

Small States and Climate Change

Steve L. Monroe

YSS4274

Climate Change in the Solomons Islands

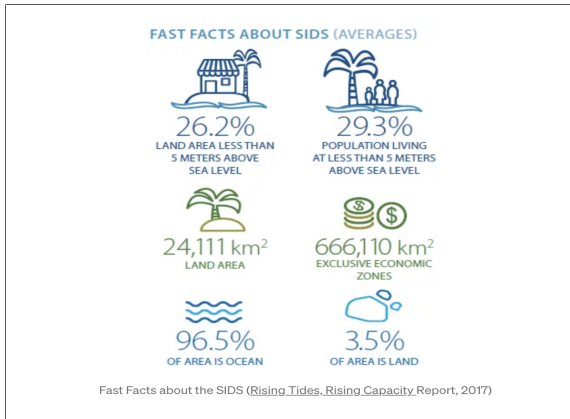
Climate Change, Conflict, and Peacebuilding in Solomon Islands



Today, a number of locations within the Solomon Islands are facing immediate and direct climate change impacts such as sea-level rise and food and water insecurity.

Source: The Solomon Times

Small states are on the
forefront of the climate change
crisis.



Source: Rising Tides, Rising Capacity Report, 2017

Small states are on the
forefront of *fighting* climate
change.



Source: Australian News Network, 2013

Pacific Warrior Day of Action

The Maldives' Underwater Cabinet Meeting



The cabinet of the Maldives government held a meeting 20ft underwater to publicise 'rising sea-levels' | CREDIT: Photo: WENN.COM

Source: The Telegraph

What are the politics of climate change in small states? How do they differ from larger states?

Small States and Climate Change

- Today: Domestic Politics
- Thursday: International Politics

Small States and Climate Change

- **Today: Domestic Politics**
- Thursday: International Politics

Seminar Objectives: To Discuss

- Climate Change Politics
- Climate Change in Small States
- Case Study: Climate Change Politics in the Maldives

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- Climate Change Politics (**Colgan et al; Ferguson**)
- Climate Change in Small States (**Ferguson; Thomas et al**)
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Outline of Seminar

- 1 Announcements
- 2 The Politics of Climate Change
- 3 The Politics of Climate Change in Small States
- 4 Case Study: Climate Change Politics in the Maldives
- 5 Next Seminar: To Dos

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Updated Syllabus (Version 3)

See Canvas

Prof Monroe will aim to get them back to you by next week

First-Half Participation

Prof Monroe will aim to get them back to you by Thursday.

Small States Check In (Week 1)

Society: Singapore *chopes* Taylor Swift

We're in our *kia su* ("scared to lose") era. After Srettha Thavasin, Thailand's prime minister, claimed that Singapore prevented Taylor Swift from performing elsewhere in South-east Asia by offering subsidies of US\$2-3m (S\$3-4m) per show as part of an exclusivity agreement, the Singapore Tourism Board and the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth confirmed as much in a joint statement (without specifying the size of the subsidy). Representatives from Kallang Alive Sport Management (KASM), a subsidiary of a firm incorporated by Sport Singapore, wooed Swift and concert promoter Anschutz Entertainment Group in early 2023, before the popstar released international dates for her record-breaking, billion-dollar earning "Eras Tour". Soon after, KASM roped in other government agencies to "have Team Singapore [bring] in Team Taylor".

Source: Jom 2024

In a media statement on Feb. 28, Joey Salceda, a representative of Albay province in the Philippine House of Representatives, criticised Singapore over a supposed deal preventing Swift from performing elsewhere in Southeast Asia, saying that's not "what good neighbours do" and claimed that Singapore "hurt" the Philippines (Mothership, 2024).

What's a small state to do?

- Is Singapore's Swift diplomacy an example of:
 - ▶ Status Seeking
 - ▶ Shelter Theory

What's a small state to do?

What is a “Shelter Theory” critique of this policy?

What's a small state to do?

What is a “Status Seeking” justification of this policy?

