

**Evaluate the extent to which small states
can influence international security
outcomes through military and
non-military means**

*Legitimacy as the Centre of Gravity in Small-State
Influence*

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1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

This chapter introduces the debate regarding how small states can influence international security outcomes. It defines what it means to be small state, explains why legitimacy emerges as the Centre of Gravity (COG) and explores how myths & national history shape strategic identity. This essay shall consider Ireland, Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Israel as ‘problem cases’ for the small state category. It employs a five-effects framework handrail throughout: niche specialisation; organisational agility; hybrid leverage; soft power synergy; legitimacy. This framework is intended to act as a boundary for the argument and to establish the following hypothesis: That small states are limited in their ability to dictate outcomes but may still shape them conditionally through legitimacy and institutional engagement.

1.2 Defining the Small State

The first task is to define what constitutes a small state.(Keohane 1969; Brooks and Stanley 2007; Biddle 1996)

1 Introduction

- Biddle, S. 1996. Victory misunderstood: what the gulf war tells us about the future of conflict. *International Security*, 21(2), pp. 139–179.
- Brooks, R. and Stanley, E. A. 2007. *Creating military power: The sources of military effectiveness*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.
- Keohane, R. O. 1969. Lilliputians' dilemmas: small states in international politics. *International Organization*, 23(2), pp. 291–310.

Reference List

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Glossary of Terms

Revolution in Military Affairs A hypothesised period of rapid change in warfare driven by the interaction of new technologies, organisations and concepts.

List of Acronyms

COG Centre of Gravity.

DPRK Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea.

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Ireland, 1	Organisational Agility, 1
	Soft Power Synergy, 1