

# 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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- **Part 2: Empires of the present (today)**

# 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

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

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## 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?

# TV Paul's Argument

- Limited power competition
- Economic globalization

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# TV Paul's Argument

- Limited power competition
- **Economic globalization**

## Trade and Peace Theory

“Peace is the natural effect of trade.” - Montesquieu

# 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)**

## Self-Reflection

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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The image is a screenshot of a Fox News website article. At the top left is the Fox News logo with the time '9:38 AM'. The top navigation bar includes categories like 'U.S.', 'Politics', 'World', 'Opinion', 'Media', 'Entertainment', 'Sports', 'Lifestyle', 'Video', and 'More'. There are 'Login' and 'Watch TV' buttons on the right. Below the navigation bar, trending topics 'TRUMP', 'PALTROW TRIAL', and 'SVB COLLAPSE' are listed. The article's publication information is 'CHINA · Published March 22, 2023 5:38pm EDT'. The main headline is 'China secures another South Pacific win in Solomon Islands port bid'. Below the headline is a sub-headline: 'China wins infrastructure bid in what experts say is Beijing's strategy to gain influence'. The author is 'By Caitlin McFall | Fox News'. There are social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Email. A video player is partially visible at the bottom left, and a 'USFL KICKING OFF' graphic is on the right.

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CHINA · Published March 22, 2023 5:38pm EDT

# China secures another South Pacific win in Solomon Islands port bid

China wins infrastructure bid in what experts say is Beijing's strategy to gain influence

By Caitlin McFall | Fox News

f t y e

USFL  
KICKING OFF

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 SOE.

# 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)

# Case: Prompt

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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!