Effects of Wagner Group on civilian violence in Central African Republic.

* **Possible research questions:** 
  + why does Russia use the Wagner group at all?
    - For plausible deniability?
    - See (Muratalieva et al., 2022) in Zotero
      * This article discusses Chinese use of PMCs to expand sphere of influence, Russia could be doing something similar
      * Could we use their methods?
  + How does Russia use the Wagner group as an extension of its military?
  + Is the Wagner Group different from traditional PMCs?
    - Does Russia use it differently?
    - Does Russia use it for different purposes?

Current literature on Wagner Group is lacking. Marten, Kimberly. “Russia’s Use of Semi-State Security Forces: The Case of the Wagner Group.” Post-Soviet affairs 35, no. 3 (2019): 181–204.

- Use Wagner Group as treatment variable for violence in priogrid areas.

- Provide justification through description

- Use data to show how Wagner Group effects violence in area – 200+ observations (not all violence)

- The puzzle is what happens to levels of violence in particularly conflict prone state when Wagner group is hired out. Does the violence toward civilians increase or decrease?

What sort of assumptions can we make on results?

What are some of the potential issues?

- Largely, endogeneity issues can be cut down by use of priogrid data

- Questions over number of occurrences

Treatment variables:

- Wagner Group

Control variables:

- Peacekeepers from GEOPKO?

Qual paper ideas/notes

Why is the norm of Blackwater's involvement with the US different than Russia and Wagner?

e.g., US ultimately convicted Blackwater contractors of killing Iraqis

If Wagner did something similar, were they punished? (find an example from data)

so, there are 0 repercussions from Russia to Wagner, because acting as a sovereign state

would mean that they should care.

Wagner, acting as an agent of Russia, doesn't have to worry about finding employment like

Blackwater does

General questions:

Does this fit in with hybrid sovereignty?

What about framing the article as definitively linking Russia and Wagner? Too big of a task?