Small States in the Post-Cold War Global World

Lecturer: Mark Eaton
Exam: 7-day home assignment

Schedule:

- Week 31 (Monday, 09:00-13:00; Tuesday-Thursday, 09:00-11:00)
- Week 32 (Monday, 09:00-13:00; Tuesday-Thursday, 09:00-11:00)
- Week 33 (Monday-Tuesday, 09:00-13:00; Wednesday, 09:00-11:00)

This course will provide a general knowledge about the characteristics of small states in the post-Cold War international system. It will focus on the foreign and security policies of small states, and the challenges they face in an increasingly interdependent and globalized world.

The course will first examine the different theoretical approaches to small states’ security, and explain what is meant by the terms and concepts used by IR scholars working in this field. Next we will discuss and debate the various definitions of the ‘small state’ category. However, the bulk of the course will examine many aspects of the foreign and security policies of small states, including (but not limited to) the factors that influence their international behaviour. Of course, these include obvious traditional security and military factors, such as the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, the subsequent period of American hegemony, and internal and external threats to national security. However, the foreign and security policies of small states are also affected by the economic, political, social, cultural and environmental effects of globalization.

The course ends with a comparative analysis of Denmark and Canada. The foreign and security policies of the two countries, and the factors that influence these policies, will be compared and contrasted. Although the two countries are admittedly influential small states, they are by no means great powers, and they face many of the same challenges confronted by small states in general. Their relative smallness becomes more apparent when compared on a variety of indicators with their large southern neighbours, Germany and the United States. When it comes to security, economic and environmental policies, the influence of larger states, and the structure of the international system, limits the ability of both states to formulate strictly independent policies. Thus, the concluding part of the course will provide concrete illustrations of the place and roles of two influential small states in international institutions and politics.

Required Texts (available at Politologisk Bogformidling):


3. Reading compendium
* When possible we will also incorporate some multimedia (for example, documentaries, WWW content) into our meetings.

Course Activities:

Our weekly meetings will combine class-wide discussions about the themes and issues covered in the readings, as well as group presentations. These activities are outlined briefly here:

1. Presentation (group): You will participate in a group presentation (approx. 15-20 minutes) on a theme covered in one of the weekly sessions. The group and instructor will agree on a topic in advance.
2. Participation: I will seek to facilitate your preparation for our weekly meetings by sending out questions to guide our discussions, as well as information regarding which readings you should emphasize in your preparation.
3. Media Reviews: Occasionally you may be asked to do a short media review for material related to course themes (again, to facilitate discussions).

Readings:

Session 1:

Topic: Introduction to course
No readings

Session 2:

Topic: Small States and International Relations
Small States in International Relations, Keohane, “Lilliputians’ Dilemmas,” 55-76.


Session 3:

Topic: Defining ‘Small States’
Small States in International Relations, 4-9, 55-61

Session 4:

Topic: Foreign Policies of Small States
Small States in World Politics: Explaining Foreign Policy Behaviour, Introduction
Small States in International Relations, Vital, 77-88


Session 5:

Topic: Small States, Alliances and Collective Security
Small States in International Relations, Reiter, 231-272


Session 6:

Topic: Neutrality: Cold War and After
Small States in World Politics: Explaining Foreign Policy Behaviour, Ch. 6


Session 7:

Topic: Small States and International Security

Session 8:
Topic: Small State – Great Power Relations
Small States in International Relations, Baker Fox, 39-54; Handel, 149-192


Session 9:
Topic: Small States and International Institutions
Small States in International Relations, Ingebritsen, 273-285


Session 10:
Topic: Small States in the European Union
Small States in International Relations, Thorhallsson, 218-227


Session 11:
Topic: Small States in the Developing World
Small States in World Politics: Explaining Foreign Policy Behaviour, Chs. 2-4

Suggested reading: *Small States in World Politics: Explaining Foreign Policy Behaviour*, Chs. 7-9

### Session 12:

**Topic:** Small Island Developing States (SIDS)


### Session 13:

**Topic:** Small States and Globalization


### Session 14:

**Topic:** Danish Foreign Policy (compared and contrasted with Canada)


Compendium: Tonra, “Danish Foreign Policy”, and “The Foreign Policies of the Netherlands, Denmark and Ireland,” in *The Europeanization of National Foreign Policy: Dutch, Danish and Irish Foreign Policy in the EU* (Ashgate, 2001): 127-139

### Session 15:

**Topic:** Conclusions

*Small States in World Politics: Explaining Foreign Policy Behaviour*, Ch. 10
*Small States in International Relations*, Ingebritsen, 286-292