

NATIONAL POWER

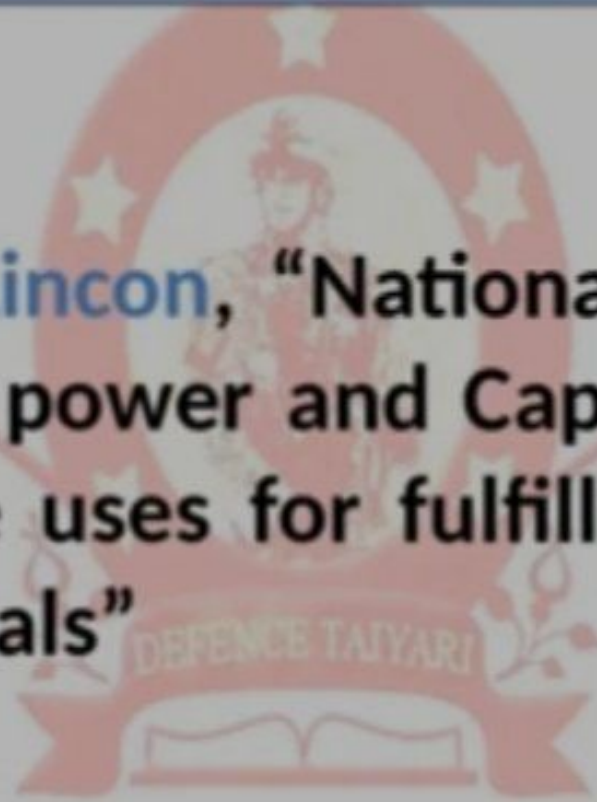
Power is the ability to influence the behaviors of other to get a designated outcome. Historically, power has been measured by such criteria as population, size of territory, natural resources, economic strength, military force and social stability.


National power is the capacity or ability of a nation with the use of which it can get its well obeyed by other nations. It involves the capacity to use force or threat of the use of force over other nations. With the use of national power a nation is able to control the behavior of other nations in accordance with one's own will.



NATIONAL POWER

Padelford and Lincon, “National Power is that combination of power and Capacity of a state which the state uses for fulfilling its national interests and goals”





Elements of National Power

There are two types of elements that make national power, tangibles and intangibles.

Tangibles or stable factors

1. Geography. Acc to geographic experts, it is most important factor of national power. Napoleon also said that the foreign policy of a country decided by its geography, its size, climate etc.

(a) Size. Size of a country influence its national power. The big nations has large populations and raw material. During war the forces can defend the boundaries and make counter attacks. For example, the vastness of erstwhile soviet union has been a major factor in military strategy. It resulted in the defeat of Napoleon and Hitler. In case of Israel, its small size gives them a feeling of vulnerability and insecurity.

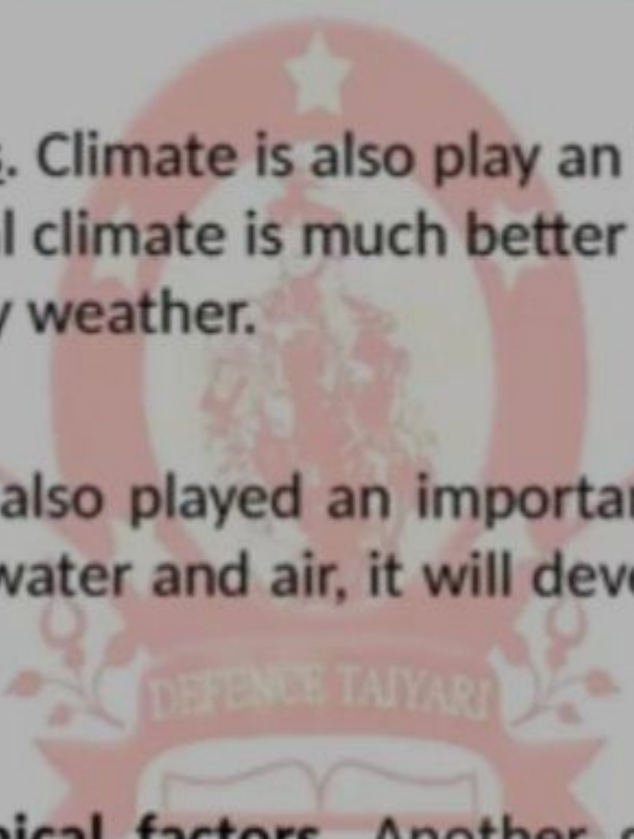



Tangibles or stable factors

(b) **Climatic Conditions**. Climate is also play an important role in its national power. Natural climate is much better for its development rather than hot and dry weather.

