

## The concept of Sovereignty

- Westphalian Sovereignty (two main characteristics)
  - Internal capacity to govern
    - § Provide taxes, provide services
    - § If you don't have control, it's hard to say you have Westphalian sovereignty
  - International Recognition
    - § Having a seat at the UN
- Fragile States
  - Example: Ukraine recently
  - A loss of physical control over territory/monopoly on legitimate use of force
  - Erosion of authority to make collective decisions
  - Can't provide reasonable public services
  - Also can't interact with other states as a member of the international community
- Hong Kong, Puerto Rico, and Palestine, are some examples of places with less self-governance
- Sovereignty can also be seen as responsibility
- **Scholars usually consider sovereignty as the primary building block of international relations**

## **What are Great Powers?**

- Great Power: a state that can project its power across the globe
  - Can also have interests around the world, not just the immediate neighbourhood

- Regional Power: (Mini Great Power) a state that can project power within its own region
- Middle Power: projects power in a little niche like global climate relations, human security, etc.
  - States usually take on these themselves (Canada – 1990 Human Security??, Norway, Japan, even South Africa)
- Small Power: everybody else that has limited capacity to project powers
- The US structures and shapes the powers that everybody else has to live in

### **Power Resources**

- Military
- Economic
- Geography
- Population
- Resources
- Poli.Culture
- Education/Knowledge Base
- Technology
- Alliances
- Empires

### **Great Powers through time**

- Post WWII
  - States that are considered victors in the war (left over from the 19<sup>th</sup> century). France, UK, Russia etc.
  - France, UK, etc had the material (maybe) but were too tired out from the war to project any of it.

- The US had the material power to project globally, but don't always desire to project it
- China grows from the Communist party establishment
- The superpowers & the Cold war
  - During the cold War, superpowers rose
  - Economic Powers, Space Race
- The rise of China

### **America's Global Power Journey**

- USA should look out for itself in global politics, be careful to not make serious enemies, and not make lifelong friends that you become beholden to. Comes after a dispute with France.
- "It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world" (1796) Washington
- Timeline:
  - 1898: War with Spain but USA acquires colonies outside of the continent
  - 1917: Intervenes in WWI but returns to isolation (from Europe)
    - § Stayed in
  - 1941: Intervenes in WWII because Hawaii was attacked (Pearl Harbour)
  - Undisputed Global Economic Leader
- US Spends More on Defense than next 9 countries combined (916 Billion)
  - Humans in Arms/Military Manpower, air craft carriers (11 right now, leading), Estimated Nuclear Warhead Inventories, Hard Power Alliances

- American Hard Power:

- Lending & Aid

- § Lent \$13B, would cost over \$200B today

- Currency

- § American Dollar has remained dominant in global currency – other states trust in its stability, that it will pay its debt's, etc

- § USA can:

- Block actors from accessing the dollar network
      - Freeze assets held in American banks
      - Block access of foreign banks to US System (if they do business w/ someone the USA don't like)

- Market Power

- § Direct MP: granting access to your trading system through tariffs, Free-trade agreements, or even blocking access

- § Indirect MP: blocking ways to sell products on the market

- Canada is very dependent on trade w/ USA (the largest trading partner for goods/services)

- § Export Controls: Semiconductors

- CHIPS Act (2022) & other export controls on advanced computing tech to China
      - Foreign countries require a licence to use American tools to produce certain chips for sale to China

## § Market Access: IRA (Inflation reduction act) 2022

- Not just about inflation reduction!
- Incentives to domestic firms shape costs for free forms
- Designed to support American dominance
- Under IRA, you could claim up to \$4000

### ○ American Authority

§ Authority = Power + Legitimacy

§ Structural power leads to authority