
Political Science 373
Territory and Group Conflict

Hein Goemans

Course Requirements

- MacKinder, Halford J. "The Geographical Pivot of History." in *Geographical Journal*, xxiii, no. 4. (April 1904).
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Thursday October 28

8. **Conflict over Territory**

- Huth, Paul. *Standing Your Ground: Territorial Disputes and International Conflict*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1996.
- Walter, Barbara F. "Reputation and War: Explaining the Intractability of Territorial Conflict." Manuscript (University of California, San Diego).

Thursday November 4

9. **The Size of States**

- Lake, David and Hiscox, Michael. "Democracy, Federalism, and the Size of States." Manuscript (University of California, San Diego).
- Alesina, Alberto and Enrico Spolaore. *The Size of Nations*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. 2003.

Thursday November 11

10. **A Case: China**

- Michel Oksenberg. "Taiwan, Tibet and HK in Sino-US Relations." In Vogel, Ezra, ed. *Living with China: US/China Relations in the Twenty-first Century*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1997.
- Chinese Government White Paper I. "The Taiwan Question and the Reunification of China."
<http://www.china.org.cn/e-white/taiwan/index.htm>
- Chinese Government White Paper II. "The One-China Principle and the Taiwan Issue."
<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/features/taiwanpaper/taiwan.html>
- Fravel, M. Taylor. "Explaining China's Settlement of Territorial Disputes." Manuscript: Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Thursday November 18

11. **Norms**

- Kacowicz, Arie Marcelo. "The Problem of Peaceful Territorial Change." *International Studies Quarterly* Vol. 38, Issue 2 (June 1994), pp. 219-254.
- Zacher, Mark. "The Territorial Integrity Norm." *International Organization* Vol. 55, No. 2 (Spring 2001), pp. 215-50.
- Thomas, Bradford L. 1999. "International Boundaries: Lines in the Sand (and the Sea)." In Demko, George J. and William B. Wood. 1999. *Reordering the World. Geopolitical Perspectives on the 21st Century*. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, pp.69-93.

- Murphy, Alexander B. "International Law and the Sovereign State System: Challenges and the Status Quo." In Demko, George J. and William B. Wood. 1999. *Reordering the World. Geopolitical Perspectives on the 21st Century*. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, pp.227{246
- Murphy, Alexander B. "Historical Justifications for Territorial Claims." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. Vol. 80, No. 4, pp. 531{548.
- Barkin, J. Samuel and Cronin, Bruce. "The State and the Nation: Changing Norms and the Rules of Sovereignty in International Relations." *International Organization* Vol. 48, No. 1. (Winter 1994), pp. 107{130.

Thursday November 25

Thanksgiving Recess

Thursday December 2

12. Focal Points

- Me! "Territoriality and Conflict." Unpublished manuscript, University of Rochester.

Wednesday December 8

13. Papers

- You!

Henry Kissinger once wrote: "It would have occurred to no one in the eighteenth century that the legitimacy of a state depended on linguistic unity. It was inconceivable to the makers of the Versailles settlement that there might be any other basis for legitimate rule" (1973, p.145).

Questions to consider in formulating and evaluating social science research

1. *What is the central question?*

- Why is it important (theoretically, substantively)?
- What is being explained (what is the dependent variable and how does it vary)?
- How does this phenomenon present a puzzle?

2. *What is the central answer?*

- What is doing the explaining (what are the independent variables and how do they vary)?
- What are the hypotheses, i.e., what is the relationship between independent and dependent variables, what kind of change in the independent variable causes what kind of change in the dependent variable?
- What are the causal mechanisms, i.e., why are the independent and dependent variables so related?
- How do the independent variables relate to each other?
- What assumptions does your theory make?
- Is the theory falsifiable in concept?
- What does this explanation add to our understanding of the question?

3. *What are the possible alternative explanations?*

- What assumptions are you making about the direction of causality?
- What other explanations might there be for the phenomenon of study, and to what degree do they conflict with the central answer?
- Could the hypothesized relationships have occurred by chance?

4. *Why are the possible alternative explanations wrong?*

- What is the logical structure of the alternative explanations (compare 2)?
- What is the empirical evidence?

5. *What is the relationship between the theory and the evidence?*

- What does the research design allow to vary, i.e., in this design are the explanations variables or constants?
- What does your research design hold constant, i.e., does it help to rule out the alternative competing explanations?
- How are the theoretical constructs represented empirically, i.e., how do you know it when you see it (measurement)?

6. *How do the empirical conclusions relate to the theory?*

- How confident are you about the theory in light of the evidence?
- How widely do the conclusions generalize, i.e., what might be the limitations of the study?
- What does the provisionally accepted or revised theory say about questions of broader importance?