

ONLINE APPENDIX

Definitions relating to State-based conflict:

A state-based armed conflict is defined by the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) as a contested incompatibility that concerns government or territory or both where the use of armed force between two parties results in at least 25 battle-related deaths in a year. Of these two parties, at least one has to be the government of a state.

The incompatibility is the stated (in writing or verbally) generally incompatible positions.

A more detailed definition can be found on UCDP's webpage, at <http://www.ucdp.uu.se>.

The state-based conflicts are divided according to type of conflict.¹

- *Interstate armed conflict* occurs between two or more states.
- *Internationalized internal armed conflict* occurs between the government of a state and internal opposition groups, with intervention from other states in the form of troops.
- *Internal armed conflict* occurs between the government of a state and internal opposition groups.

The conflicts are also divided according to their intensity into two categories:

- *Minor armed conflict*: at least 25 battle-related deaths in a year but fewer than 1,000.
- *War*: at least 1,000 battle-related deaths in a year.

Battle-related deaths are those fatalities that can be related to combat in a conflict dyad. Typically, battle-related deaths occur in what can be described as 'normal' warfare involving the armed forces of the warring parties. This includes traditional battlefield fighting, guerrilla activities (e.g. hit-and-run attacks/ambushes) and all kinds of bombardments of military units, cities and villages etc. The targets are usually the military itself and its installations, or state institutions and state representatives, but there is often substantial collateral damage in the form of civilians killed in crossfire, indiscriminate bombings etc. All deaths – military as well as civilian – incurred in such situations, are counted as battle-related deaths.

UCDP codes three different fatality estimates – low, best and high – based on the reliability of reports and the conflicting number of deaths that can be reported for any violent event.

- *Low estimate*: The UCDP Low estimate consists of the aggregated low estimates for all battle-related incidents during a year. If different reports provide different estimates and a higher estimate is considered more reliable, the low estimate is also reported if deemed reasonable.

¹ UCDP has also coded a fourth type, extrasystemic armed conflict, a conflict that occurs between a state and a non-state group outside its own territory. These conflicts are by definition territorial. The last such conflict ended in 1974.

- *Best estimate:* The UCDP Best estimate consist of the aggregated most reliable numbers for all battle-related incidents during a year. If different reports provide different estimates, an examination is made as to what source is most reliable. If no such distinction can be made, UCDP as a rule include the lower figure given.
- *High estimate:* The UCDP High estimate consists of the aggregated high estimates for all battle-related incidents during a year. If different reports provide different estimates and a lower estimate is considered more or equally reliable, the high estimate is also reported if deemed reasonable. If there are incidents when there is some uncertainty about what parties have been involved, these are also included in the high estimate.

It is the best estimate of battle-related deaths that determines both whether or not a dyad will be included in the UCDP data (i.e. the best estimate needs to be 25 or higher) and whether the intensity is recorded as minor armed conflict or war.

Definitions relating to One-sided violence:

One-sided violence is the use of armed force by the government of a state or by a formally organized group against civilians which results in at least 25 deaths during one calendar year. Extrajudicial killings in custody are excluded.

The separate elements of the definition are operationalized as follows:

- (1) *Use of armed force:* use of arms in order to exert violent force, resulting in death(s)
 - (1.1) *Arms:* any material means, e.g. manufactured weapons but also sticks, stones, fire, water, etc.
- (2) *25 deaths:* a minimum of 25 civilians deaths per year and per actor
- (3) *Government:* the party controlling the capital of the state
- (4) *Formally organized group:* any non-governmental group of people having announced a name for their group and using armed force
- (5) *State:* a state is
 - (5.1) an internationally recognized sovereign government controlling a specified territory, *or*
 - (5.2) an internationally unrecognized government controlling a specified territory whose sovereignty is not disputed by another internationally

recognized sovereign government previously controlling the same territory

(6) *Civilians*: unarmed people who are not active members of the security forces of the state, or members of an organized armed militia or opposition group. Government officials, such as members of parliament, governors, and councilors, are also excluded and are instead seen as representatives of the government of a state.

Note that the UCDP definition of civilian does not refer to the definition of civilian under international law.

