

# The Militarized Interstate Confrontation Endings (MICend) Codebook, 1816-2014

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This document provides user information on the coding procedures for the Militarized Interstate Confrontation Endings (MICend) Dataset, 1816-2014. We include a discussion of data formats and variable information. Gibler thanks the National Science Foundation for support through grants #1260492 and #0923406. The authors are responsible for any errors, and we ask that any questions about or errors in the data be reported to the authors.

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July 11, 2023

## Citation

We ask that users of this dataset cite the following article and note the version number of the data they are using in their study:

- Gibler, Douglas M, and Miller, Steven V., “The Militarized Interstate Events (MIE) Dataset, 1946-2014.” *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, forthcoming.

## Rationale for a Militarized Interstate Confrontation Endings (MICend) Dataset

This codebook describes the Militarized Interstate Confrontation Endings (MICend) dataset, 1816-2014. We are able to provide militarized interstate events data that describe each threat, display, and use of force by one state against another from 1816 to 2014.<sup>1</sup> Our Militarized Interstate Event (MIE) data provide the date of the last event for each participant in confrontations, which is actually a departure from the way older versions of our data and the CoWMID dataset presents each confrontation or dispute. Traditionally, per CoW’s original coding rules (see especially, [Jones, Bremer and Singer, 1996](#)), a conflict is coded as ending when one of two conditions is met. If there are no other militarized events within six months following a militarized event, then that event is considered the last militarized event, and the conflict is considered as having ended. If, however, an agreement was reached between the states involved within that six-month period, then the date of the agreement ends the conflict.

We believe this coding rule conflates two different types of conflict endings and obscures important data that could be available to the researcher. Therefore, we report the date of the last militarized event in our MIE, Militarized Interstate Confrontation (MIC), and MIC participant datasets. Then, in the dataset we describe here we report the date of agreements and other non-conflict ending events identified by [Jones, Bremer and Singer \(1996\)](#) that extend confrontation cases beyond the last militarized event. We also go further and provide details on the provisions of agreements as well as many contextual variables that describe how confrontations ended, including those cases in which an agreement was reached on the same day as the last militarized event in the confrontation.

## Data Files Associated with the Militarized Interstate Confrontation Endings (MICend) Data

We provide the following files for users of the MICend data set. We advertise the data of interest in the list below first as the more accessible comma-separated values file (.csv), but we also have the same data available in a Stata data file format (.dta) or an R serialized data frame (.rds). Please note that we are constantly revising these data; users should report the version number of the dataset used in any research. Future releases of the data will come with a text file summarizing changes to the data.

- micend-[version].csv: This is a file communicating which confrontations should have extended end dates according to coding rules outlined in [Jones, Bremer and Singer \(1996\)](#).

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<sup>1</sup>The Correlates of War Militarized Interstate Dispute (CoWMID) dataset calls these events “militarized incidents” and provides data on them for the 1993 to 2014 period. Our review of the errors in that data as well as comparisons to our dataset are available on our website.

## Variables Included

The following variables are included in the MICend dataset:

### *General Variables*

- **micnum**: The confrontation number for each case. If the number is between 2 and 8000, it represents the original CoWMID for each case. We have added numerous confrontation cases that are not in the CoWMID data as disputes; these cases begin with **confrontnum** values in the 9000's to demonstrate completely new cases.
- **endmonth**: The month of the agreement or confrontation end date.
- **endday**: The day of the agreement or confrontation end date.
- **endyear**: The year of the agreement or confrontation end date.
- **endingmethod**: This variable provides a description of the form of the agreement. Values include: (0) no agreement; (1) written treaty; (2) joint communiqué; (3) exchange of letters; (4) acceptance of UN Resolution; (5) speech or announcement by a government representative; (6) acceptance of ICJ decision, United Nations resolution, or League decision; (7) acceptance of regional organization order; (8) unilateral decision by one side to withdraw from confrontation; (9) joins war; and (10) state exits system.
- **talks**: This dummy variable is positive if the parties in the confrontation met in person for talks regarding the confrontation.
- **issuemention**: This dummy variable is positive if the agreement mentions the issue in the confrontation in any way.
- **version**: The MICend version number. We are constantly reviewing and updating our datasets, and we ask users of our data to always report which version number of the data they are using in their research along with their citation.

