

# Types of Border Disputes

## ✓ Territorial Disputes

- Conflicts between states or regions over the ownership of a given area.
- Reasons for territorial claims include:
  - A country's desire to increase its power.
  - A political need to divert attention from existing problems.
  - Claimed "rights" to an area based on history, ethnicity, or geography.

## ✓ Positional Disputes

- Conflicts over the interpretation of documents defining a boundary or the way its is shown on the ground.
- Reasons for positional disputes include:
  - Boundary was drawn at a time when accuracy was not important.
    - ◇ Example: river boundaries (banks, navigable channel, center, etc.)
  - Some groups not represented when boundary was created.
    - ◇ Example: Colonial boundaries
  - Population increases or discovery of resources make accurate boundary important.

## ✓ Functional Disputes

- Conflicts over the national policies applied at a border.
- Reasons for functional disputes include:
  - Immigration or customs regulations.
    - ◇ Example: Need for visas or papers to cross borders
  - Land use and location policies between neighbors.
    - ◇ Example: locating landfills, or polluting industries near border

## ✓ Resource Disputes

- Conflicts over the use of resources created or complicated by a boundary.
- Reasons for resource disputes include:
  - Resource straddles a border.
    - ◇ Example: River Basin, oil fields