

# Codebook for Armed Group Dataset (AGD)

Country-Year Data  
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## Overview:

The dataset records country-level information about the number of armed groups that operated around the world between 1970 and 2012.

The dataset primarily draws on the population of armed groups introduced by the Terrorist Organization (TORG) Crosswalk Project, hosted by the Project for Violent Conflict at the University of Albany (Asal et al 2015).

An armed group is defined as an organized and independent group of non-state actors that justify their use of violence as being in the service of political control.

The unit of analysis is the country-year.

This dataset records organizational information related to when and where different types of armed groups form and operate.

The current version of this dataset (1.2) contains information about 1,431 armed groups in 138 countries across the United States, Central America, South America, Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East, North Africa, South Asia, Asia, and the Oceania/Pacific regions. It does not yet include information about armed groups in Greece.

## Description of Variables:

### **scode**

Three letter ISO 3 character code uniquely identifying the name of each country in the dataset.

### **ccode**

Three digit number uniquely identifying each country in the dataset based on Gleditsch and Ward (2002) country code.

### **country\_txt**

Long form character description of the country.

### **region**

String variable describing the geographic region of the country based on Gleditsch and Ward (2002) country codes.

### **year**

Numeric variable between 1970 and 2012.

### **nonewform**

Count variable for the number of new armed groups that form in a given year. This count is based on the *yrform* variable in the group-level dataset. When the group's year of formation is not known, the group's year of their first violent attack is imputed as their formation year (*yrfirstattack*). A group may form, but not initiate violence in a given year.

### **nonewviol**

Count variable for the number of new armed groups that initiate violence in a given year. This count is based on the *yrfirstattack* variable in the group-level dataset.

### **noactviol**

Count variable for the number of active armed groups that politically oppose the state operating in a given year. An armed group is considered active beginning the year that it conducts its first violent attack and is active every year until it conducts its last violence attack.

**noendviol**

Count variable for the number of armed groups that conduct their last known violent attack in a given year. The number of armed groups that end are identified using the *yrlastattack* variable from the group-level dataset.

Types of Group Formation

**nonewsep**

Count variable for the number of new territorial autonomy-seeking/separatist armed groups that launch their first attack in a given year. This count is based on the *yrfirstattack* and the separatist coding from the *aim2* variable in the group-level dataset.

**nonewcenter**

Count variable for the number of new center-seeking armed groups that launch their first attack in a given year. This count is based on the *yrfirstattack* and the center-seeking coding from the *aim2* variable in the group-level dataset.

**nonewleft**

Count variable for the number of new leftist armed groups that launch their first attack in a given year. This count is based on the *yrfirstattack* and the *left* ideological goal variable in the group-level dataset.

**nonewrelig**

Count variable for the number of new leftist armed groups that launch their first attack in a given year. This count is based on the *yrfirstattack* and the *religious* ideological goal variable in the group-level dataset.

**nonewislam**

Count variable for the number of new leftist armed groups that launch their first attack in a given year. This count is based on the *yrfirstattack* and the *islam* ideological goal variable in the group-level dataset.

**nonewethno**

Count variable for the number of new leftist armed groups that launch their first attack in a given year. This count is based on the *yrfirstattack* and the *ethnonational* ideological goal variable in the group-level dataset.

## Types of Group Operations

### **noactviolsep**

Count variable for the number of active territorial autonomy-seeking/separatist armed groups that politically oppose the state operating in a given year. An armed group is considered active beginning the year that it conducts its first violent attack and is active every year until it conducts its last violence attack. Separatist armed groups are identified based on the *aim2* variable in the group-level dataset.

### **noactviolcenter**

Count variable for the number of active center-seeking armed groups that politically oppose the state operating in a given year. An armed group is considered active beginning the year that it conducts its first violent attack and is active every year until it conducts its last violence attack. Center-seeking armed groups are identified based on the *aim2* variable in the group-level dataset.

### **noactviolleft**

Count variable for the number of active leftist armed groups that politically oppose the state operating in a given year. An armed group is considered active beginning the year that it conducts its first violent attack and is active every year until it conducts its last violence attack. Ethnonationalist armed groups are identified based on the *leftist* ideological goal variable in the group-level dataset.

### **noactviolethno**

Count variable for the number of active ethnonationalist armed groups that politically oppose the state operating in a given year. An armed group is considered active beginning the year that it conducts its first violent attack and is active every year until it conducts its last violence attack. Ethnonationalist armed groups are identified based on the *ethnonational* ideological goal variable in the group-level dataset.

### **noactviolislam**

Count variable for the number of active Islamic armed groups that politically oppose the state operating in a given year. An armed group is considered active beginning the year that it conducts its first violent attack and is active every year until it conducts its last violence attack. Ethnonationalist armed groups are identified based on the *islam* ideological goal variable in the group-level dataset.