

RESEARCH CLUSTERS & QUESTIONS

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I. Cluster I: Modern Muslim Majority/ Organization of Islamic Cooperation Member States (MM/OIC) Conflict Behavior:

PREMISES AND LITERATURE:

1. We hear a great deal of discussion about Muslim-majority (MM) nations as intrinsically more conflict prone, unstable, and underdeveloped—yet, no available data describes armed conflict behavior of Muslim-majority states in the modern period, a period in which most of these states became independent, achieved decolonization, or otherwise began to determine and dictate their own destinies.
 - Muslim-majority state conflict literature
2. We also hear a great deal about MM states—particularly in the Mideast/Central Asia regions—engaging in conflicts with each other: is that true? Do MM states engage in armed conflicts with each other more than other non-Muslim states and if so, how, when, and where?
3. Last, we know that MM states incur the majority of costs in humanitarian services on the part of the international community, is that because of them being more prone to conflict?

OVERARCHING QUESTIONS:

The aforementioned issues—and more—inspire the “Muslim State Armed Conflict and Compliance (MSACC) Dataset: 1947-2014,” which is designed to provide an empirical description of how modern MM OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) states engage in armed conflict (AC). Therefore, our first research priority is to simply describe the conflict behavior of MM states in the modern period, ranging from 1947 to 2014:

- (1.) How many conflicts occurred?
- (2.) Which parties did they include?
- (3.) What kinds of armed conflict did MM states engage in – Non- International Armed Conflicts (NIACs) or International Armed Conflicts (IACs)?
- (4.) Were states compliant with (ratified) universal norms governing armed conflict (IHL) contained in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977?

SUMMARY RQ CLUSTER I:

- (1.) Are OIC states more or less likely to engage in AC, IAC, NIAC than non-OIC states?
- (2.) Are OIC states more or less likely to engage in AC, IAC, NIAC with each other than with other states?
- (3.) Are OIC states more or less likely to violate IHL in AC, in domestic (NIACs) or international conflicts (IACs)?
- (4.) Are OIC states more or less likely to violate IHL in unstable or stable political situations?
- (5.) Is there a correlation between type of conflict and political situation? I.e. do states with stable political situations engage in more IAC's than NIAC's?

II. Regional And Temporal Dimensions Of OIC States Armed Conflict Behavior:

SUMMARY RQ CLUSTER II.

- (1.) Are ACs - IACs or NIACs occurring and recurring in the same country, region, and/or time frame?
- (2.) Are IHL violations occurring and recurring in the same country, region, or time frame?
- (3.) Are certain regions more conflict prone? If so, why?
 - a. Are there similarities/differences in existence of conflict and conflict type between OIC members and non-members in the same region?
 - b. Are OIC states more or less likely to violate IHL in areas where certain schools of Islamic jurisprudence are more prevalent?
 - c. Are OIC states more or less likely to violate IHL in areas where different schools or sects live side by side?
 - d. What role—if any—does Muslim population density play in incidence of armed conflict or violations during armed conflict?
- (4.) Are there more conflicts during certain time periods?
 - a. Are there more IACs or NIACs during certain time periods? Why?
 - b. Is there a pattern in conflict type over time?

III. Compliance Behavior With IHL By OIC States:

- (1.) Do MM states comply with IHL in armed conflicts?
- (2.) Do they comply more during IACs or NIACs?
- (3.) Whether Muslim countries that ratified IHL, comply with IHL during IAC and NIAC?
- (4.) Is there any relationship between armed conflict compliance and conflict behavior, including prevalence of conflicts?
- (5.) Are OIC states more or less likely to violate IHL in conflicts with other OIC states or non-Muslim states?
- (6.) Does compliance with IHL translate into fewer IAC? Or NIACs?
- (7.) Are OIC states more or less likely to violate IHL in countries with higher or lower "Shari'a Density"?
- (8.) Is there a correlation of political structure or government type and violations? Political structure or government type and incidence of conflict or conflict type? Does political structure and government type, for instance, correlate with more or less extrajudicial killings in armed conflict settings?
- (9.) Do conflict types exhibit any consistent behavior patterns: i.e., domestic unrest incidences are likely to be followed by full-fledged armed conflict? Is there a relationship between conflict modalities among Muslim-majority states?
- (10.) Does the presence of certain types of conflict actors indicate or influence the occurrence of certain types of conflict? i.e., transnational extremist actors and prevalence of terrorism?

IV. Our Third Dataset Looks At "Sharia Density" and International Human Rights Law or IHRL Density In MM States Constitutions (Their Legal Systems) As A Potential Correlation Between Conflict Behavior And Compliance Behavior.

- (1.) What are the general patterns of Shari'a Density in MM States – what is the most common and least common Sharia Density pattern in the constitutions?
- (2.) Does high Shari'a Density correspond with low IHRL Density and vice versa i.e. is there an inverse or a direct correlation between the two?.
- (3.) Is there a correlation between Shari'a Density and conflict behavior and compliance behavior?
- (4.) What are the regional and temporal patterns (by time period of constitutional drafting) in the Shari'a Density?
- (5.) What are the patterns according to the demographic and type of constitution?