

DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS DATABASE (DIPCON)¹

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Version 1.1, created March, 2010

Primary data source: *Europa Yearbook*, annual editions

The data record all embassies sent by all states to other states in the international system between 1960 and 2008, generally at five-year intervals (there are some time frames when the intervals are shorter to allow researchers to gauge, especially during periods of substantial change, whether or not diplomatic contacts are shifting quickly).

The data are recorded dyadically, and are available in both Excel and Stata formats. Within the Excel format, the rows indicate states sending embassies and the columns indicate states receiving embassies. The rows are listed alphabetically while the columns are listed in terms of states in meta-regions (Europe, Asia, etc.). Within the Stata format, “ccode1” indicates the sending state, while “ccode2” indicates the receiving state.

CODING PROCESS:

Initial steps taken to generate the data--

- Diplomatic contacts are coded by year. The year reflects the *Yearbook*’s best assessment of embassies sent and received around the late spring of that year.
- The data are provided in two formats:
 1. Excel spreadsheets: separate spreadsheets are provided for each year. The years coded include: 1960²; 1965; 1970; 1975; 1980; 1985; 1989; 1990; 1993; 1995; 1997; 2000; 2005; 2008
 2. Stata format: A second version is provided as directed-dyadic data, showing the exchange of embassies between each nation-state dyad.
- A country is listed as having an embassy in another country (and receives a value of 1, if it meets the following criteria:
 - a) The diplomatic structure is listed as an embassy;
 - b) Its physical residence is in the capital of the host country;
 - c) There is either an ambassador, or a high commissioner listed with a name and address, and residing at the embassy (if the position is vacant, or if it contain a

¹ Please use the following citation when using the data: Patrick Rhamey, Kirssa Cline, Sverre Bodung, Alexis Henshaw, Beau James, Chansuk Kang, Alicia Sedziak, Aakriti Tandon, and Thomas J. Volgy (2010). “The Diplomatic Contacts Data Base,” Tucson: School of Government and Public Policy, University of Arizona (Version 1.1).

² In 1960, the code for Egypt is actually the temporary merger of Egypt and Syria, as the UAR, and data for Syria are missing.

representative of a lower status—e.g., consul—it does not qualify for the year in question)

Secondary steps:

After initial data entry, a number of steps were taken to “clean” and to check on the reliability of the data:

- For each year, after initial completion, totals were run for each country. Countries with all 0 values were reassessed to determine if they had legal status for that year, and/or if the country name had changed. Those without legal status were eliminated; those with legal status were double-checked; those with name changes were redone.
- After the individual years were “cleaned” an inter-coder reliability check was conducted for each year, using the following process: a second coder recoded ten percent of the countries for that year, and compared these results with the original results. Any reliability check that resulted in a value of 95% or higher correlation between the original data and the secondary check was accepted as reliable. A reliability check lower than the 95% threshold required a recoding of that year’s data to correct for possible errors. After these steps were taken, the final inter-coder reliability level for the data was calculated to be at .98 %

Data are available in Excel spreadsheets and in Stata file format.

Users of the data are given permission to do so with appropriate citation to the developers: please cite as:

Patrick Rhamey, Kirssa Cline, Sverre Bodung, Alexis Henshaw, Beau James, Chansuk Kang, Alicia Sedziak, Aakriti Tandon, and Thomas J. Volgy. 2010. Diplomatic Contacts Database (DIPCON). Tucson: School of Government and Public Policy, University of Arizona (Version 1.1).