

# Comparison of multinational international news based on mass media data

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# Motivational Questions

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- ✓ Observation: The style that news reported in China and USA is very different.
- ✓ Will the west excessively report events that would harm the image of China? Or vice versa?

# Outline

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- Introduction to GDELT
- Question
- Comparison of domestic & international news
- Comparison of multinational international news
- Conclusion

# GDELT: Global Database of Events, Location, and Tone

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- GDELT events are drawn from a wide array of news media, both in English and non-English, from across the world, ranging from international to local sources in nearly every country;
- GDELT includes more than 400 million unique events across all countries, during the period from 1979 to the present
- These data were produced by the TABARI automated coding software (<http://eventdata.psu.edu/software.dir/tabari.html>) using the CAMEO event and actor coding system
- Basic structure of event data:
  - Actor 1 interacts with actor 2
  - Who and where Actor 1 & 2 are
  - Event score (Goldstein scale:  $\pm$  for cooperation/conflict)  
(Average tone:  $\pm$  for positive & negative)

# Event

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**Goldstein scale** : In the celebrated CAMEO-code book, there are 20 classes and 311 subclasses of political events. The score ranges from -10 (conflict) to +10 (cooperation).

- Make public statement
- Appeal
- Express intent to cooperate
- Consult
- Engage in diplomatic cooperation
- Engage in material cooperation
- Provide aid
- Yield
- Investigate
- Demand
- Disapprove
- Reject
- Threaten
- Protest
- Exhibit military posture
- Reduce relations
- Coerce
- Assault
- Fight
- Engage in unconventional mass violence

**Average tone** : the average “tone” of all documents containing one or more mentions of this event. The score ranges from -100 (extremely negative) to +100 (extremely positive). Common values range between -10 and +10, with 0 indicating neutral .

# Data (Total: 92,410,355 )

- ✓ **Geography:** including the five main continents
- ✓ **Economy:** countries with different degrees of economic development (measured by per capita GDP)
- ✓ **Number of events:** priority to countries with large amounts of data

Country code	Country name	continent	Per captia GDP rank	Number of events
USA	United States	North America	5	71617678
AUS	Australia	Oceania	7	4125450
GBR	United Kingdom	Europe	14	8164429
DEU	Germany	Europe	19	507877
ARG	Argentina	South America	53	85203
CHN	China	Asia	73	2739967
NGA	Nigeria	Africa	123	4660883
ZWE	Zimbabwe	Africa	152	508868

