

Appendix 1A. Patterns of major armed conflicts, 1990–2000

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I. Global patterns

In 2000 there were 25 major armed conflicts in 23 locations throughout the world. Both the number of major armed conflicts and the number of conflict locations in 2000 were lower than in 1999, when there were 27 major armed conflicts in 25 locations.¹ The conflicts and locations for 2000 are presented in table 1A.3. For the definition of a major armed conflict, see appendix 1B.

The only two interstate conflicts that were active in 2000 occurred between India and Pakistan and between Eritrea and Ethiopia. Other states contributed regular troops to internal conflicts in Angola, where Namibia contributed troops to the government of Angola; in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where Angola, Namibia, and Zimbabwe contributed troops to the government, and Rwanda and Uganda were involved on the side of the opposition; and in Sierra Leone, where the United Kingdom contributed troops to the government.

In the 11-year post-cold war period 1990–2000 there were 56 different major armed conflicts in 44 different locations. The number of conflicts in 2000 was lower than in the period 1990–95, when the yearly number of major armed conflicts ranged between 28 and 33. The number of locations in 2000 was lower than in the period 1990–94; there were conflicts in 26 locations in 1990–93 and 25 in 1994. The lowest number of conflicts for the period 1990–2000 was recorded in 1996 and 1997, when there were 23 and 19, respectively.

All but three of the major armed conflicts registered for 1990–2000 were internal; that is, the issue concerned control over the government or territory of one state. The three interstate conflicts in this period were Iraq versus Kuwait, India versus Pakistan and Ethiopia versus Eritrea. Other states contributed regular troops to one side or the other in 14 of the internal conflicts.

The proportion of major armed conflicts waged over territory as compared to those concerning governmental power was roughly the same for the period 1990–2000. Conflicts concerning government were slightly more numerous than those concerning territory in 1990–91 and clearly more numerous in 1997–2000. In 1992 there was the same number of conflicts over government and territory. Conflicts concerning territory were marginally more numerous than those over governmental power in 1993–96.

¹ A location may have one or more conflicts over territory; it may also have a conflict over territory and a conflict over government. There can be only 1 conflict over government in each location as, by definition, there can be only 1 government in each location.

* For table 1A.3, Mikael Eriksson was responsible for the conflict locations Algeria, Colombia and Russia; Kristine Höglund for Burundi; Patrik Johansson for Israel; and Desiree Nilsson for Sudan. Margareta Sollenberg was responsible for the remaining conflict locations.

II. Regional patterns

For 2000, nine major armed conflicts were recorded for both Africa and Asia. There were two conflicts in South America, one in Europe and four in the Middle East. As during most of the 11-year period, the vast majority of the conflicts in 2000 occurred in Asia and in Africa. The regional distribution of major armed conflicts and locations over the period 1990–2000 is shown in tables 1A.1 and 1A.2. Figure 1A shows the regional distribution and total number of conflicts for each year in this period.

For *Africa*, 19 major armed conflicts were registered for 1990–2000.² There was a marked decline in the number of conflicts in Africa from 1991 to 1996. The events in the Great Lakes Region of Central Africa led to a sharp increase from three conflicts in 1996 to 11 in 1998 and 1999, the same number registered for 1990 and 1991. The number of conflicts decreased by two in 2000, but the figure still remained higher than in the period 1992–97. Eritrea and Ethiopia fought the one interstate conflict that took place in Africa during the period 1990–2000. In at least seven of the conflicts that were active in 1990–2000 there was military involvement by other states in intra-state conflicts: Angola, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Somalia. The vast majority of the conflicts in Africa have concerned governmental power in each year of the period.

For *Central and South America*, a total of four major armed conflicts were registered for 1990–2000.³ This was the only region with a steady decrease in the numbers over the entire period. Of the four major armed conflicts recorded for 1990, two remained in 2000. The conflict in Peru subsided to the lowest level possible for it to be included in the data. Only the conflict in Colombia remained undiminished. There have been no interstate major armed conflicts or conflicts where other states have contributed regular troops in intra-state conflicts in this region. All the conflicts in Central and South America have concerned governmental power.

