

# **Strategies and Tactics in Armed Conflict (STAC) Dataset Codebook**

## Contents

Strategies and Tactics in Armed Conflict (STAC) Dataset Codebook .....	1
Internal Armed Conflict Data .....	3
Conflict Identifiers.....	3
Counterinsurgency Characteristics .....	7
Conflict Outcome .....	12
Foreign Regime Maintenance (FRM) Interventions.....	13
Intervention Identifiers .....	13
Intervention Characteristics.....	14
Intervention Outcome .....	17
Appendix A: List of Sources used in data collection .....	18

## Internal Armed Conflict Data

An internal armed conflict is defined as conflict between an incumbent government and an armed, organized domestic opponent that resulted in at least 25 deaths directly attributable to one of the actors within one year. Domestic unrest (e.g. demonstrations, protests, rioting) that cannot be linked to an organized group with a political objective does not qualify as an armed conflict for the purposes of this study, even if the unrest results in 25 or more deaths.

### Conflict Identifiers

#### **startdate**

Date the conflict began. Defined as the date on which an organized opposition group first used violence in a year that eventually resulted in at least 25 deaths directly attributable to one of the actors. If an exact date cannot be identified, the first of the month can be used as the start date.

Coding: DDmmmYYYY (example: 01feb1990)

#### **enddate**

Date the conflict ended. Defined as the date of a negotiated agreement, peace treaty, or surrender if violence falls below 25 conflict-related deaths in the following year. If the government changes hands (i.e., the rebels win and gain control of government), the present conflict ends and, if fighting continues, a new conflict begins on this date. Otherwise, the conflict end date is the last day of the year prior to a year in which conflict-related deaths fall below 25 for at least two consecutive years.

Coding: DDmmmYYYY

#### **styr**

Year the conflict began.

Coding: YYYY (example:1990)

#### **endyr**

Year the conflict ended.

Coding: YYYY (example:2000)

#### **conflictcountry**

The country in which the conflict took place.

Coding: text

**ccode**

COW 3-digit country code of **conflictcountry**

**conflictid**

Unique identifiers for each conflict.

Coding:  $ccode * 10000 + styr$

**dyadid\_ucdp**

Identifier for government-rebel group dyads, taken from the UCDP Dyadic Dataset.

**conflictid\_UCDP**

Identifies which conflict in the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset any given dyad is a part of.

**sideBID\_UCDP**

The identifier of the rebel group (rebel1) in the conflict, taken from the UCDP Dyadic Dataset.

**rebel1**

Name of the primary armed opposition (rebel) group opposing the central government.

Coding: text

**rebel2**

Name of a secondary armed opposition (rebel) group if applicable.

Coding: text

**incgov**

Name of incumbent government / civil war regime at conflict startdate.

Coding: text

**region**

Region of the country in which the fighting was concentrated. Depending on the conflict this could be the name of a province, state, or administrative district in the conflict country, a description (e.g., "primarily the southern half of the country, south of the capital to the border with Pakistan"), or a named region (e.g., the Darfur region of Sudan). If dispersed throughout the county, enter "entire country".

Coding: text

## Conflict Characteristics

### Concentration (territorial spread)

Estimate of the percentage of the country experiencing significant violence related to the conflict at *any* point during the conflict. Violence should be considered significant if battles/clashes between the rebels and government forces took place in a region, civilians were killed by government or rebel forces in a region, or government or rebel attacks occurred regularly in a region.

Coding:

1	Less than 25%
2	25-50%
3	50-75%
4	More than 75%

### wholecntry

Variable indicating that more than 75% of the country is affected by the conflict.

Coding:

0	No
1	Yes

### halfcntry

Variable indicating that more than 50% of the country is affected by the conflict.

Coding:

0	No
1	Yes

### duration

Total number of days in conflict.

