

# **Edexcel Geography A-level**

Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

Detailed Notes









# **Economic Systems and Labour Flows**

Globalisation has led to an increase in both **internal and international migration**. As of 2014, 230 million people lived in a country that wasn't their place of birth (approx. 3-4% of the global population). This is due to the advancement of **transport networks** to allow people to travel easily to other countries to live, work and visit. Also, a rise in **global trading** has encouraged a recent rise in international migrants, the highest since the collapse of empires. Most international migration is **regionalised**, like Mexicans to America or Poland to Germany.

Uneven economic growth may be linked originally to a natural advantage over other countries, such as a coastline or raw materials. Initial imbalances have been exaggerated over time due to the outflow of migrants, resources and investment.

The number of people migrating internationally has risen rapidly and from 1950 to 2015, the global population grew rapidly from 2.5 billion to 7.3 billion. In the 1990s, international migration occurred mainly to world destinations like New York and Paris. Now, many cities in developing countries (e.g. Mumbai and Lagos) have become major hubs for migration.

Different countries have different rates of change and different population structures as a result. This may be due to government policy making or levels of engagement within the globalised world:

#### <u>Japan</u>

Japan's population is **declining**; 27% are aged 65 and over and its working age population is expected to drop to 44 million by 2037, half of what it was in 2007.

In most advanced economies around 5% of people are usually immigrants but this is only 1.7% for Japan. The UN thinks Japan requires 17 million migrants by 2050 to make sure population levels don't drop below 2007 levels

Migration is limited due to the fact that Japanese isn't an international language, thus many don't speak it outside of Japan, and its closed-door policies towards migrants.

#### <u>Australia</u>

Australia's immigration policy has been based on strictly based on skills and employment. 70% of immigrants accepted into Australia came to work in areas with skills shortages with most immigrants living in major cities like Melbourne.

On average, immigrants contribute 10% more per capita than non-immigrants. Australia has an ageing population but as migrants are usually young, the ageing population is balanced.

In 2013, only **190,000 economic migrants** were allowed to enter Australia

#### **Singapore**

Singapore's population consists of a very high percentage of foreign workers.

Among the 5 million people living in Singapore, there is great ethnic diversity. It is the world's 4<sup>th</sup> largest financial centre. Many TNCs have the Asia-Pacific HQs in Singapore. Many international schools have also set up to cater education to migrants, whose first language may not be Malay (the national language).









### **Causes of Migration**

There can be a variety of reasons for migrants to move, either internally or internationally. The cause of migration can affect how governments treat them or how the public perceive them.

International migration can result from a variety of causes:

- Voluntary Economic Migration → People relocate to try to improve their wealth and quality of life.
- Often, an economic migrant's family may follow them in the aim of joining their family.
- Refugees → People forced to relocate due to war, conflict, persecution.
- Asylum seekers →People fleeing for international protection.
- Environmental Refugees → People specifically relocating due to tectonic disaster, natural events (wildfires, flooding) or Climate Change's impacts (desertification, sea level rise, etc.)
- International Students Within recent years, there has been a large increase in the volume of young people migrating to study elsewhere.

The flows of international migration will continue to change over time, as **environmental**, **political and economic** events occur and a country's **development** improves or declines.

#### **Rationale FOR Encouraging Migration**

Migration is seen as an efficient way of ensuring that **economic output** of a country/place is **optimised**. Workers are integral to a growing economy, migration is a way of growing a country or place's workforce. Internal migration (often from rural to urban areas) is mostly unrestricted, with some countries encouraging international migration within trade blocs and governmental agreements (for example, the EU has the largest free movement of migrants).

**Economic Theory** suggests that governments will maximise 'economic efficiency' - a productive workforce and a developed financial market - if they allow the **free movement of goods, capital and labour**. However, some countries do not agree with the economic theory or fear they'll lose their **national identity** through unrestricted flows. Therefore flows aren't fully unrestricted on a global scale.

#### **Rationale AGAINST Encouraging Migration**

Some governments have more restricted immigration controls to restrict the number of immigrants coming into their country. It is important to recognise that a government's beliefs or rationale towards immigrants is due to their **perception** of migration. The consequences of migration may be viewed as both **positive and negative** by different players.

**National Culture -** Migration usually leads to changes in the ethnic composition of areas. Some countries believe that changes to their **ethnic or cultural composition** may lead to cultural diffusion, which could lead to the loss of their national culture or historical demography.





