DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS DATABASE (DIPCON)

NOTE: There are two versions of the DIPCON Database. Version 2.3 was created March, 2010, and was noted as Version 2.3. It is authored by Patrick Rhamey, Kirssa Cline, Sverre Bodung, Alexis Henshaw, Beau James, Chansuk Kang, Alicia Sedziak, Aakriti Tandon, and Thomas J. Volgy.[1]

The second version, noted as DIPCON Database 3.0, was created June 2013, and is a modified version of 2.3: a) 1960 and 1965 are eliminated in the data due to numerous errors detected in the original source; b) several errors in the earlier version have been identified (errors were due to either problems in the original source or due to coding errors) and changed; and c) microstates (states with populations fewer than 200,000) are dropped from the data. This version is authored by Patrick Rhamey, Kirssa Cline, Nicholas Thorne, Jacob Cramer, Jennifer L. Miller, and Thomas J. Volgy (2013). "The Diplomatic Contacts Database," Tucson: School of Government and Public Policy, University of Arizona (Version 3.0).[2]

Primary data source*: Europa Yearbook*, annual editions, along with web pages of states where additional information was needed and available.

The data record all embassies sent by all states to other states in the international system between 1960[3] and 2008 in Version 2.3 and 1970 to 2010 in Version 3.0, generally at five-year intervals (there are some time frames when the intervals are shorter to allow researchers to gauge, especially during periods of substantial change, whether or not diplomatic contacts are shifting quickly).

The data are recorded dyadically, and are available in Excel format. Within the Excel format, the rows indicate states sending embassies and the columns indicate states receiving embassies. Both rows and columns are ordered numerically based on Correlates of War country codes.

CODING PROCESS:

Initial steps taken to generate the data:

• Diplomatic contacts are coded by year. The year reflects the Yearbook's best assessment of embassies sent and received around the late spring of that year.

• A country is listed as having an embassy in another country (and receives a value of 1) if it meets the following criteria:

    a) The diplomatic structure is listed as an embassy;
    b) Its physical residence is in the capital of the host country;
    c) There is either an ambassador, or a high commissioner listed with a name and address, and residing at the embassy (if the position is vacant, or if it contain a representative of a lower status—e.g., consul—it does not qualify for the year in question).

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[1] Please use the following citation when using the data: Patrick Rhamey, Kirssa Cline, Sverre Bodung, Alexis Henshaw, Beau James, Chansuk Kang, Alicia Sedziak, Aakriti Tandon, and Thomas J. Volgy (2010). "The Diplomatic Contacts Data Base," Tucson: School of Government and Public Policy, University of Arizona (Version 2.3).

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[3] In 1960, the code for Egypt is actually the temporary merger of Egypt and Syria, as the UAR, and data for Syria are missing. representative of a lower status—e.g., consul—it does not qualify for the year in question)

Secondary steps:

After initial data entry, a number of steps were taken to "clean" and to check on the reliability of the data:

• For each year, after initial completion, totals were run for each country. Countries with all 0 values were reassessed to determine if they had legal status for that year, and/or if the country name had changed. Those without legal status were eliminated; those with legal status were double-checked; those with name changes were redone.

• After the individual years were "cleaned" an inter-coder reliability check was conducted for each year, using the following process: a second coder recoded ten percent of the countries for that year, and compared these results with the original results. Any reliability check that resulted in a value of 95% or higher correlation between the original data and the secondary check was accepted as reliable. A reliability check lower than the 95% threshold required a re-coding of that year's data to correct for possible errors. After these steps were taken, the final inter-coder reliability level for the data was calculated to be at .98 %.

The data are provided in two formats:

• First, the data for all years recorded (including various in-between years) is presented in matrix format, with a separate sheet for each year. This format is available as an Excel spreadsheet.

• Second, the data for five-year periods is presented in dyadic format. This format is available as both an Excel spreadsheet and a Stata 12 file.

LITERATURE:

Initial examples of the use of the DIPCON database include Volgy, Corbetta, Grant, and Baird 2011, Rhamey and Early 2013, and Bezerra et al. 2014.[4]

Users of the data are given permission to do so with appropriate citation to the developers: please cite as noted in footnotes 1) and 2), depending on which version is being used.

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[4] Volgy, Thomas J., Renato Corbetta, Keith A. Grant, and Ryan G. Baird. 2011b. "Major Power Status Attribution: Conceptual and Methodological Issues," in Volgy, Corbetta, Grant and Baird, *Major Powers and the Quest for Status in International: Global and Regional Perspectives*; Rhamey, J. Patrick, and Bryan R. Early. 2013. "Going for the Gold: Status Seeking Behavior and Olympic Performance." *International and Area Studies Review* 16(3); Bezerra, Paul, Jacob Cramer, Megan Hauser, Jennifer Miller, and Thomas J. Volgy. 2014. "Going for the Gold versus Distributing the Green: Foreign Policy Substitutability and Complementarity in Status Enhancement Strategies." *Foreign Policy Analysis.*