

Dataset of Mediation and Negotiation in Large-scale Conflict, 1990-2005

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Scope/sample of conflicts under investigation

The dataset provides information about negotiation and international mediation in large-scale violent conflicts, 1990-2005. A conflict is included if it generated at least 1000 deaths in any one calendar year between 1990 and 2005. The list of conflicts and their corresponding fatality levels were drawn from the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflicts Dataset (version 4-2006).¹ More specifically, a conflict was included for all calendar years from 1990 to 2005 in which it occurred if it reached an intensity level of 2 (variable *Int*) in the UCDP/PRIO dataset for any one calendar year between 1990 and 2005.

Unit of observation

The unit of observation is the conflict resolution event. Each row in the dataset identifies a conflict resolution event. There are five types of events: (a) Negotiations without international mediation; (b) internationally mediated talks; (c) an offer of international mediation; (d) a request for international mediation; (e) none of the above in a given calendar year. There are as many observations per conflict-year as there are new events, but always at least one, namely of type (e).

An ongoing event that takes place during more than one calendar year is entered as a single row of data. Such an event is associated with the conflict-year in which it was initiated, but event start and end dates are also given. As a result a row of data can show that no new event occurred in a given calendar year, despite ongoing conflict management that was initiated previously.

An event is ongoing if there is no lapse in activity of six months or longer and the event has not explicitly been concluded (e.g., by way of one side withdrawing from negotiations or declining a mediation offer). For example, if mediation was offered, but declined, and then offered again five months later, the latter is coded as a separate event. If talks are temporarily or conditionally suspended but resumed within six months, they are coded as a continuous event. "Rounds" of talks count as one event. If a mediator joins or withdraws from talks, a new event is coded.

¹ This dataset is available at <<http://new.prio.no/CSCW-Datasets/Data-on-Armed-Conflict/UppsalaPRIO-Armed-Conflicts-Dataset/UppsalaPRIO-Armed-Conflict-Dataset>>. Last accessed on 15 May 2007.

Conflict management events that deal with a particular issue only and where the particular issue is discussed independently of the conflict in general are excluded (e.g., ransom negotiations for the release of hostages, surrender of particular units).²

Strategy of data collection

Data was drawn from a list of geographically diverse, English-language newspapers and newswires that provide comprehensive coverage of international events and for which coverage was available for the years 1990 to 2005. The list included the following publications: New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, London Times, Sunday Times, Guardian, Sidney Morning Herald, Straits Times, Times of India, Agence France-Presse, Associated Press, Reuters, and BBC Monitoring.³

These publications were searched (using Factiva⁴) for any news items/articles that contain in headline, abstract, or lead paragraph all of the following: (a) the name of at least one actor on side A of the conflict (as identified by the UCDP/PRIO dataset), which is usually a country name, or any commonly used synonym for that name; (b) the name of at least one actor on side B of the conflict, or any commonly used synonym for that name; (c) any one of the terms mediation or negotiation or words of the same family (e.g. mediator, mediating, mediate, etc.). Events were coded on the basis of the articles returned by this search.

Results were checked against other qualitative information about the conflict in order to identify major inaccuracies or omissions. If an omission or inaccuracy was identified, a secondary search for news items/articles relating specifically to the event in question was performed using the list of publications given above. If an article from such a secondary search was used in coding an event, it is noted as such in the source description for that event (see also the description of the variable *source*).

The sheet 'Search terms' in file 'DATASET.xls' contains Factiva search terms and date range used for each conflict as well as the number of articles returned. A total of 10297 articles (excluding articles returned by secondary searches) were examined.

The file 'DATASET.xls' also contains the text of relevant articles used in coding conflict resolution events. For each conflict there is one sheet containing the following information: Article identifier (*sourceid*), article title, publication date, news source, article text, and byline. Note that the article text is often truncated, even when it is not marked as such. Sheet names consist of the relevant *conflictid* and *location*, and sheets are sorted by *conflictid*.

² For example, the following event is not included in the dataset: "Leftist guerrillas holding at least 200 hostages at the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima on Wednesday asked Spain to mediate to get medical supplies inside to treat wounded people, the Spanish foreign ministry said" (Reuters News, "Peru rebels ask for medicine for 'wounded' - Spain," 18 December 1996).

³ For the Times of India, only selected coverage is available until 22 May 1991, and there is a gap in coverage from 22 May 1991 to 2 April 1997. Coverage for Agence France-Presse begins on 9 September 1991.

⁴ Factiva, Dow Jones Reuters Business Interactive LLC, New York. Columbia URL: <<http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?AUQ3920>>. See also <<http://www.factiva.com>>.

Variables

Name: *conflictid*

Description: Conflict identifier from UCDP/PRIO dataset (version 4-2006)

Values: Integer

Name: *sidea*

Description: Name of country/countries on side A of conflict, from UCDP/PRIO dataset (version 4-2006)

Values: String

Notes: Side A is always the government side in internal conflicts. For the purpose of consistency with mediator names, "Democratic Republic of Congo (Zaire)" was changed to "Zaire", "Russia (Soviet Union)" to "Russia", "Sri Lanka (Ceylon)" to "Sri Lanka", "Turkey/Ottoman Empire" to "Turkey", "Yemen (Arab Republic of Yemen)" to "Yemen", and "United States of America" to "USA".

