Codebook for Dangerous Delegation : Global Patterns in State Sponsorship of Terrorism[1]

Version 1

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Overview of Dataset

The Dangerous Delegation data provides a comprehensive and dynamic database of state sponsorship of terrorism patterns across all states in the international system.

The Dangerous Delegation data utilizes the Global Terrorism Database's (GTD) definition and identification of terrorist organizations. The principal sources of group-level information about the financing of organizations that utilize terrorism which this data collects and expands upon are the Non-State Actor Dataset (NSA) developed by Cunningham, Gleditsch, and Salehyan, the Terrorism Research and Analysis Consortium (TRAC) digital group-level profiles, the Terrorism Knowledge Base Terrorist Organization Profiles (archived by the University of Maryland National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism), and the Big Allied and Dangerous (BAAD) 1.0 database, created by Asal and Rethemeyer.

The unit of the Dangerous Delegation data is terrorist organization-year. The start year for each organization is the year they are first recorded in the GTD as conducting an act of terrorism, and the end year is the final year they are recorded in the GTD as conducting an attack. Intervening years where the organization was not active are not included in the dataset. Terrorist organizations may be listed as having one or more target states, and those that receive state sponsorship may be listed as having one or more sponsor states.

As an example, the Abu Nidal Organization (ANO), was active from 1976 to 1998, and had as its principal target the state of Israel. Three states are identified as having sponsored ANO from 1976 to 1998: Syria, Libya, and Iraq.

A more detailed discussion of the coding system used in Dangerous Delegation, relevant definitions, additional examples, and an empirical application of this data can be found in Berkowitz, Jeremy (2018) "Delegating Terror: Principal-Agent Based Decision Making in State Sponsorship of Terrorism, " International Interactions, Vol. 44(4): 709-748. Please cite this article for any use of the Dangerous Delegation data.

The current version of the data (version 1.0) covers the time period 1970 to 2013.

Database Variables and Descriptions

group_name
Text Variable

This field identifies the English name of the terrorist organization in the observation. Organization names were taken directly from the Global Terrorism Database, and therefore follow the naming conventions used in that data.

year
Numerical Variable

This field contains the year of the observation.

support
Categorical Variable

This field identifies whether or not the terrorist organization received support from a state actor during the observation year.

1 = Terrorist organization received support during the observation year.

0 = Terrorist organization did not receive support during the observation year.

support_NSA
Categorical Variable

This field identifies whether or not the NSA dataset indicated the terrorist organization (or a recognized alias) received support from a state actor during the observation year (utilizing the rebel.support variable). Groups that were not included in this source are listed as missing in this variable.

1 = Terrorist organization received support during the observation year.

0 = Terrorist organization did not receive support during the observation year.

. = Terrorist organization was not listed in the source.

support_TRAC
Categorical Variable

This field identifies whether or not the TRAC profiles indicated the terrorist organization (or a recognized alias) received support from a state actor during the observation year (utilizing the "State Sponsored Terrorism" keyword in the Ideology and Tactics profile categories). Since the

TRAC profiles do not include a definite time varying component, profiles were closely examined to find any available information on the time frame of sponsorship. Groups that were not included in this source are listed as missing in this variable.

1 = Terrorist organization received support during the observation year.

0 = Terrorist organization did not receive support during the observation year.

. = Terrorist organization was not listed in the source.

support_TKB
Categorical Variable

This field identifies whether or not the Terrorism Knowledge Base profiles indicated the terrorist organization (or a recognized alias) received support from a state actor during the observation year (utilizing the "funding" line in the group summary). Since the Terrorism Knowledge Base profiles do not include a definite time varying component, profiles were closely examined to find any available information on the time frame of sponsorship. Groups that were not included in this source are listed as missing in this variable.

1 = Terrorist organization received support during the observation year.

0 = Terrorist organization did not receive support during the observation year.

. = Terrorist organization was not listed in the source.

support_BAAD
Categorical Variable

This field identifies whether or not the BAAD 1.0 dataset indicated the terrorist organization (or a recognized alias) received support from a state actor (utilizing the statespond variable). Groups that were not included in this source are listed as missing in this variable.

1 = Terrorist organization received support during the observation year.

0 = Terrorist organization did not receive support during the observation year.

. = Terrorist organization was not listed in the source.

unanimous_support
Categorical Variable

This field indicates whether positive sponsorship identifications in the four source variables were unanimously agreed upon. Identifications were considered unanimous if all sources that

included the terrorist organization identified the organization as a recipient of state sponsorship. See nonunanimous_support below for cases in which positive sponsorship identifications were not nonunanimously agreed upon.

1 = Positive sponsorship identifications were unanimous.

. = Positive sponsorship identifications were nonunanimous or there were no positive sponsorship identifications.

nonunanimous_support
Categorical Variable

This field indicates whether positive sponsorship identifications in the four source variables were nonunanimously agreed upon. Identifications were considered nonunanimous if there was variation in the sources that included the terrorist organization on whether the organization was a recipient of state sponsorship. See unanimous_support above for cases in which positive sponsorship identifications were unanimously agreed upon.

1 = Positive sponsorship identifications were nonunanimous.

