Small States in the Shadow of Empire (Part 2)

Steve L. Monroe

YSS4274



Source: ThoughtCo

Small states are vulnerable to larger states' imperial plans.

How can small states' best respond to larger states' imperial plans?



Source: The Dhaka Carrier

Small State Strategies

- Bandwagon
- Balance
- Neutral
- "Omni"-balancing
- International Organizations
- Boomerang (Civil Society)

How can small states best respond to rising states' imperial plans?



Source: South China Morning Post

How can rising states best manage relations with smaller states?

This Week

- Part 1: Empires of the past (Tuesday)
- Part 2: Empires of the present (today)

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Seminar Objectives: To Discuss

- Best Practices: Small states between rising powers
- Ports of Contention Case Study: China, US and Small Island States

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- Best Practices: Small states between rising powers (Paul)
- Ports of Contention Case Study: China, US and Small Island States (Baruah, Cave, Cheong)

Outline of Seminar

- Announcements
- Best Practices: Small states between rising empires
- Ports of Contention Case Study: China, US and Small Island States
- Mext Seminar: To Dos

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4 Next Seminar: To Dos

Op-ed 2: Due April 12th

- Themes: climate change, conflict, international organizations, empire, trade or war
- Worth 12.5 percent of final grade
- Word Count: 800
- See Rubric on Canvas
- See feedback from Op-ed 1
- Can be "stepping stone" for research paper (next slide)

Research Paper: Due April 24th

- Independent academic research about one (or many) small states
- Worth: forty percent of final grade
- Can use secondary sources
- Word Count: 6000
- Students are encouraged to discuss their paper with Prof. Monroe
- Look over slides from 8.2
- See Rubric on Canvas!

Come to Office Hours!

- Wednesday 4:00 to 5:30 (may be virtual)
- Friday OH: 4:15 to 5:45

Happy Ramadan!

If you need accommodations, please email Prof. Monroe.

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Warm Up (5 mins)

 TV Paul argues that South Asia's small states have neither bandwagoned nor balanced between China and India.
What allows these small states to benefit from both rising powers without paying the costs of bandwagoning or balancing?

- Limited power competition
- Economic globalization

Trade and Peace Theory

"Peace is the natural effect of trade." - Montesquieu

IR Theory

Why does trade encourage peace?

Make Trade, Not War

- Economic inter-dependencies (makes war costlier)
- Strengthens domestic pro-peace proponents
- Changes norms and perceptions

Make Trade, Not War

- Economic inter-dependencies (makes war costlier) (Realism)
- Strengthens domestic pro-peace proponents (Liberalism)
- Changes norms and perceptions (Constructivism)

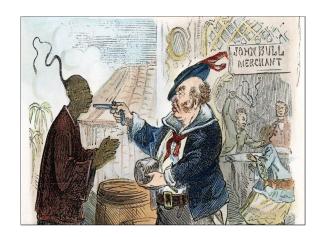
The conflict in Ukraine has made some question the trade and peace theory. Why? What are some limitations of the trade and peace theory?

Commodore Perry in Japan (1854)



Source: The Diplomat

The Opium Wars (1839-1842)



Source: TRT World

TikTok in the US (2023)



Source: USA Today

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- 2 Best Practices: Small states between rising empires
- Ports of Contention Case Study: China, US and Small Island States

Mext Seminar: To Dos



Source: Fox News

Case: Prompt

A Chinese State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) is about to win a contract to upgrade an imaginary small island state's port. The United States (US) government opposes this deal. Before offering the bid, however, the president of this small island state invited representatives of the Chinese government and US government to her office to make their case for why the small island state should or should not offer the contract to the Chinese SOF.

Case: Teams

- China
- Small Island State
- USA

Case: Instructions

- Get in your teams
- Team China and US: list three reasons for your case. Be ready to defend those reasons!
- Team Small Island State: list and rank your country's top three priorities. Determine which of these priorities are negotiable.
- All Teams: Use the Baruah, Cave, Cheong readings!

Case: Reminder

- Please be respectful to your peers and the roles you are representing.
- There are no "winners."
- The objective of this case study is develop a greater understanding of small and larger states' perspectives in international relations.

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Case: Instructions (Part 2)

- Get in your teams
- Prepare (10 mins)
- Deliberate (15 mins)

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Mext Seminar: To Dos

Seminar Objectives: To Discuss

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Next Seminar (Mar. 28)

- Small States and Trade
 - ► Why are small states more open to international trade? What are the pros and cons of economic openness?

Have a great weekend!