Coding: enddate - startdate

### conflictethnic

Dummy variable coded 1 if the conflict is primarily an ethnic conflict. Following a conventional definition, ethnic conflicts involve “groups that identify with a distinct ethnic or cultural heritage” (Regan 1996: 338). Ethnic wars have been defined as “wars among communities (ethnicities) who are in conflict over the power relationship that exists between those communities and the state” (Sambanis 2001: 261). Additionally, the groups in ethnic conflicts “hold irreconcilable visions of the identity,

borders, and citizenship of the state. They do not seek to control a state whose identity all sides accept, but rather to redefine or divide the state itself” (Kaufman 1996: 138).

Coding:

0	No
1	Yes

### **ethnicgroups**

When applicable, name the primary ethnic group or groups contributing rebel fighters to the opposition movement.

Coding: text

### **conflictideol**

Dummy variable coded 1 if the conflict is primarily an ideological conflict, with alignments across ethnic lines. Insurgents may strive for a different regime type and/or political order, but their primary aim does not contain the systematic exclusion of specific ethnic or religious groups.

Coding:

0	No
1	Yes

**Note:** The following categories are non-exclusive, e.g. a conflict can be ethnic and secessionist or ethnic and religious at the same time.

### **conflictrelig**

Dummy variable coded 1 if insurgent leaders frequently and systematically invoke religion as a motivation and justification for the conflict (cf. Juergensmeyer 2003: 57).

Coding:

0	No
1	Yes

### **conflictsecess**

Dummy variable coded 1 if the conflict is primarily a secessionist conflict and the insurgents’ primary aim is to create a separate state outside the current regime’s authority.

Coding:

0	No
1	Yes

## Counterinsurgency Characteristics

### Forcemodel (Force model)

Primary type of force used by government troops.

Coding:

- 1 Light force: Primarily relied on ground combat units that do not include large military equipment (may include close air support)
- 2 Heavy force: Primarily large-unit, concentrated firepower combat with mechanized units (may include strategic bombing)

Close air support is defined as “air action by fixed-wing (FW) and rotary-wing (RW) aircraft against hostile targets that are in close proximity to friendly forces. [...] It is planned and executed to support ground tactical units. CAS execution is tightly integrated at the tactical level with the fire and maneuver of supported ground forces.” (Joint Chiefs of Staff, Joint Publication 3-09.3). Close air support can be provided by any unit of the armed forces.

Strategic bombing is defined as centrally coordinated aerial bombardment of military and civilian targets designed to destroy the opposition’s will and ability to fight.

**Note:** This variable is coded in reference to the entire conflict, from **startdate** to **enddate**. Even in conflicts in which the government began COIN operations with a light force model, if the majority of the conflict featured a heavy force model, this variable is coded as 2.

### Strategicair (Strategic bombing)

What role did strategic bombing play in the government’s military strategy? (see definition above)

Coding:

- 1 None
- 2 Minor
- 3 Moderate
- 4 Extensive

### Resettle (Forced resettlement)

What role did resettlement play in the government’s military strategy? Resettlement is defined as the forced relocation of civilian populations to deny guerillas access to resources, recruits, sanctuary, and other types of support; and/or separate combatants from noncombatants.

Coding:

- 1 None
- 2 Minor
- 3 Moderate
- 4 Extensive

### **Civaction (Civilian projects)**

What role did projects intended to improve the material wellbeing of civilians play in the government's counterinsurgency strategy? Examples: building schools, roads, bridges, hospitals; providing medical care, clean water or electricity; and creating jobs for local residents.

Coding:

- 1 None/ never mentioned
- 2 Minor
- 3 Moderate
- 4 Extensive

### **Civsecure (Civilian protection)**

What role did attempts to protect noncombatants from harm caused by the insurgents play in the government's counterinsurgency strategy?

Coding:

- 1 None
- 2 Minor
- 3 Moderate
- 4 Extensive

### **decapitation**

What role did attempts to capture and kill the top leader(s) of the insurgent movement play in the government's military strategy?

Coding:

- 1 None
- 2 Minor
- 3 Moderate
- 4 Extensive



### **Civtarget (Civilian targeting)**

To what extent did the military forces of the government intentionally select civilians as direct objects of attack or consistently fail to discriminate between combatants and noncombatants in their military operations? Combatants are defined as individuals that engage in armed resistance against regime forces.

