nigeria	1960	2004
481	GAB	Gabon	1960	2004
482	CEN	Central African Republic	1960	2004
483	CHA	Chad	1960	2004
484	CON	Congo	1960	2004
490	DRC	Congo, Democratic Republic of (Zaire)	1960	2004
500	UGA	Uganda	1962	2004
501	KEN	Kenya	1963	2004
510	TAZ	Tanzania/Tanganyika	1961	2004
511	ZAN	Zanzibar	1963	1964
516	BUI	Burundi	1962	2004
517	RWA	Rwanda	1962	2004
520	SOM	Somalia	1960	2004
522	DJI	Djibouti	1977	2004
530	ETH	Ethiopia	1946	2004
531	ERI	Eritrea	1993	2004
540	ANG	Angola	1975	2004
541	MZM	Mozambique	1975	2004
551	ZAM	Zambia	1964	2004
552	ZIM	Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)	1965	2004

553	MAW	Malawi	1964	2004
560	SAF	South Africa	1946	2004
565	NAM	Namibia	1990	2004
570	LES	Lesotho	1966	2004
571	BOT	Botswana	1966	2004
572	SWA	Swaziland	1968	2004
580	MAG	Madagascar	1960	2004
581	COM	Comoros	1975	2004
590	MAS	Mauritius	1968	2004
600	MOR	Morocco	1956	2004
615	ALG	Algeria	1962	2004
616	TUN	Tunisia	1956	2004
620	LIB	Libya	1951	2004
625	SUD	Sudan	1956	2004
630	IRN	Iran	1946	2004
640	TUR	Turkey/Ottoman Empire	1946	2004
645	IRQ	Iraq	1946	2004
651	EGY	Egypt	1946	2004
652	SYR	Syria	1946	2004
660	LEB	Lebanon	1946	2004
663	JOR	Jordan	1946	2004
666	ISR	Israel	1948	2004
670	SAU	Saudi Arabia	1946	2004
678	YEM	Yemen (Arab Republic of Yemen)	1946	2004
680	YPR	Yemen, People's Republic of	1967	1990
690	KUW	Kuwait	1961	2004
692	BAH	Bahrain	1971	2004
694	QAT	Qatar	1971	2004
696	UAE	United Arab Emirates	1971	2004
698	OMA	Oman	1946	2004
700	AFG	Afghanistan	1946	2004
701	TKM	Turkmenistan	1991	2004
702	TAJ	Tajikistan	1991	2004
703	KYR	Kyrgyz Republic	1991	2004
704	UZB	Uzbekistan	1991	2004
705	KZK	Kazakhstan	1991	2004
710	CHN	China	1946	2004
711	TBT	Tibet	1946	1950
712	MON	Mongolia	1946	2004
713	TAW	Taiwan	1949	2004
731	PRK	Korea, People's Republic of	1948	2004
732	ROK	Korea, Republic of	1948	2004
740	JPN	Japan	1946	2004
750	IND	India	1947	2004
760	BHU	Bhutan	1949	2004
770	PAK	Pakistan	1947	2004
771	BNG	Bangladesh	1972	2004
775	MYA	Myanmar	1948	2004
780	SRI	Sri Lanka (Ceylon)	1948	2004
781	MAD	Maldives	1965	2004

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790	NEP	Nepal	1946	2004
800	THI	Thailand	1946	2004
811	CAM	Cambodia	1954	2004
812	LAO	Laos	1954	2004
816	DRV	Vietnam, Democratic Republic of	1954	2004
817	RVN	Vietnam, Republic of	1954	1975
820	MAL	Malaysia	1957	2004
830	SIN	Singapore	1965	2004
835	BRU	Brunei	1984	2004
840	PHI	Philippines	1946	2004
850	INS	Indonesia	1946	2004
900	AUL	Australia	1946	2004
910	PNG	Papua New Guinea	1975	2004
920	NEW	New Zealand	1946	2004
940	SOL	Solomon Islands	1978	2004
950	FJI	Fiji	1970	2004
860	ETM	East Timor	2002	2004

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