



# ‘One, if by land, and two, if by sea’: Introducing a Dataset on the Domains of International Crisis Behavior



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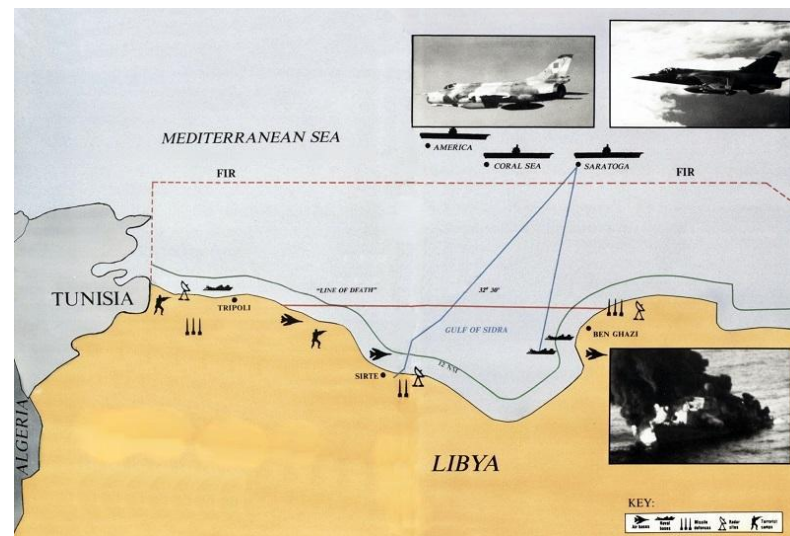
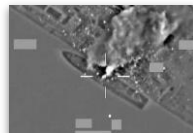
**Project PIs:** Erik Gartzke (UCSD), Jon R. Lindsay (University of Toronto), and Michael Nacht (UC Berkeley)  
**Lead Data Scientist:** Rex Douglass (UCSD)

# Motivation

1981



1986



# Problem

Understudied variation in domains of conflict

- **Initiator**: Why choose aggression in one domain?
- **Target**: Given aggression in that domain, what's the response?
- **Outcome**: Given these domain interactions, what's the
  - Likelihood of victory
  - Level of violence
  - Distributive outcomes

# Solution

Examine qualitative descriptions of 455 international crises from 1918-2007

Record the threats and tools of state power employed

- Means
- Sequence

Learn patterns of international competition and hostility

# Goal

1. Conflict domains are important, yet under-studied
2. Creation of new event data on means and sequence
3. Cursory demonstration of utility of this data
4. Theorize new research directions

# Defining Domains

This paper

- Physical
- Military units

Broader project

- Levers that can be pulled to influence strategic interactions
- Empirical approach to defining domains

# Empirical and Theoretical Context on “Domains”

*How* nations fight matters for:

- Conflict initiation (Glaser 1992, Beckley 2017)
- Conflict outcome (Rosen 1994, Lyall and Wilson 2009)
- Conflict forecasting (Doran 1980)
- Balance of power (Horowitz 2010)
- Cost of conflict (Caverley 2014)
- Outcome of coups (Talmadge 2016)

What are those “*hows*”:

- Command of the commons (Posen 2004)
- Qualitative case studies (Slantchev 2010, Sagan and Suri 2003)
- Quantitative studies of the interaction between domains (?)

# Approach

A full-scale foreign policy crisis for Libya was triggered by the implementation of the 20 March announcement, that is, **the entry into the Gulf of Syrte of three U.S. naval vessels on 24 March**. Libya, perceiving this act as a grave threat to its territorial integrity, **fired two Soviet-made SAM-5 missiles on U.S. carrier-based planes**, causing no damage. **U.S. planes then attacked a Libyan missile ship and a corvette**, as well as mounting raids on the radar installations of Libyan batteries at Syrte...