Coding:

- 0 Rarely or not at all
- 1 Moderately
- 2 Extensively

### **Civkilling (Civilian killing)**

To what extent did the military forces of the government intentionally select civilians (noncombatants) as direct objects of attack or consistently fail to discriminate between combatants and noncombatants in their military operations? Mass killing is defined as > 50,000 intentional civilian deaths in a campaign (within 5 years) (Valentino et al. 2004).

Coding:

- 0 Rarely or not at all
- 1 Moderately
- 2 Extensively
- 3 Mass killing

### **govtrps**

Number of government troops at height of conflict. Measured as maximum number of regular military personnel (air, ground, and sea) under central government authority during the conflict. When exact numbers cannot be located, coders may estimate from information about the military units. If even estimates are unreliable because of a lack of data or contradictory and ambiguous information, **govtrps** is coded as missing and only **govtrpcat** is coded.

### **govtrpcat**

Categorical measure of the number of government troops at height of conflict.

Coding:

- 1 500 to 2,999 troops
- 2 3,000 to 9,999 troops
- 3 10,000 to 29,999 troops
- 4 More than 30,000 troops

### **govcas**

Number of government forces members killed during the conflict.

## Insurgency and Opposition Characteristics

### **rebeltrps**

Estimated number of total troops on rebel side at height of conflict. If even estimates are unreliable because of a lack of data or contradictory and ambiguous information, **rebeltrps** is coded as missing and only **rebeltrpcat** and/or **rebel10k** is coded.

### **rebeltrpcat**

Categorical measure of the total number of rebel troops at height of conflict.

Coding:

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | 0 to 2,999 troops       |
| 2 | 3,000 to 9,999 troops   |
| 3 | 10,000 to 29,999 troops |
| 4 | More than 30,000 troops |

### **rebel10k**

Did the total number of rebel troops at the height of the conflict exceed 10.000?

Coding:

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 0 | No  |
| 1 | Yes |

### **rebelcas**

Number of rebels / opposition members killed during the conflict.

### **Asst\_troops (troop assistance)**

Dummy variable coded 1 if any other state committed any military troops to assist or advise the rebels.

Coding:

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 0 | No  |
| 1 | Yes |

### **Asst\_combat (combat assistance)**

Dummy variable coded 1 if any other state engaged in combat to assist the rebels.

Coding:

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 0 | No  |
| 1 | Yes |

**Asst\_arms (material assistance)**

Dummy variable coded 1 if any other state provided arms or other material aid to assist the rebels.

Coding:

0	No
1	Yes

**Asst\_econ (economic assistance)**

Dummy variable coded 1 if any other state provided economic support to the rebels.

Coding:

0	No
1	Yes

**Asst\_sanct (sanctuary)**

Dummy variable coded 1 if any other state provided, on its territory, sanctuaries for the rebels.

Coding:

0	No
1	Yes

**Asst\_any**

Dummy variable coded 1 if any other state provided any type of support to assist the rebels.

Coding:

0	No
1	Yes

## Conflict Outcome

### outcome

Categorical variable that describes how the government terminated its military conflict.

Coding:

- 0 Conflict ongoing.
- 1 Government militarily defeated the rebels. This includes outcomes in which the armed group is weakened to the point that it ceases to conduct military operations or reduces its lethal activity to a point that the conflict falls below the 25 conflict-related fatalities/year threshold for at least two years.
- 2 Government negotiated a settlement that resulted in a compromise with the insurgents over policy or governance (e.g., a power-sharing agreement, human rights, limited autonomy, or institutional changes).
- 3 The country was partitioned into two or more separate countries at the end of the conflict.
- 4 The rebels militarily defeated the government.

### govcomp

Who was in control of the central government at the end of the conflict (i.e. at **enddate**)?

