

Data Analysis #1: The Correlates of War
Due at the Beginning of Class February 25, 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 (COW), 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? What was its estimated military expenditure that year?

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. CINC is a close approximation for the percentage of world power (as defined by CINC) a state has. What was the total CINC share for these five countries 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 Japan's in 2007. Using this information, why do you think some people believe Japan 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) In the prelude to the war, the Bush administration exerted great effort to build a "coalition of the willing" to coerce Saddam Hussein. Which states provided enough assistance to count as participants according to COW? Which of these states suffered casualties?

8) 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 Iran and Afghanistan that began in 2009. How many casualties did Iran suffer? (**Hint:** You *really* should look through the codebook before answering this.)