For *Asia*, a total of 16 major armed conflicts were registered for 1990–2000.⁴ In the period 1990–2000 Asia had the highest number of major armed conflicts for most years. In 1991 and 1998–2000, Africa had as many or more conflicts than Asia. There has been an overall reduction in armed conflicts in Asia since 1990. As in the Middle East, most of the conflicts in Asia have been active since well before the 1990s. There was one interstate conflict during the period, between India and Pakistan, which was active in 1990, 1992 and 1996–2000. In the intra-state conflict in Tajikistan, active in 1992–96, other states contributed regular troops. The vast majority of the conflicts in Asia have concerned territory.

For *Europe*, a total of eight major armed conflicts were registered for the period 1990–2000.⁵ The yearly number of conflicts has declined since the peak year

² The 19 conflicts in Africa are Algeria, Angola, Burundi, Chad, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire), Eritrea–Ethiopia, Ethiopia, Ethiopia (Eritrea), Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Morocco, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan and Uganda.

³ The 4 conflicts in Central and South America are Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala and Peru.

⁴ The 16 conflicts in Asia are Afghanistan, Cambodia, India (Kashmir), India (Punjab), India (Assam), India–Pakistan, Indonesia (East Timor), Indonesia (Aceh), Myanmar (Kachin), Myanmar (Karen), Myanmar (Shan), the Philippines, the Philippines (Mindanao), Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka (Tamil Eelam) and Tajikistan.

⁵ The 8 conflicts in Europe are Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Republika Srpska), Bosnia and Herzegovina (Herceg-Bosna), Croatia, Georgia, Russia, the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Croatia), and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Kosovo).

Table 1A.1. Regional distribution, number and types of major armed conflicts, 1990–2000

Region	1990		1991		1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		1999		2000	
	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T
Africa	8	3	8	3	6	1	6	1	5	1	4	1	2	1	4	–	10	1	10	1	8	1
America, Central and South	4	–	4	–	3	–	3	–	3	–	3	–	3	–	2	–	2	–	2	–	2	–
Asia	4	9	3	8	4	8	4	6	4	6	4	7	4	6	3	6	3	6	2	7	2	7
Europe	–	–	–	1	–	3	–	5	–	4	–	3	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	2	–	1
Middle East	1	3	2	4	2	3	2	4	2	4	2	4	2	4	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
Total	17	15	17	16	15	15	15	16	14	15	13	15	11	12	11	8	17	10	15	12	14	11
Total	32		33		30		31		29		28		23		19		27		27		25	

G = government and T = territory, the two types of incompatibility.

Source: The Uppsala Conflict Data Project.

Table 1A.2. Regional distribution of locations with at least one major armed conflict, 1990–2000

Region	1990		1991		1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		1999		2000	
	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T
Africa	10		10		7		7		6		5		3		4		11		11		9	
America, Central and South	4		4		3		3		3		3		3		2		2		2		2	
Asia	8		7		9		8		8		8		9		8		8		7		7	
Europe	–		1		3		4		3		3		1		–		1		2		1	
Middle East	4		4		4		4		5		4		4		4		4		3		4	
Total	26		26		26		26		25		23		20		18		26		25		23	

Source: The Uppsala Conflict Data Project.

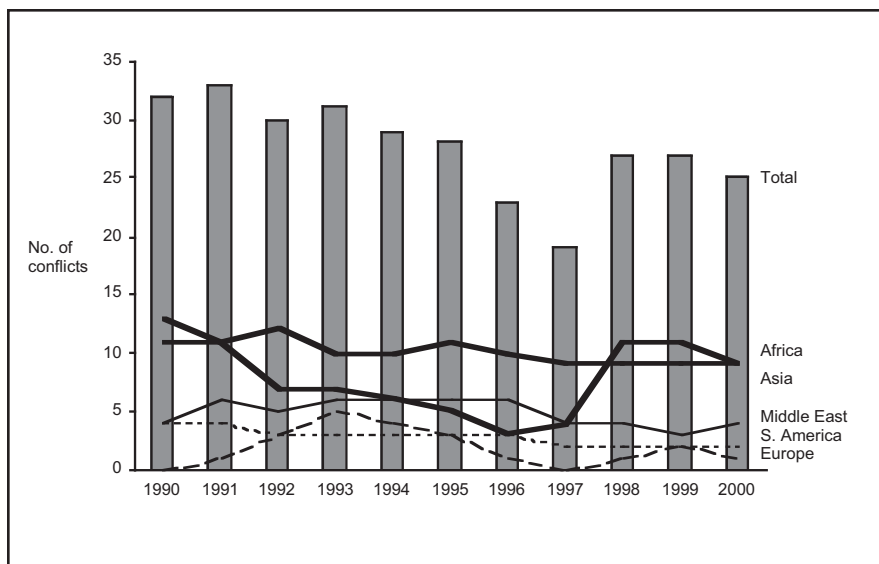


Figure 1A. Regional distribution and total number of major armed conflicts, 1990–2000

