

Small States in International
Organizations
(Part 1)

Steve L. Monroe

YSS4274

Small states are “the very glue of progressive international cooperation for the common good.” - Kofi Annan, Former UN Secretary General.

Why?

Why are small states some of the loudest advocates for international law and multilateralism?

Seminar Objectives: To Discuss

- When Small States Succeed
- Small States at the UN: Challenges, Opportunities and Solutions
- Analysis: Minister Shanmugam's Speech at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute

Seminar Objectives: To Discuss

- When Small States Succeed (**Long, Chapter 3**)
- Small States at the UN: Challenges, Opportunities and Solutions (**Suilleabhain; Lee**)
- Analysis: Minister Shanmugam's Speech at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute

Outline of Seminar

- 1 Announcements
- 2 When small states succeed
- 3 Small States at the UN: Challenges and Opportunities
- 4 Shanmugam on Small States and the Russia-Ukraine Conflict
- 5 Next Seminar: To Dos

Outline of Seminar

- 1 **Announcements**
- 2 When small states succeed
- 3 Small States at the UN: Challenges and Opportunities
- 4 Shanmugam on Small States and the Russia-Ukraine Conflict
- 5 Next Seminar: To Dos

Research Paper: Due April 30th

- Independent academic research about one (or many) small states
- Can use secondary sources
- Word Count: 6000
- Students are encouraged to discuss their paper with Prof. Monroe

Wanted: Content for Small States Website

- Interested in writing? Honing research skills? Sharing your insights on small states?
- Consider contributing a blog post to the Small States in Peace and War Research Forum
- This would have no bearing on your grade. This is an opportunity to get research experience.
- Contact Prof. Monroe if you are interested!

Outline of Seminar

- 1 Announcements
- 2 When small states succeed**
- 3 Small States at the UN: Challenges and Opportunities
- 4 Shanmugam on Small States and the Russia-Ukraine Conflict
- 5 Next Seminar: To Dos

T O M L O N G

**A SMALL
STATE'S
GUIDE TO
INFLUENCE
IN WORLD
POLITICS**

How does Long define small states' success?

A small state's ability to obtain its goals vis-a-vis a larger state.

Conditions for small states' success vis-a-vis a larger state (Chapter 3)

- Policy Divergence
- Relational Issue Salience
- (Big State) Preference Cohesion

Conditions for small states' success vis-a-vis a larger state (Chapter 3)

- **Policy Divergence**
- Relational Issue Salience
- (Big State) Preference Cohesion

Policy Divergence (p.52)

“the greater the divergence, the more difficult it will be for a small state to obtain its preferred policy.”

Conditions for small states' success vis-a-vis a larger state (Chapter 3)

- Policy Divergence
- Relational Issue Salience
- (Big State) Preference Cohesion

Conditions for small states' success vis-a-vis a larger state (Chapter 3)

- Policy Divergence
- **Relational Issue Salience**
- (Big State) Preference Cohesion

Relational Issue Salience (p.52)

“Does the small state’s policy goal matter to the great power?”

Conditions for small states' success vis-a-vis a larger state (Chapter 3)

- Policy Divergence
- Relational Issue Salience
- (Big State) Preference Cohesion

Conditions for small states' success vis-a-vis a larger state (Chapter 3)

- Policy Divergence
- Relational Issue Salience
- **(Big State) Preference Cohesion**

(Big State) Preference Cohesion (p.53)

How does the big state's policymakers view the issue?

Table 3.2

Analytical scorecard

Policy divergence (1)	Relational issue salience (2)	Preference cohesion (3)
High (a)		
Low (b)		

Conditions for small states' success vis-a-vis a larger state (Chapter 3)

- Policy Divergence
- Relational Issue Salience
- (Big State) Preference Cohesion

Check In (5 min)

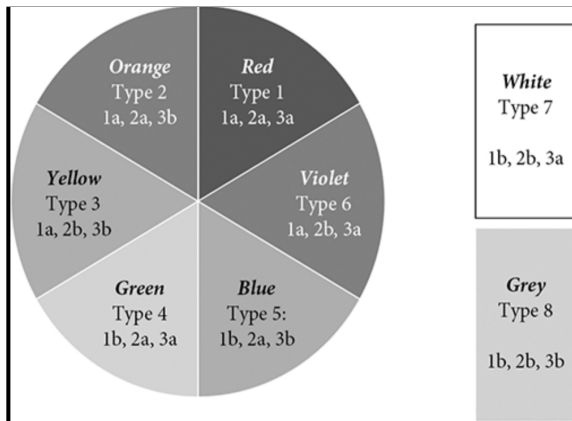
Which conditions are *most* conducive for small state success?
Least conducive for small state success?

Table 3.2

Analytical scorecard

Policy divergence (1)	Relational issue salience (2)	Preference cohesion (3)
High (a)		
Low (b)		

Argument (pg. 54 - 55)



What do you think of Long's argument?