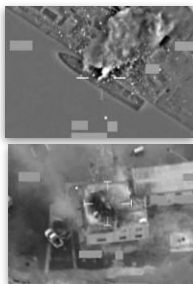
Move 1



Move 2



Move 3



Move 4



Move 5



## Gulf of Sidra Crisis 1986

♘f3 ♞c6

♙b5 a6

♙xc6 dxc6

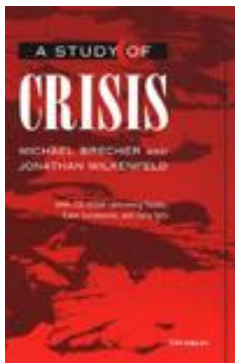
d3 ♞b4+

♘c3 ♞f6

0-0 ♞xc3



# Approach



## ICB Coding Interface V1.2 (Beta)

Tip: Use Chrome or Safari. Maximize the window. If boxes are crowded, increase screen resolution or zoom out (ctrl/apple minus). Best with a mouse. Save before exit. Screen times out if idle. Have your questions for coding log. Click and backspace to delete an answer.

Instructions: Start by skimming the codebook Codebook V1.2, then skim some worked examples then familiarize yourself with the practice question boxes below. When you're ready to start, enter your email address, and click a button.

Your Email (leave blank)  Select Crisis (Type to Search):  Start Coding  Save Progress

Example:  1962 CUBAN MISSILES

CRISIS ON CUBAN MISSILES

Any Events?  1. There were three crisis actors in the most ominous of all East/West crises, the United States, Cuba, and the Soviet Union.

Any Events?  2. The crisis lasted from 16 October to 20 November 1962.

Any Events?  3. Pre-crisis After the 1961 Bay of Pigs abortive invasion, Cuba became one of the central issues of U.S. foreign policy: the U.S. viewed Cuba as a potential source of communist-oriented subversive activities in Latin America.

Any Events?  4. When the U.S. discovered the presence of Soviet military personnel in Cuba on 7 September 1962 it called up 150,000 reservists.

Any Events?  4.1

Kind of Event?  Timing of Event or Narrative?  Duration of Event?  Date or Period of Event?  Your Confidence?

4.1 INCLUDED essential functions, often about events or actions (e.g., direct orders, etc.)

Parameterized?  Organizational?  About an Event Described?

Intentional?  Recurrent?  Kind of Intention?  Specifics: Recurrence?

Location?  Date?  Location?  Location?  Location?

Facilities?  Force Size?  Duration?  Units?  Location?  Change in Territory?  Location?  Location?

How Plan?  How Plan?  How Plan?  How Plan?  How Plan?

4.2

Kind of Event?  Timing of Event or Narrative?  Duration of Event?  Date or Period of Event?  Your Confidence?

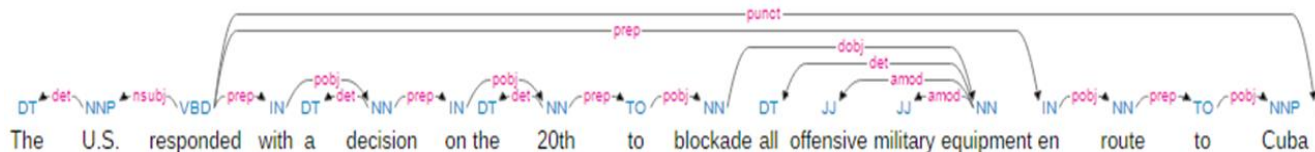
4.2 INCLUDED peripheral functions, often about events or actions (e.g., direct orders, etc.)

