Data Manual:
How very massive atrocities end: A dataset and typology

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This document serves both as the "readme" and the data dictionary for the data accompanying the piece "How very massive atrocities end: A dataset and typology".

Data and Replication

We provide three types of documents available at both the *Journal of Peace Research* replication repository (`https://www.prio.org/jpr/datasets/`) and on the corresponding author's website (`https://www.chadhazlett.com`):

1. The file `AtrocityEndDataPublished.csv` contains the core quantitative data on which are analyses are based. The manual for this dataset is provided below.

2. The `Rmarkdown` file, `AtrocityEndingsAnalysis.Rmd`, reproduces all results discussed in the paper.

3. A series of tables act as a supplement to the paper and provide useful narrative information.

   - The first three tables provide brief narrative descriptions of why each atrocities ending was coded as *as-planned* (Table 1), *defeat* (Table II), or *strategic shift* (Table III).

   - Table IV describes the nine cases in which we contemplate alternative codings and why.

   - Table V describes every case involving armed foreign intervention and how we understand that intervention to have interacted with the atrocity. Table VI describes seven other datasets relating to mass atrocities and their key features in comparison to our own.

Another key resource we provide is the set of xtensive qualitative case-studies on each of the 43 mass atrocities studied. These are available through our project website, `https://sites.tufts.edu/atrocityendings/`.

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Criteria

The coding criteria and methodology are reported extensively in the accompanying paper. In short, our case-selection criteria are notable for: (i) the high threshold deployed (50,000 civilian

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fatalities), (ii) the otherwise broad inclusion rules regarding perpetrators, with both state and non-state actors as perpetrators, domestic and foreign government as perpetrators; and (iii) using the atrocity as the unit of observation, rather than using civil conflicts as the unit.

The data cover "very massive atrocities," defined as widespread and systematic killing of unarmed people (civilians or prisoners of war) within a single country resulting in at least 50,000 civilian fatalities in cases post-1945. This includes cases in which people were under the direct control of perpetrators, held in camps and prisons, and denied the means for sustaining life. We use a threshold of 5,000 civilian deaths in a given year, with onsets marked by the first year above this level, and endings marked as the final year at this threshold under a single perpetrator, when followed by two consecutive years below this level. If more than 5,000 civilians are killed by a separate perpetrator group within the subsequent two years, this is coded as a subsequent atrocity.

The universe of cases was established by drawing on diverse existing lists and datasets of atrocity and genocides plus additional research. Case studies for each atrocity episode in the dataset drew on expert qualitative analysis to outline the context for instability, describe the scale and pattern of atrocities, present the evidence base for fatality figures, and detail terminations. This process is inherently subjective and not all experts will agree on all conclusions. We consulted outside experts to help with these decisions and obtained in-depth reviews on difficult cases including the Africa cases, Iraq, Indonesia and Vietnam.

Dictionary

The variables in the dataset are:

- **id**: A unique identifier for each atrocity, using the country in which it occurred concatenated with the start year.

- **crisis**: A shorthand indicator of the crisis during which the atrocity occured, such as a "civil war", "war of independence", "partition", or other common name frequently used to refer to the context of the event by scholars familiar with the country's history.

- **cause.asplanned**, **cause.shift**, **cause.defeat**. Three binary indicators (mutually exclusive) labeling the type of ending we assigned to each case. **cause.asplanned** equals one if the atrocity was determined to have ended *as planned*, and zero otherwise. **cause.shift** equals one if the atrocity was determined to end through *strategic shift*. **cause.defeat** equals one if the atrocity was determined to end through *defeat* of the primary perpetrator.

- **secondary**. This variable offers a secondary coding in the nine cases where we contemplate that other analysts might have come to a difference conclusion. It takes the value "P" for endings *as planned*, the value "S" for endings by *strategic shift*, and the value "D" for endings by *defeat* of the primary perpetrator.

- **secondary.note**. A text note indicating the logic by which the secondary coding could be chosen.

- **atrocitybegin**, **atrocityend**. The years in which the atrocity is coded to begin and to end.

- **conflictbegin**, **conflictend**. Dates of the associated multi-sided armed conflict (if present), as coded by the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset version 19.1, Pettersson, Högbladh & Öberg, 2019).

- **primaryperp**. A name for the primary perpetrator in the atrocity.

- **fatalities**. Estimated number of civilian fatalities.

- **normalize**. Whether (0/1) the perpetrator remained in power and normalized relations with the target group(s) thereafter (if the regime was the primary perpetrator).

- **leaderchange**. If same regime remains intact at the ending, but a key leader is shifted out of power, whether through elite coup, natural death or democratic change.

- **defeatdom**, **defeatint**. Whether (0/1) the primary perpetrator was militarily defeated at the hands of domestic (defeatdom) and/or international (defeatint) forces.

- **shiftdom**, **shiftint**. Wheter (0/1) a strategic shift was substantially influenced by domestic (shiftom) and/or by international (shiftint) actors.

- **withdrawalint**. Whether (0/1) a withdrawal of forces occurred during the atrocities and that was associated with a reduction in atrocities.

- **popularviolence**. Whether (0/1) the violence involved popular participation or was conducted only by members of specialized organized groups;

- **multiplevictimgroups**. Whether (0/1) more than one group was targeted. XXX should we cut this one? Requires careful definition of groups. And I'm not sure we use it do we?

- **initiatornotworst**. Whether (0/1) atrocities occurred at a higher level under a perpetrator who was not the considered to have been the first.

- **nsa.primary**, **nsa.secondary**. Whether (0/1) the primary perpetrator was a non-state actor (NSA); whether the secondary perpetrator (if there was one) was a non-state actor.

- **subsequent**. Whether (0/1) a more than 5,000 civilians killed by a new perpetrator, or the same perpetrator targeting a new and distinct group, within two years of ending the primary atrocity event.

References

Pettersson, Therése; Stina Högbladh & Magnus Öberg (2019) Organized violence, 1989–2018 and peace agreements. *Journal of Peace Research* 56(4): 589–603.