

Shatterbelt Regions Data Set (1945-1992)
Version 1.1 (last revised 27 March 2000)

Paul R. Hensel
Department of Political Science
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-2230
(850) 644-7318
phensel@garnet.acns.fsu.edu
Home page: <<http://garnet.acns.fsu.edu/~phensel/>>
Data archive: <<http://data.icow.org>>

Original Reference:

Paul R. Hensel and Paul F. Diehl (1994). "Testing Empirical Propositions about Shatterbelts." *Political Geography* 13, 1 (January): 33-51.

Supplemented by:

David Reilly (1999). "Shatterbelts and Crisis Behavior: Evaluating States 'At Risk'." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Atlanta.

Table of Contents

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Description and Rationale | 1 |
| What Is Included | 1 |
| Conditions of Use | 1 |
| Version History | 2 |
| Future Plans for This Data Set | 2 |
| Variable List | 3 |
| General Variables | 3 |
| Shatterbelt Membership Variables | 4 |

Description and Rationale

This data set identifies which geographic regions have qualified as shatterbelts between 1945-1992, and which states are considered members of each of these regions. Shatterbelts are defined and operationalized by Hensel and Diehl (1994); the interested reader is urged to consult that original article. The theoretical reason for this compilation -- initially tested by Hensel and Diehl (1994) -- is the expectation that shatterbelt regions should show different patterns of conflict behavior than other types of regions. Of course, the data set is not limited to this purpose, and should prove to be useful for a variety of additional purposes (such as for identifying populations of cases for analysis of specific non-shatterbelt topics, or for controlling for the regional context in analyzing militarized conflict or other phenomena in world politics).

What is Included

Two files are included with this data set when it is first downloaded. These files are made available in a Zipped archive (**shatter.zip**), in order to minimize download times. Zipped archives may be decompressed using software such as the following:

- Aladdin/StuffIt Expander (for Macintosh, Windows, or DOS):
<<http://www.aladdinsys.com/expander/index.html>>
- MindExpander (Macintosh or Windows): <<http://www.mindvision.com/Consumer/>>
- ZipIt (Macintosh): <<http://www.maczipit.com/>>
- PKZip (for DOS, Windows, OS/2, and Unix): <<http://www.pkware.com/>>
- WinZip (Windows): <<http://www.winzip.com/>>

This codebook is presented in read-only Adobe Acrobat or PDF format (**shatter.pdf**), for consistency of appearance and printing across any computer platform and printer. Two separate data files are also included. The basic international organization membership file (**shatter.csv**) is likely to be most useful for state- and dyad-level analyses.

Both data files are presented in CSV comma-delimited format, for ease of use with any spreadsheet or statistical package. Note that users wishing to read this file directly into a statistical package may want to edit the CSV file to remove the first line (which contains variable names), unless the statistical package in question is capable of reading variable names; otherwise a false data point may be created with alphanumeric characters rather than numbers, potentially confusing the program and affecting any resulting analyses.

Conditions of Use

While I am making this data set freely available on the World Wide Web, I would prefer that users follow two conditions in using it. First, if any problems or discrepancies are found, please contact me via email at <phensel@garnet.acns.fsu.edu>, to explain what you feel is wrong and why (preferably with some type of supporting documentation). I will make every effort to respond as quickly as possible, and to make any needed corrections or additions. I have

endeavored to collect and report this information as accurately as possible, but there is always some risk that information is either missing or incorrect, and there is no benefit to me, users, or the scholarly community in general if known errors are not corrected.

Second, as a professional courtesy, I would appreciate a copy of any article or paper that is written using this data. It is interesting to see what other scholars are doing with my data, and as I get a better idea of what people are using it for, I may be able to improve the data in future versions to help address topics that I had not originally anticipated.

Version History

Version 1.0 (April 1998)

- Original release (using data from Hensel and Diehl 1994)

Version 1.1 (March 2000)

- Added Reilly's (1999) extension of the original 1945-1976 shatterbelt data through 1992
- Expanded list to include all states that were COW system members at any point since 1816, in order to facilitate adding both recent and older regional status. (the original version was limited to the 1945-1976 period, excluding all years outside of that period and all states that were not system members during that time)

Future Plans

- Although this data currently focuses on one particular type of geographic region, shatterbelts, I plan to extend this to additional region types in the future. This data set will eventually become a more comprehensive collection of regional influences on interstate relations, probably adding further region types such as zones of peace, nuclear-free zones, and geopolitical concepts such as the heartland and rimland.
- This data set (both for shatterbelts and for any additional region types that are added) will eventually be extended to a much longer time frame, ideally beginning in 1816 and extending to the present day

VARIABLE LIST

The following variables are listed in order of appearance in the file. Variable names are currently included in the first row of the file, because many users will want to read the file into a spreadsheet; users wishing to read the file directly into a statistical package should first edit the file with any text editor or word processor to remove the first line with the variable names.