**Employment -** Some governments may encourage migrants to fill skills gaps or improve economic activity. However, especially in areas with high unemployment rates, locals may blame immigrants for the loss of job opportunities in their area.

National Security - Recent events (such as terror attacks on major cities and the so-called War on Terror) has caused political controversy regarding national security. Many people fear that freely allowing migrants to enter their country could pose a security risk. Views such as these have been exacerbated by some media outlets and politicians. The backlash against unregulated migration has lead to changes within politics such as the election of Donald Trump, the rise of extreme right-wing political parties and Brexit.

#### **Opportunity to Migrate**

The **ability** for an individual to migrate depends on the government's policies and border control, the physical environment (mountains, seas, etc) and the migrant's education and skills. For example:

- Migrants to Australia are restricted to mainly skilled individuals. They require 65 points under the points based system, which takes into account the demand for a particular profession in Australia in addition to a migrant's age, qualifications and competence in English.
- Singapore's migration policy is divided into foreign workers and foreign talent. Workers
  are predominantly unskilled migrants, mainly working in construction and domestic
  services. Talents are mainly people with degrees and are highly knowledgeable.
- The rise of **smugglers** in recent years means that migrants need money to migrate illegally across borders. Smugglers only operate across strict international borders, such as the Mexican-US border or across the Mediterranean Sea (towards Europe).

#### **Nation States**

A **state** is a territory that no other country has power or **sovereignty** over. As of 2016, the UN recognised **196 states**, with South Sudan being the most recent addition. A **nation** refers to a group of people who **lack sovereignty**. This includes the Welsh and Scottish nations as they are part of the sovereign state of the UK. These nations lack full control, despite having their own **parliaments** and language.

Nation states don't necessarily have a single culture or language, and the borders (both physical and political) between states are often **contested**.

#### **Cultural Unity**

There can be different languages, dialects, sports teams, music and literature within a single state. This can result from **historic migration**, such as in the USA, where the descendents of European settlers have vastly outnumbered the descendents of indigenous tribes.

Alternatively, some states have a single ethnic group (ethnic and cultural unity) due to its physical location (e.g. Iceland) or political forced isolation (e.g. North Korea – the government restricts interactions with foreign countries).









#### **Establishing National Borders**

Borders between states are highly important in establishing governance for a region and to avoid conflict. However, there are still tensions and contest over borders and islands to this day. National borders may be created naturally or through social intervention:

**Natural borders** – Physical features such as lakes, mountains or rivers can separate countries. Often, natural borders are the most successful borders between states because of their inarguable division. This may be because armies cannot cross these natural borders unnoticed or that these natural borders create a band of uninhabitable land, easily separating two states without conflict over residents' sovereignty.

**Colonial or Political Intervention** - Borders are drafted by the sovereign state, and may have been influenced by past empire expansion. Borders created by governments may not take into account differences between religious or ethnic groups, which could lead to conflict between social groups in the future. Such was the case for Rwanda, where clashing ethnic groups within one state spiralled into the genocide of 800,000 Tutsis.

#### **Contested Border Examples**

**Ukraine and Crimea** - The population of Crimea consists of 58% ethnic Russians, 24% ethnic Ukrainians and 12% Tartar Muslims. In 2014, Russia **annexed** Crimea (added Crimea to Russia's state) from Ukraine on the basis that the majority of the population was **ethnically Russian**, and the Ukraine government wasn't successfully protecting them. The international community condemned Russia's annexation and imposed **sanctions** against Russian trade, but haven't made much progress in settling the dispute and resolving the conflict within Crimea.

**Taiwan** - Since 1950, Taiwan has been **independent**. However, China still claims sovereignty over it and regards Taiwan as a **rebel province**. China insists no other countries should have any relations with Taiwan, but that has not stopped Taiwan from becoming one of Asia's **economic successes** through the production of computer technology.

Syria and Iraq - Conflict in this region may be due to the Sykes-Picot line, a border between French occupation and the UK's control in the Middle East. Large Kurdish, Shia and Sunni populations were divided across this line and extremist groups (such as Daesh and Al-Qaeda) have incited conflict between the social groups. The UN Security Council (primarily the US and Russia) is involved, conducting airstrikes against the extremist groups (perceived as terrorists).









