# Bush 631: Final project

## Data driven policymaking

**Instructions**

This document provides you with instructions regarding the final project of this class.

The project involves preparing a policy brief document in which you will discuss a current situation, government policy or a proposed policy related to international affairs. As part of the project, you are required to conduct a data analysis of relevant information and integrate the findings/insights into your report. The empirical results can be used in any appropriate section including evidence for existing conditions, causes for certain outcomes or support for policy recommendations.

*Structure* - the document must include 3 parts:

1. Introduction: present the topic, main argument and recommendation as developed in the body.
2. Body: include a detailed discussion of topic, what is your main argument and how it leads to certain recommendations/conclusions.
3. Conclusions: repeat main argument and clearly present your central recommendations.

Additional points of emphasis for developing and writing your document:

- Clearly present your topic and potential ramifications in the real world.
- Follow the **Bottom-Line-Up-Front (BLUF)** guidelines for every section of your document.
- For the data analysis section, use different types of visual tools, including table and/or figures.
- As an example for a policy-type product with data component, read **The Takeaway** policy brief written by professor Huang (Link).
- Follow consistent rules for citations and providing credit for any content that is not originally yours (add cites at the end of your document).

**The data**

You are asked to use *at least* one dataset from the list below:

- There is a total of 6 datasets, spanning several topics in international affairs and foreign policy (leaders, conflict, terrorism, sanctions, political economy, diplomacy, and public opinion polls).
- You are asked to select **at least** one data set and use the information in order to support your analysis of a current FP situation or policy.
- Each data set is provided with an attached document (the codebook) in which there are details about the definition and values of the variables in the data set.
- In addition, each data includes a link to a recent research article that uses parts of the data to explore issues in global affairs. You may use these studies to guide your thinking on how to leverage the information in the data set.

*Data 1*: **Global Leaders** (contains information about leaders of 18 countries between 1949-2014)

*File name and type*: "Leaders.csv"

*Codebook name*: "Leaders_codebook.pdf"

*Article*: Fuhrmann, M. (2020). "When Do Leaders Free-Ride? Business Experience and Contributions to Collective Defense." *American Journal of Political Science*, 64(2), 416-431.

*Data 2*: **External threat and polarization in US public - survey experiment** (contains information from an experiment of 2500 Americans about security threats and political polarization).

*File name and type*: "Threat_polarization.csv".

*Codebook name*: "Threat_polarization_codebook.pdf".

*Article*: Myrick, R. (2019). "Do External Threats Unite or Divide? Security Crises, Rivalries, and Polarization in American Foreign Policy" *International Organization*, First View, 1-38.

*Data 3*: **UN Sanctions Episodes** (contains information about targeted sanction campaigns by the UN between 1991-2013).

*File name and type*: "TSC_Sanctions_Data.xlsx"

*Codebook name*: "TSC_Codebook.pdf".

*Article*: Biersteker, T.J., Eckert, S. E., Tourinho, M., & Hudakova, Z. (2018). "UN targeted sanctions datasets (1991–2013)." *Journal of peace research*, 55(3), 404-412.

*Data 4*: **Diplomatic visits** (contains information about diplomatic visits by the US president and secretary of state 1946-2010).

*File name and type*: "Diplo_visits.dta".

*Codebook name*: "Diplomatic_core_info.pdf".

*Article*: Lebovic, J. & Saunders, E. (2016). "The diplomatic core: The determinants of high-level US diplomatic visits, 1946–2010." *International Studies Quarterly*, 60(1), 107-123.

*Data 5*: **Drones as counter-terrorism tool - survey experiment** (contains information from an experiment of 2400 Americans about using drones and aspects of international law).

*File name and type*: "Drones_public.dta".

*Codebook name*: "Drones_codebook.pdf".

*Article*: Kreps, S. & Wallace, G. (2016). "International law, military effectiveness, and public support for drone strikes." *Journal of Peace Research*, 53(6), 830-844.

*Data 6*: **Terror/insurgent organizations and policy responses** (contains information about multiple insurgent organizations and various government reactions 1998-2012).

*File name and type*: "Terrorism_CT_BAAD2.dta"

*Codebook name*: "InsurgentPolicy_codebook.pdf"; "BAAD2_Codebook.pdf".

*Article*: Asal, V. Fisher, D., & Young, J. (2020). "Target Them with What? Why States Choose Different COIN Strategies for Different Insurgent Organizations." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 1-15.