Coding:

- 1 Rebels (leaders from the armed opposition; parties associated with the insurgents; political wings of rebels; etc.)
- 2 Government (the previous incumbent government; politicians associated with the previous regime; etc.)
- 3 Foreign intervener
- 4 Power-sharing: both previous rebels and previous incumbents began sharing political power in a joint government at the end of the conflict
- 5 Unclear: failing or failed state, no clear central authority

### maintain

The number of months the civil war (incumbent) government remained in power after the termination of the conflict (**enddate**). This variable ranges from zero, when the regime was removed from power and/or replaced with a power-sharing government, to 60, when the regime remained in power for at least five years post-conflict.

## Foreign Regime Maintenance (FRM) Interventions

### FRM

Variable indicating that there was Foreign Regime Maintenance Intervention in the conflict.

Coding:

0	No
1	Yes

## Intervention Identifiers

### intyrcon

Identifies the external intervener (by its COW country code), the year in which the conflict began, and the conflict country (by its COW country code). This variable was generated through:

$$\text{IntYrCon} = (\text{Int1} * 10^7) + (\text{YearBeg} * 10^3) + \text{ConCoCOW}$$

### FRMstartdate

The date (DDmmmYYYY) on which the intervention began. **FRMstartdate** is the date at least 500 regular troops (ground, air, or naval) from the intervening state arrive at the location of the conflict or, in the event that more than 500 military troops were already stationed at the conflict location, the date on which at least 500 additional troops were deployed. Military operations could include air, sea, and/or long-range missile fire; small unit raids; commando operations; and/or large-scale ground combat operations. If a precise start day could not be identified, **FRMstartdate** is coded as the first of the month.

### FRMenddate

The date (DDmmmYYYY) on which the intervention ended. **FRMenddate** is coded as the date either, (1) a peace treaty or other agreement between the parties that terminates the intervening state's combat role is signed; (2) more than 80% of the intervening state's newly deployed combat troops have been withdrawn. In the event that a peace treaty is signed but the intervening state's combat role does not significantly diminish, the conflict will be considered ongoing until 80% of the intervening state's combat troops have been withdrawn. If the major power terminates an intervention through either a formal agreement or withdrawal of 80% of its combat troops and then re-introduces troops, the two operations are coded as separate interventions.

## **FRMintervener**

Name of the primary state that intervened in the conflict to support the incumbent government.

Coding: text

## **Intervention Characteristics**

### **FRMforcemdl (FRM Force model)**

Primary type of force used by the intervening state.

Coding:

- 1 Light force: Primary use of ground combat units that do not include large military equipment (may include close air support).
- 2 Heavy force: Primarily large-unit, concentrated firepower combat with mechanized units (may include strategic bombing).

### **FRMforcetype (FRM Force type)**

Ordinal variable that indicates the type of force used by the intervening state. The highest applicable category is coded.

Coding:

- 1 Display: The intervening state deployed military personnel that were prepared to use force to the vicinity of the conflict but did not use lethal force or engage in combat operations.
- 2 Limited Air/ Naval Power: The intervening state conducted air strikes, engaged in air or naval combat, and/or fired missiles that resulted in fewer than 500 target casualties. No more than 499 ground combat troops were deployed.
- 3 Limited Ground Commitment: The intervening state deployed at least 500 but less than 2000 combat-ready ground troops to serve as advisors in combat and/or to conduct small unit raids and commando operations, possibly in combination with the use of limited air/naval power.
- 4 Extensive Airpower: The intervening state conducted air strikes, engaged in air or naval combat, and/or fired missiles that resulted in at least 500 target casualties. No more than 1999 ground combat troops were deployed.
- 5 Ground Combat: The intervening state deployed more than 2000 combat-ready troops and conducted ground combat operations.

**FRMtrps**

Number of intervening state troops at height of intervention. Measured as maximum number of regular military personnel (air, ground, and sea) deployed to the conflict location at any one time during the intervention. When exact numbers cannot be located, coders may estimate from information about the military units, ships, and/or planes deployed. If even estimates are unreliable because of a lack of data or contradictory and ambiguous information, **FRMtrps** is coded as missing and only **trpcat\_FRM** is coded.