1993, when there were five. The only active major armed conflict in Europe in 2000 was the Chechnya conflict in Russia. All the new conflicts in Europe during the period emanated from the breakup of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. There were no interstate major armed conflicts. In five of the eight conflicts in 1990–2000, other states contributed regular troops: Azerbaijan, the two conflicts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Yugoslavia (Kosovo). All the major armed conflicts in Europe have concerned territory.

Nine major armed conflicts were registered for *the Middle East* in 1990–2000.⁶ There was an increase in the number of conflicts from 1990 to 1991, after which the figure remained largely the same until it dropped in 1997. The number has been fairly constant since then. The four major armed conflicts in 2000 have been active during almost the whole period. There was one interstate conflict, between Iraq and Kuwait, in 1991. In the intra-state conflict in Lebanon which was active in 1990, other states contributed troops. Most conflicts in the Middle East have concerned territory, but in 1997–98 and 2000 there were the same number of incompatibilities concerning government and territory.

III. Changes in the table of conflicts for 2000

The new conflict in 2000

The only new major armed conflict registered for 2000 occurred in Mindanao in the Philippines.⁷ The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has waged a low-intensity

⁶ These 9 conflicts are Iran, Iran (Kurdistan), Iraq, Iraq (Kurdistan), Iraq–Kuwait, Israel, Lebanon, Turkey and Yemen.

⁷ The Abu Sayyaf group received more international attention because of a protracted hostage taking that involved foreigners, but in terms of armed conflict the group's actions were on a low level of intensity and thus do not meet the criteria of a major armed conflict.

conflict in Mindanao since 1987. Fighting escalated dramatically in 2000, causing over 1000 battle-related deaths, which meant that it met the criteria of a major armed conflict for the first time. The MILF split in 1984 from the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), which was at war with the Government of the Philippines from the early 1970s until the late 1980s.

One major armed conflict recommenced in 2000 after not having been recorded for 1999. The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) staged a number of attacks in 2000 on the Iraqi Government.⁸ The SAIRI, almost crushed after a failed rebellion in 1991, is based in Iran and is the only Iraqi opposition organization in active armed opposition to the Iraqi Government.

Conflicts recorded in 1999 that were not recorded for 2000

Four major armed conflicts recorded in 1999 do not appear in the table for 2000. In the Republic of Congo, cease-fire agreements signed in November and December 1999 ended the violence between the government and the Cocoye militias of former President Pascal Lissouba and the Ninja militias of former Prime Minister Bernard Kolélas. In Guinea-Bissau, the war that began in 1998 ended in May 1999 as General Ansumane Mane overthrew President João Bernardo Vieira and subsequently allowed elections to be held. In Indonesia (East Timor), the referendum on 30 August decided the future of the status of East Timor in favour of independence from Indonesia. The United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) was established in October 1999 to oversee the transitional process to full independence. In the Yugoslavia (Kosovo) conflict, the Yugoslavian Government and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) signed an agreement in June 1999 which ended the NATO air strikes against Yugoslavia as well as military action on the ground between the armed forces of Yugoslavia and the Kosovo Liberation Army.

Changes in intensity of conflict

Nine of the 25 major armed conflicts in 2000 showed a higher intensity compared to 1999. In six of the cases the battle-related deaths increased by more than 50 per cent. Four conflicts showed reduced intensity in 2000 compared to 1999. In three of the cases intensity levels were down by more than 50 per cent. Three conflicts showed no change in intensity from 1999. The remaining nine conflicts were difficult to compare because of the lack of reliable information on battle-related deaths.

Twelve of the major armed conflicts in 2000 caused at least 1000 deaths during the year: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Burundi, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea–Ethiopia, India (Kashmir), Philippines (Mindanao), Russia (Chechnya), Sri Lanka and Sudan. Ten of them were recorded with over 1000 battle-related deaths in 1999: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea–Ethiopia, India (Kashmir), Russia, Sri Lanka and Sudan.