# International news & Questions

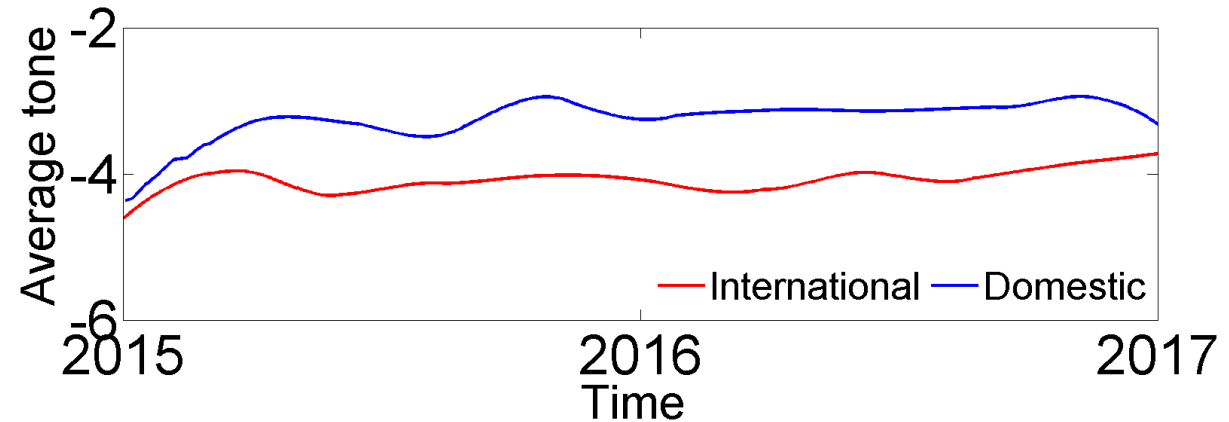
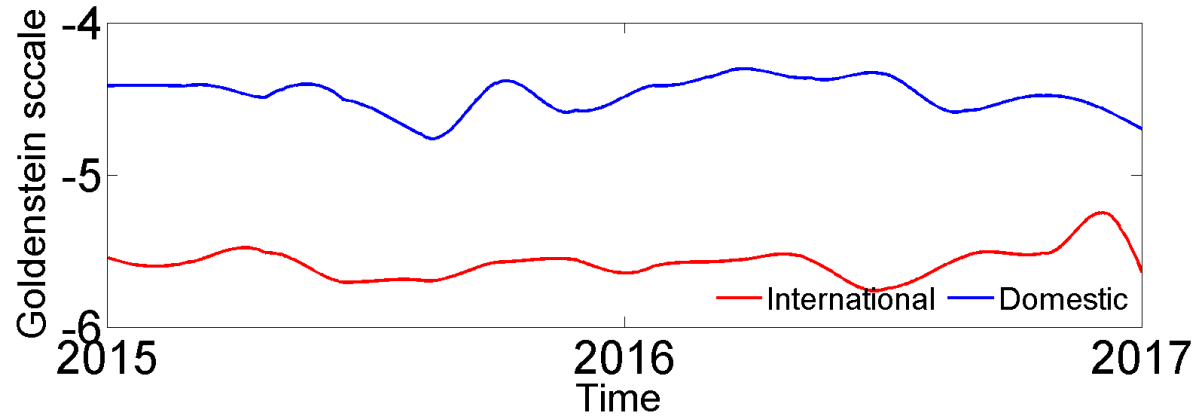
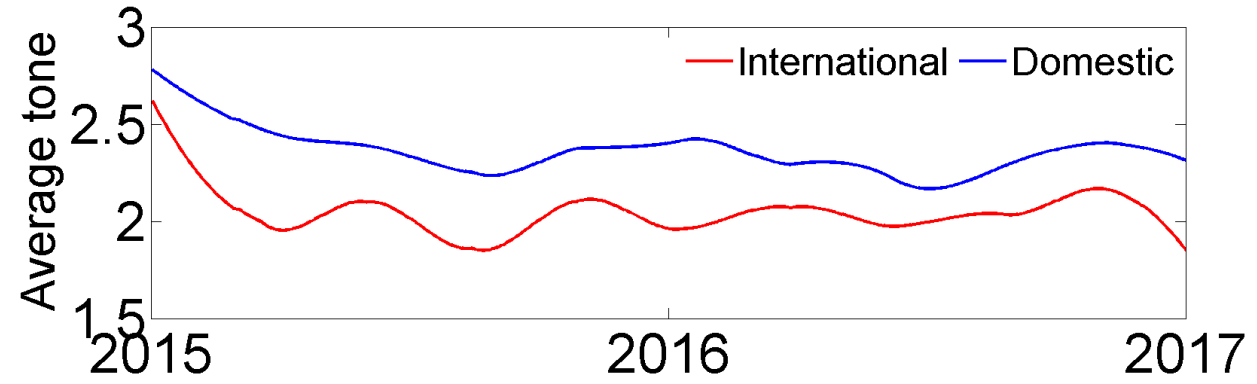
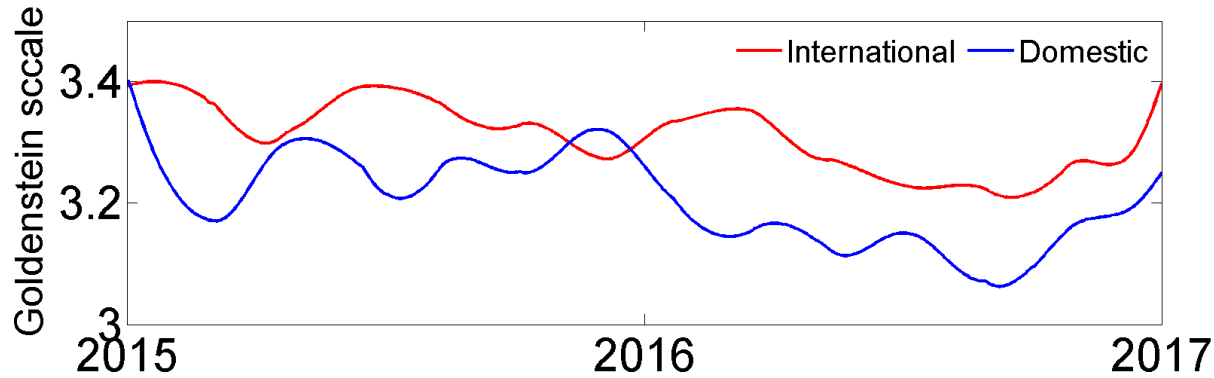
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- ✓ The definition of international news has not been conclusive yet.
- ✓ International news refers to the coverage about the abroad.