. = Positive sponsorship identifications were unanimous or there were no positive sponsorship identifications.

supporter_name
Text Variable

This field identifies the English name(s) of states that have provided material resources to the terrorist organization in the observation year. Multiple states are delineated utilizing semi-colons (;). States that are identified in one source but not identified in others have sources listed in parentheses after their names. A blank entry indicates that the terrorist organization did not receive material resources from an identifiable state in the observation year.

target_states
Text Variable

This field identifies the English name(s) of states that are the principal target state of the terrorist organization. Multiple states are delineated utilizing semi-colons (;). A blank entry indicates that the principal target state of the organization was unable to be identified.

group_base
Text Variable

This field identifies the English name(s) of states that are the principal location where the terrorist organization is based or operates from. Multiple states are delineated utilizing semi-

colons (;). A blank entry indicates that the principal base of operations of the organization was unable to be identified.

support_type
Text Variable

This field identifies the type of support provided by states to state sponsored terrorist organizations, as well as any available details about the specific support provided (such as dollar amounts and whether the support is alleged or explicit). Multiple forms of support are delineated using semi-colons (;). Types of support that are provided by one or more states but not by others have the providing states listed in parentheses after the support type. Types of support that are identified in one source but not identified in others have sources listed in parentheses after the support type. A blank entry indicates that the terrorist organization did not receive material resources from an identifiable state in the observation year.

Note: This variable information is partially standardized (ex: consolidating all forms of weapons and military equipment into a single category "Military"). However, the level of information available on types of support varies significantly between individual observations. As a result, it is recommended that scholars utilizing this variable take care when adopting it for their own use.

groupideology_TRAC
Text Variable

This field identifies the broad ideology of the terrorist organization, utilizing the TRAC profiles "ideology" keywords. Multiple forms of support are delineated using semi-colons (;). A blank entry indicates that a terrorist organization did not have an ideology listed in the TRAC profiles when the Dangerous Delegation database was constructed, or that the organization was not listed in the TRAC profiles. Note that the TRAC profiles are non-static and these keywords may be updated over time.

group_age
Numerical Variable

This field identifies the age of the terrorist organization during the observation year. Age is measured by counting from the first year the terrorist organization was observed in the GTD. Therefore, group age will be inaccurate for organizations that existed prior to 1970 (the start date of the GTD) or were active as non-terrorist organizations prior to first engaging in terrorism.

group_attacks
Numerical Variable

This field identifies the number of attacks that the terrorist organization conducted during the observation year. This information was gathered from the GTD database.

group_extortion
Categorical Variable

This field identifies whether the terrorist organization engaged in economic terrorism and/or extortion, utilizing the TRAC profiles "tactics" keywords. A blank entry indicates that a terrorist organization did not have a tactic listed in the TRAC profiles when the Dangerous Delegation database was constructed, or that the organization was not listed in the TRAC profiles. Note that the TRAC profiles are non-static and these keywords may be updated over time.

1 = Evidence exists that the terrorist organization engaged in economic terrorism and/or extortion.

0 = Evidence exists that the terrorist organization did not engage in economic terrorism and/or extortion.

. = Organization was not listed in the source or did not have a tactics entry.

group_transnationalcrime
Categorical Variable

This field identifies whether the terrorist organization engaged in transnational crime and/or organized crime, utilizing the TRAC profiles "tactics" keywords. A blank entry indicates that a terrorist organization did not have a tactic listed in the TRAC profiles when the Dangerous Delegation database was constructed, or that the organization was not listed in the TRAC profiles. Note that the TRAC profiles are non-static and these keywords may be updated over time.

1 = Evidence exists that the terrorist organization engaged in transnational crime and/or organized crime.

0 = Evidence exists that the terrorist organization did not engage in transnational crime and/or organized crime.

. = Organization was not listed in the source or did not have a tactics entry.

state_created
Categorical Variable

This field identifies whether a state actor was involved in the creation of the sponsored terrorist organization. As state creation implies sponsorship at some point during the organization's existence, only sponsored organizations are listed. A blank entry indicates that there was no

available evidence indicating whether or not a sponsored organization was state created, or that the organization was not sponsored. Note that, in cases where multiple states are sponsoring a single organization, the notes variable contains information on which states had a role in creating the organization.

1 = Evidence exists that a state actor was involved in the creation of the terrorist organization

0 = Evidence exists that a state actor was not involved in the creation of the terrorist organization

. = There is no available evidence indicating whether or not a state actor was involved in the creation of the organization, or the organization was not sponsored.

same_state
Categorical Variable

This field identifies whether a terrorist organization is being sponsored by the state that is its principal target. This results in domestic sponsorship of terrorism, rather than transnational sponsorship.

1 = Terrorist organization is sponsored by the state that is its principal target.

0 = Terrorist organization is not sponsored by the state that is its principal target.

notes
Text Variable

This field contains pertinent information on any of the other variables in the dataset. In particular, this variable may have important information on the variables group_extortion, group_transnationalcriminal, and state_created. It is strongly encouraged to consult the notes variable when using these variables.

References

Asal, Victor H. and R. Karl Rethemeyer. (2009). Big Allied and Dangerous Dataset Version 1.

Berkowitz, Jeremy (2018) "Delegating Terror: Principal-Agent Based Decision Making in State Sponsorship of Terrorism. " International Interactions, Vol. 44(4): 709-748.

Cunningham, David, Kristian Gleditsch, and Idean Salehyan (2009) "It Takes Two: A Dyadic Analysis of Civil War Duration and Outcome." Journal of Conflict Resolution, Vol. 53(4): 570-597.

National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism. "Terrorism Knowledge Base Terrorist Organization Profiles." www.start.umd.edu

Terrorism Research & Analysis Consortium. "Group Profiles." www.trackingterrorism.org