

State Death in the International System

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State Death

- Research Question
 - Under what conditions do states die?
 - Why do some states die, but not others?
- Motivation
 - Neorealist's perspective
 - State's goal: security (survival)
 - There are no systematic studies on state death

Main Hypothesis

- Hypothesis 1: Buffer states will be more likely to die than nonbuffer states
 - Effect (dependent variable): State death
 - The formal loss of foreign policymaking power to another state
 - Cause (independent variable): Buffer state
 - State caught between two rivals
- Existing and prevailing belief about the relationship between buffer state and survival
 - Great powers have an interest in preserving buffer states
 - Ex: Hans J. Morgenthau, Kenneth Waltz (defensive realist)'s Balance of Power
- Author's reasoning

Two Rivals' Strategies

- States: A, B
- Possible Action: Invade (I), Not Invade (NI)
- Possible combinations of outcome
 - (1) I,I, (2) I,NI, (3) NI,I, (4) NI,NI
- Preference Ordering:
 - For A: (I,NI) > (NI,NI) > (I,I) > (NI,I)
 - 4 3 2 1
 - For B: (NI,I) > (NI,NI) > (I,I) > (I,NI)
 - 4 3 2 1

		B	
		I	NI
A	I	(2,2)	(4,1)
	NI	(1,4)	(3,3)

Alternative Hypotheses

- Power
- Hypothesis 2: **Weaker states** will be more likely to **die** than more powerful states
- Alliance
- Hypothesis 3a: **Unallied states** are more likely to **die** than allied states
- Hypothesis 3b: **Allied states** are more likely to **die** than unallied states
- Hypothesis 3c: The effect of **alliances** on **state survival** will be indeterminate

State Death (Dependent Variable)

Definition

- Formal loss of foreign policymaking power to another state (p. 318)

Measure

- Conquest
- Prolonged military occupation
- (Re)Unification
- Dissolution

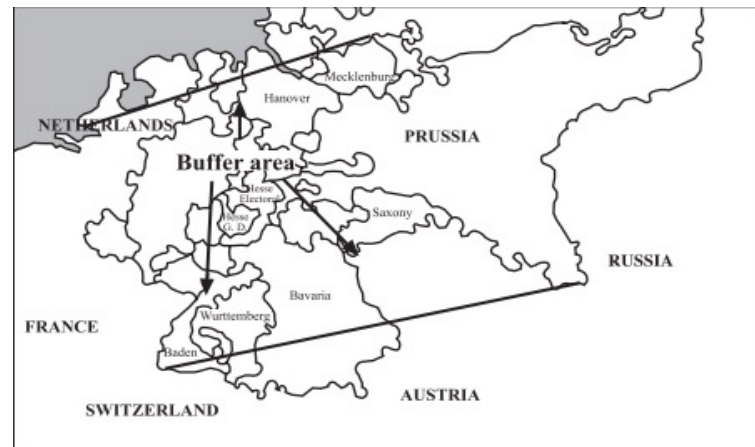
Buffer State (Main Independent Variable)

Definition

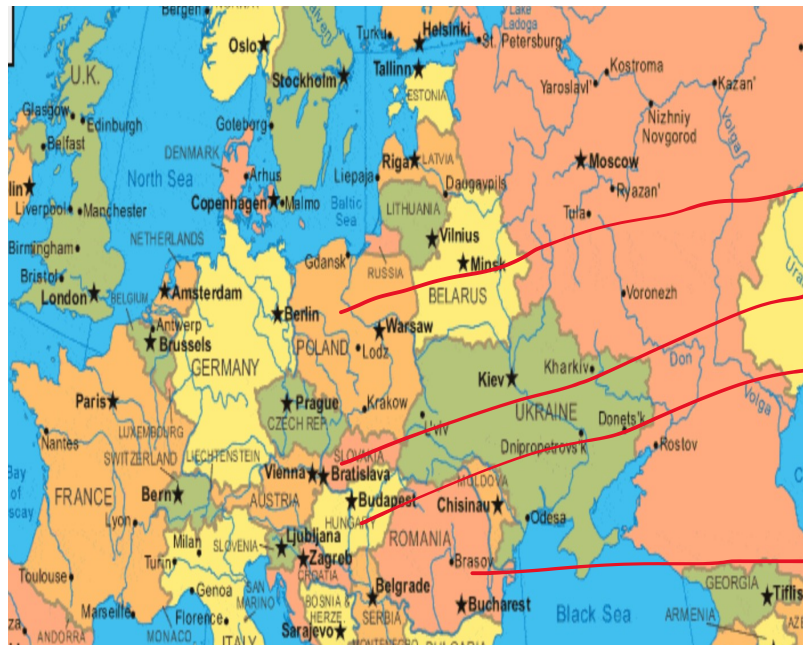
- A state geographically located between two other states engaged in a rivalry unless the rivals are separated by an ocean (p. 322)

Measure

- Direct border sharing (Minimal)
- No direct border sharing



Application to current Ukraine situation?



Ukraine's neighboring states

<i>Buffer state</i>	<i>Years as buffer</i>	<i>Associated rivalries</i>
Poland	1919–34 1945–92	UK-USSR UK-Turkey UK-Iraq
Czechoslovakia	1918–39 1945–92	UK-Russia (USSR) UK-Turkey
Hungary	1919–92	UK-Russia (USSR)
Romania	1878–1985	UK-Russia (USSR)

Empirical Results: Large-N statistical results

Expected results (Table 3)

Hypothesis 1: Buffer states will be more likely to die than nonbuffer states

Hypothesis 2: Weaker states will be more likely to die than more powerful states

=> Powerful states will be less likely to die than weaker states

Hypothesis 3c: The effect of alliances on state survival will be indeterminate

Variable	Hazard ratio should be
BUFFER STATE	Greater than 1
POWER	Less than 1
ALLIANCES	?
POST-1945	Less than 1

Actual results (Table 4)

Variable	Violent state deaths	All state deaths
BUFFER STATE	2.44**	3.14*** >1
POST-45	.06***	.18*** <1
LOG OF POWER	.88	.83** <1
ALLIANCE INDICATOR	.96	1.28 >1

Empirical Results: Cases

Poland

- State death (Y/N?)
- Buffer state status (Y/N?)



Dominican Republic

- State death (Y/N?)
- Buffer state status (Y/N?)

Empirical Results: Cases

State	Buffer state status (Y/N)	State death (Y/N)
Poland	Y	Y
Dominican Republic	N	Y

- To show whether the claim (hypothesis 1) is supported based on the case study, one needs to show
 - (1) when a state is a buffer state, it dies
 - (2) when a state is not a buffer state, it does not die

Case Study Design Issue

4.3.1 *Selection on the Dependent Variable*

Random selection with a large- n allows us to ignore the relationship between the selection criteria and other variables in our analysis. Once we move away from random selection, we should consider how the criteria used relate to each variable. That brings us to a basic and obvious rule: selection should allow for the possibility of at least some variation on the dependent variable. This point seems so obvious that we would think it hardly needs to be mentioned. How can we explain variations on a dependent variable if it does not vary? Unfortunately, the literature is full of work that makes just this mistake of failing to let the dependent variable vary; for example, research that tries to explain the outbreak of war with studies only of wars, the onset of revolutions with studies only of revolutions, or patterns of voter turnout with interviews only of nonvoters.⁶

What Would You Do Differently?