⁸ There were also reports of fighting in 1999, but none could be independently verified.

India	Territory (Kashmir)	.. / 1989	Govt of India vs. Kashmir insurgents*	1 300 000 5 000	> 20 000	> 2 000	++
	Territory (Assam)	1982/1988 .. / 1986	vs. ULFA vs. NDFB		..	> 200	++
	ULFA: United Liberation Front of Assam NDFB: National Democratic Front of Bodoland * Several groups are active, some of the most important being the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, the Lashkar-e-Toiba and the Jesh-e-Mohammadi.						
India-Pakistan	Territory	1947/1996	Govt of India vs. Govt of Pakistan	1 300 000 600 000	..	> 200	--
Indonesia	Territory	1976/1989	Govt of Indonesia vs. GAM	500 000* ..	> 2 000	100-300	++
GAM: Gerakan Aceh Merdeka (Free Aceh Movement) * Including paramilitary forces. Some 10 000-20 000 troops were used in Aceh.							
Myanmar	Territory	1948/1948	Govt of Myanmar vs. KNU	400 000* 2 000-4 000	1948-50: 8 000 1981-88: 5 000-8 000	50-200	n.a.
KNU: Karen National Union * Including paramilitary forces.							
Philippines	Govt	1968/1968	Govt of the Philippines vs. NPA	100 000 9 000-11 000	21 000- 25 000 > 2 000	> 200	++
NPA: New People's Army MILF: Moro Islamic Liberation Front	Territory	1984/1987	vs. MILF	10 000-15 000	> 2 000	> 1 000	n.a.

Turkey	Territory	1974/1984	Govt of Turkey vs. PKK	800 000* 4 000–5 000	> 30 000	200–400	–
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PKK: Partiya Karkeren Kurdistan, Kurdish Worker's Party, or Apocus
 * Including the Gendarmerie/National Guard. Some 5 000–15 000 troops were used against the PKK.

The following notes apply to table 1A.3. Note that, although some countries are also the location of minor armed conflicts, the table lists only the major armed conflicts in those countries. For the definitions, methods and sources used, see appendix 1B.

The conflicts in table 1A.3 are listed by location, in alphabetical order, within five geographical regions: *Africa*—excluding Egypt; *Central and South America*—including states in the Caribbean; *Asia*—including Oceania, Australia and New Zealand; *Europe*—including the states in the Caucasus; and *Middle East*—Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey and the states of the Arabian peninsula.

^a The stated general incompatible positions. 'Govt' and 'Territory' refer to contested incompatibilities concerning government (type of political system or a change of central government or its composition) and territory (control of territory [interstate conflict], secession or autonomy), respectively. Each location may have one or more incompatibilities over territory if the disputed territories are different entities. There can be only one incompatibility over government in each location as, by definition, there can be only one government in each location. For each incompatibility there may be more than two parties.

^b 'Year formed' is the year in which the incompatibility was stated. 'Year joined' is the year in which use of armed force began or recommenced.

^c The non-governmental warring parties are listed by the name of the parties using armed force. Only those parties and alliances which were active during 2000 are listed in this column. Alliances are indicated by a comma between the names of the warring parties.

^d The figures for 'No. of troops in 2000' are for total armed forces (rather than for army forces, as in the *SIPRI Yearbooks 1988–1990*) of the government warring party (i.e., the government of the conflict location) and for forces of non-governmental parties from the conflict location. Non-government parties supporting a government with troops are not included as part of the government forces unless specifically noted. For government and non-governmental parties from outside the location, the figures in this column are for total armed forces within the country that is the location of the armed conflict. Deviations from this method are indicated by a note (*) and explained.

^e The figures for deaths refer to total battle-related deaths, that is, those deaths that were caused by the warring parties and which can be directly connected to the incompatibility, during the conflict. 'Mil.' and 'civ.' refer, where figures are available, to *military* and *civilian* deaths, respectively; where there is no such indication, the figure refers to total military and civilian battle-related deaths in the period or year given. Information which covers a calendar year is necessarily more tentative for the last months of the year. Experience has also shown that the reliability of figures improves over time; they are therefore revised each year.

