

ABSTRACT

Democracies are the most aggressive regime type measured in terms of war initiation. Since 1945, the United States is also the world's most aggressive state by this measure. This finding prompts the question of whether this aggressive is due to regime type or other factors. I make the case for the latter. My finding nevertheless has implications for the Democratic Peace thesis and the unfortunate tendency of some of its advocates to use it as the foundation for policy guidance.