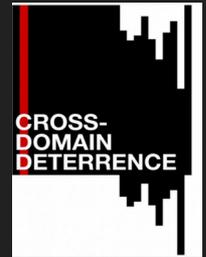


The Center for Peace and Security Studies

Military Mobilization as a Leading Indicator of Conflict

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Motivation: Declared shooting wars are not the modal form of interstate conflict

Actor A

Russian soldiers in Crimea



Actor B

Economic sanctions

Iranian proliferation



Stuxnet cyber attack

Drones in Yemen/Pakistan



Terrorism

Chinese island building



US naval show of force

Puzzle

Domains of Conflict – Different tools are used during different conflicts

- What is the relationship between military tools and conflict outcomes?
- Given these tools have different strengths and weaknesses, what can that tell us about a country's motivation?
- Why do states pick aggression in one domain over another?
- Given aggression in one, which domain do states respond in?

Point

Approach

Outline of Presentation

Empirical and Theoretical Background

Mobilization means less war (deterrence model):

- Costly signal (Cashman 2000, Cimbala 1994, Fearon 1997, Quek 2013)
- Graduated escalation (Burr 2005, Kahn 1969, Sagan 2003)

Mobilization means more war (spiral model):

- Feigning weakness (Slantchev 2005, 2010)
- Expectation causes endogeneity (Sample 2016)
- Down payment on costs (Macomber 2014)
- Shifts balance of power (Tarar 2013)

Mobilization means more/less war:

- Types of mobilization (Lai 2004, Mackey 2014)

Theory of Military Mobilization and Signaling

Tactical military victory and negotiated settlement are zero-sum:

- Private information and incentives to misrepresent (Fearon 1995)
- Costs and benefits of secrecy (Lai 2004, Carson 2017, Mackey 2014)

Theory of Military Mobilization and Signaling

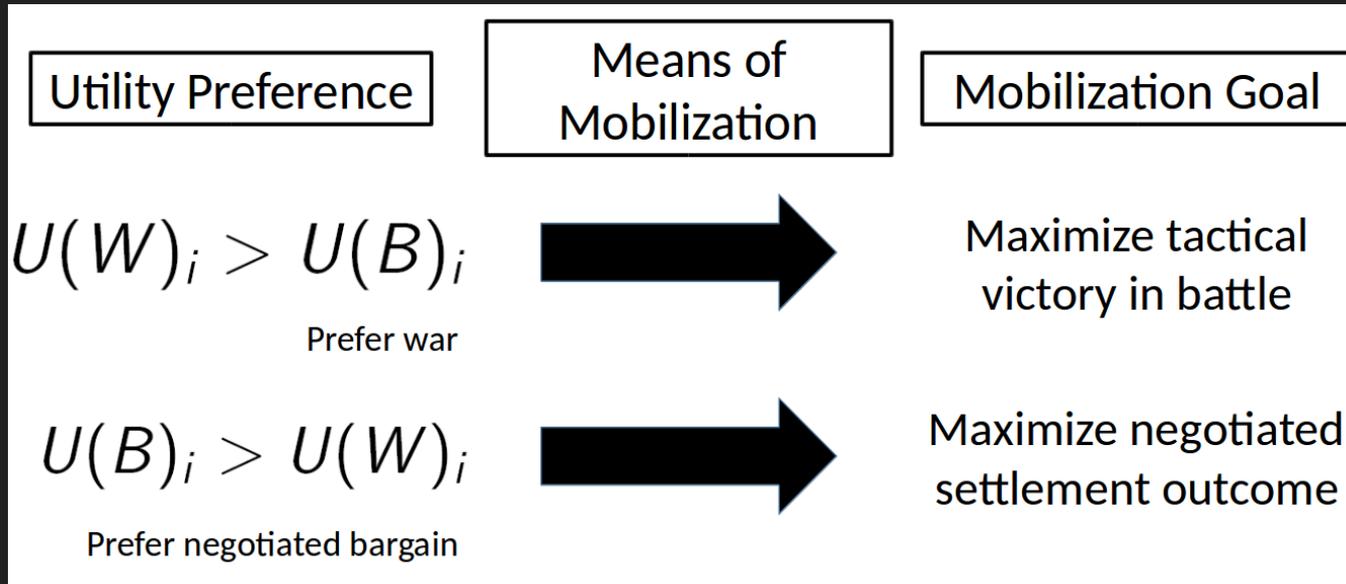
Knowing the **means** an actor deploys during a crisis reveals **expected utility for war vs negotiated bargain** in ways that predicts the most likely **outcome**

H1: **Mobilizing for tactical victory** predict **more war** because tells us there is a higher expected utility for **war**

H2: **Mobilizing for diplomacy** predict **less war** because tells us there is a higher expected utility for **negotiated bargain**

Theory of Military Mobilization and Signaling

Knowing the **means** an actor deploys during a crisis reveals **expected utility for war vs negotiated bargain** in ways that predicts the most likely **outcome**



