

CHARACTERISTICS OF A “STATE” (AND FAILED STATES)

A “State” is a body of people, in a defined territory, with a government, and with the power to make and enforce law without the consent of a higher authority.

Population

A State needs at least
some people.

Territory

A state needs to have known and recognized boundaries.

Government

A state needs to have a
government

Sovereignty

A state needs to have “supreme and absolute power within its own territory and can decide its own foreign and domestic policies.

BUT....

What about the United Nations
or the World Trade
Organization?

Examples of a **sovereignty
bargain**: the U.S. has
voluntarily traded sovereignty
for benefits of membership.

- ⦿ Are these sovereignty bargains smart for the United States?
- ⦿ Pakistan, China, and North Korea claim we don't honor their "sovereignty" on issues of religious freedom, human rights, etc. Should we honor other countries' sovereignty more? Or not?

Does Ohio have all
four characteristics
of a state?

No, Ohio lacks Sovereignty

Failed States:

States that have lost control and cannot effectively maintain order or security.

“Robert Gates, America’s defence secretary, says ‘fractured or failing states’ are ‘the main security challenge of our time.’ The term now extends beyond the poor world: American officials have applied it to the Italian region of Calabria.” The Economist, Mar. 2011

Anarchy's anatomy

Failed states, 2010

| Country (<i>Population, m</i>) | Failed states index, score* | Life expectancy, years | Symptoms |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Somalia (9.4) | 114.3 | 51.5 | Anarchy, civil war, piracy |
| Chad (11.5) | 113.3 | 50.0 | Desertification, destitution, meddling neighbours |
| Sudan (43.2) | 111.8 | 59.8 | Ethnic, religious strife, illiteracy, tyranny |
| Zimbabwe (12.6) | 110.2 | 50.4 | Economic collapse, kleptocracy, oppression |
| Congo (67.8) | 109.9 | 48.8 | Civil war, massacres, mass rape, looting |
| Afghanistan (29.1) | 109.3 | 45.5 | Civil war, drugs, no infrastructure, terrorism |
| Iraq (31.5) | 107.3 | 70.2 | Ruined infrastructure, sectarian strife, terrorism |
| Central African Republic (4.5) | 106.4 | 48.6 | Desertification, destitution, disease, terrorism |
| Guinea (10.3) | 105.0 | 60.1 | Destitution, drugs, kleptocracy |
| Pakistan (184.8) | 102.5 | 68.0 | Coups, drugs, illiteracy, terrorism |
| Haiti (10.2) | 101.6 | 62.1 | Deforestation, destitution, crime |
| Côte d'Ivoire (21.6) | 101.2 | 59.6 | Incipient civil war, post-election deadlock |

Sources: The Fund for Peace, *Foreign Policy*; UN; *The Economist*

*Out of a potential 120, based on 12 indicators

Zimbabwe during recent cholera epidemic



2011 England Riots



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