Name: *sideb*

Description: Name of country/countries or opposition group(s) on side B of conflict, from UCDP/PRIO dataset (version 4-2006)

Values: String

Name: *event*

Description: Type of conflict resolution event

Values: 0 No events in given calendar year
1 Negotiations without international mediation
2 Internationally mediated negotiations
3 International mediation offered
4 International mediation requested

Notes: Mediation encompasses any event where a third party from abroad is in non-coercive contact with representatives of both side A and side B in an attempt to help resolve the conflict. This includes types of conflict management such as facilitation and shuttle diplomacy, but not third-

party coercive measures (e.g., deployment of peacekeeping troops). Talks about whether or not mediation should be initiated do not count as mediation, but are considered part of an offer of or request for mediation. Requests for mediation are only included if a specific third party is named (e.g., appeals to the "international community" are not included). Negotiations are constituted by the targeted communication of offers and counter-offers. This does not include the announcement of offers or demands to the media or the general public, but it does include e.g. phone negotiations or messages relayed by a domestic liaison.

Name: *facetoface*

Description: Type of face-to-face negotiations

Values:

- 0 No face-to-face talks
- 1 Face-to-face talks; rank of participating negotiators is unclear
- 2 Low-level face-to-face talks
- 3 High-level face-to-face talks

Notes: Face-to-face talks are those in which negotiators for the disputants meet in person. Low-level talks are ones in which negotiators for the disputants hold positions below the cabinet level or equivalent. High-level talks involve at least one cabinet level representative on each side. "Summit" meetings are coded as high-level contacts. If several values apply to a given event, this variable gives the highest applicable value. This variable is missing if *event* equals 0, 3, or 4.

Name: *talksofficial*

Description: Variable indicating whether negotiations were secret, unofficial, or official

Values:

- 0 Talks are alleged to have taken place, but are denied or are reported to have been secret
- 1 Talks are described as unofficial, informal, preliminary, exploratory, ad hoc, or as taking place at the margins of an international conference or an equivalent
- 2 Any other talks

Notes: If several values apply to a given event, this variable gives the highest applicable value. This variable is missing if *facetoface* is missing or equals 0.

Name: *medofficial*
Description: Variable indicating whether mediation was secret, unofficial, or official
Values: 0 Mediation is alleged to have taken place, but any interaction is denied or is reported to have been secret
1 Mediation is described as unofficial, informal, or preliminary, or either disputant or the mediator says that their interaction did not constitute mediation
2 Any other mediation
Notes: If several values apply to a given event, this variable gives the highest applicable value. This variable is missing unless *event* equals 2.

Name: *medrank*
Description: Rank of lead mediator
Values: 1 Rank of mediator unclear
2 Envoy
3 Leader
Notes: "Envoys" ("Leaders") hold positions below (at or above) the cabinet level if the mediating entity is a country or below (at) the level of president, secretary-general, or the equivalent (if the mediating entity is a governmental or non-governmental organization). Ambassadors, generals, speakers of parliament, deputy secretaries or ministers, etc. are coded as "envoys." The variable is coded with respect to the highest-ranked representative of the mediating entity who is reported to have been personally involved in the mediation effort, offer, or request. The value of this variable is not affected by who a request for mediation is addressed to. If the mediating entity is a private individual, the individual ranks as a "leader." This variable is missing if *event* equals 0, 1, or 4.

Name: *requestby*
Description: Side requesting mediation
Values: 0 Both disputants
1 Side A
2 Side B
Notes: This variable is missing unless *event* equals 4.

Name: *mediator*
Description: Name of mediator
Values: String
Notes: If mediation is requested from, offered or carried out by multiple entities jointly, all entities are entered in this field, separated by a comma. If several third parties are involved separately from each other (but possibly contemporaneously), their activity is coded in separate events. If mediation is requested from, offered or carried out by a country acting on behalf of an international organization, this variable gives the name of the organization, and the name of the country is typically added in the *notes*. The OAU and the EC are referred to by the acronyms of their successor organizations, AU and EU respectively. The variable is missing if *event* equals 0 or 1.

Name: *medtype*
Description: Type of mediator
Values: 1 Government
2 UN or UN agency
3 International governmental organization
4 NGO or private diplomacy group
Notes: This variable is missing if *event* equals 0 or 1.

Name: *mediator2nd*
Description: Name of secondary mediator
Values: String
Notes: This variable gives the name of countries, groups, or individuals that are involved in, but do not lead the mediation effort. Also see notes for variable *mediator*.

Name: *medtype2nd*
Description: Type of secondary mediator

- Values:
- 1 Government
 - 2 UN or UN agency
 - 3 International governmental organization
 - 4 NGO or private diplomacy group

Notes: See notes for variable *medtype*.

