Dyads De Novo? The Origin of State Pairs, Systems & Peace in International Politics

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In the sub-field of international relations dyads are assumed to originate absent reference to their origins; that is, dyads are assumed to originate into the modern state system de novo. We argue dyad origins are integral to the formation of dyad system portfolios, the factors, such as regime type and trade, that extant research suggests are key to international behavior. We argue that dyad origins also provide the basis of networks of dyads with similar portfolios, and these characteristics, in turn, influence behavior. To explore this issue of dyad origin, we formulate a theory grounded in dyads exhibiting two types of origin: (1) organic, and (2) inorganic. Organic dyads, pairs in which neither state member originates its counterpart, will reflect portfolios with randomly distributed qualities. Conversely, inorganic dyads, pairs in which one or both state members originates its counterpart, reflect portfolios with non-randomly distributed qualities. Often, inorganic dyads are created in the interest of establishing networks of dyads, and we hypothesize that these networks are instrumental in their influence on behavior in the modern state system. We rely on network analysis of dyad origins to demonstrate the central influence of dyad origin on militarized interstate conflict during the 1816-2001 period.