

# Internationalization of Armed Conflicts Dataset

## Codebook & Description

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### 1. Main Concepts and Objectives

This dataset is part of the research project on internationalization of intrastate armed conflicts funded by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR). It proceeds from an alternative expanded conceptualization of the phenomenon of **internationalized internal conflict** which argues that accounting for involvement of external state-based actors into intrastate conflict is insufficient for understanding the complex interplay between various international, transnational and cross-border processes that form multiple reinforcing and counterbalancing links and feedback loops.<sup>1</sup>

To this end, we offer re-operationalization of the internationalization phenomenon based on an integrated three-dimensional framework which differentiates between three dimensions of internationalization (interpreted in a broader sense). The horizontal dimension (horizontal escalation) represents varied processes through which the spatial spread of organized violence (often originated on the sub-state level) affects the territory of other (usually neighboring) countries leading to consequences (usually destabilizing) for both the source state and the recipient state. The vertical dimension (vertical escalation) covers the processes by which either the structure of a conflict gets expanded to involve outside (foreign) actors, normally as secondary (supporting) parties, or (often as a result of the former) the nominal level of conflict gets upgraded from intrastate to interstate. Vertical escalation is enabled either through an attack by a source state on the territory or subjects of one or more of its neighbors (outward-directed vertical escalation), or alternatively through intervention by a state-based external actor into the original internal conflict (inward-directed vertical

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<sup>1</sup> See Golubev, Denis Sergeevich (2018). Conceptualization of Internationalized Intrastate Conflict: Moving Beyond the Role of External State-Based Actors. SOCIETY: Politics, Economics, Law 12(65): 13-20. <https://doi.org/10.24158/pep.2018.12.1>

escalation). Finally, the systemic dimension (systemic escalation) denotes the expansion of international systemic limits of original conflict by increased political stake, interest and/or attention of various international actors vis-à-vis the conflict in question, through its “proxy-fication” or connectedness with other conflicts in the neighborhood. The proposed dimensions are conceptual constructs aimed at facilitating the analysis of conflict dynamics and are not intended to be interpreted literally.

## 2. Observations and Scope

The observations included in the dataset are based on the one’s introduced by Uppsala Conflict Data Program in its UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset.<sup>2</sup> The unit of observation is conflict-year provided that one is identified by UCDP as internal or internationalized internal. Some parameters (variables), secondary to the objectives of this dataset, are also adopted from the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset for corresponding observations.

The current version of the dataset (2.0) covers the universe of armed conflicts in the regions of Europe (excl. FSU), Former Soviet Union (FSU), and Asia for the period from 1975 to 2018, and in the region of Middle East and North Africa for the period from 1989 to 2018. The updated versions will see the set of observations expanded to include other regions and earlier periods.

## 3. Missing Data Problems

Whenever reliable data is missing, missing data code is -99. As it follows the observations identified by the UCPD/PRIO dataset, this dataset does not include unclear conflicts where information is uncertain or missing.

## 4. Changes compared to version 1.0

In the latest version of the dataset:

- the universe of cases has been expanded to include the regions of Asia for the period of 1975-2018, Europe (excl. FSU) and Former Soviet Union (FSU) for the period of 1975-1988 (not covered in v.1);
- *MID onset* variable is introduced as part of the vertical dimension;
- *spatial\_factors\_overlap* and *systemic\_factors\_overlap* variables are introduced to capture the simultaneous effects of all spatial and all systemic factors respectively;
- *spatial\_refugees\_min\_est* variable is not coded for all observations of the Asia region due to technical issues with the UN source; it will be coded in the next updated version; it does not affect the validity of the *spatial\_refugees* variable which is fully coded for this subset of observations;

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<sup>2</sup> See Pettersson, Therése and Kristine Eck (2018). Organized Violence, 1989-2017. *Journal of Peace Research* 55(4); Gleditsch, Nils Petter, Peter Wallensteen, Mikael Eriksson, Margareta Sollenberg, and Håvard Strand (2002). *Armed Conflict 1946-2001: A New Dataset*. *Journal of Peace Research* 39(5).

- a few observations have been recoded along the *interstate\_onset* variable.

