



# WHY WE FIGHT: TESTING THE PREDICTORS OF INSURGENCY

An Empirical Multivariate Analysis of the Causes of Civil War and Terrorist  
Insurgency

# CORE GOALS: WHY YOU'RE HERE LISTENING TO ME

- This presentation takes an empirical look at what the primary predictors are of three different types of violence across the world's countries, with a special focus on the impact of diversity. My "violences" are:
  - Internal homicide rate, including mass shootings
  - Armed insurgency, defined as civil war or terrorist insurgency
  - Inter-national conventional war
- Variables appearing in the statistical models you'll see include: each state's Democracy Index score, level of corruption, whether/not the state is primarily Muslim (or Black), level of racial diversity, level of ethnic-tribal diversity (distinct linguistic sub-populations), population, population density, GDP, GINI coefficient, and Human Development Index score.
- My universe of analysis is 171 individual nation states.

# A QUICK PHOTOGRAPHIC LOOK AT MY MUSE...



# BUT, TO SERIOUS MATTERS: THE ALT-RIGHT AND THE DIVERSITY CONTROVERSY

- Over the past several years, there has been a great deal of controversy about the value of diversity and about the impact of increasing racial and ethnic diversity on intra- and inter-national violence.
  - The “racialist” alt-right openly argues that different races and even ethnic populations possess dramatically different capabilities, probably for genetic reasons, and that increasing diversity correlates positively and significantly with crime and war (see Derbyshire 2008; Taylor 2011; Day 2015; Coulter 2016).
- There obviously are multiple examples of wars and conflicts caused by ethnic/racial clashing.
  - The recent Rwandan and Bosnian genocides
  - Tamil and Sinhalese fighting in Sri Lanka – Buddhist atrocities!
  - Near race wars in Zimbabwe and SA, Africa
  - Closer to home: Dylan Roof, Black Lives Matter, Hammerskin Rising

# THE FLIP SIDE OF THE COIN: MANAGING DIVERSITY

- However, here is also a substantial literature arguing that ethnic and racial diversity is a good thing. The basic idea that “more flavors means better stew” can be seen – often with empirical support – from the business world (Managing Diversity) to analysis of Congressional assignment of one bill to multiple committees (Sinclair 2014).
- I and others make three core arguments for diversity when debating alt-righters:
  - **Quality of Life**: a broader range of people and ideas to draw from generally means better patent rate, food (Indian, Mexican, Thai), athletics, tech sector improvement, etc.
  - **Maximization of Human Potential**: increased genetic diversity, apparently, leads to taller smarter humans...<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/new-study-finds-genetic-diversity-may-be-key-taller-smarter/>
  - **Pragmatic Group Consolidation**: most importantly, multiple scholars argue that at least **racial** diversity and the consolidation of small tribal groups into “races” (“becoming white”) reduces tribal conflict and overall decreases violence. MOST wars take place in tribal but entirely one-race societies, like Somalia, Kosovo, Syria, Ukraine, etc.

# EMPIRICAL OUTLINES: HOW I TEST MY QUESTIONS

- As you may by now suspect, I decide to test the question of how diversity and other variables affect violence and conflict. I examine two measures of diversity:
  - **Racial Diversity**: Number of genetic racial populations making up more than 1% of national population (per CIA World Factbook data taken from Wikipedia and Britannica).
  - **Ethnic Diversity**: Number of distinct, generally same-race, linguistically distinct sub-populations within the national population (same sources).
- As previously noted, nine other variables also appear in my models, run in STATA 13.0.
  - I hypothesize that Democracy, Racial Diversity (proxy for civilization), large Population, increasing GDP, and Human Development will have a **NEGATIVE**/good impact on violence. I hypothesize that Corruption, Islam, Black majority (proxy for Africa), population Density, Ethnic Diversity, and GINI Inequality will have a **POSITIVE**/bad impact on violence.

# RAW DATA, SLIDE ONE: SINGLE AND MASS HOMICIDE

Notes:

```
1. (/v# option or -set maxvar-) 5000 maximum variables  
use "F:\RaceAndViolence.dta", clear  
reg MURDA Democracy Crooked Islam Tribal RcDiverse Black Population Dense GDP GINI HDU
```

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs =	127
Model	5879.17617	11	534.470561	F( 11, 115) =	5.78
Residual	10628.6191	115	92.4227748	Prob > F =	0.0000
Total	16507.7953	126	131.014248	R-squared =	0.3561
				Adj R-squared =	0.2946
				Root MSE =	9.6137

  

MURDA	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
Democracy	1.196892	.7332368	1.63	0.105	-.2555087 2.649293
Crooked	-.2013012	.0789188	-2.55	0.012	-.3576241 -.0449782
Islam	-3.356234	2.479427	-1.35	0.179	-8.267501 1.555034
Tribal	.0253103	.0472643	0.54	0.593	-.0683111 .1189317
RcDiverse	4.274689	2.278938	1.88	0.063	-.2394479 8.788827
Black	-5.328741	3.425233	-1.56	0.123	-12.11347 1.455986
Population	-.0076546	.0053916	-1.42	0.158	-.0183343 .0030252
Dense	-.0004659	.0005036	-0.93	0.357	-.0014638 .0005316
GDP	.0448991	.070635	0.64	0.526	-.0950152 .1848134
GINI	.4963518	.1265545	3.92	0.000	.2486717 .7470319
HDU	-.011863	.0139057	-0.85	0.395	-.0394076 .0156815
_cons	-.5222075	10.21208	-0.05	0.959	-20.75037 19.70596

```
reg CivilWar Democracy Crooked Islam Tribal RcDiverse Black Population Dense GDP GINI HDU
```

