

HW6

THE ACLED Project reports information on politically violent events in unstable and warring states. More information can be found in the dataset description

(http://www.acleddata.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/ACLED_Codebook_2015.pdf).

Each entry in the data is an event that occurred. Listed below are the columns, as well as the number of unique values each column has.

GWNO : 50
EVENT_ID_CNTY : 104227
EVENT_ID_NO_CNTY : 99549
EVENT_DATE : 6663
YEAR : 6
TIME_PRECISION : 3
EVENT_TYPE : 10
ACTOR1: 2700
ALLY_ACTOR_1 : 2219
INTER1 : 8
ACTOR2 : 2306
ALLY_ACTOR_2 : 1586
INTER2 : 9
INTERACTION : 43
COUNTRY : 50
ADM_LEVEL_1 : 405
ADM_LEVEL2 : 339
ADM_LEVEL_3 : 1030
LOCATION : 1846
LATITUDE : 14090
LNGITUDE: 14285
GEO_PRECISION: 4
SOURCE: 9251
NOTES: 77263
FATALITIES: 243

Statistics:

- **Fatalities:** The mean is 6, with a standard deviation of 98, with a range from 0 to 25000. More than half of events tend to end with no fatalities (67760/106700), with 110543 events with 1, 4699 with 2, 2727 with 3. The frequency of fatality counts tend to decrease as the fatality count grows higher.

- **Event Type:** There are 9 event types. Below is listed the occurrences of each. As you can see, Battle, Violence against civilians, and Riots/protests are the top 3 with similar numbers.

- Battle-No change of territory: 31223
- Violence against civilians: 29977
- Riots/Protests: 24046
- Non-violent activity by a conflict actor : 6915
- Remote violence : 5851
- Non-violent transfer of territory: 2030
- Battle-Government regains territory : 1767
- Battle-Non-state actor overtakes territory: 1693
- Headquarters or base established : 726

- **Actors:**

- Actor 1: Seems to be mostly militaristic groups. Below is the top occurrences
 - Unidentified Armed Group (Somalia): 4376
 - Military Forces of Somalia (2012-): 2497
 - ZANU-PF: Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front: 2413
 - Protesters (Egypt) : 2359
 - Military Forces of Angola (1975-) : 2347
 - Protesters (South Africa): 2247
 - Al Shabaab : 2176
 - Military Forces of Democratic Republic of Congo (2001-) : 1958
 - LRA: Lord's Resistance Army: 1910
 - RUF: Revolutionary United Front : 1729
 - Military Forces of Ethiopia (1991-) : 1704
 - Military Forces of Sudan (1989-): 1604
 - Unidentified Armed Group (Nigeria) : 1573
 - Rioters (South Africa) : 1536
 - Rioters (Egypt): 1405
- Actor 2: Seems to be mostly civilians.
 - Civilians (Somalia) :4357
 - Civilians (Zimbabwe):3970
 - Civilians (Democratic Republic of Congo): 2815
 - Al Shabaab:2752
 - Civilians (Nigeria):2641
 - UNITA: National Union for the Total Independence of Angola :2461
 - Civilians (Sudan) : 2326
 - Unidentified Armed Group (Somalia) :2013
 - Civilians (Sierra Leone) :1981
 - LRA: Lord's Resistance Army :1753
 - Military Forces of Somalia (2004-2012) :1517
 - Civilians (Kenya):1436

- Police Forces of Egypt (2011-): 1259
 - Military Forces of Sudan (1989-):1257
 - Civilians (Burundi):1153
- **Country:** Most events seem to focus in the same countries. Here are the top ten occurring out of 50
 - Somalia : 15834
 - Democratic Republic of Congo :9103
 - Nigeria:7406
 - Sudan : 6878
 - Egypt :6205
 - Zimbabwe : 5156
 - South Africa :4959
 - Sierra Leone : 4583
 - Kenya :4450
 - Uganda :4415

Missing values

Out of the above columns, the following have significant amount of missing values

ALLY_ACTOR_1: 88748
 ACTOR2: 1514
 ALLY_ACTOR_2: 95024
 ADM_LEVEL_2: 100030
 ADM_LEVEL_3:: 1002827
 NOTES: 10929
 SOURCE: 187
 FATALITIES: 4478

Interestingly enough, this can tell us a little bit about the data already. There are about 106700 entries in total. The missing values for ALLY_ACTOR1 suggest that the instigators tend not to ally with other groups (75% of the time). We also see that a small, but still significant, portion of the incidents lack an ACTOR2, meaning that violent events were not committed against another political group, and even those that did lacked ALLY_ACTOR2.

Note: ADM_LEVEL_2, ADM_LEVEL_3 can be mostly ignored, as they are the second and third largest subnational regions in which the event took place, and ADM_LEVEL_1 should be enough for most of our analysis.

Possible hypotheses

Medium-low casualty events tend to occur in the same geographic location, while higher casualty events tend to be more geographically widespread.

Actors tend to have similar fatality counts across events.

Events where a militaristic group and non-militaristic group are involved tend to have more fatalities.

There exists a correlation between geographic location and cause of event (for example, if in the notes it specifies water related issues, then they would cluster around particular areas)