Corpus of 455 qualitative descriptions of historical crises from ICB

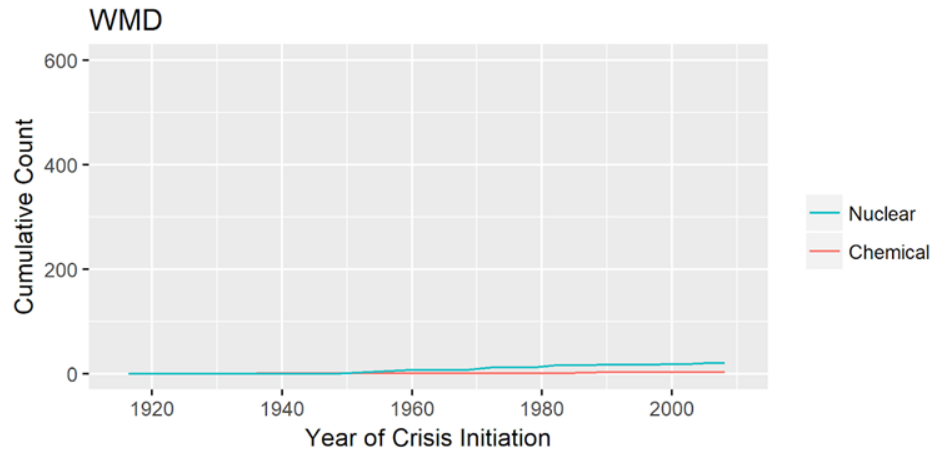
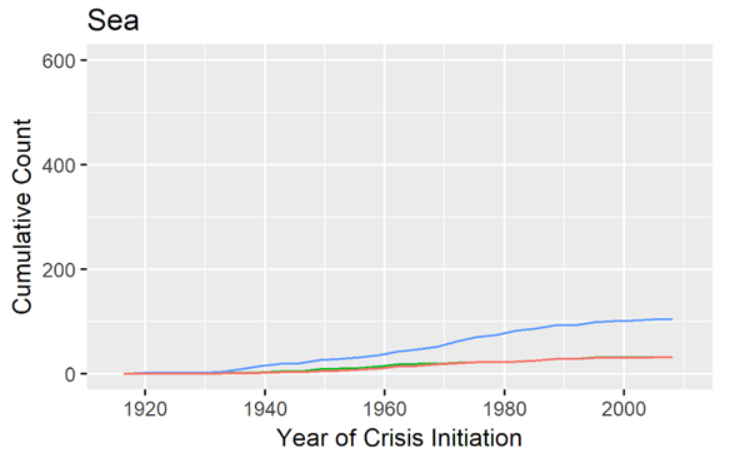
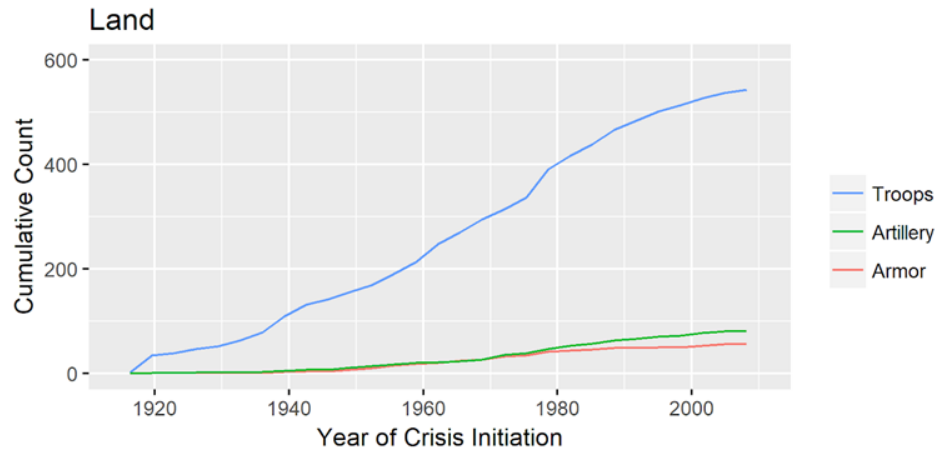
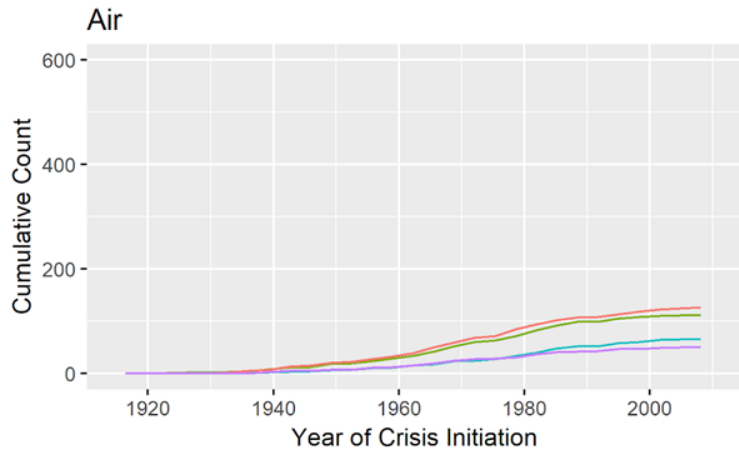
Ontology of actors, actions, and details

