

*Example of the Paper Process*

Topic: War and Power

Questions: Does the power of leaders have an influence on the frequency of war?

Variables:

Variables to measure leader's power:

**V761** Check on Leader's Power

**V759** Perspectives of Leader's Power

Variables to measure the frequency of warfare:

**V892** Frequency of External Warfare

Hypothesis: Nations with more powerful leaders will be more likely to have warfare.

Nations with less powerful leaders will engage in war less frequently.

(These are alternatives: Often you have a series of linked hypotheses, and/or ones with no alternatives since you are testing a theory)

Cross-Cultural Significance: World War I, World War II, avoiding World War III

(as distinct from statistical significance, which measures the likelihood that your results are due to chance, or to culling through tables until you find a correlation; the latter is NOT a good way to choose a topic)

SPSS:

Open the M: Drive

Anthro174

SCCSDatabase.sav

**Data View** lists all 186 countries and their responses to each variable

**Variable View** lists all the 1800 variables, the labels, the values, the number missing, and the type of measurement (ordinal, nominal, scale)

Crosstabs:

## Analyze

### Descriptive Statistics

#### Crosstabs

Find the variables you want to use on the right hand side of the screen. Figure out which one you want to be in the columns (usually the dependent variable) and which one you want in the rows (usually the independent variable)

Click on CELLS to check if you want the percentages to be in the ROWS or COLUMNS. Think about what you want to know about these variables.

For this example run:     V761 by V892  
                              V759 by V892  
                              V200 by V761 (use the regional variable to  
                              check for regional effects)

Conclusion: There is some support for this hypothesis.

Replication test (week 3 exercise):

For this example run:     V200 (layer variable) by V761 by V892

The idea here is to see if the signed tau-b correlation coefficients (assuming that the two variables are ordinal) are aligned in the same direction (positive or negative) on each world region, ignoring those regions where there is insufficient data or no variation. You will often have to ignore the statistical significance tests because these will usually plummet to nonsignificance because of the smaller sample sizes when you divide the tables into regions.