

Economics of Conflict, War, and Peace

Prof. Dr. Jurgen Brauer; Summer 2009
Chulalongkorn University; Bangkok, Thailand

Session 1.2
A first look at data: who, what, when, where, why?

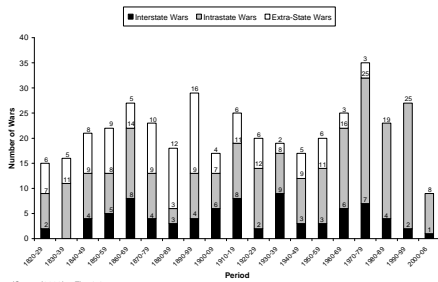
A first look at data

- What/why? [what is conflict about?]
- When? [time]
- Where? [location]
- How? [means of conflict]
- Who? [the actors]

- The data address these questions not entirely adequately and sometime in overlapping fashion

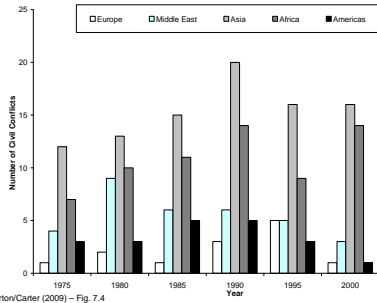
A first look at data: what/why?

War onsets per decade by war type, 1820-1997



A first look at data: where? [region]

Stock of armed civil conflicts by region, 1975-2005



Source: Anderton/Carter (2009) – Fig. 7.4

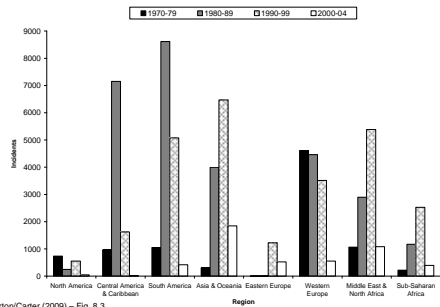
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A first look at data: where? [region]

International terrorism by region, 1970-2004



Source: Anderton/Carter (2009) – Fig. 8.3

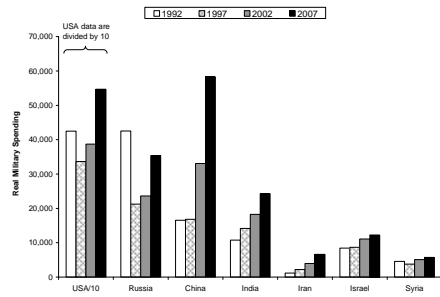
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A first look at data: how? [money]

Real military spending in selected nations
(millions of \$US at constant 2005 prices and exchange rates)



Source: Anderton/Carter (2009) – Fig. 1.3

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Assignment for Thursday, 4 June (1)

- **10 student groups:** pick any one of these sites and make a **five minute (maximum!) presentation** on Thursday. This should include:
 - What the data are about (weapons, actors, conflict type, military expenditure, etc.)
 - What the data definitions are (be VERY specific; if possible, compare definitions of similar site/s)
 - The time period for the data (e.g. 1820-2005, 1945-2007)
 - Give a sample table/s or chart/s for other students to see
 - Prepare powerpoint slides and 10 copies of a 1-2 page handout to share with me and the other groups (put your names and group number on the slides/handout)
- [I will also give a Report]

Assignment for Thursday, 4 June (2)

- The report has **two purposes**. The first is to familiarize you with some of the major data sources used in peace and conflict studies. The second is for you to see the levels and trends of conflicts in the international system. The following are important principles to keep in mind when completing the report.
- Neat and **professional presentation** is essential. All of your graphs should be created with the computer (Excel a/o PowerPoint). Hand in a hard copy of the whole project. Please do not send an email attached file of the project.
- **Handle the data very carefully**. Make sure you are consistent with your units of measure. Be very careful to read the data from the correct table, column, and row.
- Be sure to label all calculations, tables, graphs, and axes on graphs. Make sure that **all** of your tables, graphs, and data answers indicate unit of measure (e.g., millions of constant 2000 \$) and time period (e.g., 1995-2004). Include a title for each of your tables, graphs, and data answers. **Each graph and table should be sufficiently labeled that it can stand alone**. Think carefully about how to best present the information.

Assignment for Thursday, 4 June (3)

Possible data sites include ...

- <http://www.sipri.org/> | <http://www.iiss.org/>
 - <http://www.state.gov/t/vci/rls/rpt/wmeat/>
 - <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/> | <http://correlatesofwar.org/>
 - http://www.prio.no/page/CSCW/PRIO_menu_buttons/9195/9220
 - <http://www.pcr.uu.se/research/UCDP/>
 - <http://www.hiik.de/kosimo/index.html.en>
 - <http://cns.miis.edu> | <http://www.nti.org>
 - <http://wits.nctc.gov/Main.do> | <http://www.start.umd.edu/data/gtd/>
 - <http://www.visionofhumanity.com/index.php>
 - <http://atop.rice.edu/> | <http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/icb/>
- ... or any other relevant site or sites
