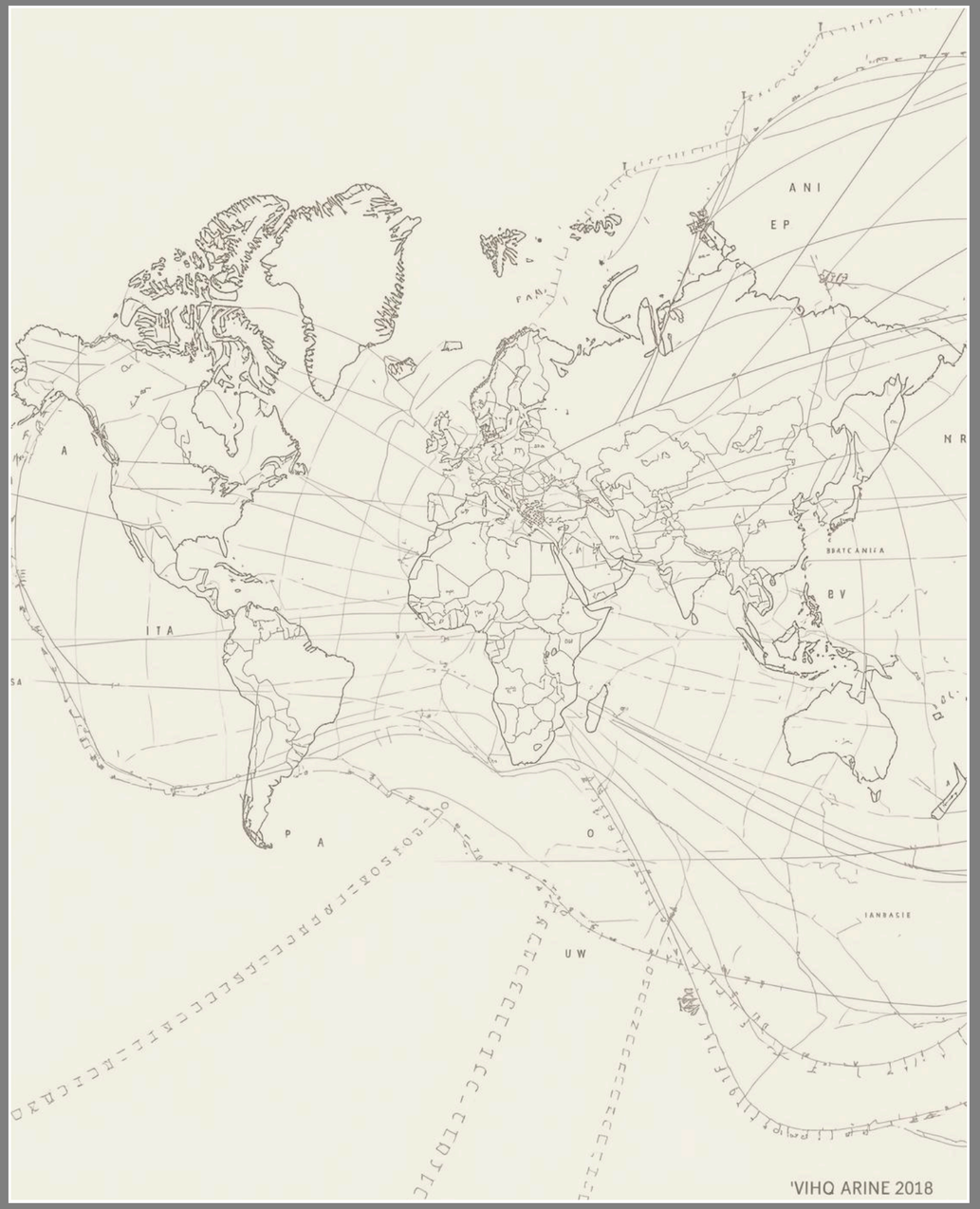


International Law

State Territorial Sovereignty

Name: Abdullah Nasir
Roll No: 1164

November 18, 2025, 10:00 AM, [Location Here]

Presentation Overview

A structured examination of territorial sovereignty

Definition of Territorial Sovereignty

Core Principles of Territorial Sovereignty

Modes of Territorial Acquisition Explained

Airspace and Maritime Sovereignty Insights

Definition of Sovereignty

Sovereignty is the supreme and independent authority of a state to govern itself without any interference from external powers. It means a state has full control over its territory, people, laws, and decisions.

