

Mini Project 1

Nicolas Bichay, Nikolas Frantzeskakis, and Nate Smith

For this mini project, we chose to include the countries of Laos, Thailand, and Indonesia for the years 2010-2019. We include these countries for a few different reasons. First, they all provide us with a significant number of violent interactions that we can then use to calculate network measures as well as to construct a network graph. Beyond this more practical reason, we include these countries because there may be some cross border interactions that may be of interest. That is, the interactions we see may not be wholly within states but actually cross borders and be between non-state actors and another state or between two sovereign states. We include all actors that are contained in the dataset. A tie indicates at least one interaction between groups.

To calculate our degree score we use the number of interactions. We prefer this measure (as opposed to number killed) because we believe it is more interesting to look at groups with multiple interactions regardless of how many were killed in the interaction rather than those that may have only one (bloody) interaction. The relational tie we choose to use is undirected. We decline to label any nodes without at least 10 ties to facilitate presentation.

The top 5 degree scores are the Southern Muslim Separatists (Thailand, 410 interactions), Military Forces of Thailand (2006-2014, 128 interactions), Military Forces of Thailand (2014-, 65 interactions), Police Forces of Thailand (2006-2014, 62 interactions), Military Forces of Thailand (2006-2014) Volunteer Defense Corps (55 interactions), and the Police Forces of Thailand (2014-, 47 interactions).

The bottom 5 include the BRN: Barisan Revolusi Nasional Melayu Patani, Chai Buri Communal Militia (Thailand), Chomphet Communal Militia (Laos), Christian Milita (Indonesia), and the Jayapura Communal Militia (Indonesia), each with only 1 interaction.

The results clearly show clusters by country. Interesting, Thailand looks to be the most clustered network, while Laos looks pretty isolated.