Name: *eventstart*

Description: Start date of conflict resolution event

Values: Date

Notes: Start date is the earliest date given in the articles listed in *source* for the beginning of the event, or if no date is mentioned the date of the earliest article reporting news of the event. This variable is missing if *event* equals 0.

Name: *eventend*

Description: End date of conflict resolution event

Values: Date

Notes: End date is the latest date given in the articles listed in *source* as to the end of the event, or if no such date is specified, the date of the last article describing news about (i.e. not the history of) the event. This variable is missing if *event* equals 0.

Name: *result*

Description: Outcome of the conflict resolution event

Values: If event equals 1 (negotiations) or 2 (mediation):

- 0 Both sides refuse to continue working with mediator
- 1 Side A refuses to continue working with mediator
- 2 Side B refuses to continue working with mediator
- 3 Mediator withdraws
- 4 No reported outcome, lapse
- 5 Talks end without agreement
- 6 Ceasefire

- 7 Procedural agreement
- 8 Partial substantive agreement
- 9 Comprehensive substantive agreement

Note that if event equals 1, result only takes on values 4-9.

If event equals 3 (mediation offer):

- 0 Both reject offer
- 1 Side A rejects offer
- 2 Side B rejects offer
- 3 Offer withdrawn
- 4 No reported outcome, lapse

If event equals 4 (mediation request):

- 0 Request withdrawn and other side declines
- 1 Other side declines
- 2 Request withdrawn
- 3 Mediator declines
- 4 No reported outcome, lapse

Notes: This variable is missing only if *event* equals 0.

Name: *sourceid*

Description: News article identifier

Values: List of numbers

Notes: Each article used in coding is uniquely identified by conflict ID and article ID. Articles identified by a numeral followed by a letter were added from a secondary search. To find the text of an article, go to the sheet with the relevant *conflictid* and *location* in its name, and look for a particular article identified by *sourceid*.

Name: *notes*

Description: Additional notes

Values: String

Notes: This variable gives major accords signed, locations of important meetings, and names of factions that were involved in a particular event, among other things.

Name: *location*

Description: Conflict location, from UCDP/PRIO dataset (version 4-2006)

Values: String

Notes: Conflict location always gives a country name or the names of several countries.

Name: *locationsimple*

Description: Simplified conflict location name

Values: String

Notes: Conflict location always gives at least one country name, which identifies where the conflict took place. If multiple countries are listed separated by a comma, the conflict took place in all countries listed. Information provided in parentheses identifies a region or place within a country. In some cases this field contains the string "v." followed by a name that identifies the opposing side.

Name: *region*

Description: Region of location, from UCDP/PRIO dataset (version 4-2006)

Values:

- 1 Europe
- 2 Middle East
- 3 Asia
- 4 Africa
- 5 Americas

Name: *terr*

Description: Name of territory, from UCDP/PRIO dataset (version 4-2006)

Values: String

Notes: The name of the territory over which the conflict is fought. If the conflict is not fought over territory, this variable is missing.

Name: *sidea2nd*

Description: Name of states supporting side A with troops, from UCDP/PRIO dataset (version 4-2006)

Values: String

Notes: The names of any states that support side A with troops in the conflict. For the purpose of consistency with mediator names, "Democratic Republic of Congo (Zaire)" was changed to "Zaire", "German Federal Republic" to "Germany", "Italy/Sardinia" to "Italy", "Republic of Korea" to "South Korea", "Rumania" to "Romania", "Russia (Soviet Union)" to "Russia", "Turkey/Ottoman Empire" to "Turkey", "United Kingdom" to "UK", "United States of America" to "USA", and "Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)" to "Zimbabwe".

Name: *sideb2nd*

Description: Name of states supporting side B with troops, from UCDP/PRIO dataset (version 4-2006)

Values: String

Notes: The names of any states that support side B with troops in the conflict. For the purpose of consistency with mediator names "German Federal Republic" was changed to "Germany", "Italy/Sardinia" to "Italy", "Russia (Soviet Union)" to "Russia", "Turkey/Ottoman Empire" to "Turkey", "United Kingdom" to "UK", and "United States of America" to "USA".

Name: *startdate*

Description: Date of conflict initiation, from UCDP/PRIO dataset (version 4-2006)

Values: Date

Notes: Date of the first battle-related death in the conflict

Name: *startprec*

Description: Precision of date of conflict initiation, from UCDP/PRIO dataset (version 4-2006)

Values:

- 1 Day, month and year precisely coded
- 2 Day assigned from multiple possibilities; month and year precisely coded
- 3 Day unknown, set to 1; month and year precisely coded
- 4 Day unknown, set to 1; month assigned; year precisely coded
- 5 Day and month unknown, set to 1; year precisely coded
- 6 Day and month unknown, set to 1; year assigned
- 7 Day and month unknown, set to 1; year unknown, set to first year for which conflict recorded