#### 19th Century Nationalism & Colonialism

Between 1500 and 1900, many European powers had built **global empires**. Newly discovered South America was invaded and colonised by the Spanish whilst the UK, France and Belgium colonised parts of Asia and Africa.

For example, by 1880 Britain controlled a **third of the world's land surface** and over a **quarter of the world's population**. British culture spread across South Asia (sports, language, customs) through local governance and education, controlled by the UK. (As a result, many previously-colonial states now have the Union Jack within their own flag)

However, the empires disintegrated following World War 1 because:

- The high cost of war had left the UK almost bankrupt
- There was growing resistance to foreign rule and the rise of independence political groups
- Rapid population growth was a major problem for the UK government
- European countries were becoming less dependent on raw materials from their colonies

Some independent states (Vietnam, Sudan, etc) were left unable to successfully govern themselves, which has lead to many **conflicts and wars** following the end of the Imperial Era. The conflict has been costly to their **development**, natural **environment** and in terms of **human fatalities**.

#### **Post-Colonial Migration**

In 1948, the **British Nationality Act** gave all commonwealth citizens an equal right to legally settle in the UK. As a result many employers filled **skills gaps** with commonwealth migrants, such as in the London Underground and the NHS. Both skilled and unskilled migrants were accepted; for example, skilled migrants worked as **healthcare professionals** whilst less skilled workers worked in the **manufacturing industries**, especially in the textile towns of Lancashire and Yorkshire.

There was **cultural clustering**, with commonwealth families moving into the same areas to share opportunities, create networks of family support and to limit their isolation. This clustering can be seen today, with the growth of some commonwealth communities becoming important parts of major cities.

# Globalisation's Effect on Migration & Sovereignty

#### **Economic Impacts of Globalisation**

Many TNCS have relocated their headquarters to countries such as Ireland, Switzerland and Luxembourg due to **low corporate tax rates**. In 2015, the UK corporation tax rate was around 20% but it was around 10% in Switzerland. TNCs sometimes also consider the **support** from the local government, including financial **bail**, **infrastructure construction** and **economic incentives** to relocate there.

Some states have become notorious **tax havens** (locations which offer massive tax advantages to individuals and companies). These states tend to be **politically stable** and





have secure banking and legal systems. In 2015, it was reported that American companies held \$2 trillion overseas in tax havens. Tax havens also become the homes for wealthy expatriates, who would rather migrate than face extortionate 'millionaire' taxes.

Tax havens can have large **economic consequences** for other states. The taxes paid by businesses are crucial for governments to fund healthcare, education and other public services. As a result, there are significant impacts if companies use transfer pricing or tax havens, which could stunt a state's development and attractiveness to migrants. Many companies have been targeted by **citizen-led protests** (e.g Starbucks, Google) which has led to voluntary tax contributions by TNCs to try to recover **public confidence**.

However some companies do not relocate to reduce their tax rates; a TNC may want to maintain a certain **public perception** regarding the product's manufacturing. Instead of relocating, many TNCs choose to use **transfer pricing** - when profits are diverted through **subsidiary companies** based in low tax countries which in turn reduces the corporate tax bill for a company.

Many industrialised countries have adopted the **Washington Consensus**, the belief that economic efficiency can only be achieved by **removing financial regulations**. In the 1970s and 80s, deregulation became very common as state intervention of the **markets reduced**. As a result of deregulation, capital could flow anywhere in the world easily and quickly, which has helped to accelerate globalisation. However, financial deregulation contributed heavily to the 2008 financial crisis.

#### **Alternative Economic Models**

Leaders (many from South American countries) have moved from an open-market economy to a **socialist approach**. Many reasons to argue against capitalism include:

- In 2016, 62 of the richest people owned the same wealth as the bottom 3.5 billion.
- The global financial crisis in 2008 and the growing inability of Western countries to reduce inequality shows the limitations of deregulated open markets.
- Ongoing failure of countries to reduce the impacts of climate change rather than accumulate their wealth.

To adopt a more **sustainable economic system**, governments (such as Bolivia or Ecuador) must:

- Limit **imports** of essential resources, such as food, water and raw materials.
- Ensure **energy security** (often using renewable sources)
- Reduce TNCs, instead promoting local businesses to secure employment opportunities and tax generated.

#### Inter-Government Organisations in the Post-1945 World

IGOs have grown in significance and influence since World War 2. They can provide **political guidance and judgement** over a state government or **economic support** for developing countries.









