

Codebook for the ConflictBarometer 2014 Dataset

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May 20, 2015

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1 Introduction

The Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research (HIIK) at the Department of Political Science, University of Heidelberg is a registered non-profit association. It is dedicated to research, evaluation, and documentation of political conflicts. The HIIK evolved from the research project COSIMO (Conflict Simulation Model) led by Prof. Dr. Frank R. Pfetsch (University of Heidelberg) and financed by the German Research Association (DFG) in 1991.

2 List of Variables

Variable Label	Description
ID	Conflict ID
Name	Conflict Name
Region	Conflict Region
1	Europe
2	Sub-Saharan Africa
3	The Americas
4	Asia and Oceania
5	The Middle East and Maghreb
Item	Conflict Item
0	Not Applicable
1	Ideology/System
2	National Power
3	Autonomy
4	Secession
5	Decolonization
6	Subnational Predominance
7	Resources
8	Territory
9	International Power
10	Other

Variable Label	Description
Start	Conflict Start Year
Intensity	Conflict Intensity Level
1	Dispute
2	Non-Violent Crisis
3	Violent Crisis
4	Limited War
5	War
Type	Conflict Type
1	Interstate
2	Intrastate
3	Substate

3 Definitions

3.1 Political Conflict

A political conflict is a positional difference, regarding values relevant to a society—the conflict items—between at least two decisive and directly involved actors, which is being carried out using observable and interrelated conflict measures that lie outside established regulatory procedures and threaten core state functions, the international order, or hold out the prospect to do so.¹

3.2 Conflict Items

Conflict items are material or immaterial goods pursued by conflict actors via conflict measures. Due to the character of conflict measures, conflict items attain relevance for the society as a whole—either for coexistence within a given state or between states. This aspect constitutes the genuinely political dimension of political conflicts. The catalog of conflict items in use up to the present Conflict Barometer covers ten different items. Conflict actors can claim multiple items at

¹For further information on the methodology see Conflict Barometer 2014. An extended version in German is available as: Nicolas Schwank, Christoph Trinn & Thomas Wencker (2013) Der Heidelberger Ansatz der Konflikt-datenerfassung. *Zeitschrift für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung* 2(1): 32-63.

the same time. In addition, different conflict actors can claim different goods, respectively.

- **Ideology/System:** change of the ideological, religious, socioeconomic or judicial orientation of the political system or changing the regime type.
- **National Power:** achievement of the power to govern a state.
- **Autonomy:** achievement or extension of political self-rule of a population within a state or of a dependent territory without striving for independence.
- **Secession:** separation of part of a state's territory with the aim of creating a new state or the incorporation in an existing state.
- **Decolonization:** independence of a dependent territory.
- **Subnational Predominance:** de facto control of a government, a non-governmental organization or a population over a territory or a population.
- **Resources:** possession of natural resources or raw materials, or the profit generated thereof.
- **Territory:** change of the course of an international border.
- **International Power:** change in the power constellation in the international system or a regional system thereof, especially by changing military capabilities or the political or economic influence of a state.
- **Other:** residual category.

3.3 Conflict Intensity Levels

In addition to the three constituting elements—conflict actors, measures, and items—conflict intensity is an essential feature of political conflicts. Conflict intensity is an attribute of the sum of conflict measures in a specific political conflict in a specified geographical and temporal space. Since 2003, the HIIK has used a five-level model of conflict intensity. Under its revised methodology, the intensity levels are dispute, non-violent crisis, violent crisis, limited war, and war.

A political conflict is classified as a *dispute* if it is carried out completely without resorting to violence. In a *non-violent crisis*, one of the actors is threatened with violence.

intensity Level	terminology	level of violence	intensity class
1	dispute	non-violent conflicts	low intensity
2	non-violent crisis		
3	violent crisis	violent conflicts	medium intensity
4	limited war		high intensity
5	war		

Figure 1: Levels of Conflict Intensity

When measuring the three levels of violent conflict—*violent crisis*, *limited war*, and *war*—five proxies are used indicating the conflict means and consequences. The dimension of means encompasses the use of weapons and personnel. The dimension of consequences comprises the number of casualties and of refugees/internally displaced persons as well as the amount of destruction. For every region-month, i.e. for every calendar month in every first-level subnational political unit, each of these indicators is assessed and given a score on a ternary scale.

3.4 Conflict Type

IIK distinguishes three types of conflicts:

Interstate conflicts concern issues in the international sphere; the direct conflict actors are solely sovereign states (or groups of states) as recognized by the UN. Items such as *international power* or *territory* are exclusively contested between states. However, non-state actors and international organizations might be involved in interstate conflicts as indirect actors, i.e. as a *supporter* of conflict actors or as *interveners*.

Intrastate conflicts are conducted between a state’s central government and one or more non-state actors. Conflict items in these conflicts involve *national Power*, *system/ideology*, *secession* or *autonomy*. Other state or non-state actors might be involved as *supporters* or as *interveners*.

Substate conflicts are conducted exclusively between non-state actors. The government is not involved as a direct actor in the conflict. This type of conflict often concerns *subnational*

predominance. A state's government and other state or non-state actors might *intervene* or *support* the parties in this type of conflict.