

# **GEOGRAPHY OF CONFLICT AND COOPERATION**

## **Conflict**

### **Resources**

#### Land

- Land for hunting or gathering
- Cropland to feed growing population
- Land for sugar, tea, other crops not grown at home

#### Water

- Shared sources – waterholes, wells, lakes
- Upstream impacts on downstream places
  - Water removal and flow reduction
  - Land-cover change and flooding
  - Water pollution and/or poisoning
- Right of transit

Minerals – gold, salt, iron, etc.

Energy – coal, oil, etc.

Other cross-border resource disputes – air, disease, transit, radio spectrum, etc.

### **Strategic locations**

Strongpoints – places that are relatively easy to defend

Chokepoints – straits, rivergaps, mountain passes, other places that channel traffic

Breakpoints – ports, other places to transfer goods between transport modes

### **“Personal reasons”**

Aggression – invasion in order to rule more territory

Plunder – invasion to steal gold, food, tools, mates, slaves, etc.

Revenge – attack in response to remembered insult/injury

Ideology – invasion to promote religion or worldview

Independence/revolution/regime change

## **Cooperation**

**Economic links** – if we trade with them for what we need, we won't want to fight

### **Cultural links**

Family/tribe/ethnic group – us, living together

Religion – we share the same worldview

Language – we can at least communicate

Migration – some of us live with them and/or vice versa

### **Political alliances, treaties, agreements**

Defense – we will help each other if attacked

Problem-solving – we have decided to work together to fix this

Lifestyle-enhancing – we think things would be better if we all did this

### **Humanitarian initiatives**

The United Nations – do we want a grievance forum or a world court?

UN Agencies – problem-solving intergovernmental groups

Churches, charities, and other NGOs (non-government organizations)