

# Acled Variables Book

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The report below refers to variables for the ACLED dataset with custom variables (linked).

## Hand-Coded Labels

- **topic\_manual** refers to protest topics assigned manually. There are 4405. These labels we use as ground-truth labels to train a supervised classifier with which we get the **pred\_labels** variable. To label **topic\_manual**, we took 100 random observations from 2018, 2019, and 2023 and combined them with previously coded 2020, 2021, and 2022 (which have 1237, 1570, and 1303 observations respectively)
- **pro\_regime** refers to whether a protest event is pro or anti regime. This is also a manually coded variable. As of the point of the report, it is not used to train any classifiers. Observations are coded for 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2023 years.
- **war\_related** is a manually created variable that captures if a protest is related to the 2022 invasion of Ukraine or not. As of the point of the report, it is not used to train any classifiers.

## Automated Labels

- **pred\_labels** are protest labels assigned via classification with deberta model fine-tuned on **topic\_manual**. The code and report on classification are documented in the attached links.
- **pro\_kremlin\_indicator** is a binary variable that accounts whether an event was organised by a pro-kremlin organisation. The code to create the variable is linked. Pro-kremlin organisations are a subset of organisations recorded in **assoc\_actor\_1**, namely:
  - ‘ER: United Russia’
  - ‘Former Government of Russia (2000-)’
  - ‘Former Military Forces of Russia (2000-)’
  - ‘Former Police Forces of Russia (2000-)’
  - ‘Government of Russia (2000-) Republic of Chechnya’
  - ‘Military Forces of Russia (2000-)’
  - ‘Military Forces of Russia (2000-) National Guard - Special Purpose Police Unit’
  - ‘Motherland Party’
  - ‘NOD: National Liberation Movement’
  - ‘NPSR: National Patriotic Forces of Russia’
  - ‘NPSR: People’s Patriotic Union of Russia’
  - ‘New People’
  - ‘Police Forces of Russia (2000-)’

- ‘VVPOD: Young Army Cadets National Movement’
- “Zakhar Prilepin’s Guard”
- ‘authorized’ is a count variable that captures if (and how many times) the following keywords are used in the **notes** variable. The variable aims to proxy if an event was **authorised**. Code to create the variable is here (section: “(un)authorised indicator”).
  - “was authorized”
  - “an authorized”
  - “was approved”
  - “was sanctioned”
  - “authorized protest\*”
- **unauthorised** is a count variable that captures if (and how many times) the following keywords are used in the **notes** variable. The variable aims to proxy if an event was **not authorised**. Code to create the variable is here (section: “(un)authorised indicator”).
  - “not authorized”
  - “unauthorized”
  - “unlawful”
  - “unsanctioned”
  - “did not approve”
  - “did not authorize”
  - “not sanctioned”
  - “not been authorized”