



AP Human Geography

Indicators of Failed States

Name: _____


Section: _____

Score: ____/5

Directions: Read over each of the following indicators of a failed state and write a brief summary of each of the different factors.

Political and Military Indicators

State Legitimacy:



State Legitimacy

SL

Corruption and a lack of representativeness in the government directly undermine the social contract.

Includes pressures and measures related to:

- Corruption
- Government Effectiveness
- Political Participation
- Electoral Process
- Level of Democracy
- Illicit Economy
- Drug Trade
- Protests and Demonstrations
- Power Struggles

Public Services:



Public Services

PS

The provision of health, education, and sanitation services, among others, are key roles of the state.

Includes pressures and measures related to:

- Policing
- Criminality
- Education Provision
- Literacy
- Water & Sanitation
- Infrastructure
- Quality Healthcare
- Telephony
- Internet Access
- Energy Reliability
- Roads

Human Rights and Rule of Law:



Human Rights and Rule of Law

HR

When human rights are violated or unevenly protected, the state is failing in its ultimate responsibility.

Includes pressures and measures related to:

- Press Freedom
- Civil Liberties
- Political Freedoms
- Human Trafficking
- Political Prisoners
- Incarceration
- Religious Persecution
- Torture
- Executions

Security Apparatus:



Security Apparatus

SEC

The security apparatus should have a monopoly on the use of legitimate force. The social contract is weakened where this is affected by competing groups.

Includes pressures and measures related to:

- Internal Conflict
- Small Arms Proliferation
- Riots and Protests
- Fatalities from Conflict
- Military Coups
- Rebel Activity
- Militancy
- Bombings
- Political Prisoners

Factionalized Elites:



Factionalized Elites


FE

When local and national leaders engage in deadlock and brinkmanship for political gain, this undermines the social contract.

Includes pressures and measures related to:

- Power Struggles
- Defectors
- Flawed Elections
- Political Competition

External Intervention:



External Intervention

EXT


When the state fails to meet its international or domestic obligations, external actors may intervene to provide services or to manipulate internal affairs.

Includes pressures and measures related to:

- Foreign Assistance
- Presence of Peacekeepers
- Presence of UN Missions
- Foreign Military Intervention
- Sanctions
- Credit Rating

Social Indicators

Demographic Pressure:


 **Demographic Pressures** **DP**

Pressures on the population such as disease and natural disasters make it difficult for the government to protect its citizens or demonstrate a lack of capacity or will.

Includes pressures and measures related to:

- Natural Disasters
- Disease
- Environment
- Pollution
- Food Scarcity
- Malnutrition
- Water Scarcity
- Population Growth
- Youth Bulge
- Mortality

Refugees and IDPs:


 **Refugees and IDPs** **REF**

Pressures associated with population displacement. This strains public services and has the potential to pose a security threat.

Includes pressures and measures related to:

- Displacement
- Refugee Camps
- IDP Camps
- Disease related to Displacement
- Refugees per capita
- IDPs per capita
- Absorption capacity

Group Grievance:


 **Group Grievance** **GG**

When tension and violence exists between groups, the state's ability to provide security is undermined and fear and further violence may ensue.

Includes pressures and measures related to:

- Discrimination
- Powerlessness
- Ethnic Violence
- Communal Violence
- Sectarian Violence
- Religious Violence

Human Flight and Brain Drain:

 **Human Flight and Brain Drain** **HF**


When there is little opportunity, people migrate, leaving a vacuum of human capital. Those with resources also often leave before, or just as, conflict erupts.

Includes pressures and measures related to:

- Migration per capita
- Human Capital
- Emigration of Educated Population

Economic Indicators

Uneven Economic Development:


 **Uneven Economic Development** **UED**

When there are ethnic, religious, or regional disparities, the governed tend to be uneven in their commitment to the social contract.

Includes pressures and measures related to:

- GINI Coefficient
- Income Share of Highest 10%
- Income Share of Lowest 10%
- Urban-Rural Service Distribution
- Access to Improved Services
- Slum Population

Poverty and Economic Decline:

 **Poverty and Economic Decline** **ECO**

Poverty and economic decline strain the ability of the state to provide for its citizens if they cannot provide for themselves and can create friction between the "haves" and the "have nots".

Includes pressures and measures related to:

- Economic Deficit
- Government Debt
- Unemployment
- Youth Employment
- Purchasing Power
- GDP per capita
- GDP Growth
- Inflation

Thought Question:

1. Which factor do you think would have the largest impact on creating a failed state? Explain your answer.