(7) *Extrajudicial killings in custody*: when the government of a state kills a person in its custody

(7.1) *custody*: when the person is located in a prison or another type of governmental facility

UCDP codes three different fatality estimates – low, best and high – based on the reliability of reports and the conflicting number of deaths that can be reported for any violent event.

- *Low estimate*: The UCDP Low estimate consists of the aggregated low estimates for all incidents of one-sided violence during a year. If different reports provide different estimates and a higher estimate is considered more reliable, the low estimate is also reported if deemed reasonable.
- *Best estimate*: The UCDP Best estimate consist of the aggregated most reliable numbers for all incidents of one-sided violence during a year. If different reports provide different estimates, an examination is made as to what source is most reliable. If no such distinction can be made, UCDP as a rule include the lower figure given.
- *High estimate*: The UCDP High estimate consists of the aggregated high estimates for all incidents of one-sided violence during a year. If different reports provide different estimates and a lower estimate is considered more or equally reliable, the high estimate is also reported if deemed reasonable. If there are incidents when there is some uncertainty about what parties have been involved, these are also included in the high estimate.

It is the best estimate one-sided violence that determines whether or not an actor will be included in the UCDP One-sided Violence data (i.e. the best estimate needs to be 25 or higher).

Definitions relating to Non-state conflict:

A non-state conflict is defined by the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) as “the use of armed force between two organized armed groups, neither of which is the government of a state, which results in at least 25 battle-related deaths in a year”.

The separate elements of the definition are operationalized as follows:

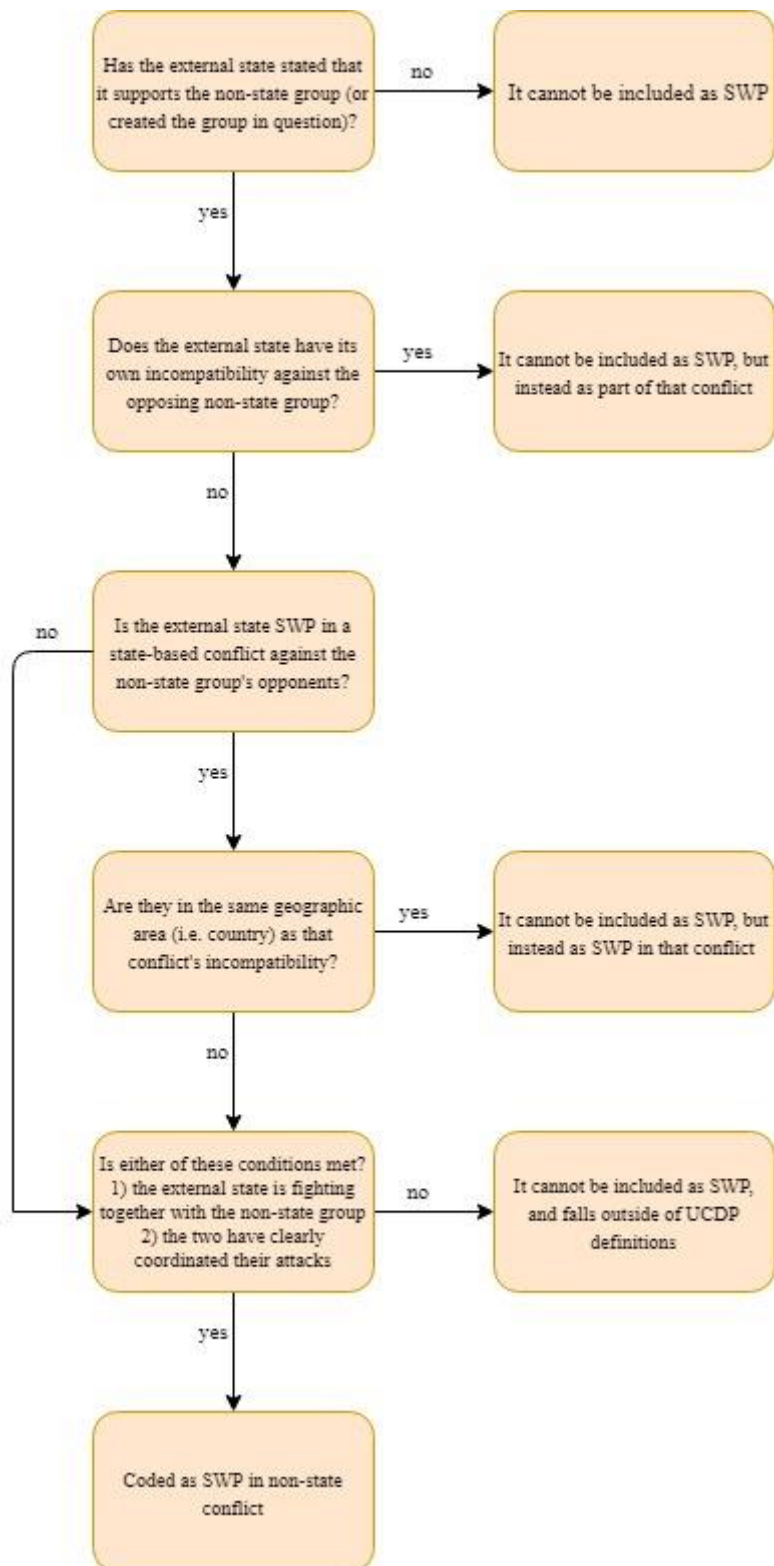
- (1) *Use of armed force*: the use of arms, resulting in death(s)
 - (1.2) *Arms*: any material means, e.g. manufactured weapons but also sticks, stones, fire, water, etc.
- (2) *25 deaths*: a minimum of 25 battle-related deaths per year
 - (2.1) *Battle-related deaths*: deaths directly related to combat between the warring parties
- (3) *Organized group*: consists of either
 - (3.1) Formally organized groups: any non-governmental group of people having announced a name for their group and using armed force against another similarly formally organized group, or
 - (3.2) Informally organized groups: any group without an announced name, but who uses armed force against another similarly organized group, where the violent activity meets the following requirement:
 - (3.2.a) there is a clear pattern of violent incidents that are connected and in which both groups use armed force against the other.
- (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) *Government*: the party controlling the capital of the state