General Variables

Region76: Geographic region

- Hensel and Diehl (1994) divided the interstate system into eleven distinct geographic regions. These regions are listed below, along with the years in which each region qualifies as a shatterbelt between 1945-1976 (Hensel & Diehl 1994) and between 1945-1992 (Reilly 1999).
- This data set is sorted by geographic region first, and then by state number within each region.

| <u>Region Number and Name</u> | <u>Shatterbelt Status</u> | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| | <u>1945-1976</u> | <u>1945-1992</u> |
| 1. North America | -- | -- |
| 2. Central America / Caribbean | -- | 1979-1988 |
| 3. South America | -- | -- |
| 4. West Europe | -- | -- |
| 5. Eastern Europe | 1945-1955 | 1945-1955 |
| 6. Sub-Saharan Africa | 1961-1976 | 1961-1985 |
| 7. Middle East / Maghreb | 1955-1976 | 1955-1992 |
| 8. South Asia | -- | 1978-1988 |
| 9. East Asia | 1945-1976 | 1945-1992 |
| 10. Southeast Asia | 1960-1976 | 1960-1976 |
| 11. Oceania | -- | -- |

State: Standard COW country code

Abb: Standard COW country abbreviation

- These are taken directly from the latest version of the COW interstate system membership list (version 1997.1), currently available at <<http://pss.la.psu.edu/intsys.html>>.

Name: State name

- In general, I have followed the latest version of the COW interstate system (version 1997.1), although in a few cases I have changed the name to reflect current usage (e.g., "Malagasy Republic" has been changed to "Madagascar" and "Rumania" has been changed to "Romania") or to simplify data usage (e.g., by removing commas to avoid confusion with .CSV data files, and by naming split Germany, Korea, and Vietnam so that the states in question are listed consecutively).

COWbeg1, COWend1, COWbeg2, COWend2: Start & end dates of COW interstate system membership (YYYYMM)

- For the years 1816-1997, these columns are taken directly from the COW interstate system list (version 1997.1).
- More recent years (1998-1999) are estimated based on the author's knowledge of recent world events, drawing especially from UN membership lists. Three new states are added (using COW country codes and abbreviations that were used to refer to these entities before their statehood): Kiribati (9/1999: 946 KIR), Nauru (9/1999: 970 NAU), and Tonga (9/1999: 955 TON); all other states are coded as continuing to exist for both years. (When Tuvalu joins the UN in 2000, it is expected to become COW state 947 with the abbreviation TUV)

Shatterbelt Membership Data

The definition and coding procedures used to generate the following region and shatterbelt data are described by Hensel and Diehl (1994).

Belt76b, Belt76e: Beginning and ending of shatterbelt status, 1945-1976 (YYYY)

- These two dates indicate the beginning and ending dates of this state's existence in a shatterbelt between 1945-1976, according to Hensel and Diehl (1994).
- Note that these dates are constrained by the dates of each state's COW interstate system membership. Thus, although a given geographic region may be a shatterbelt from 1945-1976, a state that enters the system in 1955 or 1960 is not coded as part of a shatterbelt until the date of system entry.

Belt76ch: Shatterbelt change indicator, 1945-1976

- This variable is a dummy indicating whether or not this region changed shatterbelt status between 1945-1976. This measure was used by Hensel and Diehl (1994) to investigate whether or not regions that changed status during the period of study showed systematic differences between their shatterbelt and non-shatterbelt periods.

Belt92b, Belt92e: Beginning and ending of shatterbelt status, 1945-1992 (YYYY)

- These two dates indicate the beginning and ending dates of this state's existence in a shatterbelt between 1945-1992, based on Hensel and Diehl (1994) for the 1945-1976 period and extended by Reilly (1999) for the 1977-1992 period. Note that Reilly used the same coding rules as Hensel and Diehl (1994), and focused on adding the 1977-1992 period to the original data set rather than on collecting an entirely new list of shatterbelts.
- Note that -- as above -- these dates are constrained by the dates of each state's COW interstate system membership.