

“Interstate Alliances, 1985-1992” version 2

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The Correlates of War project provides data on international alliances (Small and Singer, 1991). This data is available from 1816-1984. For the post-1984 years, there are a couple of circulating, unofficial alliance updates. I have attempted to create a comprehensive list of alliance changes over this time period, using two methods. First, I noted all the changes in the two circulating updates, and researched their veracity using secondary sources. Second, I examined Rengger and Campbell (1995), which is an extensive (though not comprehensive) record of international alliances.

The changes noted below are not sanctioned by the COW project; I regard them as unofficial but documented. They are updates in relation to the 1816-1984 version of the COW alliance data, used for example in Bennett (1997) and before any changes by Meredith Sarkees. I welcome any further suggested changes; I can be contacted at the above address and email. This memo can be freely circulated.

These changes were used to create the data set used in Brian Lai and Dan Reiter, “Democracy, Political Similarity, and International Alliances, 1816-1992,” **Journal of Conflict Resolution** 44 (April 2000). The only difference is that the 1986 ANZUS change was not accounted for in the analysis in the Lai/Reiter paper, though doing so does not change the results.

I recommend the following changes for 1985-1992:

- The Warsaw Pact (Warsaw Treaty Organization).

East Germany withdraws in September 1990; COW records 1990 as its last year of membership in the international system, so no changes are needed. The WTO is formally dissolved on July 1, 1991; 1991 should be coded as its last year of existence (Rengger and Campbell, 1995). WTO members included:

Poland (COW country code 290)

Hungary (310)

Czechoslovakia (315)

Soviet Union (365)

Romania (360)

Bulgaria (355)

- Soviet-Finnish Defense Pact

On January 22, 1992 the Soviet-Finnish defense pact was changed to become a non-aggression treaty by mutual agreement (Maude, 1995: 79-81). Note that the public statement of Finnish Foreign Minister Pertti Paasio on September 25, 1990 did not change the status of the agreement, as Paasio said then that the treaty reference to Germany was no longer valid, though the rest of the treaty was (at that time) intact (*BBC Summary of World Broadcasts*, September 25, 1990).

In sum, the Soviet-Finnish defense pact should be downgraded to a non-aggression treaty starting in the year 1992. Finland has COW country code 375.

#### •Organization of African Unity

Morocco (COW country code 600) exited the OAU in 1984 (Rengger and Campbell, 1995). Hence, starting in 1985, Morocco's alliance status with the following countries should revert to "no alliance":

Gambia (420)  
Mali (432)  
Senegal (433)  
Benin (434)  
Mauritania (435)  
Niger (436)  
Ivory Coast (437)  
Guinea (438)  
Burkina Faso (439)  
Liberia (450)  
Sierra Leone (451)  
Ghana (452)  
Togo (461)  
Cameroun (471)  
Nigeria (475)  
Gabon (481)  
Central African Republic (482)  
Chad (483)  
Congo (484)  
Zaire (490)  
Uganda (500)  
Tanzania (510)  
Burundi (516)  
Rwanda (517)  
Somalia (520)  
Ethiopia (530)  
Zambia (551)  
Malawi (553)  
Malagasy (580)  
Algeria (615)  
Tunisia (616)

Libya (620)  
Sudan (625)  
Egypt (651)

Namibia (565) became a member of the OAU from its independence in 1990 (Owen, 1996), so it has ententes with each of the above listed states. Namibia should also be listed as having an entente with Libya from 1990, as Libya is a member of the OAU. Morocco retains its entente with Libya up through 1986 despite its exit from the OAU because of a separate, bilateral agreement (see below).

•Commonwealth of Independent States

Russia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan signed a defense pact in May 1992. I have not found the text of the treaty, though at the signing Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of Kazakhstan, said: “Now that most of the states within the Commonwealth have opted for their own armed forces, we are shifting towards a defensive alliance. The underlying doctrine will be that aggression against any member of the Commonwealth will mean aggression against the entire Commonwealth” (*New York Times*, May 16, 1992, p.1; see also *Keesing’s Record of World Events*, May 1992, p. 38922).

•Morocco-Libyan entente

In August, 1984 Morocco and Libya signed a unity treaty which included an entente. Morocco broke the treaty in August 1986 (*New York Times*, August 30, 1986, p. 8).

•ANZUS

On August 12, 1986 the United States announced that it would no longer uphold its security obligations to New Zealand outlined under the ANZUS treaty, in reaction to New Zealand’s ban on the visitation of nuclear-powered or –armed ships. Australian-US and Australian-New Zealand ties seem to have been unaffected, and ANZUS remained in formal existence (Landais-Stamp and Rogers 1989: 133-4).

References

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- Maude, George. 1995. *Historical Dictionary of Finland*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press.
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