Codebook for the Foundations of Rebel Group Emergence (FORGE) Dataset

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Overview:

The Foundations of Rebel Group Emergence (FORGE) Dataset provides information on the origins of violent non-state actors engaged in armed conflict against their government resulting in 25+ yearly battle deaths, active between 1946 and 2011. The unit of observation in this dataset is the rebel group organization. We also include information on the dyad and conflict in which these groups are participants for ease of integration with various Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) datasets. We draw upon the population of groups included in the Non-State Actor database described in greater detail here: [http://ksgleditsch.com/eacd.html](http://ksgleditsch.com/eacd.html)

and in the following articles:


When using the FORGE data, please cite our data release paper:

Braithwaite, Jessica Maves and Kathleen Gallagher Cunningham. “When Organizations Rebel: Introducing the Foundations of Rebel Group Emergence Dataset”
conflict_id
Indicates conflict ID as reported by UCDP in the Dyadic Dataset v18.1.

dyadid
Indicates dyad ID as reported by UCDP in the Dyadic Dataset v18.1. We adopt their definition of dyads in order to maximize compatibility, and we refer users to the UCDP project at http://www.pcr.uu.se/data/ for details on their identification of dyads.

NSAdyadid
Indicates dyad in the Non-State Actor Database. Use this variable (rather than dyadid) if merging with that resource as their dyad identifiers are different from the most recent UCDP dyad IDs.

actorid
Rebel group’s ActorID according to the UCDP Actor List (as of January 2019). If you’re merging with an old UCDP dataset, these IDs will be different. Please refer to the UCDP ID translation tables and the translation table guide here: http://ucdp.uu.se/downloads/actor/translation_tables.pdf

gacronym
Acronym of group, or full name if that is what is used by UCDP

iname
Name(s) of group according to UCDP

ccode
Correlates of War country code

cname
Country name (government being challenged by rebel group of observation)

foundloc
Location of rebel group foundation (Country, region, and city wherever possible)

foundyear
Year of rebel group’s formation

foundmo
Month of rebel group’s formation

foundday
Day of rebel group’s formation

fightyear
First year of incompatibility with government resulting in 25 or more battle deaths, according to UCDP Armed Conflict Dataset (ACD)
**fightmo**
First month of incompatibility with government resulting in 25 or more battle deaths, according to UCDP Armed Conflict Dataset (ACD)

**fightday**
First day of incompatibility with government resulting in 25 or more battle deaths, according to UCDP Armed Conflict Dataset (ACD)

**goalnominal**
Qualitative description of rebel group’s initial stated goal(s)

**goalindep**
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): was the group’s initial goal the pursuit of an independent state?

**goalauto**
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): was the group’s initial goal the pursuit of (increased) autonomy for their region within the existing state?

**goalrights**
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): was the group’s initial goal the pursuit of increased/improved group rights (e.g. language, education)?

**goalrep**
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): was the group’s initial goal the pursuit of increased/improved political representation and/or participation?

**goalchange**
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): was the group’s initial goal to remove the current leader(s) of government? (not democratization)

**goaldem**
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): was the group’s initial goal to democratize the political system?

**goalother**
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): was the group’s initial goal something other than the above categories?

**goalnote**
If goalother=1, this provides a qualitative description of “other” goal; may offer additional information about other goal categories as well.

**ideology**
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): was the rebel group founded with a specific political ideology?

**ideolcom**
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): did the group proclaim an explicitly Communist ideology (Maoist, Marxist, Marxist-Leninist, or other)?
ideolleft
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): did the group proclaim some other left-leaning political ideology, not specifically Communist?

ideolright
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): did the group proclaim a right-leaning political ideology?

ideolnat
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): did the group proclaim a nationalist ideology?

ideolanti
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): did the group proclaim an anti-system political ideology?

ideolrel
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): did the group proclaim a religiously-oriented political ideology?

ideoloth
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): did the group proclaim a political ideology not listed above?

ideolnote
If ideoloth=1, this provides a qualitative description of “other” ideology. May provide additional information about other ideology categories as well (e.g. Maoist Communist).

religious
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): was the rebel group explicitly founded around a religious identity?

religion
If religious is coded 1, this variable indicates the religion motivating the group’s foundation:
   0 = none
   1 = Catholic
   2 = Protestant
   3 = Orthodox
   4 = Other Christian
   5 = Muslim (Sunni)
   6 = Muslim (Shia)
   7 = Muslim (undefined)
   8 = Hindu
   9 = Buddhist
   10 = Other

ethnic
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): was the rebel group explicitly founded around an ethnic identity?

ethnicity
If ethnic=1, this provides a qualitative description of the ethnic group(s) involved in the group’s foundation.
**Parent Organization variables:**

**preorg**
Did the rebel group derive its initial membership from at least one identifiable, named pre-existing organization? If so, what type(s)?