Research Design

Unit of analysis – Crisis-dyad

Dependent variable – Crisis outcome

Explanatory variable – Pre-crisis mobilization

Research Design



Moves in figurine algebra

e4 e5

♞f3 ♞c6

♟b5 a6

♟xc6 dxc6

d3 ♟b4+

♞c3 ♞f6

0-0 ♟xc3

- Create first large-scale move by counter-move event dataset of international crises

Main Technical Problem

The Cuban Missile Crisis

The U.S. crisis was triggered on 16 October when the CIA presented to President Kennedy photographic evidence of the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba. The U.S. responded with a decision on the 20th to blockade all offensive military equipment en route to Cuba. When this was announced on 22 October, a crisis was triggered for Cuba and the USSR.

An urgent meeting of the UN Security Council was requested by both the U.S. and Cuba on the 22nd, and by the USSR the next day. On the 23rd as well, the Soviets accused the United States of violating the UN Charter and announced an alert of its armed forces and those of the Warsaw Pact members. That day Cuba responded by condemning the U.S. blockade and declaring its willingness to fight.

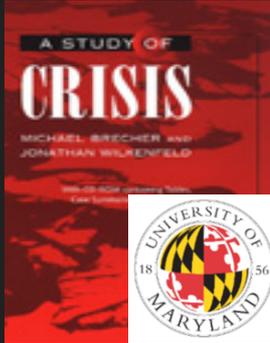


e4 e5
♘ f3 ♘ c6
♙ b5 a6
♚ xc6 dxc6
d3 ♙ b4+
♘ c3 ♘ f6
0-0 ♙ xc3

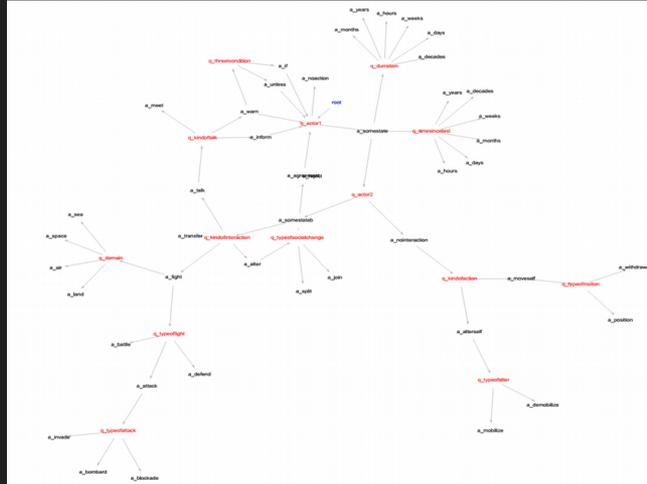
...

Technical Innovations

Corpus of historical crises



New ontology for classifying moves and countermoves



New online interface for human coding

ICB Coding Interface V1.4 (Beta)

Requires the Chrome browser do not attempt to use Safari, Firefox, Internet Explorer, etc.

[Read the Instructions and Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Submit all error reports using this [this ERROR FORM](#)

Read the [CODINGBOOK](#) and read this full worked example of [Cuban Missile Crisis Example](#)

Maximize this window. If boxes are crowded, increase screen resolution or zoom out (Ctrl+Apple minus). Best with a mouse. Save before exit. Screen times out if idle. Hover over questions for coding tips. Click and backspace to delete an answer.

Enter Your ID to Continue (Must be pre-approved)

example

Select a Crisis (Type to Search):

ICB: 1991

Start Coding

Save Progress

Any Events? 1. On 2 January 1991 NATO decided to dispatch aircraft to protect Turkey from a possible Iraqi attack. (Agreement 65)

Kind of Event? Timing of Event in Narrative? Duration of Event? Date or Period of Event? Your Confidence?

1.1 ACTION: physical action (attack, move, most, discuss, riot, election, ...) Days January 2, 1991 High Confidence

Initiators (5/6/4/7) Recipients (5/6/4/7) Kind of Action? Specific Exclusions?

NATO: x Selected Type: Airborne Evacuation (Phase/Deploy Forces, ...) Deployment to Area: x

Fatalities? Force Size? Domain? Units? Location? Change in Territory? Location? Location? (Tot)

None (Non- ... Thousands All: x Fighters: x Target No Clear Change Country: x Turkey (Tot)

Any Events? 2. A coalition of 28 states was formed, led by the U.S.: its most visible members were the U.K., France, and three Arab states, Sa'udi Arabia, Egypt, and Syria. (Agreement 24)

Kind of Event? Timing of Event in Narrative? Duration of Event? Date or Period of Event? Your Confidence?