UCDP codes three different fatality estimates – low, best and high – based on the reliability of reports and the conflicting number of deaths that can be reported for any violent event.

- *Low estimate:* The UCDP Low estimate consists of the aggregated low estimates for all battle-related incidents during a year. If different reports provide different estimates and a higher estimate is considered more reliable, the low estimate is also reported if deemed reasonable.
- *Best estimate:* The UCDP Best estimate consist of the aggregated most reliable numbers for all battle-related incidents during a year. If different reports provide different estimates, an examination is made as to what source is most reliable. If no such distinction can be made, UCDP as a rule include the lower figure given.
- *High estimate:* The UCDP High estimate consists of the aggregated high estimates for all battle-related incidents during a year. If different reports provide different estimates and a lower estimate is considered more or equally reliable, the high estimate is also reported if deemed reasonable. If there are incidents when there is some uncertainty about what parties have been involved, these are also included in the high estimate.

It is the best estimate of battle-related deaths that determines whether a dyad will be included in the UCDP Non-state Conflict data (i.e. the best estimate needs to be 25 or higher).

In some cases, external states can be involved as secondary warring parties in non-state conflicts. Examples include the US troop support to SDF in its fight against IS in Syria, and the UAE supporting the Forces of Hadi against the Yemeni al-Qaida affiliate AQAP. The 19.1 version of the dataset was the first to code troop support from an external state in non-state conflicts. Secondary warring support to non-state conflicts has been coded for all years covered by the dataset. Troop support to a non-state conflict can never be coded if the external state in question has its own incompatibility with the group, or if the external state is already a secondary warring party to a state-based conflict against the same group in the same country. Hence, state-based armed conflict trumps non-state conflict. Unlike in state-based armed conflict, there is no requirement on a political incompatibility between the primary warring parties. To be able to decide that an external state is acting in a specific non-state conflict, we only include cases where the external state is fighting together with the non-state group against the opposing non-state group, or when the external state and the non-state group have clearly coordinated their attacks against the opposing non-state group. The flowchart below elaborates on under which circumstances an external state can be included as a secondary warring party (SWP) in non-state conflict.



Flowchart 1: Secondary warring parties in non-state conflicts.