

Changes in the Dyadic MID Dataset Version 3.0

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This memo clarifies the principal changes that have been made in the current version of the dyadic MID dataset compared to, (a) the previous version of the dataset (dyadic MID 2.0), (b) the MID dataset, and (c) the war dataset. A more elaborate discussion of these changes and their rationale will be provided in the data article.

1. **Reminder.**

Each record in the dyadic MID dataset (as in the previous version) is a dyad-year. In other words, if a MID started in 1902 and went on to 1903, it will have two records with the same data. The **YEAR** variable lists the chronological year of the MID (in this case the first record will have **YEAR** = 1902 and the second record will have **YEAR** = 1903). The only difference between these records is that the outcome, settlement, and fatalities are listed only on the last record (the last year of the MID). The duration and cumulative duration variables will be discussed separately below.

2. **Added variables.**

In addition to the variables that have been added in version 2.0 of the dyadic MID dataset (see codebook) relative to the MID dataset, we have now added the following variables:

DISNO4 this variable provides the MID4 dispute number if it is different from the MID3 dispute number. This is a MID4 added variable. It receives a -9 number whenever the MID3 and MID4 dispute numbers are the same.

NEW. This variable gets a score of 1 if this is a new MID dyad not coded in MID4 and zero otherwise.

CHANGE. This variable gets a score of 1 if there is a change in the coding of one or more of the variables relative to MID4. This change may involve a different start or end date, different military action, fatality, outcome, settlement, role etc.

INDEX. This variable receives the MID3/4 dispute number whenever there is no change in the coding of the dyad, but it receives a new (real number) dispute number whenever there is a change in the coding. This happens in particular in multilateral MIDs that are broken down into distinct dyads. The typical format of this variable is xxxx.yyyy where xxxx is the MID3/MID4 dispute number and yyy is the specific dyadic MID that is part of the multilateral MID. The index number also identifies the specific code sheets attached to this report.

3. **Key change.**

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We thank our graduate coders, Paul L. Johnson, Vincent Cevasco, and Fiona Ogunkowa.

We have focused in particular on the two world wars, clearing up many issues that existed with the previous version. The research on the dyadic MIDs during the two World Wars caused us to enter a fundamental revision of the MID/war coding. This change resulted in a large number of changes in the WW MIDs. We are now going back to all level 5 (war) MIDs and researching these cases to make them consistent with the new coding.

This coding change is necessitated if we are follow strictly the MID coding rules as well as the war coding rules, as well as to dyad-year records of MIDs. This is also necessary if we break up a multilateral MID into valid dyadic MIDs.

According to the MID coding rules, a MID starts when one or more states commit a military action involving the threat, display, or use of force against one or more other states. It persists as long as there is a gap of six months or less between any two military actions involving the same states. Military actions between the same states that are separated by more than six months, are designated as separate MIDs. Note that war outbreak is a category of military action within MIDs.

According to the war coding rules, a war starts when there is evidence of sustained battle between the armed forces of two or more states. The war ends when no evidence exists of continued battles.

A declaration of war is a verbal action. It is not a war. A declaration of war may or may not be followed by actual battlefield action. Accordingly, if a declaration of war is not followed by actual battle activity over a six month period after it is announced, and no other threats, displays, or uses of force take place between the same two states, then it becomes a one-day MID at the threat level. If, however, the declaration of war is followed by other actions, then the MID continues until it either escalates to war—that is, battles take place—or ends short of war according to the MID coding rules.

Therefore we imposed the following coding rules.

1. A MID starts when one or more states commit a military action (using the MID categories) against one or more other states.
2. A war starts when the armed forces of two or more states are engaged in the first battle against each other. A battle requires either:
 - a. The participation of at least 1,000 troops on each side, or
 - b. A total of 100 battle-related deaths on each side.

These conditions are imposed to satisfy the war participant criteria according to the COW war coding rules.

Consider the entry of the United States into WWII against Italy. Germany and Italy declared war on the United States on December 11, 1941. However, the first battle between American and Italian forces takes place on July 10, 1943 with the allied invasion of Sicily. Between these two dates, there were continuous air raids by US air force against Italian forces taking place in less than six-month intervals.

Therefore we code this as a MID at level 4 over the period of 1941-1943 and a war thereafter (ending on September 3, 1943 with the Italian-Allied armistice).

The result is that the records for the US-Italy dyad for 1941 and 1942 are at level 4, and the record for 1943 is coded as 5.

Another example: Canada-Italy. Canada declares war on Italy on June 10, 1940. However, there is no evidence of militarized action between these two states for over three years. The next incident involving this dyad is on July 10, 1943, with Canadian forces participating in the invasion of Sicily. This case is therefore broken up into two separate MIDs: a one-day MID in 1940 at level 4 (this is how a declaration of war is coded—however, we may consider converting this into level 2), and a war MID in 1943 (ending in Sept. 3).

4. Documentation.

We provide several types of documentation.

- a. Reports on the World Wars MID and war changes.
- b. Code sheets of the specific changes inserted in each of the MIDs.
- c. Separate spreadsheets of the coding of the dyadic MIDs in each of the World Wars.
- d. We also send out reports on the other changes in the dyadic MID dataset we had communicated with the MID team in the past.

5. Files Contained in the Current Batch

1. Reports on WWI and WWII detailing the changes (deletions, additions, changes) in all dyadic MIDs during these two world wars.
2. Codes sheets of each of these changes.
3. Spreadsheet on each of these wars.
4. A tentative dyadic MID dataset covering the period of 1816-2010.

6. To Follow

Similar reports on all dyadic wars over the period of 1816-2010.