### *Provisions*

- **ceasefire**: This dummy variable is positive when the confrontation participants agreed to a cease-fire provision on the date of signing or a specified date in the future.
- **withdrawal**: This variable has a value of (1) for a unilateral withdrawal of fighting forces or (2) for bilateral withdrawal. The value is (0) when the agreement has no withdrawal provisions.
- **reaffirm**: This dummy variable is positive when the confrontation participants agreed to respect each other's borders, policies, etc, or generally reaffirm positive future relations.
- **demarcate**: This dummy variable is positive when the confrontation participants agreed to demarcate their joint borders.
- **acceptfuture**: This dummy variable is positive when the confrontation participants agreed to accept future arbitration of the issues in the confrontation.

- *futureagree*: This dummy variable is positive when the confrontation participants confirmed the desire to commit to future agreements.
- *infoexchange*: This dummy variable is positive when the confrontation participants agreed to share information in the future.
- *disarm*: This dummy variable is positive when the terms of the agreement require at least one of the participants to disarm part or all of their fighting forces.
- *institutioncreate*: This dummy variable is positive when the confrontation participants agreed to create a new institution such as a border committee, joint commission, etc.
- *refugees*: This dummy variable is positive when the confrontation participants agreed to a method for cooperating on refugees from the confrontation.
- *pow*: This dummy variable is positive when the confrontation participants agreed to return prisoners of war.
- *monitoring*: This dummy variable is positive when the confrontation participants agreed to having peacekeepers or monitors present in one or more countries.
- *territoryexchange*: This dummy variable is positive when the confrontation participants agreed to exchange territory.
- *trade*: This dummy variable is positive when the terms of the agreement include discussions of trade and/or commerce between the participants.
- *travel*: This dummy variable is positive when the terms of the agreement include discussions of individual travel between the participants.
- *requestmediate*: This dummy variable is positive when at least one of the participants requested future mediation to resolve the issue of the confrontation.
- *compensation*: This dummy variable is positive when the terms of the agreement require at least one of the participants provide compensation, an explanation, or an apology.
- *policychange*: This dummy variable is positive when the terms of the agreement require at least one of the participants to change a domestic or foreign policy that was under contention in the confrontation.

### *Context Variables*

- *baddefeat*: This dummy variable is positive when one side of the confrontation suffers a bad defeat such that the country's leadership is asking for an agreement to end the conflict.
- *regimechange*: This dummy variable is positive when a confrontation primarily concerns regime issues, and a regime change ends those issues.
- *nonstateaggr*: This dummy variable is positive when the agreement ending the confrontation includes or primarily concerns non-state actor allies of the confrontation participants.

### *Mediation*

- `global`: This dummy variable is positive when mediators from global organizations, such as the United Nations, facilitate the ending of the confrontation.
- `regional`: This dummy variable is positive when mediators from regional organizations, such as the Organization of American States, facilitate the ending of the confrontation.
- `state`: This dummy variable is positive when mediators from individual countries facilitate the ending of the confrontation.
- `nonstate`: This dummy variable is positive when a non-state actor serves as a mediator for the confrontation.
- `mediatorname`: This text variable includes the names of all mediators that participated in facilitating an end to the confrontation. The order of mediators always lists any global organizations, then any regional organizations, and finally any individual countries that mediated the confrontation ending.

### *Seizures*

- `releaseaircraft`: This dummy variable is positive when the confrontation is considered having ended with the release of seized aircraft.
- `releasepersonnel`: This dummy variable is positive when the confrontation is considered having ended with the release of seized personnel.
- `releaseshipping`: This dummy variable is positive when the confrontation is considered having ended with the release of seized shipp.
- `releasearms`: This dummy variable is positive when the confrontation is considered having ended with the release of seized armaments.

### **References**

- Gibler, Douglas M and Steven V. Miller. Forthcoming. "The Militarized Interstate Events (MIE) Dataset, 1946-2014." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* .
- Jones, Daniel M, Stuart A Bremer and J David Singer. 1996. "Militarized interstate disputes, 1816–1992: Rationale, coding rules, and empirical patterns." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 15(2):163–213.