2.1 ACTION: physical action (attack, move, most, discuss, riot, election, ...) Immediately Following Previous Event Days Type on Text High Confidence

Findings

Land

- Armor
- Artillery
- Troops

Sea

- Aircraft carriers
- Submarines
- Surface ships

Air

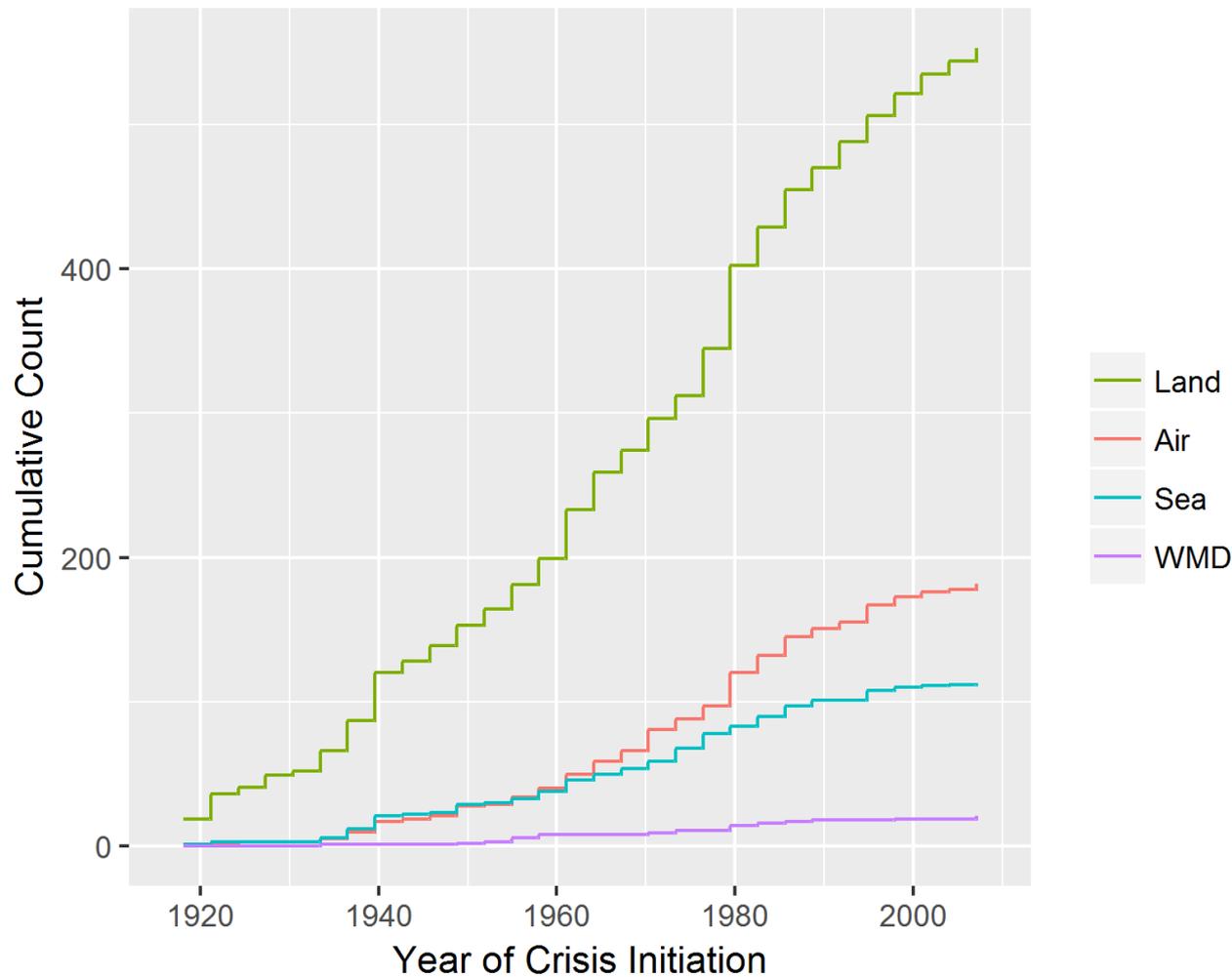
- Bombers
- Fighters
- Missiles
- Surveillance

WMD

- Chemical
- Biological
- Nuclear

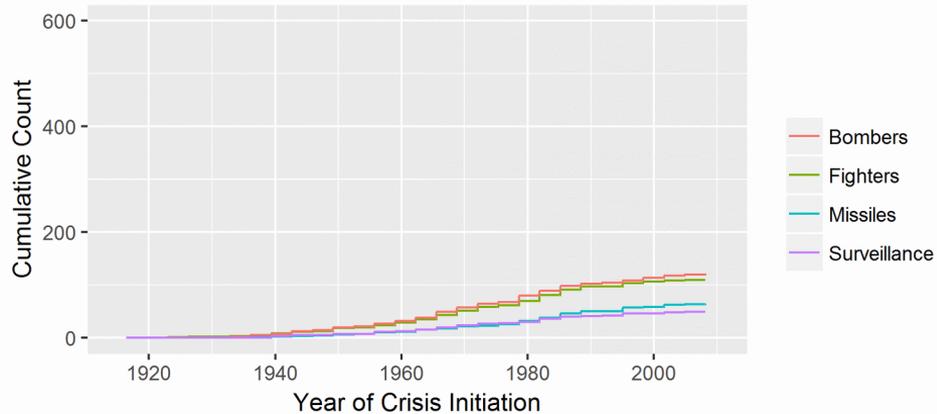
Findings

Crisis Domains (1918-2007)

