

FINDINGS: A STRUCTURAL MODEL GENO/POLITICIDE

At the request of the State Failure task force (see note 7), the first author designed a statistical study that tests the structural model, above, using data on past cases of genocide and politicide. More precisely, the study focuses on 134 instances of *state failure* between 1955 and 1998. State failures include ethnic and revolutionary wars and adverse regime transitions. Thirty-five geno/politicides—all of them included in table 1—occurred during these “state failures.”⁷ We found that all but two began within several years of the occurrence of political upheavals generally or ethnic warfare specifically:

- 5 followed the onset of international war
- 6 followed independence
- 11 followed the occurrence of abrupt and disruptive regime transitions
- 13 followed the onset of revolutionary war.
- Most (23) also followed or coincided with ethnic wars.

We also examined the ethnic bases and ideological character of ruling elites in 32 cases of geno/politicide during the same time-span:

- 23 episodes occurred in countries where the ethnic character of the elite had previously been the subject of contention because it was not fully representative of the population
- 18 episodes occurred in countries in which the elite held an exclusionary ideology
- 8 episodes occurred in countries where elites were non-representative *and* held exclusionary ideologies
- 4 episodes occurred in countries with neither of these elite traits.

The challenge for risk assessment is to identify the combination of factors which distinguishes between state failures that lead to geno/politicide and those which do not. Logistic regression analysis is the statistical procedure employed in the study. The universe of analysis included all instances of state failure between 1955 and 1998. The cases to be explained are those state failures that include one or more geno/politicides, the controls are those without such episodes. These are the factors that proved to be most closely related to the occurrence of geno/politicides during these 44 years:⁸