

FRAGILE STATES

NATION-STATES

- Our 21st century world is viewed through the lenses of the nation-state system
 - 193 Nation States Members of the UN
 - Each of these are considered independent, have specific territorial borders and their own “citizen populations”

Are all Nation-States the same?

What can we compare?

COMPARISONS OF STATES

Government

Economy

Geography

“STRONG NATIONS”

- Developed nations as we described in the Wealth of Nations are usually seen as the “strongest” nations
- What are some examples of “strong nations” that you can think of?



FRAGILE STATES

- Some of the other nation-states have been described as fragile
 - Fragile meaning – easily broken or damaged; very delicate; not strong
- Nation-states are not permanent.
 - Because they exist today does not guarantee they will exist tomorrow

What is a fragile state?

**Can you suggest some of the nation states
you think are in trouble?**


What specific nation states are at risk?

WHO DECIDES WHO THE FRAGILE STATES ARE?


- The Fund for Peace produced The Fragile States Index
 - Highlighting pressures that all states experience
 - Uses a ranking system out of 10 with 12 different categories
 - 3 different indicators of state fragility
 - Social
 - Economic
 - Political
- Why do we need to know which states are failing?



TOP 10 MOST FRAGILE STATES

Sort by Indicator: Hover your mouse at the top of the column you wish to sort and click the sort button: 



Country	Rank		SA	FE	GG	EC	UD	HF	SL	PS	HR	DP	RD	EX
South Sudan	1st	113.9	10.0	9.7	9.7	10.0	8.9	6.4	10.0	10.0	9.5	9.9	10.0	9.8
Somalia	2nd	113.4	9.4	10.0	8.9	8.9	9.3	9.8	9.3	9.0	9.5	10.0	10.0	9.3
Central African Republic	3rd	112.6	9.0	9.7	9.1	9.1	10.0	7.5	9.7	10.0	9.7	9.0	10.0	9.8
Yemen	4th	111.1	9.8	9.5	9.3	9.3	8.2	7.3	9.7	9.6	9.7	9.3	9.4	10.0
Sudan	5th	110.6	9.0	9.7	10.0	8.5	7.4	8.9	9.8	8.9	9.6	9.3	9.8	9.7
Syria	5th	110.6	9.8	9.9	9.8	8.1	7.7	8.4	9.9	9.2	9.8	8.2	9.8	10.0
Congo Democratic Republic	7th	110.0	9.0	9.8	10.0	8.4	8.4	6.6	9.6	9.5	9.8	9.4	10.0	9.5
Chad	8th	109.4	9.4	9.8	8.0	8.5	9.1	8.8	9.1	9.7	9.1	10.0	9.6	8.3
Afghanistan	9th	107.3	10.0	8.6	8.4	8.3	7.5	8.2	9.1	9.9	8.5	9.3	9.8	9.7
Iraq	10th	105.4	10.0	9.6	9.6	6.6	7.3	7.7	9.5	8.2	8.7	8.6	9.9	9.7

TOP 10 LEAST FRAGILE STATES

- Are they problem free?

Canada	169th	22.6	2.2	2.5	3.4	1.8	2.5	1.7	1.0	1.5	1.3	1.9	1.8	1.0
New Zealand	170th	22.6	1.2	1.4	3.6	3.6	2.3	2.1	0.9	1.4	1.0	2.1	1.8	1.2
Iceland	171st	22.5	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.3	1.1	2.8	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.6	2.0	4.1
Australia	172nd	22.3	2.1	1.7	3.9	1.7	2.2	1.3	1.0	1.5	2.3	1.3	2.3	1.0
Ireland	172nd	22.3	2.1	1.5	1.4	3.4	2.2	2.8	1.0	1.4	1.4	1.7	2.0	1.4
Sweden	174th	22.1	2.1	1.8	1.5	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.0	1.1	1.1	2.0	5.3	1.1
Denmark	175th	21.5	1.7	1.4	4.4	2.0	1.6	1.9	0.9	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.1	1.0
Switzerland	176th	21.1	1.1	1.0	3.6	2.3	2.2	2.1	1.0	1.0	1.8	1.5	2.5	1.0
Norway	177th	20.5	2.0	1.1	3.6	2.2	1.5	1.6	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.5	2.8	1.3
Finland	178th	18.7	1.7	1.1	1.8	3.5	1.0	2.3	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	2.3	1.0

#178 FINLAND

- Least fragile of all states
- Incredibly high levels of human development
- Large investment in education
- Respect for human rights
- Excellent provision of public services



12 MAIN FACTORS

1) Demographic Pressures

Can the people of the state physically live and thrive within the nation's territory?



2) Refugees and IDPs

Are there conditions within the state that prohibits or that keeps its people from living in a permanent and secure location within the borders of the state?

Has the flow of refugees affected the availability of public services?

3) Group Grievance

Can different communities within the states' population live, work, and contribute in a fair way? Can they coexist?



4) Human Flight & Brain Drain

Have the wealthy and talented created an imbalanced society?

Do citizens feel that they have adequate educational and economic opportunities within their country?

Those with resources and talents leave the nation-state poorer and with less potential to succeed.

5) Uneven Economic Development

A small percentage of the population enjoys great wealth, but many are left poor.

Does the "state" have a solid and fair economic base? Are there enough employment options for the majority of the population? Does the country have enough wealth to provide for the poor?



6) Poverty & Economic Decline

Is the government solvent? Does it have enough funding to provide essential services for its people? Can the average person earn enough to cover basic needs?



7) State Legitimacy

Is the government a representative government or is the power of the nation-state in the hands of a few elite rulers? Are the government's practices and policies corrupt?



8) Security Apparatus

Are the citizens of the country protected by a central security apparatus, or are they vulnerable to many dangers presented by internal conflicts, military coups, the use of dangerous weapons, or through the actions of external powers?



9) Public Services

Is the nation-state able to provide health, educational, and sanitation services for its population?

Has it been able to construct a viable physical infrastructure? (roads, energy, internet access, etc.)



10) Factionalized Elites

Is there internal political conflict and competition within the state that threatens its stability?



11) Human Rights

Are the basic freedoms of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights realized within the state?

12) External Intervention

Is an external power (other nation-state or non-state actor such as ISIS) threatening the well-being and sovereignty of a state's population or territorial borders?



South Sudan

