



Lietuvos karai: Lietuvos XIX–XX a. nacionalinių karų sisteminė-kiekybinė analizė. Sud. Gediminas VITKUS. Vilnius: Eugrimas, 2014. – 304 p. ISBN 978-609-437-250-6 = *Wars of Lithuania. A Systematic Quantitative Analysis of Lithuania's Wars in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries.* Ed. by Gediminas VITKUS. Vilnius: Eugrimas, 2014. – 320 pp. ISBN 978-609-437-275-9

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In 2014, military research was enriched by a publication in two languages (Lithuanian and English), *Wars of Lithuania: A Systemic Quantitative Analysis of Lithuania's Wars in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries*. As is noted in the introduction by its editor Gediminas Vitkus, the authors were encouraged to undertake this publication and the whole project by a book published in the USA in 2010, which presented the findings of the qualitative war research project 'Correlates of War'¹ conducted since 1963. Vitkus' first reflection on the subject was introduced in the article 'A New Gust of Behaviourism in Military Studies',² published in 2010. In it, the author rather comprehensively presented the 'Correlates of War' international project, initiated by the political scientist J. David Singer from the University of Michigan. Singer acted on the assumption that conclusions published on the basis of previous research into the causes of wars are insufficiently justified from a scientific point of view. The initiator of 'Correlates of War' expected the gap in the research to be filled with data accumulated by following a unified system. The accumulation and uploading of the unified data into a common database could serve as a basis for empirically justified summaries, and for identifying the principal war correlates. This data could contribute to a scientific establishment of the relationship between countries' involvement in war, and the character of the polarity of the international system; it could allow us to identify the frequency of wars and the cyclical character of their intensity; countries that were inclined to resolve conflicts through military force would become visible; and a relationship between numbers of war victims and the desire to achieve victory at any cost would be disclosed. The data would also enable a systematic view of the impact of *belonging to alliances* on countries' decisions to become involved in war. Ultimately, all these answers would lead to a conclusion as to how, why and when wars start.

¹ SARKEES, Meredith Reid; WAYMAN, Frank Whelon. *Resort to War: A Data Guide to Inter-state Extra-state, Intrastate, and Non-state Wars, 1816–2007*. Washington, DC, 2010.

² VITKUS, Gediminas. Naujas bihevizorizmo gūsis karo studijose. *Politologija*, 2010, nr. 4 (60), p. 173–189.

In another article, 'Lithuanian National Warfare Experience in the Correlates of War Data Collections',³ Vitkus reviewed the data and the situation of four wars in Lithuania (two uprisings in the 19th century, the wars of independence, and the partisan war) in the data collection of the 'Correlates of War' project. On examining the data on Lithuanian wars presented in the 'Correlates of War' database, the author noted that all the events were presented, however, in a fragmentary and inaccurate way.

All the author's insights can be found in the reviewed book. It seems that, as editor of the publication, Vitkus has been systematically collecting information about the 'Correlates of War' project, whose data on the Internet⁴ is currently available to all researchers in the world. The Lithuanian warfare situation was purposely analysed in the general context of the data. All this highlighted the need for an analysis of Lithuanian wars, the data of which became a quality complement to the 'Correlates of War' project material. The specified information is also available to other researchers.

The relevance of this publication cannot be doubted, especially as its dissemination takes place in an international, and not just national, space. Moreover, as is noted by the editor, the most important factor that led to the preparation of the book was the fact that, up to the present day, data on Lithuania's wars in the 19th and 20th centuries did not reveal a holistic view of the wars. The present innovative research, based on a unified research methodology, presents a quality supplement to research on Lithuania's wars.

Five authors aimed to correct or substantially revise inaccuracies in the description data of Lithuania's wars presented in the 'Correlates of War' project database. Therefore, both the theoretical and methodological foundation of the study was based on the experience and expertise of the creators of the 'Correlates of War' project database. As is noted in the publication, only a war with a large number of battle-related deaths (no less than 1,000 troops) could be included in the 'Correlates of War' database, and could subsequently be encoded in accordance with different parameters and analysed. Civilian deaths were not calculated. Another criterion for the analysis of the war was the status of the participants, i.e. who fought against whom. The third criterion was who bore the principal burden of fighting. The fourth was the duration of the war, determined by establishing the beginning and the end of hostilities, and possible breaks. The fifth was the transformation of war or a change in status. The last criterion, or the question asked in the analysis of a specific armed conflict, was the initiator of the war and the result. The authors adapted the criteria

³ VITKUS, Gediminas. Lietuvos nacionalinė kariavimo patirtis „Karo koreliatų“ duomenų rinkinyje. *Karo archyvas*, 2011, t. XXVI, p. 321–346.

