

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/a-century-of-coalitions-in-battle/>

This video video discusses a research initiative focusing on battlefield coalitions, particularly those formed during conflicts where distinct political entities collaborate in combat. The authors, drawing from their experiences with the Korean War, explore how troops from different backgrounds manage to fight together despite challenges. They differentiate battlefield coalitions from broader wartime alliances, emphasizing the logistical and coordination difficulties involved.

The research highlights the prevalence of battlefield coalitions, discovered through a dataset of battles from 1900 to 2003, revealing that about 25% of all belligerent sides formed such coalitions. These coalitions tend to perform better than solo belligerents, winning more frequently and suffering lower casualty rates.

Surprisingly, the study indicates that U.S. involvement in battlefield coalitions is less dominant than expected, being present in only a third of the coalitions. The understanding of these coalitions is essential, especially as global conflict evolves, with increasing diversity among combatants, including non-state actors.

The authors advocate for further investigation into battlefield coalitions to better inform military strategies and responses in future conflicts, reflecting on the historical significance of such groups and their impact on operational effectiveness.