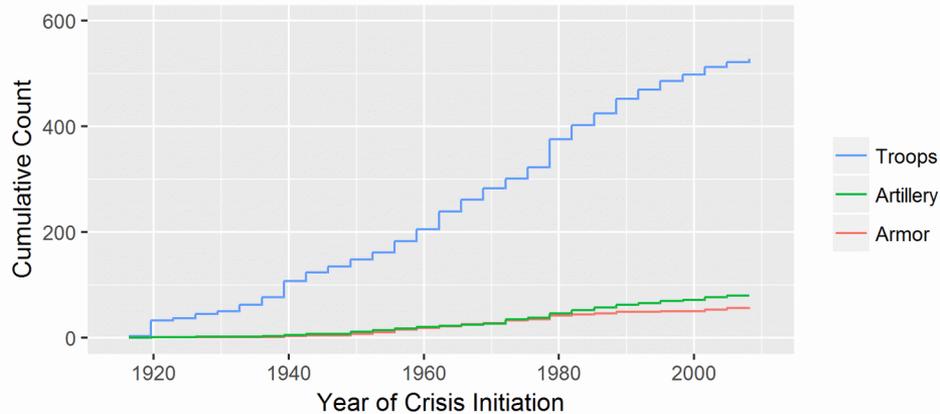


Crisis Units (1918-2007)

