**The Statistics of Insurgency**

1. **The Question**

What can we learn about levels of violence from an analysis of quantifiable descriptors of a country or region?

1. **Project Description**

Over the course of the semester, we will be conducting a statistical analysis of populace descriptors to determine if they offer predictors of violence/the probability of the violence. In addition, we will be analyzing the data to determine if one, or more, of the specific descriptors reveal trends towards violence, and/or if certain descriptors offer clues to such matters as the size of attacks and the number of attacks. Finally, it is possible that our analysis will offer insights we had not considered.

1. **Country Descriptors**
   1. Average age of the population
      1. Overall
      2. Difference female:male
   2. Mean income
      1. Overall
      2. Difference female:male
   3. National GDP
   4. Infant mortality rates
   5. Life expectancy
      1. Overall
      2. Difference female:male
   6. Literacy rates
      1. Overall
      2. Difference female:male
   7. Educational level
      1. Overall
      2. Difference female:male
   8. Others?
2. **Measures of Violence**

To correlate the country descriptors to the levels of violence, students will need to come up with several ways to quantify the violence in an attack. Some ideas for quantifiable data include, but are certainly not limited to, the following:

1. The approximate number of casualties
2. The land area affected by the attack
3. The length of the attack
4. The ratio of the number of casualties to the length of the attack
5. Others?
6. **Guidelines**
   1. Select two ethnic/religious/...groups that either currently face displacement, or have been forced from their homes of origin in the last 30 years.
   2. Identify the reasons why people have fled
   3. Research a little bit about the history of the people and places you chose, and determine the primary causes people have fled/continue to flee, so you can situate your findings in a broader context
   4. Gather statistics on
      1. Number of refugees over time
      2. Places to where they have fled
      3. Gender
      4. Duration of the crisis
   5. Compare/contrast the information you have gathered on each group
   6. Organize raw data using MS Excel
   7. Make graphs that illustrate your findings and your conclusions. Graph types might one or more of the following as appropriate to your project
      1. Histogram
      2. Time series
      3. Scatter plots
      4. Bar graph
      5. Pie chart
7. **Project Elements and Due Dates**
   1. For the final product you may choose to write paper or give a class presentation, and you may work alone or in pairs. If you are working with a partner, you have until week 8 of the semester to disband the partnership.
   2. Your final project must include
      1. Title
      2. An introduction that explains your topic
      3. Body
         1. Relevant historical background
         2. Presentation of your project, includes a narrative explanation and the graphs you created to illustrate your findings
         3. Answers to the following questions
            1. What are the limitations of descriptive statistics for understanding the plight of refugees?
            2. What can’t the data explain?
            3. What might the statistics suggest about the future for the refugee populations you chose?
      4. Conclusion
         1. Areas of further research
         2. Predictions for the future (**if** the data lends itself to this)
         3. The most significant thing you learned
   3. Papers
      1. Must be 2,000 – 2,500 words exclusive of citations and Works Cited/Bibliography, and must include your graphs – properly labeled
      2. 1” margins, 12 point font, double spaced
      3. You must have proper citations and a Works Cited or Bibliography (depending on the citation style you use)
   4. Presentations
      1. Must be 10 – 12 minutes
      2. Must be made in PowerPoint or similar presentation software
      3. You must submit in writing proper citations and a Works Cited or Bibliography (depending on the citation style you use)
   5. **Due Dates and Points**
      * 1. Due dates
           1. Week 5 – raw data with relevant citations, organized in MS Excel
           2. Week 10 – historical context
           3. Final papers are due the day of the final exam
           4. I will have a sign-up sheet for presentations
        2. The entire project is worth 400 points as follows
           1. Raw data with relevant citations, organized in MS Excel = 100 points
           2. Historical context = 100 points
           3. Final product = 200 points
8. **Sources – Places to Begin**
   1. Corette Library
      1. Data and Statistics: <http://carroll.libguides.com/c.php?g=133510&p=873570>
      2. General UN data: <http://carroll.libguides.com/c.php?g=133510&p=873561>
      3. Government agencies
         1. Intelligence services
         2. State Department
   2. Governments outside US
   3. World Health Organization: <http://www.who.int/en/>
   4. World Bank: <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SM.POP.REFG>
   5. International Monetary Fund: <http://www.imf.org/external/index.htm>
   6. United Nations
      1. UN statistics <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/default.htm>
      2. Also check particular branches, i.e. High Commissioner for Refugees, Security Council, etc.
   7. Institute for Economics and Peace (<http://www.economicsandpeace.org>): terrorism sources: <http://www.visionofhumanity.org/#/page/indexes/terrorism-index>
   8. Quandl has interesting charts and graphs, but no raw data
   9. Quilliam Foundation has reports and sources for locating possibly useful data
   10. Amnesty International: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/>
   11. Institute for Economics and Peace: <http://economicsandpeace.org/>
   12. WolframAlpha: <https://www.wolframalpha.com/>