Codebook for the Militarized Interstate Dispute Location (MIDLOC-**I**) Dataset, v2.1

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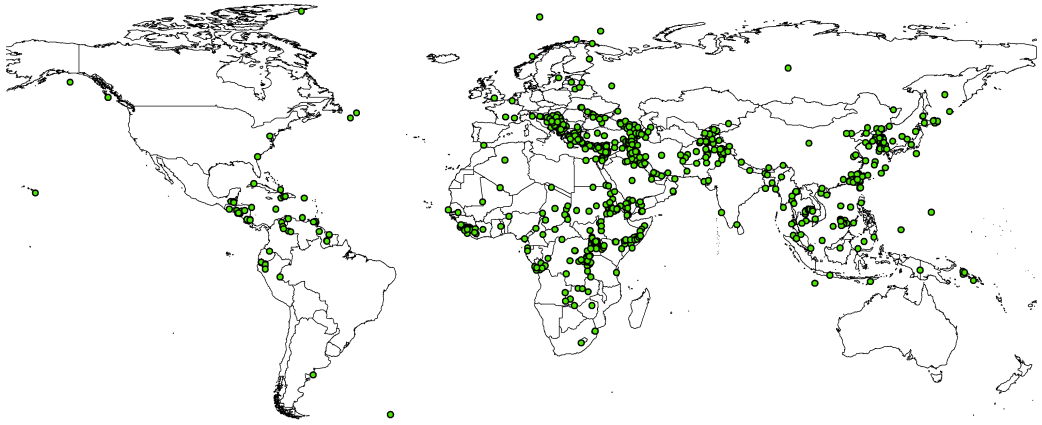

Figure 1: MID **Incidents**, 1816 - 2010

Overview

The Militarized Interstate Dispute Location (MIDLOC) dataset details the precise geographic location of Militarized Interstate Disputes (MIDs) in the post-Napoleonic era (from 1816 - 2010), complementing the Correlates of War (COW) Project's considerable empirical data collection. The MIDLOC-**I** v2.1 dataset offers point locations to represent each MID **incident** between 1993 and 2010 - including onsets and subsequent events. Following common convention, latitude and longitude point coordinates are recorded for each observation. Latitude is measured as the angular distance, in decimalized degrees (DD), of a point north or south of the equator. Similarly, longitude is measured as the angular distance, in decimalized degrees (DD), of a point east or west of the Prime (Greenwich) Meridian.

There are a total of 3,306 individual records in MIDLOC-I v2.1. This is comprised of recorded locations for 3,131 individual MID incidents from the MID v4.3 (Palmer et al. *forthcoming*) dataset - approximately 95% data coverage. 2,082 of these 3,306 incidents took place between 1993 and 2001 and 1,224 between 2002 and 2010. A total of just 175 MID incidents remain without a recorded location. **In addition to the MID-Incident data detailed, a separate and complementary dataset (MIDLOC-A v2.1) features only onset location data for the period 1816 - 2010.**

Updates since Version 2.0

MIDLOC v2.1 represents a nontrivial update from v2.0 consisting of two substantive changes. First, the population of events in MIDLOC v2.1 now matches the population of events in MID v4.3. Second, the column indicating to which PRIO-GRID cell an event belongs has been completely corrected.

Updates since Version 1.1

MIDLOC v2.0 represents a significant update from v1.1 (Braithwaite 2010). In summary, the significant changes include: coding original geographic coordinates for MID v4.2 disputes between 2002 - 2010; revisiting and updating geographic coordinates for all disputes included in MIDLOC v1.1; and applying a new precision coding scheme with greater subnational nuance based upon the UCDP and AidData codebook on georeferencing aid (Strandow et al. 2011) across all disputes. We do not discuss each of these individual changes here in this document. However, we do report original codings as additional variables / columns in the dataset with the MIDLOC11_preamble in their names. Users can therefore identify changes to observations by comparing variables with MIDLOC2 and MIDLOC11 preambles.

Citation

In any papers or publications that utilize this dataset, users are asked to give the version number and cite the articles of record for the dataset, as follows:

Braithwaite, A. 2010. MIDLOC: Introducing the Militarized Interstate Dispute Location dataset. Journal of Peace Research, 47(1), 91-98.

Bezerra, P., Braithwaite, A. 2019. Codebook for the Militarized Interstate Dispute Location (MIDLOC-A/I) Dataset, v2.1.

