Data Analysis #1: The Correlates of War
Due at the Beginning of Class February 18, 2019
No Late Work Accepted

The following questions are designed to get you familiarized with three of the most common datasets in international conflict: the National Military Capabilities Index, the Correlates of War (COW), and Militarized Interstate Disputes. You may work alone or with partners. However, the final write up must be entirely your own work.

1) Go to the National Military Capabilities Index. Download the dataset. (Make sure it is version 5.0.) In what year did China's CINC score most recently surpass America's? What was its estimated military expenditure that year?

2) Open the dataset's codebook. Recall that CINC scores aggregate the measures of each of the component parts. Use the codebook to read more about these components and compare the Chinese data to the American data for that year. What do you think is causing CINC to rank China above the United States? What does this say about the dataset's weaknesses?

3) The United Nations Security Council's five permanent members are the United States, United Kingdom, France, China, and Russia. CINC is a close approximation for the percentage of world power (as defined by CINC) a state has. What was the total CINC share for these five countries 2012? (**Hint**: Throughout this assignment, you might find it easier to locate particular countries using COW's country codes.)

4) Compare those five member's CINC values to Germany's in 2012. Using this information, why do you think some people believe Germany deserves a permanent seat on the UNSC?

5) What were Cuba's military expenditures for 2012? Interpret the meaning. (**Hint**: You *really* should look through the codebook before answering this.)

6) Choose a country and create two scatter plots.[1] Both should have year on the x-axis. For the first, place military personnel on the y-axis and plot all of the observations. For the second, place military expenditures on the y-axis and plot all of the observations. What do you see in the data?

7) In the prelude to the Iraq War, the Bush administration exerted great effort to build a "coalition of the willing" to coerce Saddam Hussein. Go to the Correlates of War page and download the interstate war dataset. (Make sure it is version 4.0.) Which states provided enough assistance to count as participants according to COW? Which of these states suffered casualties?

8) Go to the Militarized Interstate Disputes page and download version 4.2 at the **participant** level. (If you download the dispute level, you will not be able to complete this. Its file should be distinguished MID**B**.) Locate the dispute between India and Bangladesh that began in 2009. How many casualties did they suffer? (**Hint**: What did you learn from Question 5 about understanding the meaning of variables?)

---

[1] See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scatter_plot. Scatter plots are easy to construct in any statistical software, including Excel by going to the "Insert" tab.