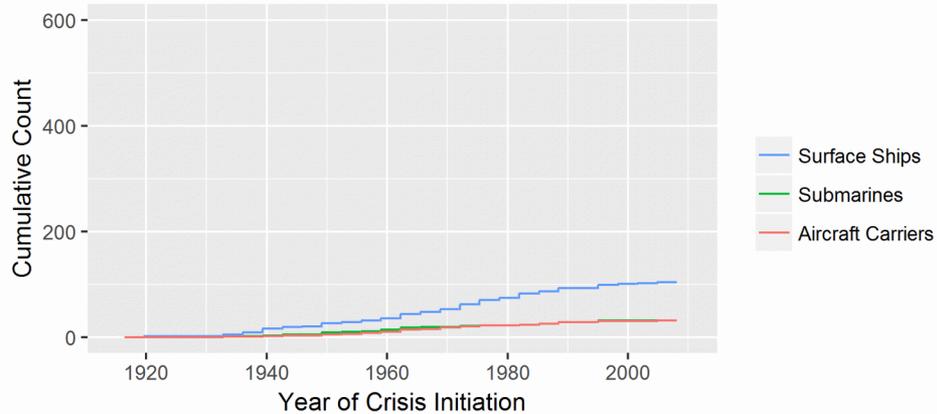
Air



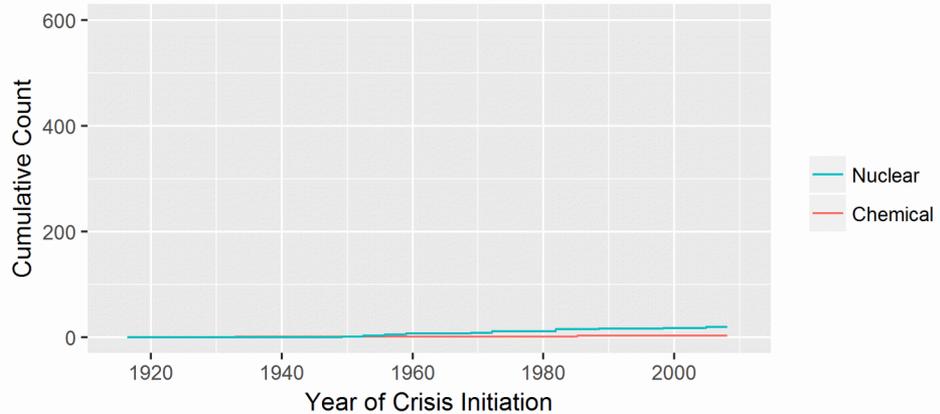
Land



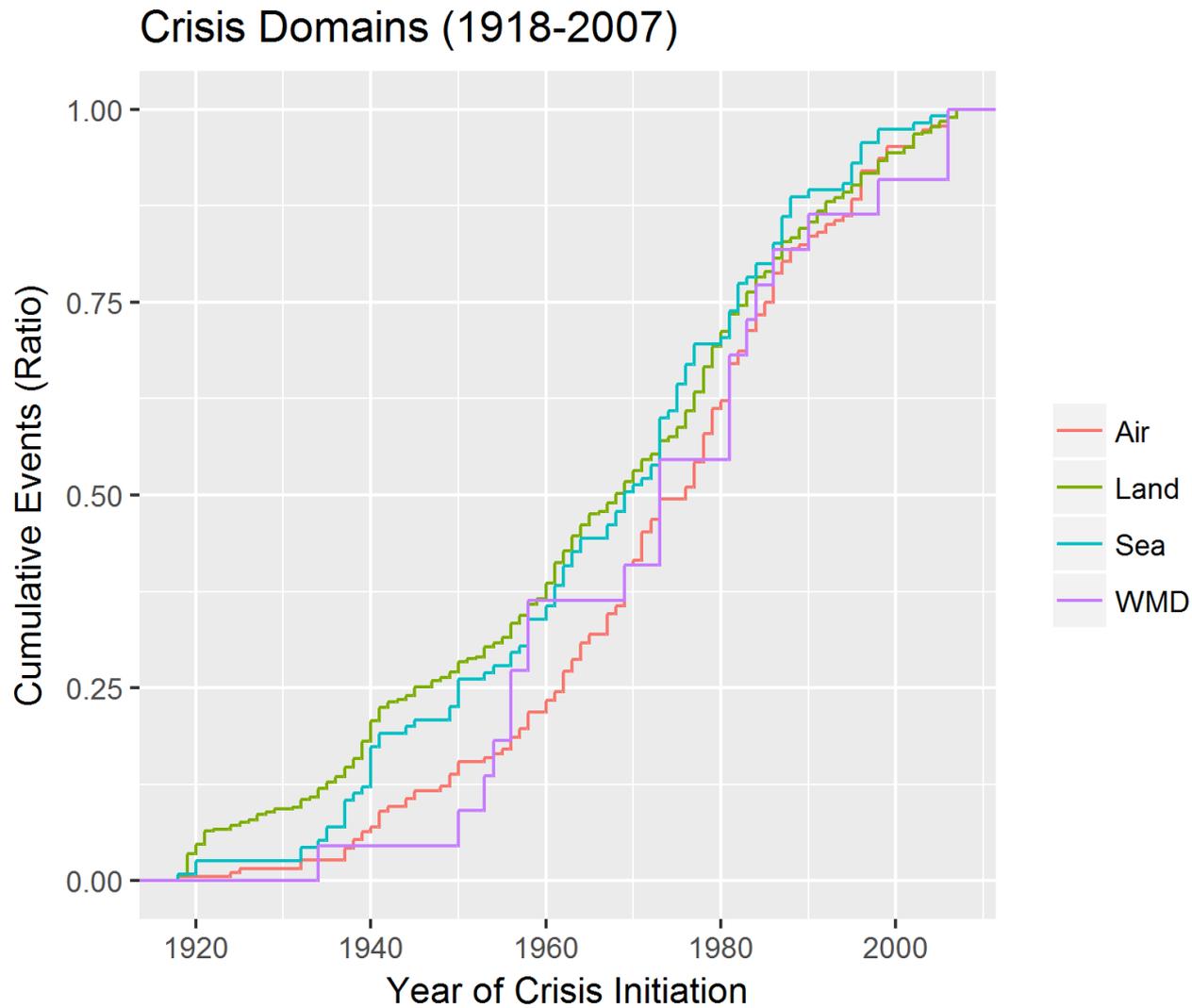
Sea



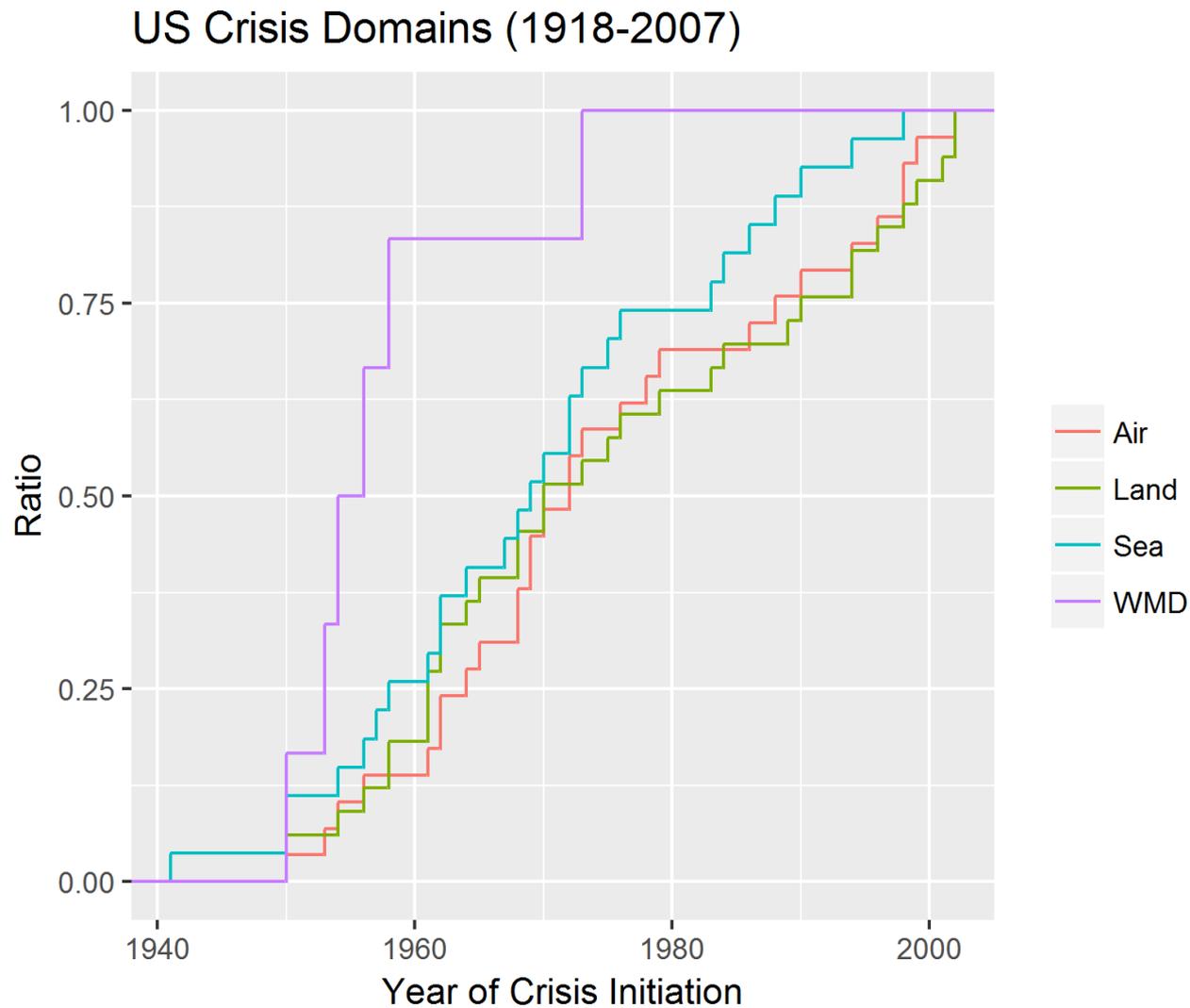
