

**Discussion of figure:**

One way to use events data is to analyze the probability that a given event will occur after a specified period of time. This is done using computations like those shown in the table below. The event in question is the involvement of a given nation on the same side as another nation in a serious international dispute. The blue line shows actual fraction of nations observed *not yet involved* after a given number of years (the waiting time or “wt”). The red line was generated by an equation that was chosen for “best fit” to the observed blue line. (Quotation marks are because there is more than one way to define best fit.) If this result was to be applied to a model—and at some point it may well be—the equation generating the red line would be written into the model program.