^f The 'change from 1999' is measured as the increase or decrease in the number of battle-related deaths in 2000 compared with the number of battle-related deaths in 1999. Although based on data that cannot be considered totally reliable, the symbols represent the following changes:

- + + increase in battle deaths of > 50%
- + increase in battle deaths of > 10 to 50%
- 0 stable rate of battle deaths ($\pm$ 10%)
- decrease in battle deaths of > 10 to 50%
- - decrease in battle deaths of > 50%

n.a. not applicable, since the major armed conflict was not recorded for 1999.

Note: In the last three columns ('Total deaths', 'Deaths in 2000 and 'Change from 1999'), '+', '-' indicates that no reliable figures, or no reliable disaggregated figures, were given in the sources consulted.

Appendix 1B. Definitions, sources and methods for the conflict data

This appendix explains the definitions and methods and describes the sources used for the data on major armed conflicts compiled by the Uppsala Conflict Data Project of the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University. These data are presented in appendix 1A.

I. Definitions

The Uppsala Conflict Data Project defines a major armed conflict as a contested incompatibility that concerns government and/or territory over which the use of armed force between the military forces of two parties, of which at least one is the government of a state, has resulted in at least 1000 battle-related deaths in any single year.¹

The separate elements of this definition are defined as follows.²

1. *Incompatibility that concerns government and/or territory.* The incompatibility must concern government and/or territory, and it refers to the stated generally incompatible positions. An *incompatibility that concerns government* refers to the type of political system, the replacement of the central government or the change of the composition of the current government. An *incompatibility that concerns territory* refers to the status of a territory, for example, the change of the state in control of a certain territory (interstate conflict), secession or autonomy (intra-state conflict).

2. *Use of armed force.* This refers to the use of arms by the military forces of the parties in order to promote the parties' general position in the conflict, resulting in deaths. Arms are defined as any material means of combat, for example, manufactured weapons as well as sticks, stones, fire, water, and so on.

3. *Party.* This refers to the government of a state or an opposition organization or alliance of opposition organizations. The *government of a state* is that party which is generally regarded as being in central control, even by those organizations seeking to take over power. If this criterion is not applicable, the government is the party controlling the capital of the state. In most cases where there is a government, the two criteria coincide. An *opposition organization* is any non-governmental group which has announced a name for the group and its political goals and has used armed force to achieve them.

4. *State.* A state is an internationally recognized sovereign government controlling a specified territory or an internationally non-recognized government controlling a

¹ This definition of major armed conflict differs slightly from the definition applied to the data of the Uppsala Conflict Data Project published in *SIPRI Yearbooks 1988–1999* (Oxford University Press: Oxford, 1988–99). The requirement that a conflict must cause 1000 or more battle-related deaths in a single year, rather than over the entire course of the conflict, ensures that only conflicts that reach a high level of intensity, as measured by deaths, are included. The tables and figure in appendix 1A have been retroactively adjusted to reflect this new definition.

² Sollenberg, M. (ed.), *States in Armed Conflict 1999*, Report no. 55 (Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University: Uppsala, 2000), appendix 2; and Heldt, B. (ed.), *States in Armed Conflict 1990–91*, 2nd edn, Report no. 35 (Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University: Uppsala, 1992), pp. 31–34, available at URL <<http://www.peace.uu.se>>.

specified territory whose sovereignty is not disputed by an internationally recognized sovereign government which previously controlled the same territory.

5. *Battle-related deaths*. This refers to those deaths that are caused by the warring parties and which can be directly related to combat over the contested incompatibility.

Once a conflict has reached the threshold of 1000 battle-related deaths, it continues to appear in the annual tables of conflicts until the contested incompatibility has been resolved and/or until there is no recorded use of armed force, resulting in deaths, between the parties and concerning the same incompatibility during the year. The same conflict may reappear in subsequent years if there is renewed use of armed force between the same parties, resulting in deaths and concerning the same incompatibility.

There is frequently international involvement of various types in intra-state conflicts. Only one type of international involvement is included in appendix 1A: another state or multinational coalition is considered as a party to a conflict if, and only if, it contributes regular troops to one of the warring parties and shares the goals of that party. A traditional peacekeeping operation is not considered to be a party to the conflict but rather an impartial part of a consensual peace process. It should also be noted that rebel groups operating from a base in a neighbouring state are listed as parties to the conflict in the location where the government is challenged, regardless of their nationality or where they are based.