Key Points:

- Highest authority within the territory
- Freedom from external control
- Power to make laws and enforce them
- Recognized by other states

Core Principles

Key Foundations of Territorial Sovereignty

Territorial Integrity

Territorial integrity ensures that a state's borders remain **inviolable** and respected, preventing external interference or claims, thereby preserving national sovereignty and stability within its defined territory.

Non-use of Force

The principle of non-use of force prohibits states from using military power to alter territorial boundaries or assert claims, promoting **peaceful resolution** of disputes and international cooperation.

Effective Control

Effective control refers to a state's ability to exercise authority and governance over a territory, establishing its legitimacy and sovereignty through **consistent administration** and presence within that area.

Modes of Acquisition

Understanding how territory is obtained

Occupation

Occupation refers to the process where a state takes control over a territory uninhabited or under the domain of another state, establishing effective governance.

Prescription

Prescription involves acquiring territory through continuous and uncontested occupancy over a specified period, leading to legal recognition by other states under international law.

Cession

Cession occurs when territory is transferred from one state to another through formal agreement, often as a result of treaties or negotiations following conflicts.

Loss of Territory

Understanding how states lose control

Cession

Cession occurs when a state voluntarily transfers territory to another through treaties or agreements, often in exchange for compensation or other benefits, altering sovereignty boundaries.

Independence

Independence involves a region or territory gaining self-governance and sovereignty, typically following a process of decolonization or separation from a parent state, resulting in recognized statehood.

Prescription

Prescription denotes the acquisition of territory through continuous and peaceful exercise of control, recognized over time, despite potential prior claims, establishing legal ownership through established practices.

Airspace & Maritime Sovereignty

Understanding Vertical and Maritime Extensions

Airspace Sovereignty

States have **complete sovereignty** over their airspace, which means they control all activities including flights and any military operations within this vertical domain.

Territorial Sea

The **territorial sea** extends 12 nautical miles from a state's coastline, allowing states to exert exclusive jurisdiction over maritime activities within this zone.

Landmark International Cases



Palmas

Established effective control over territorial claims.



Chad

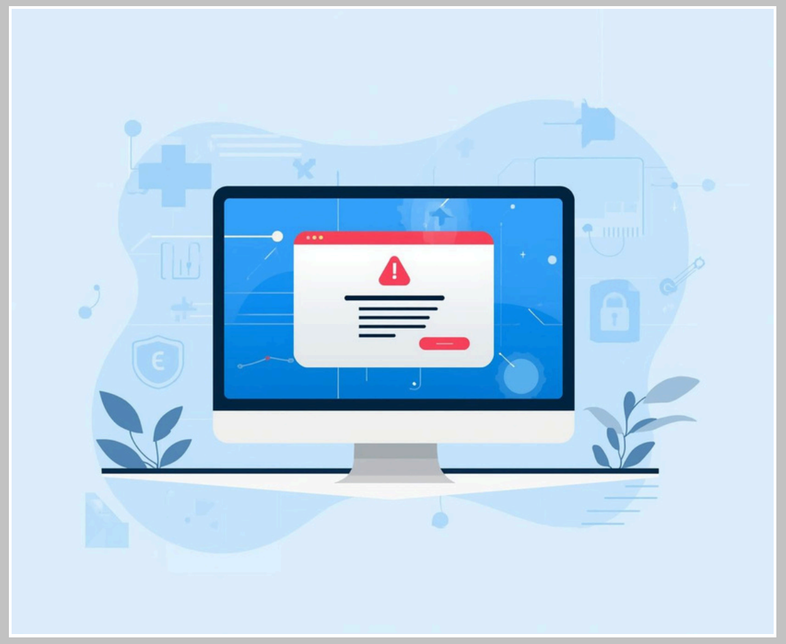
Affirmed treaty supremacy in territorial disputes.



Kosovo

Recognized independence declarations amid legal complexities.

Modern Challenges in Sovereignty



Cyber

Intrusions threaten state security and sovereignty.



Climate

Environmental changes impact territorial rights significantly.



Frozen

Conflicts create unresolved territorial disputes worldwide.

Thank You