- How different is coverage in domestic and international news?
- Are there differences in international news from different countries?

# Comparison of domestic & international news (China as an example; similar for other countries)

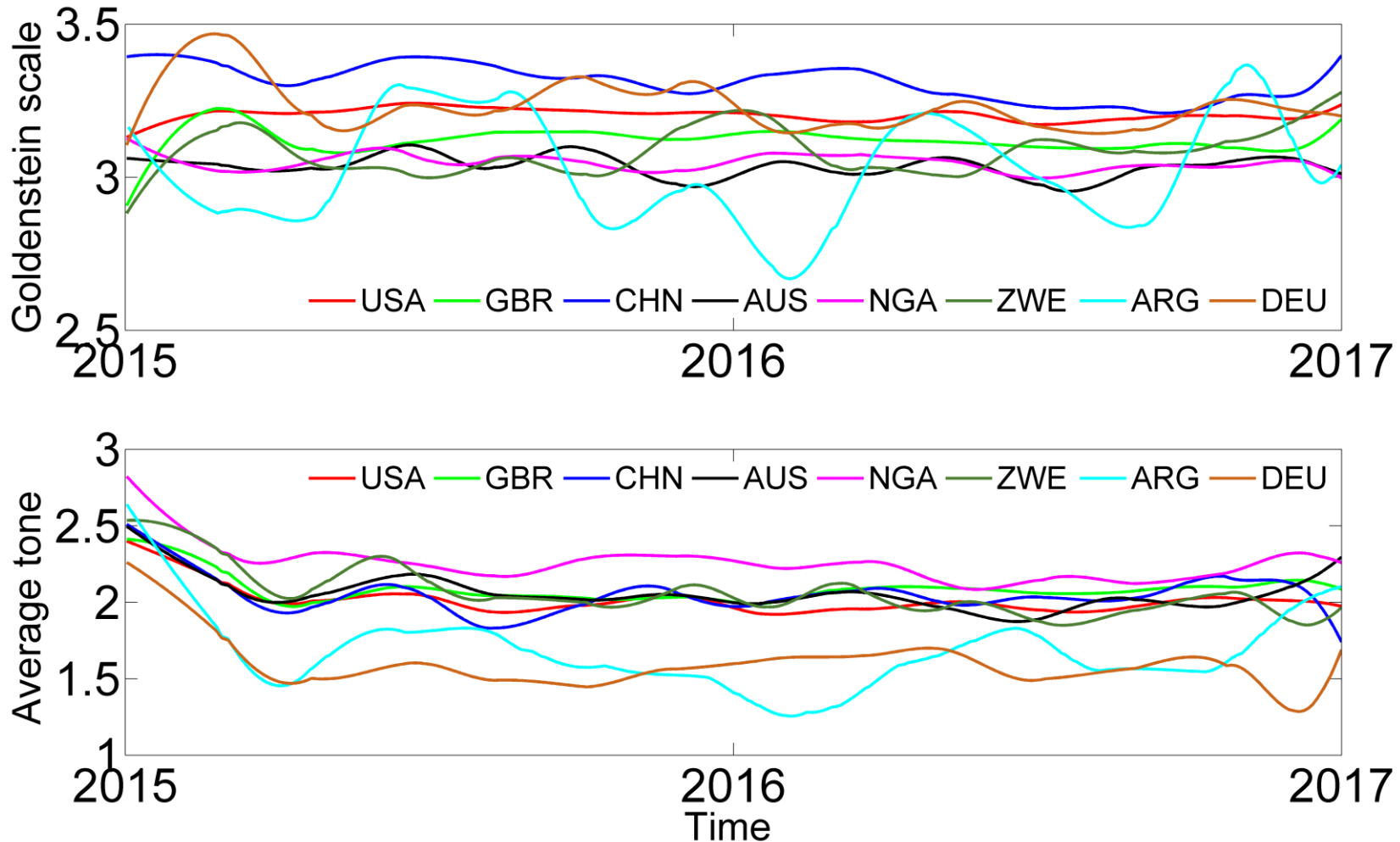
International events chosen to be reported were more significant than domestic ones; yet, domestic news were reported with a more favorable tone