## 5. Main Variables, Values and Sources

Variable (Label)	Description	Values	Sources of Data and Comments
<b><i>conflict_id</i></b> (conflict identifier)	The unique identifier of all conflicts introduced by UCDP	according to the UCDP system	UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset
<b><i>region</i></b> (region of location)	Identifying the region of the location based on authors' categorization.	1 – Europe (w/o FSU) 2 – Former Soviet Union (FSU) 3 – Middle East and North Africa (MENA)	Current version of the dataset covers three regions as categorized by authors. Other regions are to be added in further updated versions.
<b><i>region_UCDP</i></b> (region of location by UCDP)	Identifying the region of the location based on categorization by UCDP.	1 – Europe 2 – Middle East 3 – Asia 4 – Africa 5 – Americas	
<b><i>location</i></b> (country name)	The name of the country where internal conflict takes place	names according to the UCDP system	UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset
<b><i>location_id</i></b> (country identifier)	The unique identifier of all locations introduced by UCDP	identifiers according to the UCDP system	UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset
<b><i>year</i></b> (year of observation)	Year of observation	year according to UCDP observations	UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset
<b><i>internationalization</i></b> (conflict internationalization in a broader sense)	A dummy variable that codes whether the conflict experienced internationalization along at least one of the three dimensions (see 1. Main Concepts and Objectives)	1 – internationalization 0 – no internationalization	<b><i>internationalization</i></b> is coded 1 if one or more of the following dummy variables for the same observation are coded 1: <b><i>vert_dimension</i></b> , <b><i>horiz_dimension</i></b> , <b><i>syst_dimension</i></b> .
<b><i>internationalization_dimension</i></b> (dimensions of internationalization in a broader sense)	A dummy variable that specifies along which of the three dimensions the conflict experienced internationalization in a broader sense (see 1. Main	<b><i>vert</i></b> – if <b><i>vert_dimension</i></b> is coded 1; <b><i>horiz</i></b> – if <b><i>horiz_dimension</i></b> is coded 1; <b><i>syst</i></b> – if <b><i>syst_dimension</i></b> is coded 1.	<b><i>internationalization_dimension</i></b> can take more than one value in which case values are separated by coma

	Concepts and Objectives)		
<b><i>type_of_conflict_UCDP</i></b> (conflict type by UCDP)	Categorization of the conflict based on two of the four types introduced by UCDP	<b>3</b> – internal armed conflict <b>4</b> – internationalized internal armed conflict	UCDP defines four types of armed conflict (extrasystemic, interstate, internal, internationalized internal) though only the latter two categories follow under the unit of observation employed in this dataset (see UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset). In this and other related aspects categorization by UCDP the conventional conceptualization of internationalization (in a narrow sense) as intervention from other states / secondary parties on one or both sides of the conflict.
<b><i>side_a</i></b> (country name of primary party on side A)	The name of the country of side A in the conflict. It is always the government side of an intrastate conflict	names according to the UCDP system	UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset
<b><i>side_a_id</i></b> (identifier of actor on side A)	The unique identifier of the actor on side A out of all identifiers introduced by UCDP	identifiers according to the UCDP system	UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset
<b><i>side_b</i></b> (opposition actor or actors of primary party on side B)	The name of the opposition actor representing side B in the conflict. It is a military opposition organization in an intrastate conflict	names according to the UCDP system	UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset
<b><i>side_b_id</i></b> (identifier of actor on side B)	The unique identifier of the actor on side B out of all identifiers introduced by UCDP	identifiers according to the UCDP system	UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset
<b>VARIABLES DESCRIBING THE VERTICAL DIMENSION:</b>			
<b><i>vert_dimension</i></b> (vertical dimension of internationalization)	A dummy variable that codes whether the conflict experienced internationalization along vertical dimension	<b>1</b> – vertical dimension <b>0</b> – no vertical dimension	<b><i>vert_dimension</i></b> is coded 1 if one or more of the following variables are coded 1: <b><i>dir_interv</i></b> , <b><i>indir_interf</i></b> , <b><i>interstate_onset</i></b>
<b><i>dir_interv</i></b> (direct intervention)	Direct military intervention by a secondary party	<b>1</b> – direct intervention <b>0</b> – no direct intervention	For most observations <b><i>dir_interv</i></b> is coded based on whether UCDP categorizes a conflict as <i>internal</i> or <i>internationalized internal</i> . However, for some observations corrections are made based on clear evidence of a secondary warring party(-ies) involvement