#### The United Nations

In 1944, the UN's aims, structure and roles were agreed by the USA, UK, USSR and China (who form the only permanent members of the security council, along with France). Its aims include:

- Maintaining international peace and security
- Promoting sustainable development
- Protecting human rights
- Upholding international law
- Delivering humanitarian aid

However, the UN is **not** unbiased since **national disputes** often influence **UN policy making**.

The **Syrian conflict** was an example of such unbiased judgement; Russia and China wanted (to an extent) to support the Assad regime whereas the USA, UK and France support the rebels. All decisions regarding the Syrian conflict were based from the states' opinions, which could arguable have caused the conflict to escalate.

The **Security Council** (arguably the most important aspect of the UN) meets to respond to threats to national and international security. The UN can introduce **economic sanctions** against countries or can carry out **direct military intervention**:

- Arms embargoes banning weapons and military supplies
- Trade embargoes banning certain imports and exports from and to certain countries
- · Restrictions on loans
- Freezing assets
- Travel restrictions for high profile people like politicians and business people

The success of UN intervention is mixed. States can act **cooperatively** and can share **resources and information** to reduce loss of life. However, the UN has no hard-power methods to police countries. Countries can ignore advice from the UN. For example. Russia ignores the UN's advice in relation to its ongoing conflict with the Ukraine.

#### The World Bank & IMF

The World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) both have headquarters in Washington, USA. They were established to try and **stabilise global finance markets** after the **Great Depression** and **post-WWII**, which caused many countries to become nearly bankrupt.

Many Western countries agreed on the policies of the World Bank and IMF, including a fixed exchange rate for any loans or financial assistance, based on the US dollar and gold. The USA had a disproportionate influence at Bretton Woods (a conference in 1944) over how the world economic system was to be designed. This was because only the USA was left with a large amount of financial resources after the wars, whilst the UK and other European states were left almost bankrupt. As these institutions were created and are regulated by Western countries, they can often favour developed countries over developing countries in terms of the help they offer.









#### Impacts of IMF and World Bank

The IMF and World Bank only agreed to help struggling countries if they agreed to **Structural Adjustment Policies (SAPS)**. SAPS are often policies which countries have to implement if they want to receive a loan. They are designed to help open up the developing countries to trade and production to grow their economy and help them develop. SAPS can include:

- Open up domestic markets to allow private investment
- Reduce the role of government by privatising industries and services
- Remove restrictions on capital so there are no limits on international investments
- Reduce government spending by cutting infrastructure and welfare spending
- Devalue currency to make exports cheaper

Critics argue that as the loans are reliant on a country implementing these policies their government are forced into them. The policies are not always beneficial to the country that implements them.

In the 1980s, global interest rates increased very rapidly. This caused substantial interest to be added to loans which increased global debts. Developing countries were mainly affected since the loan became unaffordable and quickly accumulated. Countries were struggling to pay off the interest of these loans and were ending up in further debt, which was not beneficial to their economy. In 2005, £30bn of debt of the eighteen poorest countries in the world was written-off thanks to a deal brokered by the G7 countries.

#### The Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC)

In 1996, the IMF and the World Bank introduced the **HIPC initiative**, following criticism over the spiralling debts of developing countries and **lack of fair assistance** from the IMF and World Bank. HIPC aimed at reducing the national debts of developing countries by writing them off in return for **Structural Adjustment Policies**. The HIPC initiative affected 36 of the world's least developed countries with the greatest debts.

By 2000, many NGOs (e.g. Oxfam) began demanding more action to reduce the debt burden of the most indebted countries. In 2008, all debts owed to the World Bank and IMF by 18 HIPC were cancelled on condition that:

- Each country showed financial management and a lack of corruption
- National government spent any savings on poverty reduction, education and healthcare

#### **World Trade Organisation (WTO)**

Membership of financial IGOs is almost universal, with WTO members accounting for 96.4% of world trade and 96.7% of global GDP. The WTO was established to create **fair**, **free global trading**. There are now several single market where there is free movement of goods, services and people between allied nations. However, a global single market is still unachievable.

Due to the **failure of the WTO**, many **trade blocs** between nations have emerged, often more influential than WTO (e.g. EU, NAFTA, ASEAN). Businesses can benefit from





economies of scale when operating within trade blocs because they have access to larger markets therefore they can 'scale up' production, manufacturing bulk quantities, which in turn helps them to reduce their unit costs and earn more profits.

