

might well escape jurisdiction altogether.⁸⁸² The issue of the degree of activity required, in particular the degree of solicitation necessary to constitute doing business by a foreign corporation, was much disputed and led to very particularistic holdings.⁸⁸³ In the absence of enough activity to constitute doing business, the mere presence within its territorial limits of an agent, officer, or stockholder, upon whom service might readily be had, was not effective to enable a state to acquire jurisdiction over the foreign corporation.⁸⁸⁴

The touchstone in jurisdiction cases was recast by *International Shoe Co. v. Washington* and its “minimum contacts” analysis.⁸⁸⁵ *International Shoe*, an out-of-state corporation, had not been issued a license to do business in Washington State, but it systematically and continuously employed a sales force of Washington residents to solicit therein, and thus was held amenable to suit in Washington for unpaid unemployment compensation contributions for such salesmen. A notice of assessment was served personally upon one of the local sales solicitors, and a copy of the assessment was sent by registered mail to the corporation’s principal office in Missouri, and this was deemed sufficient to apprise the corporation of the proceeding.

To reach this conclusion, the Court not only overturned prior holdings that mere solicitation of business does not constitute a sufficient contact to subject a foreign corporation to a state’s jurisdiction,⁸⁸⁶ but also rejected the “presence” test as begging the question to be decided. “The terms ‘present’ or ‘presence,’” according to Chief Justice Stone, “are used merely to symbolize those activities of the corporation’s agent within the State which courts will deem to be sufficient to satisfy the demands of due process. . . . Those demands may be met by such contacts of the corporation with the

⁸⁸² *Robert Mitchell Furn. Co. v. Selden Breck Constr. Co.*, 257 U.S. 213 (1921); *Chipman, Ltd. v. Thomas B. Jeffery Co.*, 251 U.S. 373, 379 (1920). Jurisdiction would continue, however, if a state had conditioned doing business on a firm’s agreeing to accept service through state officers should it and its agent withdraw. *Washington ex rel. Bond & Goodwin & Tucker v. Superior Court*, 289 U.S. 361, 364 (1933).

⁸⁸³ Solicitation of business alone was inadequate to constitute “doing business,” *Green v. Chicago, B. & Q. Ry.*, 205 U.S. 530 (1907), but when connected with other activities would suffice to confer jurisdiction. *International Harvester Co. v. Kentucky*, 234 U.S. 579 (1914). See the survey of cases by Judge Hand in *Hutchinson v. Chase and Gilbert*, 45 F.2d 139, 141–42 (2d Cir. 1930).

⁸⁸⁴ *E.g.*, *Goldey v. Morning News*, 156 U.S. 518 (1895); *Conley v. Mathieson Alkali Works*, 190 U.S. 406 (1903); *Riverside Mills v. Menefee*, 237 U.S. 189, 195 (1915). But see *Connecticut Mut. Life Ins. Co. v. Spratley*, 172 U.S. 602 (1899).

⁸⁸⁵ 326 U.S. 310 (1945).

⁸⁸⁶ This departure was recognized by Justice Rutledge subsequently in *Nippert v. City of Richmond*, 327 U.S. 416, 422 (1946). Because *International Shoe*, in addition to having its agents solicit orders, also permitted them to rent quarters for the display of merchandise, the Court could have used *International Harvester Co. v. Kentucky*, 234 U.S. 579 (1914), to find it was “present” in the state.