**FRM\_trpcat**

Categorical measure of the number of intervening state troops at height of intervention.

Coding:

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | 500 to 2999 troops      |
| 2 | 3000 to 9999 troops     |
| 3 | 10,000 to 29,999 troops |
| 4 | More than 30,000 troops |

**FRMgrndcmbt (FRM ground combat)**

Dummy variable coded 1 if intervening state ground troops engaged in combat.

Coding:

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 0 | No  |
| 1 | Yes |

**FRMgrndtrps (FRM Ground troops)**

Dummy variable coded 1 if intervening state committed any military troops to advise, train, or assist the rebels in any way. The variable should always be equal to 1 when FRM ground combat is equal to 1.

Coding:

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 0 | No  |
| 1 | Yes |

**FRMcas**

Number of intervening state troops killed during the intervention.

Note that "0" indicates that intervening state has no casualties, whereas "." indicates that the information is missing.

**FRM\_strategicair (FRM strategic bombing)**

What role did strategic bombing play in the intervening state's military strategy? (see definition above)

Coding:

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| 1 | None |
|---|------|

- 2 Minor
- 3 Moderate
- 4 Extensive

**FRM\_civaction (Civilian projects)**

What role did projects intended to improve the material wellbeing of civilians play in the intervening state's military strategy? Examples: building schools, roads, bridges, hospitals; providing medical care, clean water or electricity; and creating jobs for local residents.

Coding:

- 1 None
- 2 Minor
- 3 Moderate
- 4 Extensive

**FRM\_civsecure (Civilian protection)**

What role did attempts to protect noncombatants from harm caused by the insurgents play in the intervening state's military strategy?

Coding:

- 1 None
- 2 Minor
- 3 Moderate
- 4 Extensive

**FRM\_decap (Decapitation)**

What role did attempts to capture and kill the top leader(s) of the insurgent movement play in the intervening state's military strategy? Compare this variable to Jenna Jordan's decapitation data.

Coding:

- 1 None
- 2 Minor
- 3 Moderate
- 4 Extensive

**FRM\_civtarget (Civilian targeting)**

To what extent did the military forces of the intervening state intentionally select civilians as direct objects of attack or consistently fail to discriminate between combatants and noncombatants in their military operations? Combatants are defined as individuals that engage in armed resistance against regime forces.

Coding:

- 1 Rarely or not at all
- 2 Moderately
- 3 Extensively



## Intervention Outcome

### **FRM\_outcome (FRM Intervention outcome)**

Categorical variable that describes how the intervening state terminated its military intervention.

Coding:

- 0 Intervention ongoing.
- 1 Intervening state withdrew its military forces unilaterally without maintaining the existing regime.
- 2 Intervening state completed a mission with a pre-determined end date without definitively securing the tenure of the incumbent regime.
- 3 Intervening state withdrew its forces after successfully averting the threat to the existing regime.
- 4 Intervening state negotiated a settlement that resulted in a compromise with the insurgents, such as power-sharing agreements.

### **FRMgovcomp (Intervention end government)**

Who was in control of the central government at the end of the intervention (i.e. at **FRMenddate**)?

Coding:

- 1 Insurgents (the previous opposition; groups associated with the insurgents; political wings of rebels; etc.)
- 2 Government (the incumbent government; politicians/party leaders associated with the previous regime)
- 3 Foreign intervener
- 4 Power-sharing: both previous rebels and previous incumbents began sharing political power in a joint government at the end of the conflict
- 5 Unclear: failing or failed state

### **FRMmaintain**

The number of months the government remained in power after the termination of the foreign intervention (**FRMenddate**). This variable ranges from zero, when the regime was never stabilized, to 60, when the regime remained in power for at least five years post-conflict.

### **FRM\_posttrps**

Dummy variable indicating that the intervening state maintained a significant troop presence in the conflict country after the intervention end date to enforce the terms of the conflict settlement.

Significant = > 500 troops

Coding:

- 0 No
- 1 Yes

## Appendix A: List of Sources used in data collection

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