<b><i>side_a_2nd_dir_interv</i></b> (actor name or names for secondary warring party on side A)	All states that enter a conflict with troops to actively support side A in the conflict. Only states can be a secondary warring party in conflict.	names according to the UCDP system	UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset
<b><i>side_b_2nd_dir_interv</i></b> (actor name or names for secondary warring party on side B)	All states that enter a conflict with troops to actively support side B in the conflict. Only states can be a secondary warring party in conflict.	names according to the UCDP system	UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset
<b><i>indir_interv</i></b> (indirect interference)	External support to one or both primary parties from secondary supporting parties in the form of funding (economic support), weapons supplies, training, access to intelligence and/or material/logistic support short of direct deployment of troops	<b>0</b> – no indirect interference <b>1</b> – indirect interference <b>2</b> – indirect interference is alleged but not fully confirmed	For observations covering 1989 to 2009: UCDP External Support Dataset <sup>3</sup> . For observations covering 2010 to 2018: various secondary sources.
<b><i>side_a_2nd_indir_interv</i></b> (actor name or names for secondary supporting party on side A)	All actors that provide external support as secondary supporting party on side A.	names according to the UCDP system	
<b><i>side_b_2nd_indir_interv</i></b> (actor name or names for secondary supporting party on side B)	All actors that provide external support as secondary supporting party on side B.		
<b><i>MID_onset</i></b> ( Militarized Interstate Dispute onset)	Onset (in the year of observation) of a Militarized Interstate Dispute in which the country of	<b>0</b> – MID onset <b>1</b> – no MID onset	For observations covering 1989 to 2010: Militarized Interstate Disputes dataset (v.4.3), MIDB 4.3 variant, of the Correlates of War project <sup>4</sup> .

<sup>3</sup> See Högladh, Stina, Therése Pettersson & Lotta Themnér (2011). External Support in Armed Conflict 1975–2009. Presenting New Data. Paper presented at the 52nd Annual International Studies Association Convention, Montreal, Canada, 16-19 March, 2011. <https://ucdp.uu.se/downloads/#d14>

<sup>4</sup> Militarized Interstate Disputes (v.4.3). Correlates of War Project. URL: <https://correlatesofwar.org/datasets/MIDs>

	observation is one of the parties. Therefore, a state experiencing an intrastate conflict effectively becomes involved in a MID as operationalized by the Correlates of War project. However, any connection between the incompatibility of the MID and the internal conflict dynamics is not intentionally traced.		For observations covering 2010 to 2018: various secondary sources (same coding methodology).
<b><i>interstate_onset</i> (onset of interstate conflict)</b>	For the current year of observation, onset of a new (or re-escalation after at least three years of no hostilities) of an interstate conflict involving the state where the intrastate conflict takes place.	<b>1</b> – interstate conflict onset <b>0</b> – no interstate conflict onset	UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset (for UCDP conflict type 2, year of <i>start_date_2</i> variable coincides with a year of observation) supplemented and corrected for some observations
<b><i>interstate_side_b</i> (country name of side B in the interstate conflict)</b>	The name of the second country in an interstate dyad in case of interstate conflict onset.	names according to the UCDP system	UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset
<b>VARIABLES DESCRIBING THE HORIZONTAL (SPATIAL) DIMENSION:</b>			
<b><i>spatial_factors_overlap</i></b> (spatial factors overlap)	A dummy variable that codes whether there is an overlap of effects of all factors along horizontal dimension.	<b>1</b> – spatial factors overlap <b>0</b> – no overlap	<b><i>spatial_factors_overlap</i></b> is coded 1 if all of the following variables are coded 1 or 2: <b><i>spatial_refugees</i></b> , <b><i>spatial_arms</i></b> , <b><i>spatial_foreign_fighters</i></b> , <b><i>spatial_cont</i></b>
<b><i>horiz_dimension</i> (horizontal dimension of internationalization)</b>	A dummy variable that codes whether the conflict experienced internationalization along horizontal dimension.	<b>1</b> – horizontal dimension <b>0</b> – no horizontal dimension	<b><i>horiz_dimension</i></b> is coded 1 if one or more of the following variables are coded 1: <b><i>spatial_refugees</i></b> , <b><i>spatial_arms</i></b> , <b><i>spatial_foreign_fighters</i></b> , <b><i>spatial_cont</i></b>
<b><i>spatial_refugees</i> (refugee population originating from location)</b>	Refugee population (incl. refugee-like situations) exceeding 90000 and originating from the country of an intrastate armed	<b>1</b> – refugee population exceeds 90000 <b>0</b> – no refugee population or refugee	UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Population Statistics Time Series Data. <a href="http://popstats.unhcr.org/en/time_series">http://popstats.unhcr.org/en/time_series</a>

