

WAR BY GOVERNMENT: WHICH SYSTEMS ARE MOST LIKELY TO ENGAGE IN CONFLICT?

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WHY THIS TOPIC?

THE MOTIVATION FOR CHOOSING THIS TOPIC AROSE FROM CURIOSITY ABOUT WHETHER STEREOTYPES REGARDING DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS COULD BE BROKEN DOWN OR UPHELD USING SCIENTIFIC MEANS. FOR EXAMPLE, DISORDERED STATES HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH HOSTILITY AND STEREOTYPED AS BARBARIC, WHILE A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH PRESTIGE.

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION?

HYPOTHESIS: AN ESTABLISHED MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY WILL BE THE GOVERNMENT SYSTEM LEAST LIKELY TO ENGAGE IN WAR

DATA & METHODS

DEPENDENT VARIABLE: *WAR*

•“TYPES OF ARMED CONFLICT: 1 = NONE, 2 = INTERSTATE, 3 = REGIONAL AND/OR GENERAL CIVIL WAR, 4 = WAR OF INDEPENDENCE, 5 = MULTIPLE TYPES.”

INDEPENDENT VARIABLE: *GOVERNMENT*

•“GOVERNMENT: THE NATURE OF GOVERNMENT IN POLITICS: 1 = ESTABLISHED MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY; 2 = RECENTLY ESTABLISHED MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY IN TRANSITION; 3 = ONE-PARTY REGIME; 4 = AUTOCRATIC REGIME; 5 = DISORDERED STATE/CIVIL WAR.”

INDEPENDENT CONTROL VARIABLE #1: *ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT*

•“LEVEL OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.” THIS QUESTION REQUIRES RESPONDENTS TO IDENTIFY WITH ONE OF THREE CATEGORIES LABELED “LEAST DEVELOPED,” “DEVELOPED,” AND “INDUSTRIAL.”

INDEPENDENT CONTROL VARIABLE #2: *NUCLEAR WEAPONS*

•“OWNERSHIP OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS: 1 = OWN NUCLEAR WEAPONS MATERIAL, 2 = VOLUNTARILY ABANDONED NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM, 3 = OWN NUCLEAR WEAPONS, 4 = COMPELLED TO ABANDON NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM.”

INDEPENDENT CONTROL VARIABLE #3: *THREE WORLDS MODEL*

•“CLASSIFICATION OF COUNTRIES INTO THREE WORLDS MODEL: 1 = FIRST WORLD, 2 = SECOND WORLD, 3 = THIRD WORLD.”

TABLES

BELOW, TABLES 1 AND 2 PROVIDE SUMMARY STATISTICS OF THE VARIABLES USED AND TABLE 3 PROVIDES THE RESULTS OF THE CROSS-TABULATIONS:

TABLE 1: SUMMARY STATISTICS

DEPENDENT VARIABLE	OBSERVATIONS	MEAN	STD. DEV.	MIN	MAX
WAR	172	2.064	1.215	1	5

TABLE 2: SUMMARY STATISTICS

INDEPENDENT VARIABLE	OBSERVATIONS	MEAN	STD. DEV.	MIN	MAX
GOVERNMENT	172	2.291	1.345	1	5
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	167	2.048	0.743	1	3
NUCLEAR WEAPONS	15	2.800	0.676	1	4
THREE WORLDS	172	2.535	0.729	1	3

TABLE 3: RESULTS

DEPENDENT VARIABLE BY INDEPENDENT VARIABLES

GOVERNMENT		ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		NUCLEAR WEAPONS		THREE WORLDS	
COEFFICIENT	SIGNIFICANCE	COEFFICIENT	SIGNIFICANCE	COEFFICIENT	SIGNIFICANCE	COEFFICIENT	SIGNIFICANCE
0.149†	0.010**	0.384††	0.041*‡	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
		0.200††	0.772‡	1.000††	N/A	0.154†	0.299‡†
		0.301††	0.097‡‡	0.606††	0.241‡‡‡	0.164†	0.082‡††
				N/A	N/A		
† CRAMER'S V ‡ LEAST DEVELOPED * SIGNIFICANT AT .05		† LAMBDA ‡ DEVELOPING ‡‡ INDUSTRIAL		‡‡‡ OWN NUCLEAR WEAPONS ** SIGNIFICANT AT .01			

SIGNIFICANT RESULTS

PRONENESS TO ENGAGE IN CONFLICT:

DISORDERED STATE: 87.5%

PRONENESS NOT TO ENGAGE IN CONFLICT:

AUTOCRATIC REGIME* : 41.7%

ESTABLISHED MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY: 60.0%

ESTABLISHED MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY IN TRANSITION: 52.1%

ONE-PARTY REGIME: 52.6%

GOVERNMENT WITH UNDERDEVELOPED ECONOMY

AUTOCRATIC REGIME IS 62.5% PRONE TO REGIONAL/GENERAL CIVIL WAR

ESTABLISHED MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY IS 33.3% PRONE TO NO WAR, INTERSTATE WAR AND REGIONAL/GENERAL CIVIL WAR

ESTABLISHED MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY IN TRANSITION IS 43.8% PRONE TO NO WAR AND REGIONAL/GENERAL CIVIL WAR

ONE-PARTY REGIME IS 40.0% PRONE TO INTERSTATE WAR AND REGIONAL/GENERAL CIVIL WAR

*37.5% PRONE TO CIVIL WAR AND THEREFORE IT CAN BE CONCLUDED THAT IT IS THE MOST LIKELY OUT OF THE FOUR “ORDERLY” GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS TO ENGAGE IN CONFLICT