WMD



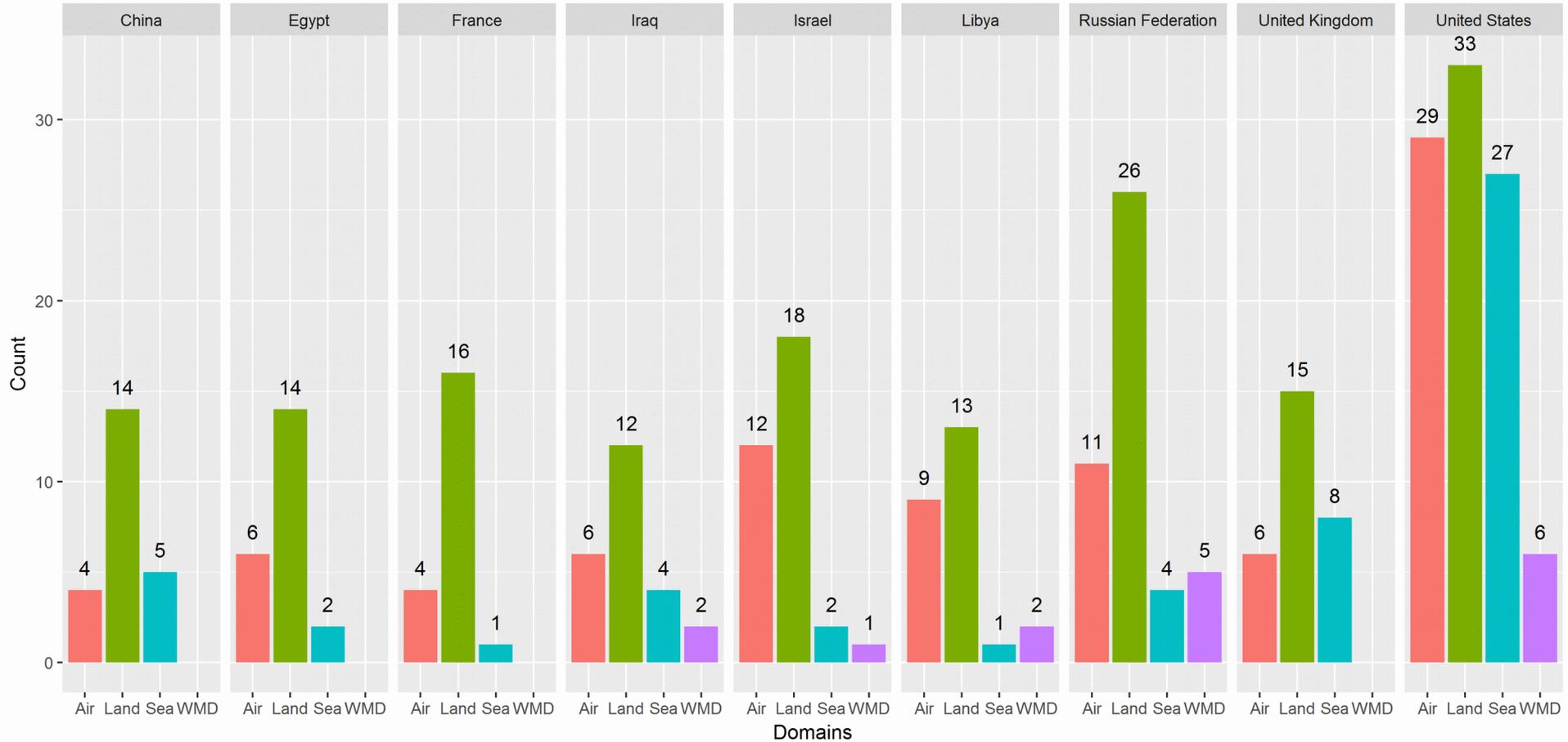
Findings



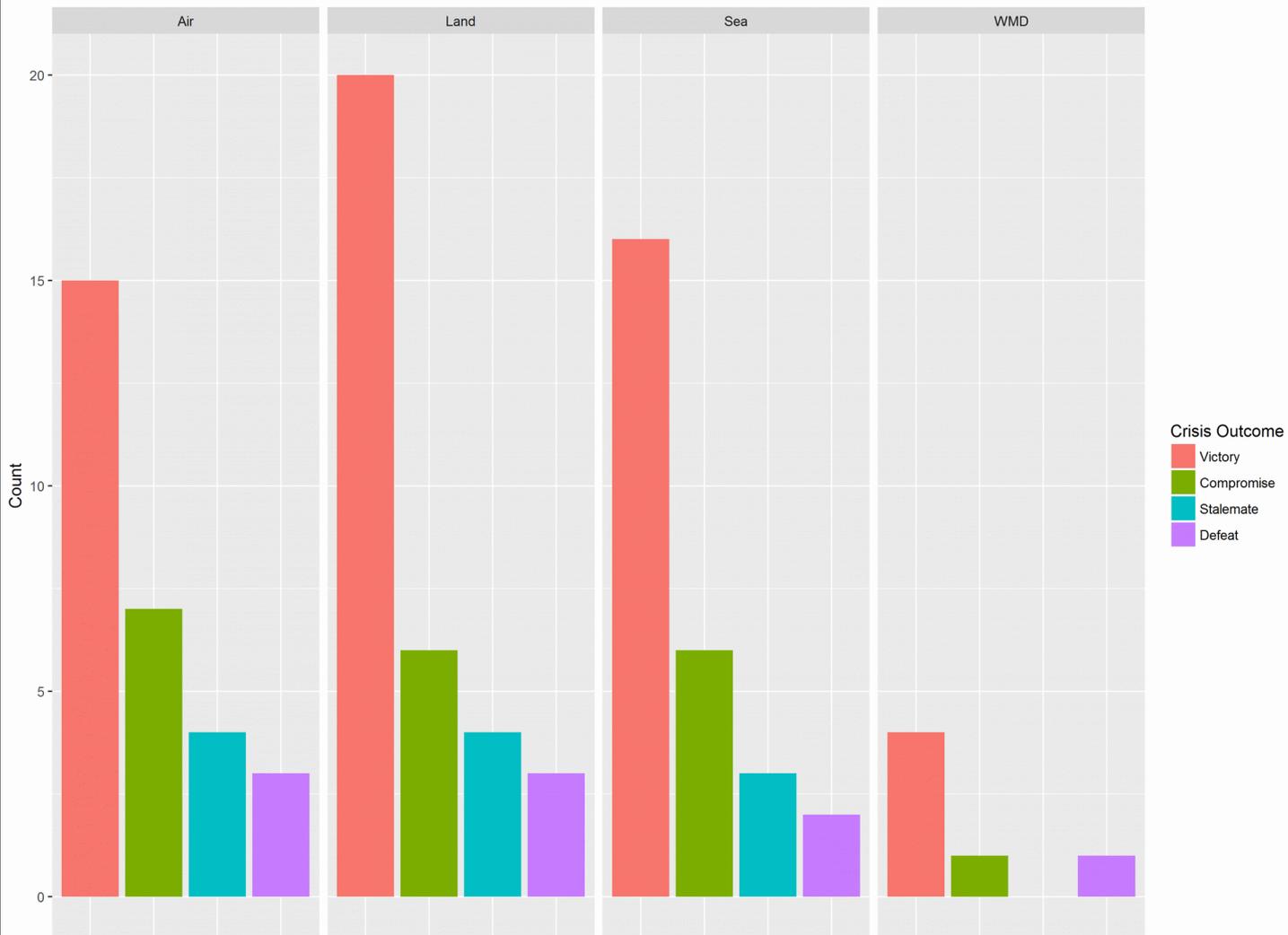
Findings



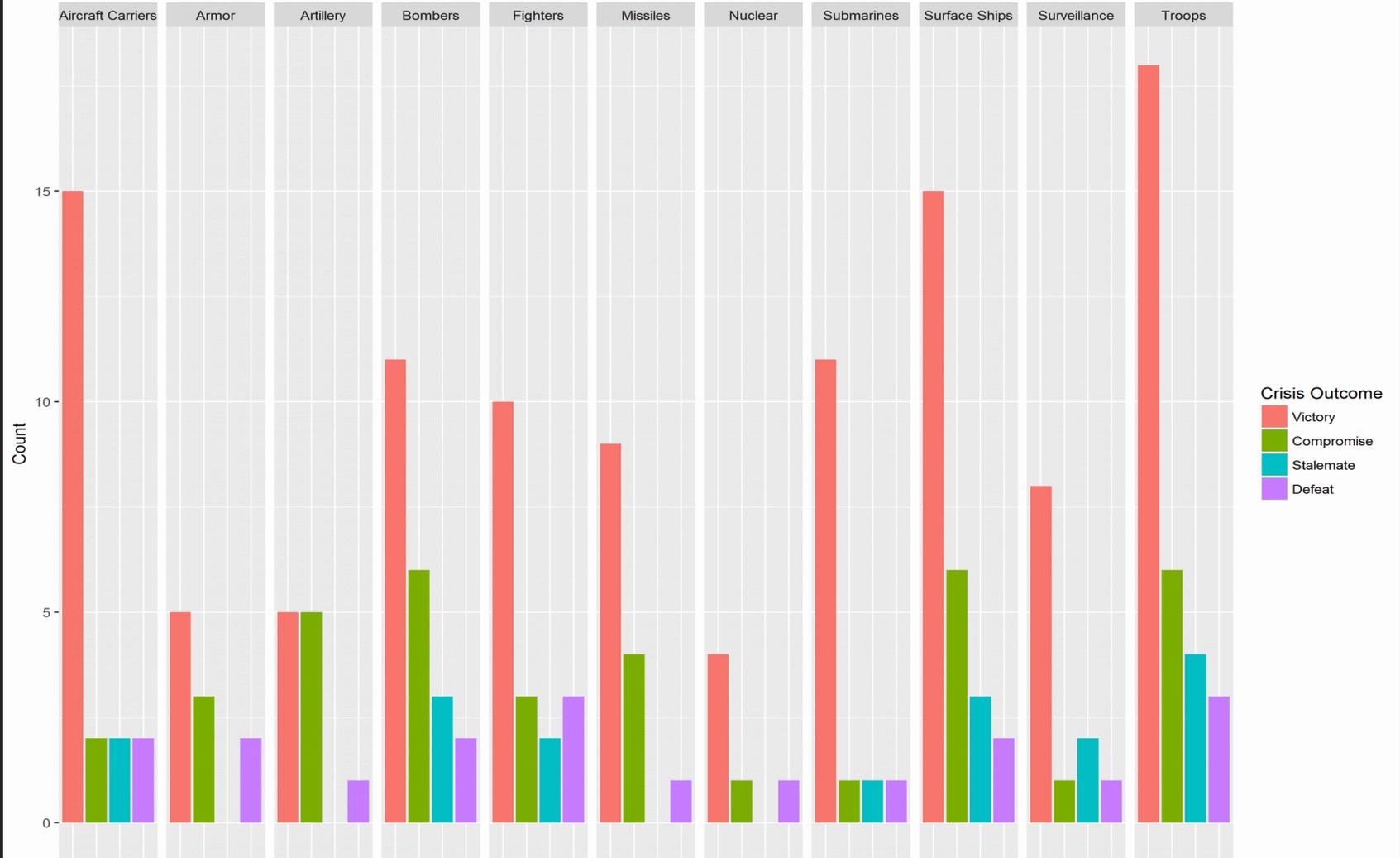
Domains by Country (at least 20 crises)



US Domains (1917-2007)



US Units (1917-2007)



Initial Observations

Implications for Homeland Security

Conclusion: Real Time Analysis

- Replicate human codings through on new texts through semi-supervised learning and natural language processing (NLP)
- Build a large corpus of global news and social media events using large scale knowledge mining