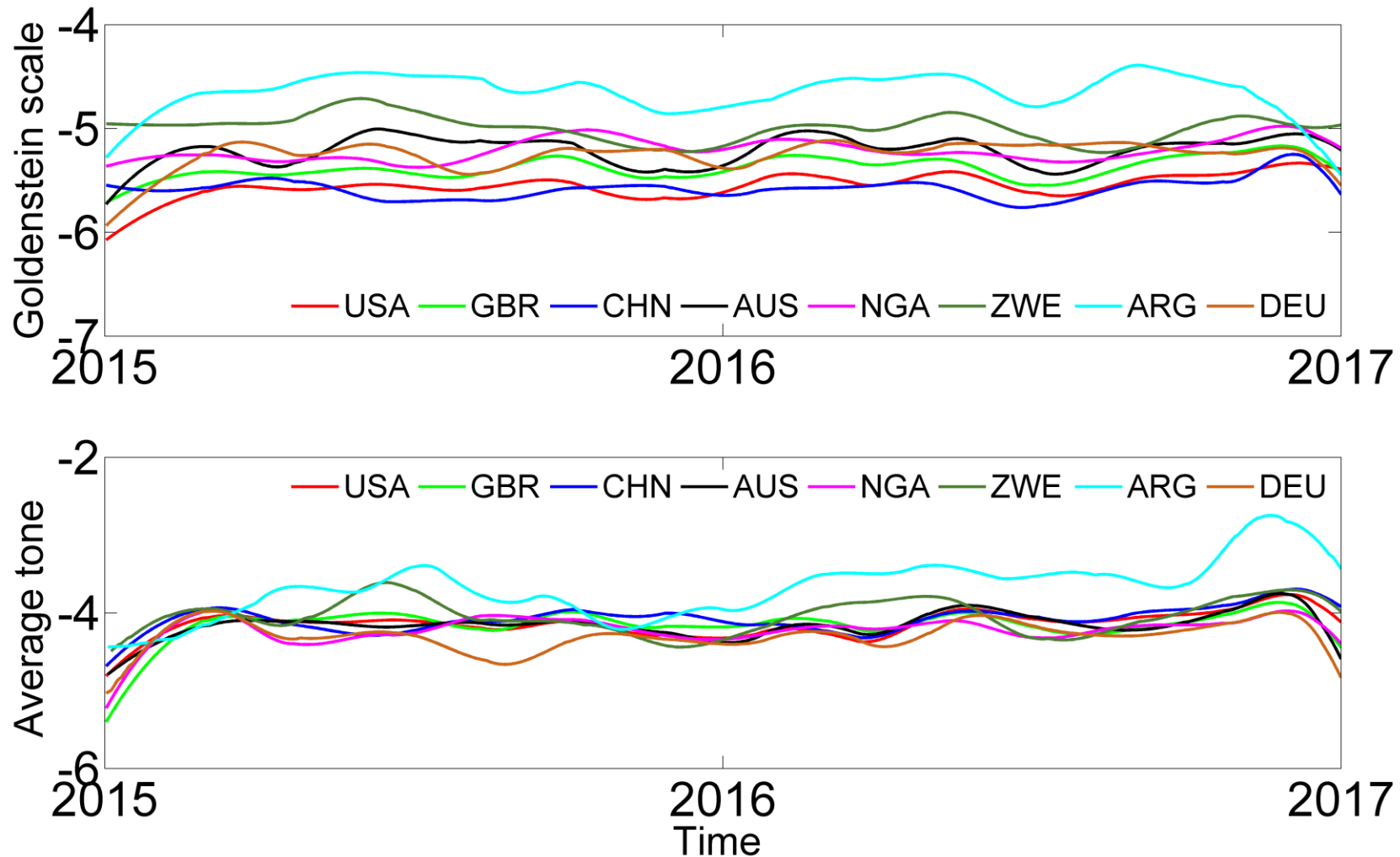
# Comparison of multinational international news --- cooperative events

The dispersion in the Goldenstein scale is greater than in the average tone; the latter showed some convergence among a few countries

