

Data Analysis #1: The Correlates of War
Due at the Beginning of Class October 15, 2014
No Late Work Accepted

The following questions are designed to get you familiarized with three of the most common datasets in international conflict: the National Military Capabilities Index, the Correlates of War, and Militarized Interstate Disputes. You may work alone or with partners. However, the final write up must be entirely your own work.

1) Go to the [National Military Capabilities](#) index. Download the dataset. In what year did China's CINC score most recently surpass America's?

2) Open the dataset's codebook. Recall that CINC scores aggregate the measures of each of the component parts. Use the codebook to read more about these components and compare the Chinese data to the American data for that year. What do you think is causing CINC to rank China above the United States? What does this say about the dataset's weaknesses?

3) The United Nations Security Council's five permanent members are the United States, United Kingdom, France, China, and Russia. What percentage of the world's military power (as defined by CINC) did these five countries have in 2007? (**Hint:** Throughout this assignment, you might find it easier to locate particular countries using [COW's country codes](#).)

4) Compare those five member's CINC values to Germany's in 2007. Using this information, why do you think some people believe Germany deserves a permanent seat on the UNSC?

5) Go to the [Correlates of War](#) page and download the interstate war dataset. (Make sure it is Version 4.0.) On what day did the 2003 Iraq War end?

6) The date you answered in the previous question might not match your perception of the length of the Iraq War. Open up the interstate war dataset's codebook. What might explain the disparity?

7) Go to the [Militarized Interstate Disputes](#) page and download version 4.01 at the **participant** level. (If you download the dispute level, you will not be able to complete this.) Locate the dispute between North and South Korea that began in 2009. In what year did it end?

8) Approximately how many fatalities were there in the dispute from Question 7? (**Important:** You should open up the MID's codebook and read through it before giving your answer.)