(c) **Location**. Location also played an important role. If a country well linked with land, water and air, it will developed well through international business.

(e) **Another Geographical factors**. Another geographical factors are the presence of high mountains, seas, marshes, deserts, forests and so on, which constitute a weakness on an asset for the international position of a state.






2. Natural Resources

(a) **Food**. Self sufficiency in food has always been a source of great strength. The countries which are not self - sufficient in food cannot feel secure. For example, UK and Germany have always been deficient in food, while the US and Russia have traditionally enjoyed self sufficiency. Napoleon said "Army cannot march empty stomach."

(b) **Raw Materials**. These are important for industrial production and more particularly, for waging war. Also, the importance of raw material has further increased the development in technology. For example US and Russia are self sufficient in oil. The availability of Uranium has become a major factor in the potential power of a nation.



3. Industrial Capacity

Industrial capacity is another factor which determines the power of a nation. The quality and production of industrial plants, the technical skill of the human resources, the research and development, the managerial organization, are the factors effecting the industrial capacity of a nation. For example, Congo has vast deposits of high Uranium, but does not have the industrial plants to put the uranium deposits for industrial or military use. Iran has lot of oil, but not enough refinery capacity. On the other hand, possession of uranium by P-5(the US the UK, Russia, France and China) has added considerable to their national power as they have the industrial capacity to process it.



4. Population

A country cannot become a first rate power unless it has a sizable population. Suffice to say that the size and quality of population have a profound effect on national power. Although with modern science and technology the minor populated country can defeat big country. Example, Japan defeated Russia in 1895 and China in 1905. However, in Europe, the big populated countries ruled, earlier France, then Germany. Population also affect on agriculture and industries. During war time, the need of people required from workshops to the battlefield, which only be fulfilled by the big and qualified population.



5. Economy. Economy is a very important factor for the national power of a country. Napoleon said, "Three things are required to wage a war, money, more money and still more money". Today the rich countries can say their word forcefully in the forum.


6. Military Power Military preparedness requires a military establishment supporting the foreign policy of a nation. Contributory factors are - technology, quality and size of the armed forces



Military Power

a) Technology-

The development of firearms, tanks, guns and aircrafts have had a great effect in battlefield. For example Germany and Japanese defeated the allied forces during the initial stages of second world war as they developed their technologies in pre-war period. Development of radar technology by British during war years, gave them enormous advantage over their enemies. In the present day context, capabilities in cyber warfare, space assets and smart strike weapons will provide great support in development of such technologies.



Military Power

(b) **Leadership** The quality of military leadership has always influence upon national powers. For example Fredrick the Great, Napoleon, and Field Marshal SHFJ Manekshaw, who showed their great leadership to the world.


(c) **Quality and Size of the Armed Forces** The quality and quantity of the armed forces affect on the moral of the people and the moral is an important factor to win the war.



Intangible or Constantly Changing Factors

1. **Quality of the Society and the Government** These two aspects have profound influence on the national morale. The power of a nation in view of its national morale, resides in the quality of its government. A government that truly representative of its people, in the sense of being able to translate the convocations and aspirations of the people, and increase the moral of the people. Without national morale, national power is nothing. Means of improving the national morale lie in the improvement of the quality of the government. Everything else is a matter of chance. For example, during World War II, the morale of Japanese were high.

2. **National Morale** National morale in the degree of determination with which a nation supports the foreign policies of its government during peace and war. It permits the activities such as agricultural and industrial production, its armed forces, and diplomatic service. High national morale can be of great help at times of national crises.



Intangible or Constantly Changing Factors

3. **The Quality of Diplomacy or Foreign Policy** It is an important part of national power and is its most visible face. Diplomacy has to be supported by military power. The prominent place of diplomacy as a component of national power has been well described by Professor Hans J Morgenthau, as under :-

“Diplomacy, one might say, is the brain of national power, as national morale is its soul”

4. **The Political Leadership**. The political leadership of a country comes from its political leaders. The able leadership can make development of the country, whereas incapable leadership can destroy a country.



Intangible or Constantly Changing Factors

5. **Civilization**. Civilization has played a great role in the development of a country. For example, American, Indian and Chinese people have a great difference in their civilization which effect on their development.

Conclusion

National power is the sum total of a nations resources which determines its place in the world order. These resources are both tangibles and intangibles. Of those, four important resources are economic, military strength, leadership and diplomacy. In peace time, diplomacy translates a grand strategy into visible actions in the international arena.