- 0 = no pre-existing organization, group began as the rebel organization of observation
- 1 = group evolved/splintered from a pre-existing rebel group included in UCDP
- 2 = group evolved/splintered from a pre-existing armed non-state group that did not cause 25 or more battle deaths (e.g. terrorist organization, private militia)
- 3 = group developed from a political party
- 4 = group developed from a non-party political movement
- 5 = group developed from a student/youth group
- 6 = group developed from a labor/trade union
- 7 = group splintered/emerged from the government’s armed forces
- 8 = group emerged from a non-military faction within the government
- 9 = group emerged from the country’s former armed forces
- 10 = group developed from a religious organization
- 11 = group developed from foreign fighters/mercenaries
- 12 = group emerged from a refugee/exiled community (but not a formal organization)
- 13 = group emerged from an ethnic group (but not a formal organization)
- 14 = group emerged from another type of organization

**preorgno**
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): did the rebel group not evolve out of a pre-existing organization – instead beginning its existence as an armed organization causing at least 25 battle deaths in conflict with the government?

**preorgreb**
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): did the rebel group splinter from an existing rebel group that already caused at least 25 battle deaths in conflict with the government (and thus is included in the UCDP/NSA databases)?

**preorgter**
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): did the rebel group splinter from an existing armed non-state group that did not yet cause 25 or more battle deaths (and thus is not included in the UCDP/NSA databases)?

**preorgpar**
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): did the rebel group develop from a political party? These are organizations that express a desire to contest elections and/or hold political office. They may or may not have participated in elections and/or held office previously, but have organized for this purpose (as compared to groups with political agendas but no explicit goal/organization to run candidates for office and challenge the government that way).
prorgpmt
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): did the rebel group develop from an informal political movement? These are organizations that have expressed primarily political demands and may pursue them in a variety of ways, but they have NOT organized as parties with the intention to contest elections and/or field candidates for political office.

prorgyou
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): did the rebel group develop from a student/youth group?

prorglab
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): did the rebel group develop from labor/trade union?

prorgrel
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): did the rebel group develop from a religious organization (movement or institution)?

prorgmil
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): did the rebel group develop from the government’s current armed forces?

prorgfmr
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): did the rebel group develop from a former government’s armed forces that were disbanded for some reason, often after leadership transitions?

prorggov
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): did the rebel group develop from a non-military faction of the current government? This might include members of the cabinet, the ruling party, or a regional government that is/had been organized and operating with approval from the central government.

prorgfor
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): did the rebel group develop from a group of foreign fighters/mercenaries/troops of another government’s armed forces?

prorgref
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): did the rebel group develop from an identifiable refugee community or other exiled population?

prorgethnic
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): did the rebel group develop from an identifiable ethnic group, but not from an identifiable (named) organization within that community?

prorgoth
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): did the rebel group develop from some other organization type not listed above?
preorgname
Provides name(s) of parent organization(s) or community/ies. Also, if preorgoth=1, this provides a qualitative description of “other” parent organization type not captured by existing categories.

merger
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): was the rebel group the result of a merger of more than one parent organization, either within or across categories of parent organization type?

splinter
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): if preorgreb=1 or preorgter=1, was parent armed non-state actor organization still active in conflict in the year the rebel group of observation emerged? Can be coded 1 if parent organization’s ongoing violence wasn’t severe enough to be included in UCDP Armed Conflict Database, as long as other evidence indicates that the parent organization was still engaging in violent activities.

splinterUCDP
Indicator (0=no, 1=yes): if preorgreb=1, was parent rebel group still active in combat at a severity threshold that qualifies its violence for inclusion in UCDP dataset in the year the rebel group of observation emerged? This is only coded 1 for rebel group parent organizations included in the UCDP as active in the year of formation (foundyear).