

Indiscriminate Violence in Civil Wars



Bethany Leap

Indiscriminate Violence

- Selective vs. indiscriminate violence
- Efficacy
- Why use indiscriminate violence?
 - Strategy
 - Importance of civilian support
 - Resources
 - Information
 - Cost

Theory

Theory: Insurgent use of indiscriminate violence will be successful if it is used in a territorial conflict.

H1: *One-sided violence committed by non-state actors will be associated with an increased success rate in territorial wars.*

H2: *One-sided violence committed by non-state actors will be associated with a decreased success rate in non-territorial wars.*

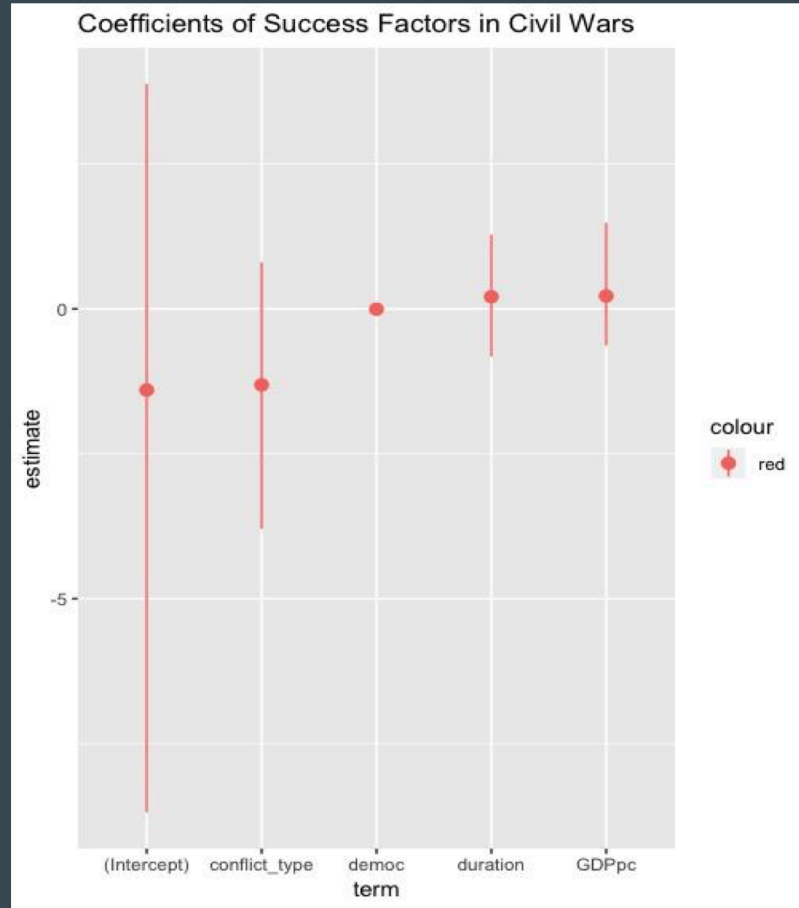
Data & Methods

- Uppsala Conflict Data Program, Peace Research Institute Oslo
- Quantitative analysis of all civil wars from 1989 - present
- Generalized Linear Model
- Dependent Variable
 - “Success”
 - Insurgent win, successful ceasefire agreement, or successful peace agreement
- Independent Variables
 - Conflict Type
 - Duration
 - Democracy
 - GDP per capita

Analysis

	term	estimate	std.error	statistic	p.value
1	(Intercept)	-1.399302533	2.87434662	-0.4868246	0.6263827
2	duration	0.210756418	0.51924818	0.4058876	0.6848252
3	conflict_type	-1.309960283	1.13140904	-1.1578132	0.2469403
4	democ	-0.004735088	0.01574823	-0.3006744	0.7636628
5	GDPpc	0.223296312	0.47291101	0.4721741	0.6368026

Analysis (cont'd)



Conclusion

- Improving model
- Improve data
 - Disaggregate at year level
 - Add more controls

References

Guevara, C. (2016). *Guerrilla Warfare*. Stellar Editions.

Kalyvas, S. (2006). *The logic of violence in civil war*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Lichbach, M. (1987). Deterrence or Escalation?. *Journal Of Conflict Resolution*, 31(2), 266-297. doi: 10.1177/0022002787031002003

Lyall, J. (2009). Does Indiscriminate Violence Incite Insurgent Attacks?. *Journal Of Conflict Resolution*, 53(3), 331-362. doi: 10.1177/0022002708330881

Moore, W. (1998). Repression and Dissent: Substitution, Context, and Timing. *American Journal Of Political Science*, 42(3), 851-873. doi: 10.2307/2991732

Rasler, K. (1996). Concessions, Repression, and Political Protest in the Iranian Revolution. *American Sociological Review*, 61(1), 132-152. doi: 10.2307/2096410

Salehyan, I., Siroky, D., & Wood, R. (2014). External Rebel Sponsorship and Civilian Abuse: A Principal-Agent Analysis of Wartime Atrocities. *International Organization*, 68(03), 633-661. doi: 10.1017/s002081831400006x

Valentino, B. (2014). Why We Kill: The Political Science of Political Violence against Civilians. *Annual Review Of Political Science*, 17(1), 89-103. doi: 10.1146/annurev-polisci-082112-141937

Weinstein, J. (2006). *Inside Rebellion: The Politics of Insurgent Violence*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Wood, R. (2010). Rebel capability and strategic violence against civilians. *Journal Of Peace Research*, 47(5), 601-614. doi: 10.1177/0022343310376473

Wood, R., Kathman, J., & Gent, S. (2012). Armed intervention and civilian victimization in intrastate conflicts. *Journal Of Peace Research*, 49(5), 647-660. doi: 10.1177/0022343312449032

Zedong, M. (1937). *On Guerrilla Warfare*.