'Sour grapes': Bilahari Kausikan applauds STB's 'Swift' deal, says S'pore can't hold back if neighbours 'slow'

He did not use any Taylor Swift puns.

Fiona Tan |  March 01, 2024, 07:48 PM



Source: Mothership 2024

Outline of Seminar



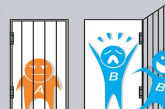

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Why is climate change politics often described as a collective action problem?

Collective Action Problem



The Prisoner's Dilemma

Prisoners' dilemma		prisoner B	
		confess	remain silent
prisoner A	confess	 5 years 5 years	 0 year 20 years
	remain silent	 20 years 0 year	 1 year 1 year

© 2010 Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

Source: The Encyclopedia Britannica

How to solve a collective action problem?

Solutions

- Sanction free-riders (Charge for Loss and Damage)
- Reward / Compensate non-free riders (Charge for Loss and Damage)
- Promote information and transparency (Shaming; Praising)

Why do Colgan et al think it's a mistake to view climate change as a collective action problem?

What are the policy implications (and recommendations!) of viewing climate change politics as a collective action problem vs. an existential / zero-sum one?
(5 mins)

Asset Revaluation and the Existential Crisis of Climate Change

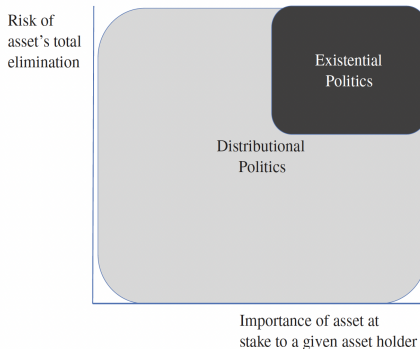


FIGURE 1. *Distributional and existential politics*

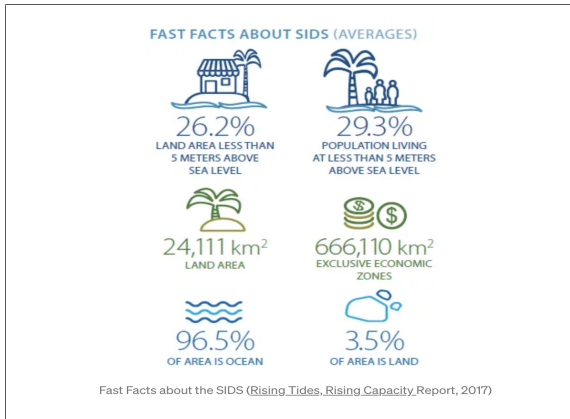
Source: Figure 1, Colgan et al, pg. 593

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Warm-Up

How might climate change politics in small states differ from large states? (5 mins)



Source: Rising Tides, Rising Capacity Report, 2017

Warm-Up

How might *solutions* to climate change (Mitigation; Adaptation; Loss and Damage) in small states differ from large states? (5 mins)

Definitions

- Mitigation: Slow man-made climate change
- Adaptation: Live / Survive with greater man-made climate change
- Loss and Damage: Compensate for loss and damages by major carbon emitters

Warm-Up

How might *solutions* to climate change (Mitigation; Adaptation; Loss and Damage) in small states differ from large states? (5 mins)

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Climate Change in the Maldives



Source: The IMF

Case Study

- Watch Video
- Answer questions alone, then in group
- Share with class

Case Study: Questions

- Are there examples of: Climate-Forcing Assets (CFAs), Climate-Vulnerable Assets (CVAs)?
- Are there examples of: Mitigation; Adaptation; Loss and Damage?
- Compare and contrast climate change politics and solutions in the Solomon Island and the Maldives.
- Compare and contrast climate change politics in the Maldives and your home country. To what extent does country size (please define it) explain similarities or differences between the two?

Climate Change in the Maldives



Source: The IMF

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Next Seminar (Mar. 7)

- Climate Change Politics in International Relations
 - ▶ Reading Presentation: Beyond Soft Balancing
- To think about: How are international politics different than domestic politics for small states?

See you on Thursday!