	conflict to all countries of asylum for current year of observation.	population of less than 90000	
<b><i>spatial_refugees_min_est</i></b> (refugee population minimum estimate)	Conservative estimate for refugee population (incl. refugee-like situations) originating from the country of an intrastate armed conflict to all countries of asylum for all observations exceeding 1000.	specific value of refugee population if it exceeds 1000 (even if it is below the threshold of 90000)	
<b><i>spatial_arms</i></b> (arms flows to/from the conflict zone)	Arms flows to or from the intrastate conflict zone for current year of observation (may include both official supplies from foreign states aimed at supporting one of the primary parties and illicit cross-border arms trafficking). Regular interstate arms trade (beyond supplies aimed at providing active support) is not included.	<b>0</b> – no arms flows <b>1</b> – arms flows <b>2</b> – arms flows are alleged but not fully confirmed	Combination of various sources: - PRIO Small Arms Trade Data. <a href="http://nisat.prio.org/">http://nisat.prio.org/</a> - SIPRI data for arms exports and imports - Reports and data by Small Arms Survey Group. <a href="http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/home.html">http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/home.html</a> - UCDP External Support Dataset ( <i>external_type_W</i> variable) - various secondary sources
<b><i>spatial_foreign_fighters</i></b> (flows of foreign fighters to/from the conflict zone)	Flows of foreign fighters or mercenaries to or from the intrastate conflict zone for current year of observation.	<b>0</b> – no flows of foreign fighters <b>1</b> – flows of foreign fighters <b>2</b> – flows of foreign fighters are alleged but not fully confirmed	Combination of various sources: - Data from the Foreign Fighter Project. <a href="http://davidmalet.com/The_Foreign_Fighter_Project.php">http://davidmalet.com/The_Foreign_Fighter_Project.php</a> - Reports and data by Small Arms Survey Group - various secondary sources
<b><i>spatial_cont</i></b> (contagion effect from current observation)	Contagion (or diffusion), as defined in the conflict studies literature, from the conflict of observation onto other intrastate conflicts over current year of observation	<b>1</b> – contagion <b>0</b> – no contagion	Coding is based on results and methodology by Nathan Black that identify cases of real contagion out of the universe of cases of possible contagion from 1945 to 2009 (2013). <sup>5</sup> Coding for cases covering 2010 to 2018 is based on replication of Black's methodology

<sup>5</sup> See Black, Nathan (2013). When Have Violent Civil Conflicts Spread? Introducing a Dataset of Substate Conflict Contagion. *Journal of Peace Research* 50(6).



	or three consecutive years		to the respective set of more recent observations.
<b>spatial_cont_t</b> <b>target</b> (target state of contagion)	Target state of contagion if one is observed.	names according to the UCDP system	
<b>spatial_cont_t</b> <b>target_conf_id</b> (conflict identifier for the target state of contagion)	The unique identifier(-s) for the target conflict(-s) of contagion if one is observed.	according to the UCDP system	UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset
<b>VARIABLES DESCRIBING THE SYSTEMIC DIMENSION:</b>			
<b>systemic_factors_overlap</b> (systemic factors overlap)	A dummy variable that codes whether there is an overlap of effects of all factors along systemic dimension.	<b>1</b> – systemic factors overlap <b>0</b> – no overlap	<b>systemic_factors_overlap</b> is coded 1 if all of the following variables are coded 1 or 2: <b>syst_proxific</b> , <b>syst_connectedness</b> , <b>syst_relevance</b>
<b>syst_dimension</b> (systemic dimension of internationalization)	A dummy variable that codes whether the conflict experienced internationalization along systemic dimension.	<b>1</b> – systemic dimension <b>0</b> – no systemic dimension	<b>syst_dimension</b> is coded 1 if one or more of the following variables are coded 1: <b>syst_proxific</b> , <b>syst_connectedness</b> or if <b>syst_relevance</b> is coded other than 0
<b>syst_relevance</b> (systemic relevance of the conflict)	The variable codes whether the conflict is salient at the systemic level (regionally or globally) including high stakes of systemically important powers, increased international attention as reflected in mass media coverage and international organizations' agenda. In this sense, a systemically relevant conflict puts a strain on the system or somehow affects its operation.	<b>0</b> – no systemic relevance <b>1</b> – regional systemic relevance <b>2</b> – regional and global systemic relevance	Various secondary sources
<b>syst_proxific</b> (proxy-fication of the conflict)	The variable codes whether the intrastate conflict becomes embedded	<b>1</b> – proxy-fication <b>0</b> – no proxy-fication	Various secondary sources



