Shapes of States

Their Advantages and Disadvantages
Elongated State

• State that is geographically long and relatively narrow

• Major Disadvantage:
  • Difficult to defend, govern, and communicate with
  • Transportation fairly simple
  • Cultural variations typical
Elongated State Example
Compact State

• The distance from the geographic center of the state to any of the borders does not vary greatly

• Major Advantage:
  • Easier for defense and communication
  • Transportation fairly simple
  • Easier cultural uniformity
Compact State Example
Fragmented State

- States that are divided from their other parts by either land or other states

- Major Advantage:
  - More difficult to invade
  - Allows for more cultural diversity
  - Access to varied resources

- Major Disadvantage:
  - More difficult to defend
  - More difficult to unify culturally and politically
Fragmented State Example
Perforated State

• A state that completely surrounds another state

• Major Advantage:
  • Able to dictate actions of enclosed state more easily

• Major Disadvantage:
  • Can lead to internal tension and problems with enclosed state
Perforated State Example
Prorupt State

- States that have one portion that is much more elongated than the rest of the state
  - Typically to gain access to some resource or trading route

- Major Advantage:
  - Access to resources and trade not as dependent on neighbors

- Major Disadvantage:
  - Fairly easy to cut off by invading states
Prorupt State Example
Microstate

- State that is extremely small

- Major Advantage:
  - Typically extremely homogenous cultural communities

- Major Disadvantages:
  - Easy to take over
Microstate Example
Landlocked State

• A state that is completely inland with no direct access to the ocean

• Major Disadvantage:
  • Reliant on neighbors for majority of international trade
  • Dependent on land based agriculture
Landlocked State Example