Coding Interface

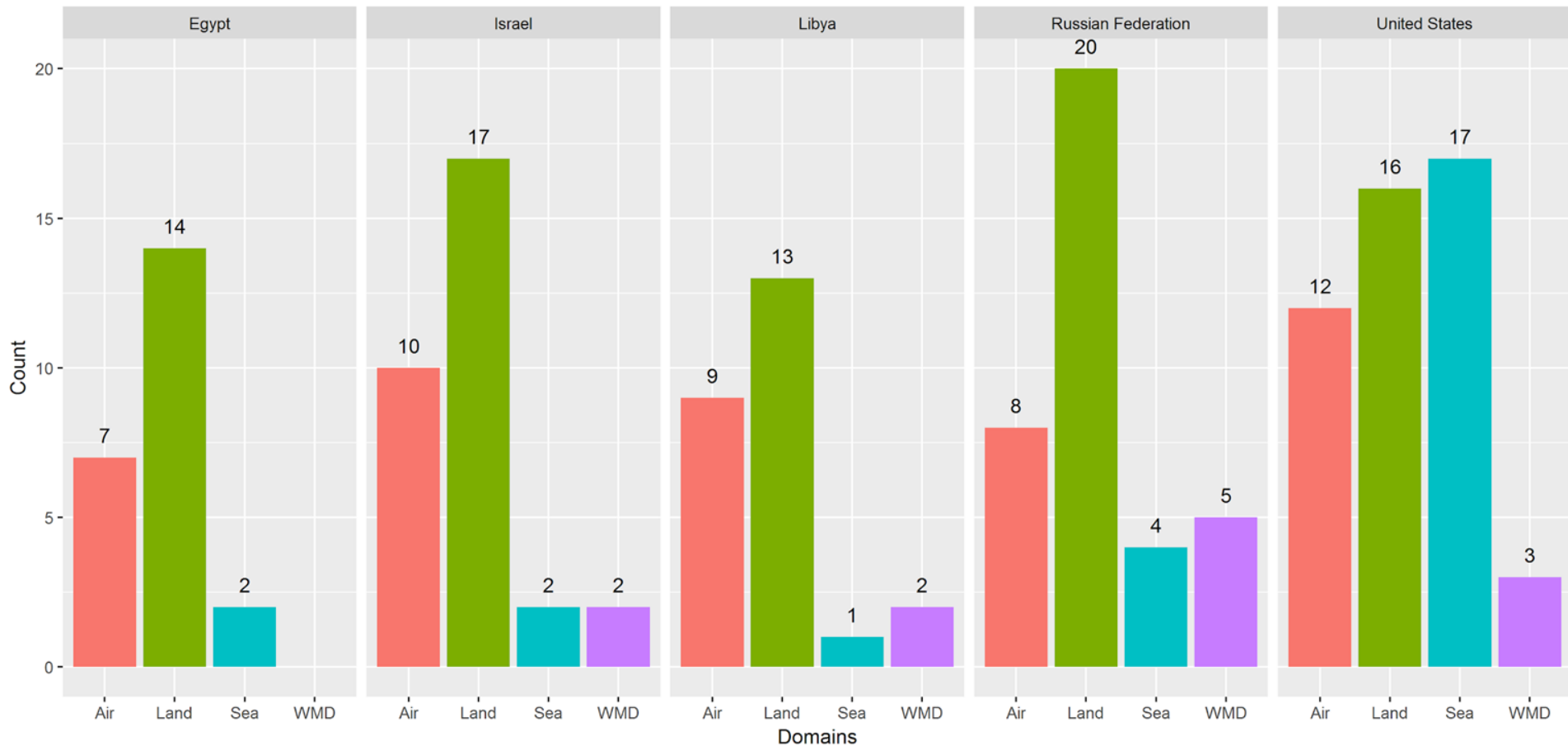
Unit of Analysis = Sentence  
Up to 3 events per Sentence  
Over 10,000 events coded



