How to read (most) tables in our readings:

Type of empirical test.

Dependent Variable (D.V.)

often the main (I.V.) explanatory variable

each column represents different model w/ different combinations of I.V.s

TABLE 1. Logit Analyses of Determinants of Civil War Onset, 1945–99

	Model				
	(1) Civil War	(2) "Ethnic" War	(3) Civil War	(4) Civil War (Plus Empires)	(5) Civil War (COW)
Prior war	−0.954**	−0.849*	−0.916**	−0.688**	−0.551
	(0.314)	(0.388)	(0.312)	(0.264)	(0.374)
Per capita income[a,b]	−0.344***	−0.379***	−0.318***	−0.305***	−0.309***
	(0.072)	(0.100)	(0.071)	(0.063)	(0.079)
log(population)[a,b]	0.263***	0.389***	0.272***	0.267***	0.223**
	(0.073)	(0.110)	(0.074)	(0.069)	(0.079)
log(% mountainous)	0.219**	0.120	0.199*	0.192*	0.418***
	(0.085)	(0.106)	(0.085)	(0.082)	(0.103)
Noncontiguous state	0.443	0.481	0.426	0.798**	−0.171
	(0.274)	(0.398)	(0.272)	(0.241)	(0.328)
Oil exporter	0.858**	0.809*	0.751**	0.548*	1.269***
	(0.279)	(0.352)	(0.278)	(0.262)	(0.297)
New state	1.709***	1.777***	1.658***	1.523***	1.147**
	(0.339)	(0.415)	(0.342)	(0.332)	(0.413)
Instability[a]	0.618**	0.385	0.513*	0.548*	0.584*
	(0.235)	(0.316)	(0.242)	(0.225)	(0.268)
Democracy[a,c]	0.021	0.013			
	(0.017)	(0.022)			
Ethnic fractionalization	0.166	0.146	0.164	0.490	−0.119
	(0.373)	(0.584)	(0.368)	(0.345)	(0.396)
Religious fractionalization	0.285	1.533*	0.326		1.176*
	(0.509)	(0.724)	(0.506)		(0.563)
Anocracy[a]			0.521*		0.597*
			(0.237)		(0.261)
Democracy[a,d]			0.127		0.219
			(0.304)		(0.354)
Constant	−6.731***	−8.450***	−7.019***	−6.801***	−7.503***
	(0.736)	(1.092)	(0.751)	(0.681)	(0.854)
N	6327	5186	6327	6360	5378

Note: The dependent variable is coded "1" for country years in which a civil war began and "0" in all others. Standard errors are in parentheses. Estimations performed using Stata 7.0. *$p < .05$; **$p < .01$; ***$p < .001$.

[a] Lagged one year.
[b] In 1000's.
[c] Polity IV; varies from −10 to 10.
[d] Dichotomous.

independent variables (I.V.)

things that might explain the D.V., civil war onset

coefficient → how much the I.V. impacts the D.V. & in what direction

- negative sign means the I.V. makes D.V. less likely
- no negative sign means I.V. makes D.V. more likely.

Number of cases included in the sample N/in that empirical test

- asterisks indicate how confident we are in the positive/negative effect of the I.V.
  - 3 ✱ = very confident
  - 2 ✱ = very confident
  - 1 ✱ = confident
  - 0 ✱ = not confident

1) the "dependent variable" is the phenomenon being explained in the tests — here, it's the outbreak of a civil war.

2) the "independent variables" are the things the author expects should make the phenomenon (D.V.) more or less likely.