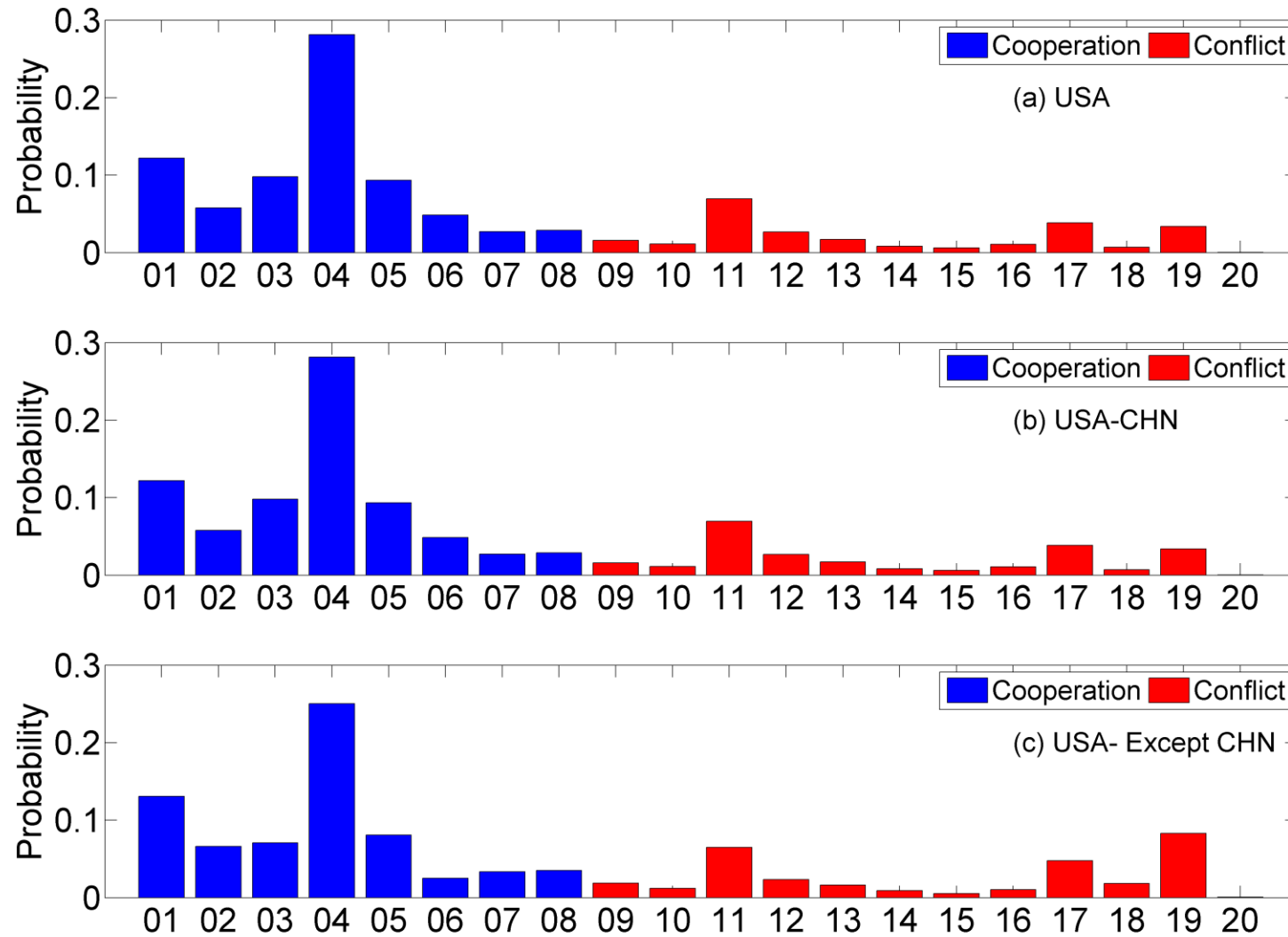


# Comparison of multinational international news---conflict events

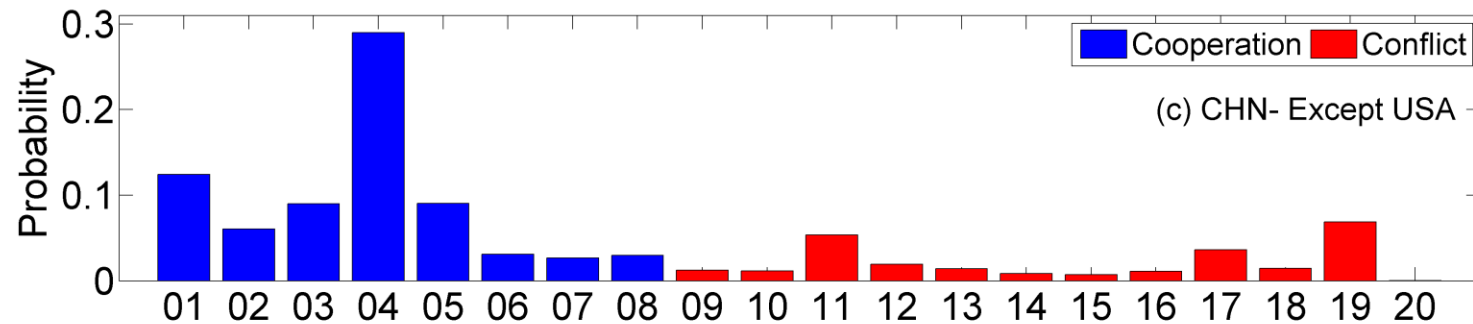
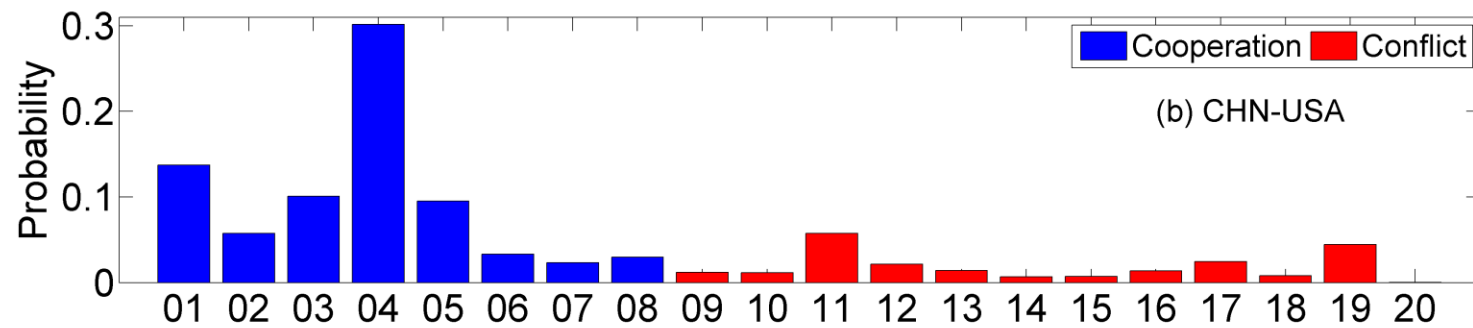
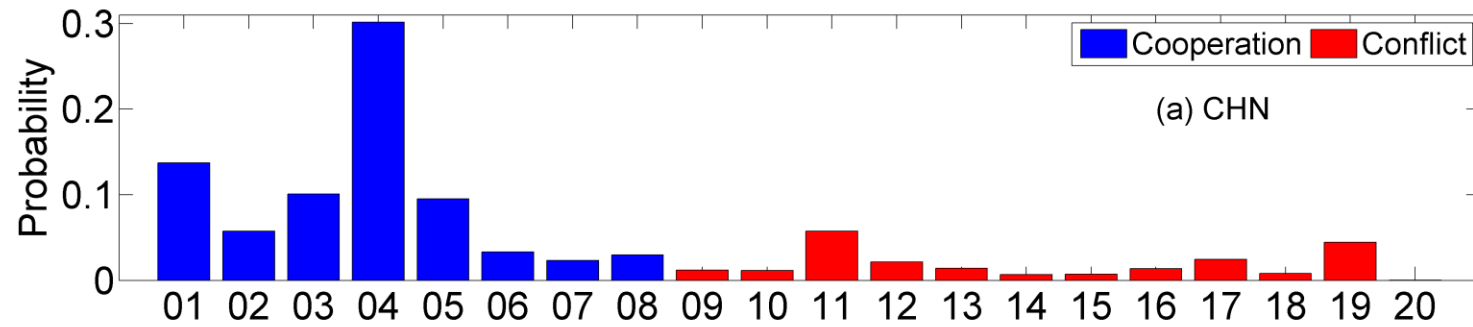
While different countries chose to report different types of conflicts in the globe, they showed amazing convergence in tone



# How does USA report the world? --- not more negative about China



# How does CHN report the world? --- not more negative about USA



# Conclusion

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- Will the west excessively report events that would harm the image of China? Or vice versa? ---Neither China nor America has not excessively report negative news of each other.
- Although countries have different preferences for event types, they show strong convergence in tone of coverages.
- International events chosen to be reported were more significant than domestic ones; yet, domestic news were reported with a more favorable tone.

**Thank you!**