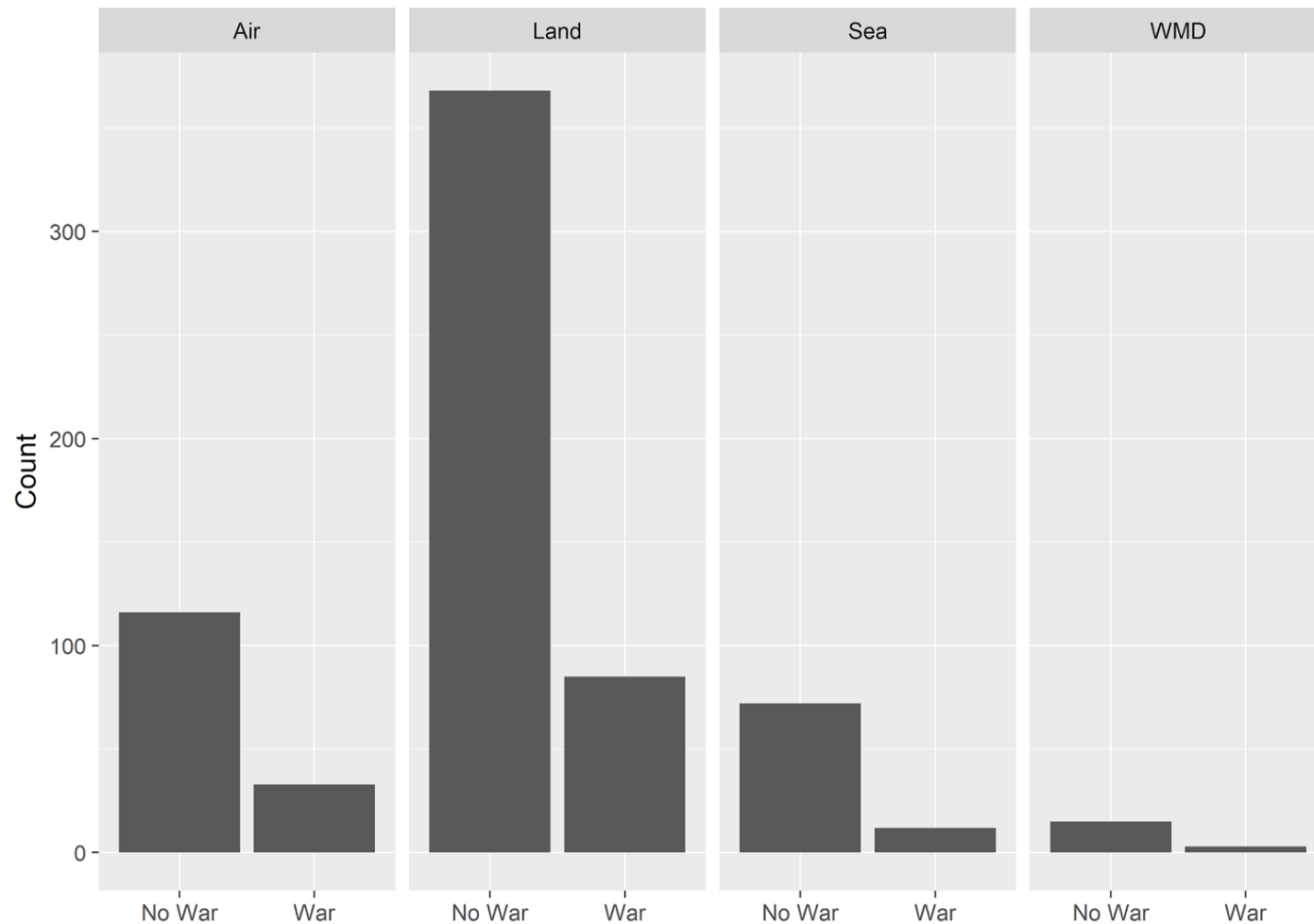
## Crisis Units (1918-2007)