	<p>in wider patterns of strategic rivalries between regional or global powers. “Proxy-fication” is operationalized to cover two distinct situations: firstly, when an intrastate conflict takes place in one of the two states of a strategic dyad and the other state interferes – directly or indirectly – in support of the opposition; secondly, when two states of a strategic dyad interfere with an intrastate conflict in a third country in support of the opposite sides of the divide.</p>		
<b>syst_proxific_strategic_dyad (strategic dyad of the conflict proxy-fication)</b>	Specific dyad (dyads) of a strategic rivalry(-ies) in case of conflict proxy-fication	names according to the UCDP system	
<b>syst_connectedness (connectedness of the conflict)</b>	<p>Connectedness of the conflict with other conflicts in the neighborhood. Operationalization of connectedness is based on Forsberg’s conceptual framework (2016).<sup>6</sup> Connections between and among conflicts may emerge through ties between actors, shared resources and similarity of issues. Connectedness may include such</p>	<p><b>1</b> – connectedness <b>0</b> – no connectedness</p>	Various secondary sources

<sup>6</sup> See Forsberg, Erika (2016). Transnational Dimensions of Civil Wars: Clustering, Contagion, and Connectedness. In What Do We Know about Civil Wars? / Ed. by D.Mason, S.M.Mitchell. London: Rowman and Littlefield, 75-92.

	phenomena as transnational war economies and regional conflict complexes (as conceptualized by Wallensteen and Sollenberg, 1998) <sup>7</sup> , but does not include external support and proxy warfare identified by other variables.		
<b>syst_connect edness_conf_ id (conflict identifier(-s) for connected conflict(-s))</b>	The unique identifier(-s) for the connected conflict(-s) if connectedness is observed	according to the UCDP system	UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset
<b>OTHER (SECONDARY) VARIABLES WITH UCDP DESCRIPTIONS OF OBSERVATIONS:</b>			
<b>incompatibilit y (object of incompatibilit y)</b>	Type of object of incompatibility as categorized and coded by UCDP.	<b>1</b> – territory <b>2</b> – government <b>3</b> – government and territory	UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset
<b>territory_nam e (name of territory)</b>	If the object of incompatibility is territory, the variable lists the disputed territory (over which the conflict is fought).	names according to the UCDP system	UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset
<b>intensity_level (intensity level)</b>	The intensity level in the conflict dyad for the year of observation. Two intensity levels are categorized by UCDP: minor armed conflicts and wars.	<b>1</b> – minor: between 25 and 999 battle-related deaths in a calendar year <b>2</b> – war: at least 1,000 battle-related deaths in a calendar year	UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset
<b>cumulative_in tensity (cumulative intensity)</b>	The intensity of the conflict, accounting for the entire conflict history (current year of observation plus previous years) as categorized by UCDP.	<b>0</b> – between 25 and 999 battle-related deaths over the entire conflict lifecycle up until the end of the year of observation <b>1</b> – war: at least 1,000 battle-related deaths	UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset

<sup>7</sup> See Wallensteen, Peter and Margarita Sollenberg (1998). Armed Conflict and Regional Conflict Complexes, 1989-97. Journal of Peace Research 35(5): 621-634.

		over the entire conflict lifecycle up until the end of the year of observation			
<b>start_date</b> (date of conflict initiation)	The date, as precise as possible, of the first battle-related death in the conflict. Precision varies and is assessed by UCDP separately.	the date	UCDP/PRIO Dataset	Armed	Conflict
<b>start_date2</b> (date of fatality threshold in current episode)	The date, as precise as possible, when a given episode of conflict activity reached 25 battle-related deaths in a calendar year. Precision varies and is assessed by UCDP separately.	the date	UCDP/PRIO Dataset	Armed	Conflict
<b>ep_end</b> (episode ended)	A dummy variable that codes whether this is the last year of conflict activity in this episode (conflict is inactive the following year) as registered by UCDP.	<b>1</b> – conflict is inactive the following year (episode ends) <b>0</b> – conflict is active the following year (episode does not end)	UCDP/PRIO Dataset	Armed	Conflict
<b>ep_end_date</b> (date when conflict activity ended)	The date, as precise as possible, when conflict activity ended if the episode ended in the current year of observation.	the date	UCDP/PRIO Dataset	Armed	Conflict
The remaining columns contain authors' comments for coding of <i>indir_interf</i> , <i>spatial_arms</i> , <i>spatial_foreign_fighters</i> , <i>spatial_cont</i> , <i>syst_relevance</i> , <i>syst_proxific</i> , <i>syst_connectedness</i> . When coding these variables for some of observations comments are deemed necessary due to significant degree of discretion associated with them.					