The object of study is not political violence per se but incompatibilities that are contested by the use of armed force. Thus, the project registers one major class of political violence, battle-related deaths, which serves as a measure of the magnitude of the conflict. Other types of political violence are excluded. Examples of such other types of violence are: unilateral use of armed force, for example, government repression, massacres, ethnic cleansing and genocide; unorganized or spontaneous violence, for example, violent demonstrations and communal violence; and violence which is not directed at the state, for example, non-governmental organizations fighting each other. It is argued that these categories of political violence are expressions of phenomena other than armed conflict as defined here—that is, reciprocal, organized, political and deliberate in nature. For example, reciprocal violence is different from unilateral violence, that is, war is different from genocide. This is not to say that such other types of violence or violent conflict are not as important, but the distinction between them is important. There are other projects that collect data on these other types of violence.³

II. Sources

The data presented in appendix 1A are based on information taken from a selection of publicly available sources, printed as well as electronic. The sources include news agencies, newspapers, periodical journals, research reports, and documents of international, multinational and non-governmental organizations. The latter include docu-

³ See, e.g., the work of Ted Robert Gurr *et al.*, Center for International Development and Conflict Management, University of Maryland, for data on ethno-political rebellion and communal violence. Several data sets on various types of violence and conflict are available on the Internet site of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) of the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, at URL <<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu>>.

ments of the warring parties (governments and opposition organizations) when such sources are available, since they serve as a crucial complement when identifying statements about the parties' incompatible positions. Global, regional and country-specific sources are used.

Independent news sources that have been selected over several years form the basis of the source collection. Two major general news sources consulted for the data collection are Reuters News Service and the BBC World Service. The project also uses region- and country-specific sources extensively. However, they are not comparable between regions. This means that for some countries several sources are consulted, whereas for other countries and regions only a few high-quality region- or country-specific sources are used. Regional sources include, for example in the case of Africa, *Africa Confidential*, *Africa Research Bulletin* and the Integrated Information Regional Network (IRIN). For Asia, more country-specific news sources are consulted since few reliable regional sources are publicly available. For example, for the countries in South Asia articles from a large number of national and local newspapers are used.

The project consistently scrutinizes and revises the selection and combination of sources in order to maintain a high level of reliability and comparable coverage of all regions and states. One of the priorities is to arrive at a balanced combination of sources of different origins in order to avoid a bias.

The reliability of the sources is judged by using the expertise within the project together with advice from a global network of experts. Of highest priority is the general reputation and expertise of the sources as judged by regional experts. If possible, the members of the project discuss the sources with academics in the respective countries in conflict. The independence of the sources is crucial as well as the transparency of the origins of the sources. Each source is judged according to the context in which it is published, that is, according to the potential interests of the source in misrepresenting political or violent events. In the case of biased sources which are used to identify statements by the parties, they must be official sources issued by the parties. Since most sources are secondary sources, the project attempts to trace reports back to the primary source in order to decide whether they are reliable. In addition to deciding the level of reliability of available sources, the project strives to identify the existence of censorship. Thus, other sources than regular news sources must be used to establish what is occurring in a country. Documents and reports issued by international, multinational and non-governmental organizations are consulted for this purpose.

III. Methods

The data on major armed conflicts are compiled by calendar year. They include data on conflict location, type of incompatibility, year the incompatibility was formed, year the warring party began its use of armed force, warring parties, number of troops, total battle-related deaths, battle-related deaths during the year, and the change in battle-related deaths compared to the previous year.⁴

The data on battle-related deaths constitute the largest part of the data collection. Figures for battle-related deaths are produced through a comprehensive review of reports on individual violent incidents in each conflict which are then aggregated.

⁴ See also the notes to table 1A.3 in appendix 1A.

Ideally, these individual figures are corroborated by two or more independent sources. The aggregated figures are also compared to total figures that appear in official documents, special reports and the news media. Regional experts—for example, researchers, diplomats and journalists—are often consulted during the process of the data collection. Their contribution is mainly clarification of the contexts in which events occur, thus facilitating proper interpretation of the reporting in published sources.

Little information on the exact number of deaths in armed conflicts is publicly available. The project therefore in many instances presents these figures as ranges or approximations, and they are best estimates. The numbers of battle-related deaths are based on conservative estimates. Experience shows that, as more information on an armed conflict becomes available, the conservative estimates based on information about each individual event are more often correct than the less conservative, higher estimates. If no figures are available or if published figures are too contradictory to establish even a minimum reliable figure, no figure is given. Figures are revised retroactively each year as new information becomes available.