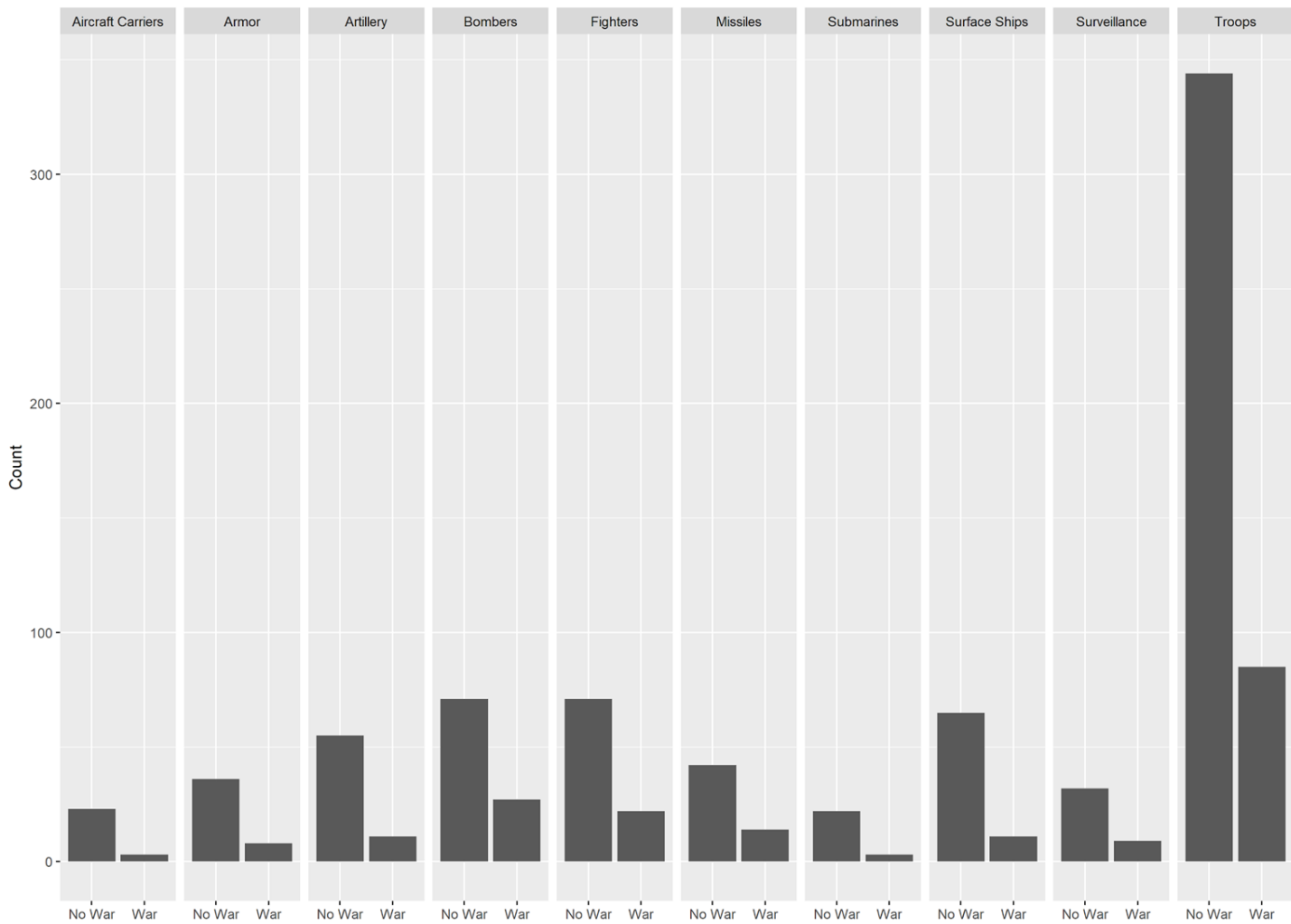
Domains by Country (at least 20 crises)