Decisions to join trade blocs should be taken cautiously by governments as local markets could become **flooded** by cheap products from another country within the bloc, which can damage local businesses and the nation's economy. All countries within a trade bloc may **not be equal beneficiaries**, with some countries taking political or economic leadership of the bloc.

#### IGO's Actions for the Environment

Within the last few decades, IGOs have initiated many **environmental agreements and protocols** between governments. This may be to protect endangered species or landscapes, reduce Greenhouse emissions or sovereignty over seas surrounding a state.

Climate change was first raised as an important issue in 1992 at the UN East Summit Conference. There has been uncertainty over evidence and disagreements between countries as to who should be held responsible for emissions. This has meant that international cooperation on climate change has been very slow. Many pledges have been created (e.g. Montreal Protocol, Kyoto Protocol, 2012 Paris Agreements), each successively receiving more member signatures and having stricter targets set. However, critics still say that IGO's agreements don't go far enough and don't have strict enough consequences for nations who don't follow them.

Alternatively, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea has been more successful than Climate Change agreements in resolving governmental disputes over sea rights. 157 countries have signed the agreement, which:

- Declares ownership of a state's seas 20 nautical miles from their land.
- Gives landlocked countries entitlement to seas near them, enabling them to trade.
- Aims to protect marine biodiversity and ocean environments.

Despite clarifying most sea disputes, UNCLOS has lead to increased tensions over disputes over new found islands, which lay claim to untapped natural resources and military expansion opportunity. Such is the case over many islands in the South China Sea - which China, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea all argue over - and some Arctic Islands - causing conflict between USA, Denmark, Canada & Russia due to its proximity to the Arctic.

Finally, IGOs may become 'peacekeepers' between nations over transboundary water sources and the Antarctic. With rapid population growth and the rising demand for water, conflict between nations over who owns a river and how best to manage it will escalate. The Antarctic (currently protected for science) is protected by many IGOs and NGOs, who wish to preserve it against modern pollution and rubbish (especially the 'tide' of plastic waste) and to protect endangered species from humans as well as Climate Change.









## **National Identity**

The idea of **nationalism** can be a powerful force, with many governments intent to maintain a sense of nationalism through:

- Education the curriculum areas of history and citizenship are important as they play a cultural and political role in nation-state building, whilst introducing a government's ideology from a young age. Students may learn about legal and human rights, as well as their responsibilities to their country.
- Sport and Culture You are likely to support your nation's sports team in international competitions such as the Olympics and Paralympics. People dress up and paint their faces which strengthens national identity.
- Political parties Government have used policies to reinforce national values and ideals for many years. A party's agenda can be strongly associated with a country's identity to gain more members and votes.

#### Examples of nationalism include:

- National flags can be found in schools across the world.
- In the USA, students are strongly encouraged to sing the national anthem and national flags dominate during national celebrations.
- Since 2014, English schools have been legally required to promote British Values:
  - o Democracy being able to vote at the age of 18.
  - o The rule of law right to trial by jury.
  - o Individual liberty right to choose where to live.
  - o Mutual respect and tolerance of people of different faiths, backgrounds and ethnicities.
- In 2005, there were widespread protests in South Korea and China because Japan approved new textbooks which would promote nationalist ideas of Japan and described WWII conflict from the Japanese point of view.
- In many European countries, there has been a rise in extreme right-wing parties. In the UK, membership of UKIP has grown rapidly since 1991 as people want to restrict UK borders and adopt anti-migration policies.
- Particular environments can also be identified with a state. Rural life and the English countryside have become symbolic of English identity and lifestyle.

