

**For the empirical memo, due September 25, you will:**

1. Choose a data source related to international security. Good options include:

The Correlates of War Project: [www.correlatesofwar.org](http://www.correlatesofwar.org)

International Crisis Behavior (ICB) Project: [www.cidcm.umd.edu/icb/](http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/icb/)

Armed Conflict Data (UCDP): [www.pcr.uu.se/research/ucdp/datasets/](http://www.pcr.uu.se/research/ucdp/datasets/)

World Development Indicators (World Bank): [databank.worldbank.org](http://databank.worldbank.org)

You are not limited to the above data sources! Think about what kind of data you are interested in, and then Google it—it probably exists somewhere. Contact me if you want suggestions for particular kinds of data.

2. Analyze the data to identify an interesting empirical pattern. This can be as simple as examining the trend over time in a spreadsheet. You might also try looking at your data by subgroup. Does this trend in conflict apply to all states, or just to democracies? Do all wars generate many casualties, or just those involving territorial disputes?

This is the hardest part of the assignment! Give yourself plenty of time to find and analyze the data. If you are having trouble identifying an empirical pattern, try graphing the data over time (or over other factors). Sometimes a picture can help you see patterns that you might have missed otherwise.

No statistics are required, but you are welcome to conduct more advanced analysis of the data if you wish.

3. Describe the empirical pattern. Explain why you find it interesting. Include a chart, graph, or table that highlights the pattern.

If you create a graph, label the axes. If you create a table, use a header for the rows or columns. In any case, title your chart, graph, or table and provide enough of a description that I can understand it.

4. Propose a theory that explains the pattern or trend you have identified.

Don't get carried away here—one theory is enough. You can cite some of the existing literature if you want, but it is not necessary.

Your empirical memo should be no more than 5 pages of double-spaced text, using a standard 12-point font. Please number your pages. You can use whatever citation style you prefer, but don't forget to cite the source for the data you employed. Submit the memo via Blackboard before class on September 25.