Outline of Seminar

- 1 Announcements
- 2 When small states succeed
- 3 Small States at the UN: Challenges and Opportunities**
- 4 Shanmugam on Small States and the Russia-Ukraine Conflict
- 5 Next Seminar: To Dos

Small States at the UN



Source: UN

Small States at the UN

- Opportunities
- Challenges
- Solutions

Small States at the UN

- **Opportunities**
- Challenges
- Solutions

Small States at the UN

What opportunities do international organizations like the UN offer to small states?

Small States at the UN: Opportunities

- International framework to protect their interests (and borders)
- “Level” playing field: One state, one vote
- Access to bigger state policymakers
- Cost saving: “Where else can a representative from Tuvalu meet their peer from El Salvador?”

Small States at the UN

- Opportunities
- Challenges
- Solutions

Small States at the UN

- Opportunities
- **Challenges**
- Solutions

Small States at the UN (Warmup)

What challenges do small states confront in international organizations like the UN?

Small States at the UN: Challenges

- Capacity Constraints
 - ▶ Labor force
 - ▶ Information (too much; but also too little)
- Power Constraints
 - ▶ Asymmetries and dependencies persist (resources, information)
 - ▶ Hard power > Soft power

Small States at the UN

- Opportunities
- Challenges
- Solutions

Small States at the UN

- Opportunities
- Challenges
- **Solutions**

Small States at the UN (Warmup)

How can small states overcome these challenges?

Small States at the UN (Warmup)

- Look over the Suilleabhain case study and PM Lee's speech at FOSS.
- Write three strategies that can help small states make the most of international organizations.
- Share with partner.
- Share with class.

Small States at the UN (Warmup)

- Look over the Suilleabhain case study and PM Lee's speech at FOSS.
- Write three strategies that can help small states make the most of international organizations (5 mins).
- Share with partner (5 mins).
- Share with class (10 mins).

Small States at the UN (Warmup)

How can small states overcome these challenges?

Small States at the UN: Solutions

- Collective action! (FOSS; small states voting blocs)
- Specialization (domain expertise)
- Use access to change norms and interests (Process > Power)
- Play to strengths (agile, less bureaucratic, direct ties to power)

Outline of Seminar

- 1 Announcements
- 2 When small states succeed
- 3 Small States at the UN: Challenges and Opportunities
- 4 Shanmugam on Small States and the Russia-Ukraine Conflict**
- 5 Next Seminar: To Dos

- Read Shanmugam's Speech (and annotate!)
- Reflect on the following questions (next slide)
- Check in with neighbour
- Share with class

Questions and themes to consider

- Compare and Contrast Minister Shanmugam's speech with the Melian Dialogue.
- What IR theory (if any) best fits with Minister Shanmugam's view of the conflict?
- Evaluate Minister Shanmugam's lessons for small states. Do you agree? Why or why not?
- Feel free to share your thoughts or bring up your own questions!

- Read Shanmugam's Speech (10 minutes)
- Reflect on the following questions (next slide)
- Share with class (10 mins)

Questions and themes to consider

- Compare and Contrast Minister Shanmugam's speech with the Melian Dialogue.
- What IR theory (if any) best fits with Minister Shanmugam's view of the conflict?
- Evaluate Minister Shanmugam's lessons for small states. Do you agree? Why or why not?
- Feel free to share your thoughts or bring up your own questions!

Discussion

Minister Shanmugam, “The Russia-Ukraine War and Southeast Asia One Year On: Implications and Outlook”

Outline of Seminar

- 1 Announcements
- 2 When small states succeed
- 3 Small States at the UN: Challenges and Opportunities
- 4 Shanmugam on Small States and the Russia-Ukraine Conflict
- 5 Next Seminar: To Dos**

Seminar Objectives: To Discuss

- When Small States Succeed (**Long, Chapter 3**)
- Small States at the UN: Challenges, Opportunities and Solutions (**Suilleabhain; Lee**)
- Analysis: Minister Shanmugam's Speech at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute

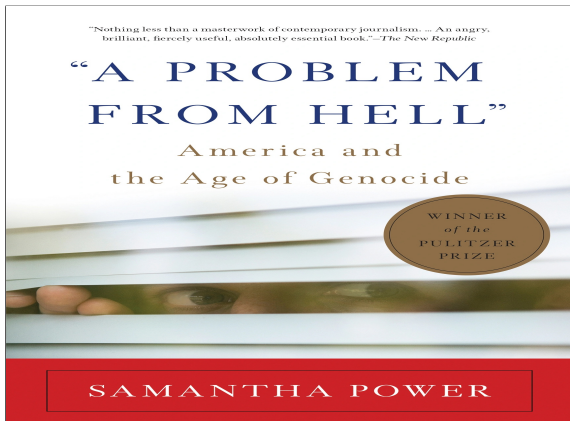
Next Seminar (Mar. 21)

- Small States in International Organizations (Part 2)
 - ▶ Reading Presentation: Waltz, Small States and Human Rights
 - ▶ John Stuart Mill: A Few Words on Non-Intervention (see Canvas Message)

To Think About:

Why are small states some of the loudest advocates for international law and multilateralism?

To Think About: What's a big state to do?



Have a great week!