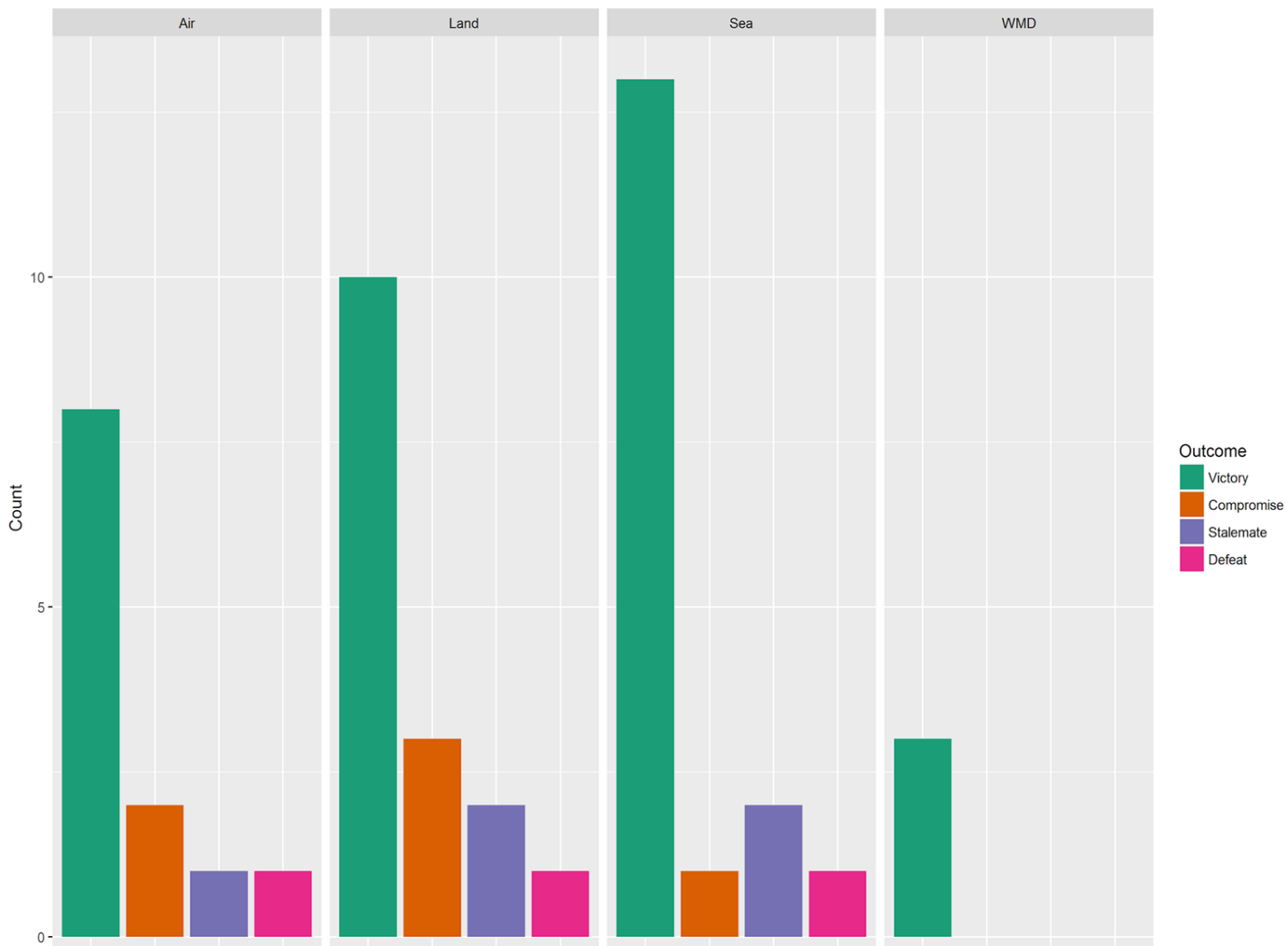
Domains and Crisis Escalation (1917-2007)



Units and Crisis Escalation (1917-2007)



US Domains (1917-2007)



# Contribution

**Empirical** - provide empirical foundation for testing theories about conduct of conflict

- DV: Domains are influenced by domestic and international factors
- IV: Domains influence how and whether states satisfy national interest

**Methodological** - innovative tool for understanding sequence of international interactions

# Next Steps

## Crisis-actor domains

☒ Motivated value-added

☒ Coded

☒ Processed

☒ Analysis

☐ Extensions

## Crisis-sentence-events

☒ Motivated value-added

☒ Coded

☐ Processed

☐ Analysis

☐ Extensions