

Small State Agency

About

The three main criteria used in the study of small states are the quantitative criteria, the qualitative criteria, and the relational criteria. To first analyze with objectivity the Georgian case we need to optimally use a relational criteria to determine the smallness of Georgia by considering its relative influence, "weight," and power compared to other states, rather than its absolute quantifiable features. So, these relational criteria can make us focus on the state's position and behavior within the international system, taking into account its interactions and relationships with the other players on the international cross board.

For example, a state may be considered small in one policy area but large in another, depending on its relevant capacities in a particular negotiation setting. By using relational criteria, the regional position of Georgia matters in determining their classification as small states, which can vary depending on the context and the specific region they belong to. Many common measurements of size, such as population, are inadequate indicators of a state's smallness due to the complexity of a state's characteristics, the problems with finding objective cut-off points, and the fact that some states that are small in

one metric, such as population, are large in others, such as economy or military power. When discussing certain roles that small states can take in the international arena, the range of small states functional capabilities is limited to acting as a buffer zone, diplomatic mediator, barrier state, geopolitical gateway, or periphery.

The size and capability of the armed forces, the size and capability of the entire security sector of the state, and the size of the defense budget – both in real money and as a percentage of GDP – will determine whether the state should be viewed as "small" from the perspective of security and defense. Some authors emphasize the importance of perception, thereby using the qualitative criteria and stating that the small state is the one that perceives itself as small, and is perceived as small by others.

The research for Georgia Team will use these three criteria's, creating cross-fertilization between them to offer the most objective approach for defining Georgia because it connects small state behavior to the international system and the state's relative position within it assessing a state's "smallness" based on its comparative power and influence within a specific context, relying on fixed quantitative measurements acknowledging that a state's size and power can vary depending on the relationships and dynamics within its region and the international system as a whole by considering the state's position relative to others, providing a more nuanced and context-specific definition of smallness, on quantitative factors considering factors such as population, land area, economic power, and military power.

We emphasize once again that we will not neglect any of the three criterias, because the main objection to the use of exclusively a certain criteria for defining small states is that they produce too many exceptions. For example, a state with a small population and limited economic resources may be considered small in relation to its larger and more powerful neighbors. The classification of small states can vary depending on the specific criteria used. There is no universally accepted definition of a "small state." The classification of small states can be used to study the behavior and characteristics of these states.

For example, Quantitative criteria, such as population and GDP, are often used to define small states. However, these criteria can be misleading because they do not take into account other factors that may make a state small, such as its military power, its geographic location, or its economic dependence on other countries. Similarly, a state with a large population may be considered small if it is located in a remote area or has a weak economy.

First, quantitative criteria can be arbitrary. For example, should a state with a population of 1 million be considered small? What about a state with a population of 5 million? Second, quantitative criteria can be misleading. A state with a small population may have a large economy, or a state with a large population may have a weak military. Using population as the sole determinant of a state's smallness has the following limitations: size does not always correlate with other measures of state size so population size can be misleading.

A state with a large population may be divided into many different ethnic or religious groups, which can make it difficult for the government to maintain control and population size can change over time.

A state with a small population may experience a rapid population growth, which can make it difficult for the government to provide for its citizens. Population size is not the only factor that determines a state's power. Other factors, such as economic strength, military strength, and diplomatic alliances, also play a role. The criterias can change over time. A state that was once considered small may become large due to population growth or economic development.

Determining the exact number of small states in the world is challenging due to the following factors: Lack of a universally accepted definition - There is no clear consensus on what constitutes a small state, leading to different classifications and varying counts. Use of arbitrary cut-offs - Researchers often rely on arbitrary thresholds for population, land area, or economic indicators to define small states, which can be subjective and lead to inconsistent results. Difficulty in measuring power and influence - Determining the power and influence of states is complex and can be influenced by various factors, making it challenging to establish a clear dividing line between small and non-small states. Contextual factors — The concept of smallness can vary depending on the specific region or issue area being considered, further complicating the task of identifying small states globally. Overlapping categories: Some states

may fall into multiple categories, such as microstates or ministates, making it difficult to determine their exact status as small states.

By knowing these factors, we can link that Georgia will be more efficient and effective in providing public goods and services than larger states. Smaller states generally have fewer civil servants and simpler processes, which leads to greater efficiency in public management; Greater community participation: In smaller states like Georgia, the population tends to be more engaged in political and social life, which can lead to better governance; Greater flexibility: smaller states can adapt more easily to the changing needs of the population and the market.

Georgia, a state with around 10 million inhabitants, can be cited as an example of a small agency positive case-study. The state must continue to implement several policies aimed at reducing the size and scope of government, such as privatizations, as the management of highways, prisons and schools, tax cuts and deregulation of various laws in order to reduce the cost of doing business in the state.
