Another issue that is often at play in territorial disputes is the extent to which either or both states previously exerted control over the contested territory. Claims often emerge when a challenger state (or an identity group that make up the bulk of its population) wish to reclaim territory that they previously controlled. This frequently occurs when territory has changed hands between two states, when one obtains independence from the other, or when two contiguous states gained independence from colonial powers who poorly delimited their boundaries. In addition, claims based on historical sovereignty are often easier to justify to domestic and international actors and are therefore used to justify claims over other issues \citep{abramson2015}.

% At the domestic level, justifications rooted in historical ownership are more likely to be viewed favorably for three reasons. First, individuals are more likely to have personal ties to the territory in question. Second, it is easier for leaders to persuade audiences that territorial claims are closely related to national identity. Third

Explaining why issues emerge