Data

The data are distributed in a flat text, comma-separated-variable (.csv) file. By default under Microsoft Windows, .csv files will open in Microsoft Excel. But the file may be opened in any program that reads text. In the statistical analysis program Stata, the file may be easily loaded using the command "insheet using MIDLOCI_2.1.csv".

Variables

Table 1: Variables in MIDLOC-I v2.1.csv

Variable Name	Variable Description
Year	Start year of dispute
DispNum	MID Dispute Number
MIDLOC2_Location	Text comment on location of dispute or incident provided by coders of MID 2.1/MID 3.0/MID 4.0 projects
MIDLOC2_measuringpoint	Most precise known location from which MIDLOC observation is coded
MIDLOC2_XLongitude	Longitude in decimalized degrees
MIDLOC2_YLatitude	Latitude in decimalized degrees
MIDLOC2_precision	Indicator of geographic precision/resolution of coded location
For the basis of precision code scheme, see: Strandow et al. (2011)	1 = The coordinates correspond to an exact location, such as a populated place or a hill. 2 = The location is mentioned in the source as being "near" or "in the area" of an exact location. The coordinates refer to that adjacent, exact, location. 3 = The location is, or is analogous to, a second-order administrative division (ADM2), such as a district, municipality, or commune. 4 = The location is, or is analogous to, a first-order administrative division (ADM1), such as a province, state, or governorate.

	5 = The location can only be related to estimated coordinates, such as when a location lies between populated places; along rivers, roads, and borders; or when sources refer to parts of a country greater than an ADM1, such as a national park, which spans across several provinces. 6 = The location can only be related to an independent political entity. In this case, the coordinates represent the geographic centroid of the entity. 8 = The location is estimated to be the seat of an administrative division (local capital) or the national capital. -99 = No known location/location missing.
MIDLOC2_HowObtained	Text comment providing the source(s) of the event's coordinates.
MIDLOC2_Precision_Comment	Text comment providing an explanation of the precision code.
MIDLOC2_General_Comment	Text comment providing any additional information relevant to the coordinates or the coordinates' sources.
PRIOGRID_Cell	Numeric variable providing the identifier for the PRIO-GRID cell whose centroid is nearest the noted coordinates. Please note, we include this variable as a matter of convenience for integrating MIDLOC with PRIO-GRID. However, we follow the UCDP-GED dataset in identifying the cell where the coordinates fall irrespective of countries involved, and irrespective of PRIO-GRID's majority area rule. For more information, please see both the PRIO-GRID Codebook (Tollefsen, Strand, & Buhaug 2012) and the UCDP-GED Codebook (Croicu & Sundberg 2017; Sundberg & Melander 2013).
MIDLOC11_location	Text comment on the location of the event from MIDLOC1.1 (available from 1816 - 2001 only).

MIDLOC11_midlocmeasuringpoint	Most precise known location from which MIDLOC1.1 observation is coded (available from 1816 - 2001 only).
MIDLOC11_latitude	Latitude in decimalized degrees from MIDLOC1.1 (available from 1816 - 2001 only).
MIDLOC11_longitude	Longitude in decimalized degrees from MIDLOC1.1 (available from 1816 - 2001 only).
MIDLOC11_precision	An indicator of geographic precision/resolution of coded location from MIDLOC1.1 (available from 1816 - 2001 only). 1 = point representation of a known point location (e.g., conflict located in town, city, base X) 2 = point representation of a location of proximity (e.g., conflict located close to town, city, base X) 3 = point representation of a sub-national unit/polygon (e.g., conflict located within region, district, area X) 4 = point representation of a location along a line (e.g., conflict located on border, river, road X) 5 = point representation of a large/national polygon (e.g., conflict located in country, sea, ocean X) 7 = no known location/ location missing

Additional Thanks

We are appreciative of Joshua Caldon, Christopher J. Fariss, Alessandro Guarino, and Nadav G. Shelef for kindly identifying discrepancies in earlier versions of MIDLOC. Any remaining errors are our own and may be sent to the authors at either paul.bezerra@usafa.edu or abraith@email.arizona.edu.

References

Braithwaite, A. 2010. MIDLOC: Introducing the Militarized Interstate Dispute Location dataset. Journal of Peace Research, 47(1), 91-98.

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