Democracy S  
Crooked S  
Islam P  
Tribal La  
RcDiverse M  
RaceDiverse # d  
MajRace 1=  
Black 0=r  
Population pop  
Dense Pop  
GDP PPP  
GINI Coef  
HDU Hum

Properties  
Variables  
Name HDU  
Label Human D  
Type float  
Format %9.0g  
Value Label  
Notes  
Data  
Filename RaceAndVi  
Label  
Notes

# STAGE ONE RESULTS: INDIVIDUAL AND MASS HOMICIDE

- Analysis of homicide data produced several very interesting results:
  - **Inequality Kills:** the single biggest predictor of increasing homicide rate (nations varied between 0.4 and 91 homicides per 100,000 people) was increasing income inequality measured by the GINI coefficient. This **MULTI**-unit variable had an unstandardized coefficient effect (B) on the dependent variable of (.496), meaning that each shift of unequal wealth distribution upward by one unit correlated with “half” of a human death.
  - For the math geeks: this relationship was extremely statistically as well as substantively significant. The GINI effect was stat/sig at (p=.000; t=3.92).
- Also...
  - **Don't Stereotype:** with income adjusted for, which is not always done, Islamic and Blacks states had **LOWER** than average homicide rates. (B) for the Islamic variable was (-3.36), and (B) for the Black States variable was (-5.34). The most violent regions of the world were actually Latin America and Eastern Europe.
  - **Clashes Can Occur:** Racial diversity did have some positive effect (B = +4.27) on specifically homicide rate, perhaps indicating that for example whites and Blacks can clash in “gang level” conflicts. However, this effect was very unreliable: the SE standard error was 2.28, and the result did not reach statistical significance (p=.63).
  - And, oddly...Corruption Saves? National corruption had a very small, but statistically significant, negative effect on internal murders. Explain Chicago, then, I ask!

# RAW DATA, SLIDE TWO: ARMED INSURGENCY & TERROR INSURGENCY

	GDP	GINI	HDU	_cons
	.4963518	.1265545	3.92	0.000
	-.011863	.0139057	-0.85	0.395
	-.5222075	10.21208	-0.05	0.959

  

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs =
Model	53.8713807	11	4.89739825	129
Residual	148.004588	117	1.26499648	F( 11, 117) = 3.87
Total	201.875969	128	1.57715601	Prob > F = 0.0001

  

	R-squared	Adj R-squared	Root MSE
	0.2669	0.1979	1.1247

  

CivilWar	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
Democracy	-.0377288	.0856932	-0.44	0.661	-.2074397 .131982
Crooked	-.0094006	.009225	-1.02	0.310	-.0276703 .0088691
Islam	.2187864	.2839059	0.77	0.442	-.3434743 .7810471
Tribal	.0177098	.0055239	3.21	0.002	.0067699 .0286497
RcDiverse	.0178492	.2641954	0.07	0.946	-.5053759 .5410743
Black	.0758516	.4005525	0.19	0.850	-.7174216 .8691249
Population	.0006036	.0006286	0.96	0.339	-.0006413 .0018485
Dense	2.85e-06	.0000589	0.05	0.962	-.0001138 .0001194
GDP	.0033348	.0082489	0.40	0.687	-.0130016 .0196712
GINI	-.0271445	.0146744	-1.85	0.067	-.0562064 .0019174
HDU	-.0018403	.0016217	-1.13	0.259	-.0050521 .0013714
_cons	4.27934	1.179993	3.63	0.000	1.942427 6.616254

# STAGE TWO RESULTS: ARMED AND TERRORIST INSURGENCY

- Only **ONE variable** was significant as a predictor of intra-national armed insurgency.
  - An insurgency was defined as any internal conflict significant enough to make the Lists of Wars (i.e. “List of Land Wars 1945-89) in my discipline, generally requiring more than 1,000 deaths, and involving only intra-national belligerents. A typical example would be the “Shining Path” guerilla and terror war in Peru during the 1980s.
- The one predictor variable was **ethnic, or tribal, diversity**.
  - Recall, this was defined as the presence within a single state of multiple non-assimilated linguistic population groups – independent, self-identifying, proto-national populations (Horowitz 2000).
  - This variable was significant at the (.002) level, with a t-value of (3.21). By itself, it explained nearly 40% of all local revolutions and terror campaigns, and seems to sum up most Basque, Coptic, IRA, etc. violence.
- All this has **nothing to do with race**.
  - I.e., with linguistic and income diversity adjusted for, “assimilated” racial diversity was the least important variable in the model, with a p-value of (.946).

# LET SLIP THE DOGS: ON TO INTERNATIONAL WAR

- Again, a few interesting results here...
- The single most significant predictor of international land war was “being the United States.”
  - This is not a joke. At 21 wars from 1945 to present, the United States – along with some of our close coalitionary allies, such as Britain – fights wars at roughly 9x the median rate for all nations.
- Among all countries, population was an extremely ( $p=.001$ ) predictor of international war.
  - Far from being peaceful, large and generally “civilized” states – including Russia (including USSR conflicts) Britain, Germany, China, Iran/Persia, and even Canada – fight in far more declared wars than smaller and more “primitive” states.
- Slight positive effect of Islam on war. Bloody borders?

AND, AFTER SERIOUS TALK, A  
KOALA. ANY QUESTIONS? .