⁴ The data from the 'Correlates of War' project is presented on the website at: <http://www.correlatesofwar.org/>.

to an analysis of Lithuania's wars, and approached them in a unique way. Simplified parameters and variables were applied that suited best the situation of Lithuania's wars. Thus, the authors chose to analyse Lithuania's wars in accordance with the following criteria: the warring parties, their status and potential (the government, the population, economics, and military forces); the beginning of the war (the goals, the causes and pretexts, the initiator, and the dating of the beginning); the process of the war and the main stages (the intensity of military action, the duration, the main battles, breaks in military action, resumption of hostilities, involvement of third parties, and military geography); the burden of the war (the number of forces and their supply, leaders, and allies); war losses (deaths due to military action, and other military action-related losses); the end of the war and its consequences (the winners, Lithuania's geopolitical changes, economic and demographic consequences, and the fate of the armed forces); and the semantics of the war (the naming of the warring parties in documents, publications and the discourse, changes in names in historiography, the currently established name, and the perpetuation of the memory). Seven rather broad criteria were selected, covering a number of aspects of the war. Simultaneously, the analysis of all these criteria enabled the identification of the principal characteristics of the war.

The publication consists of four main parts, which describe Lithuania's wars: the 1830–1831 and 1863–1864 uprisings, the 1919–1920 war of independence, and the 1944–1953 partisan war. It is worth noting that the information about individual wars was presented by Lithuanian historians who specialise in these respective areas: Virgilijus Pugačiauskas, Ieva Šenavičienė, Gintautas Surgailis and Edita Jankauskienė. The involvement of relevant specialists in the complex research presupposes the solidity of the publication and the reliability of the information presented.

Each chapter of the publication is devoted to a specific war, and starts by identifying data provided by the 'Correlates of War' project, with an emphasis on inaccuracies. The data in each chapter is presented according to the prescribed criteria. True, the information for some criteria is excessive, and interferes with the essential characteristics. At the end of each chapter, variables recorded in the 'Correlates of War' project and those received during the research are submitted. A uniform manner of presentation of the summarised data has been maintained in only three chapters. The summary of the 1863–1864 uprising in Lithuania fails to comply with the uniform way of presenting the data. This is a somewhat negative trait, given the fact that the authors of the publication set themselves the goal of providing data systematically on events.

The authors of the publication assumed that the information about Lithuania's wars in the 'Correlates of War' project was incomplete or inaccurate, and therefore sought

to provide as detailed and accurate data on each of Lithuania's war as possible. This objective has undoubtedly been achieved, and a large amount of data on each of Lithuania's wars is presented in the publication, both well known in historiography and those specified on the basis of information sources. The authors' statement that the research findings provided them with an opportunity to update and supplement the data and publications made public in the context of the 'Correlates of War' project is unquestionable. On the other hand, on the completion of the analysis of Lithuania's wars, and by means of the methodology applied in the 'Correlates of War' project, the authors disclosed that the definition of a type of war can depend not only on the sites of the war, but also on the objectives and motives of the warring parties. Thus, the authors come to the conclusion that the way of categorising phenomena by merely identifying essential details is not accurate.

Therefore, they propose to the compilers of the 'Correlates of War' data collection to return to the issue of improving war typology. Their attention is drawn to the fact that the elimination of the differences between the concepts of the *metropolis* and the *periphery* and the substitution of a broader concept of *extra-systemic* for a narrower one of *extra-state* wars results in some inaccuracies. The changes led to some colonial national liberation wars appearing among *internal* wars. In the specific case of Lithuania, it meant a distortion of the reality.

The authors have focused the findings of their research exclusively on the grouping of war concepts and categories. This was in part presupposed by their aspiration to revise the data in the 'Correlates of War' project. However, the publication, and especially its final part, lacks a deeper analysis of the data obtained during the research. Moreover, some of the principal aspirations set out by the initiators of the 'Correlates of War' project to provide answers to questions as to how, why and when wars break out remains untouched.

The present study on Lithuania's wars is undoubtedly useful, since it supplements and revises data in an international data collection in a qualitative way. The systematic collection of data opens up an opportunity to further develop research on Lithuania's wars. In the future, it will be possible to evaluate the mutual correlation of wars, and the impact of variables on the interrelationships of wars, or to analyse in-depth the values of individual variables, and ultimately, to try to find answers to the basic questions how, why and when wars break out. This would allow us to fully exploit the advantages of the method of a systematic quantitative analysis.