Historical Changes of Alliance Networks among Nations

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How to analyze international political system?

Macroscopic Level
- The Distribution of Power (unipolarity, multipolarity)

Mesoscopic Level
- Analysis on multilateral interactions as “networks”

Microscopic Level
- Foreign policy, Domestic political institution
Method

- focus: alliance
- nation = node, alliance = edge

Two Indexes
- Clustering Coefficient
- Average Path Length

Year: 1816 ~ 2000

Country: USA, Britain, Germany, France, Russia, Japan
Using Data

- COW (The Correlates of War Project)
  <http://cow2.la.psu.edu/>

- defense
- neutrality/non-aggregation
- entente
clustering coefficient (defense)
average path length (defense)
Results & Conclusion

★ Clustering Coefficient
- ~1945 : 0 / 1
- 1945~ : around 0.9

★ Average Path Length
- ~1945 : 1
- 1945~ : around 1.5

● Alliance network after WWII centering U.S. is “Small-World network”

Most alliances are bilateral before WWII
Most multilateral alliance are concluded after WWII