Identity can often be associated with citizenship and an individual's right to live within a state:

- Many US citizens find a common focus for identity in the rights and freedom they have according to the US Constitution. The 1st Amendment guarantees freedom of speech and the 2nd Amendment guarantees the right to self defense which includes the right to own firearms.
- Cultural cohesion in France relies on the shared belief in the importance of freedom. In 2009, a ban on the Niqab was introduced in France and the President's rationale for the ban was that he believed that it was oppression against women.
- The UK's Magna Carta is viewed as the foundation of British laws, liberties and
- Japan allows little inward migration because it wants to protect its culture and the homogeneity





## **Challenges to National Identity**

#### Ownership of Foreign Businesses and Land

In many countries, there have been many **inward flows** of investment and ideas (through globalisation). Many assets in the UK are now **foreign owned**, such as:

- American TNC Kraft bought Cadbury in 2010.
- The UK's car industry is now almost completely foreign owned.
- Foreign governments have also bought assets here e.g. the Qatari Sovereign Wealth Fund who own Harrods.
- The Chinese government bought a major stake in Heathrow Airport and in many nuclear plants including Hinkley Point (which could potentially threaten the UK's energy security)

Businesses provide jobs for people so their ownership many not be concerning to employees. However, foreign owned companies don't need to pay taxes here so the UK government loses out. For example, Italian-owned Boots moved their HQ to Switzerland reducing their tax bill from £89m to £9m.

Growing foreign ownership of properties and land in the UK is also seen as a major threat to national identity. London property can be especially lucrative, mainly due to the demand from international wealthy migrants. In 1980, 8% of the City of London was owned by migrants; this value rose and exceeded 50% in 2011. Foreign ownership of land has caused a lot of anger amongst locals due to a lack of housing (especially affordable) and a surge in prices has made buying a first home very difficult.

On the other hand, many UK citizens are responsible for changing place identities in coastal areas of France, Spain and Italy. There has been **outward migration** of British retirees and entrepreneurs abroad, replacing the cultural landscape of many tourist areas as a result.

Some **TNCs** have altered the way of life in many countries they have invested in. They can offer different **employment opportunities**, new **products and lifestyle** changes.

#### **Disunity within nations**

There has been an increasing number of independence parties and demonstrations for nations within recent years. The most prominent examples of disunity would be Catalonia (currently experiencing intense protests) and Scotland (following the UK's decision to leave the EU):

#### Catalonia

Located in North Eastern Spain. Its capital is Barcelona.

The Catalan people have their own language and customs and is the wealthiest region in Spain; producing 20% of Spain's wealth.

#### Scotland

In 2014, a referendum was held in which 45% of voters voted for independence whilst the remaining 55% voted against independence from the UK.

This has caused great division between the population, especially regarding politics.









Many Catalonians want independence from Spain. In 2017, the Catalonian government held a referendum in which more than 90% of voters wanted independence. However, the vote was seen as illegal by the Spanish government and thus wasn't recognised officially.

Scotland's income predominantly comes from oil and gas in the North Sea but as oil prices are very low, independence may be very costly as the Scottish wouldn't have reliable sources of government revenue.

Support for another referendum is rising since Brexit

#### **Rising Tensions in Emerging Nations**

Globalisation has created many winners and losers. Emerging nations have great inequality between the wealthy elites and extremely poor. Nationalism has increased in countries where globalisation has created tensions

**Brazil** - Brazil's hosting of the World Cup in 2014 and then the Olympics exposed serious divisions in Brazilian society. More than \$22 billion was spent on preparing for the world cup; protests took place as people believed the money spent on the world cup could be spent solving some of Brazil's problems (poor public services, high food prices and widespread corruption amongst politicians)

**Russia** - Russia is the world's largest country and it is home to many ethnic groups, some residing far from Moscow. Nomadic herders are also found in Russia, wandering across the Northern altitudes. There is rising tensions of the government's protection of ethnic groups within and outside Russia's borders.

India - There have rising tensions between Muslims and Hindus since India gained independence; Many Muslims in Kashmir support breaking away from India as a separate state or joining Pakistan. Furthermore, more than 500 million Indian people live in extreme poverty and lack access to healthcare and education (mostly living in rural areas) and so there is resentment from the inequality in benefits from globalisation.

**China** - China's Hukou system means that many rural migrants cannot benefit from globalisation i.e. by working in factories suppling TNCs. There are more than 300 million rural migrants, many of whom suffer from poverty, famine and illness from living close to polluting factories.

#### **Failed States**

In failed states, there are vast differences between wealthy **political elites**, **foreign investments groups** and the general population. A failed state is where the political and economic systems are very weak and the government can no longer maintain **control and order**. The following are usually common in failed states:

- Low life expectancy
- Social unrest
- Poor education
- Poor healthcare system









- Widespread poverty
- High inequality

Often, failed states can be created from war and conflict (e.g. Syria), which damages any remaining infrastructure and services, resulting in dire living conditions and drastic outward migration.