



# National Power: Meaning, Nature, Kinds & Methods

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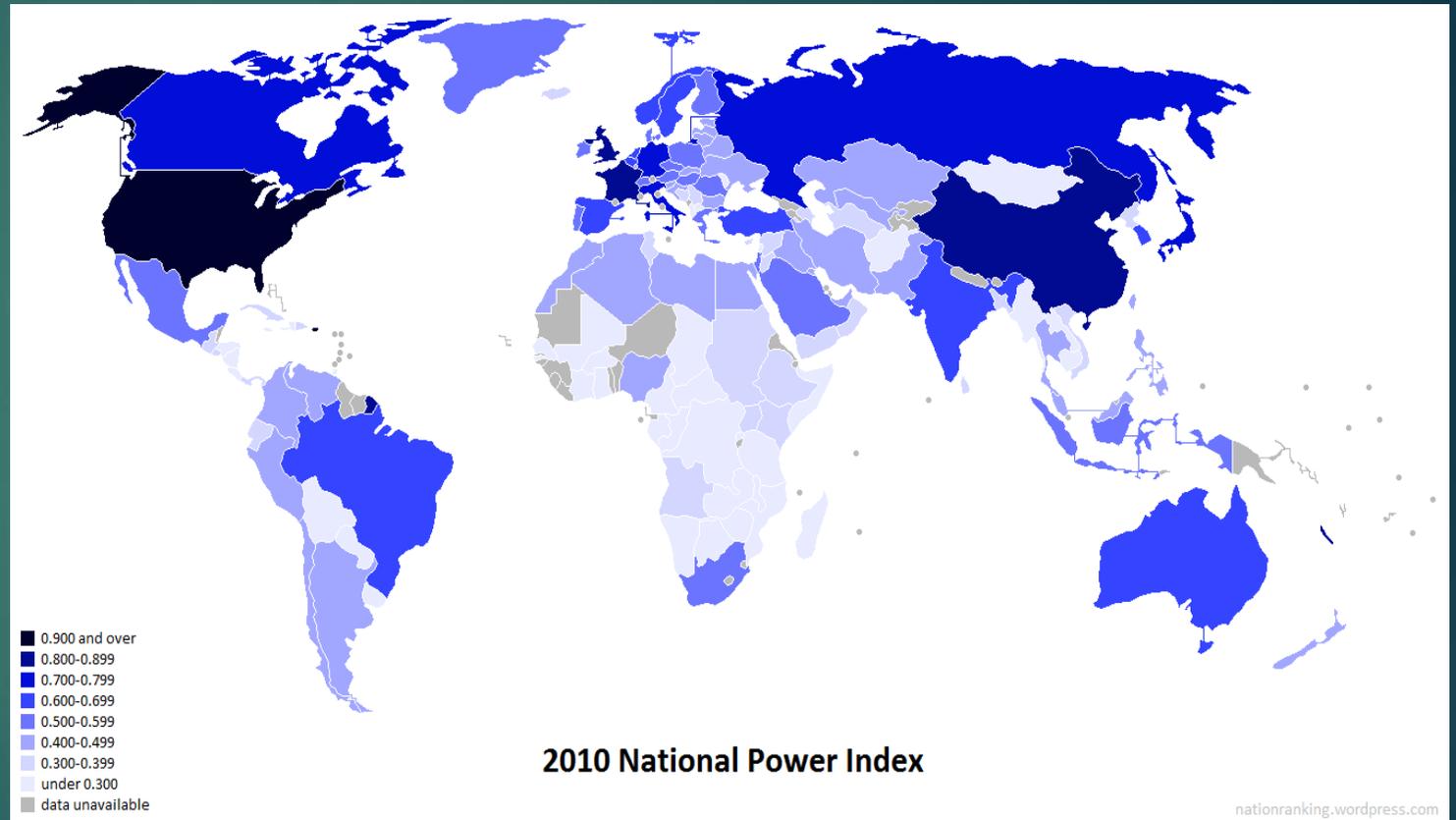
# What is National Power?

- ▶ National Power is the ability or capability of a nation to secure the goals and objectives of its national interests in relation with other nations.
- ▶ It involves the capacity to use force or threat of use of force or influence over others for securing the goals of national interest.



# Elements of National Power

- ▶ Tangible:
  - ▶ Geography
  - ▶ Natural Resources
  - ▶ Population
  - ▶ Technology
  - ▶ Location
- ▶ Intangible:
  - ▶ Economic
  - ▶ Political
  - ▶ Military
  - ▶ National Character and Morale



# Elements of National Power:- Tangible Elements

## ▶ Geography

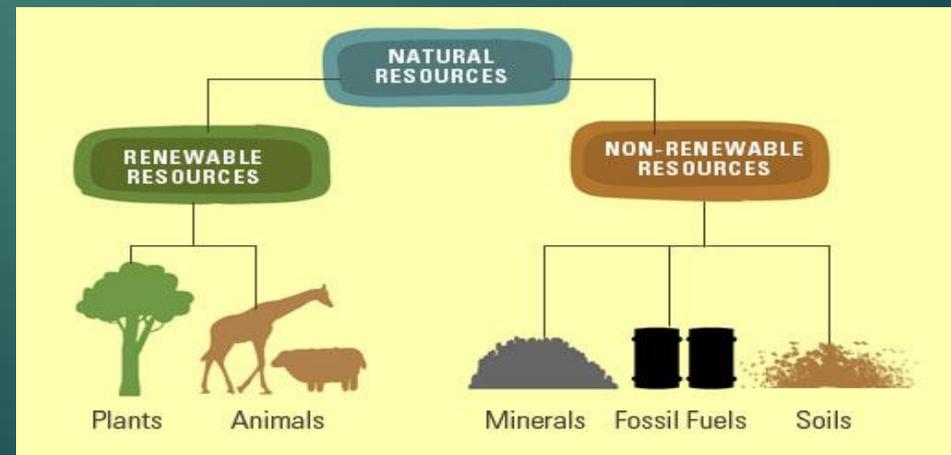
- ▶ The foreign policy of a country is determined by its geography. The importance of geography in the study of international relations cannot be ignored, because all other elements of national power depend upon the geographical location of the state.
- ▶ The big countries(e.g. USA, China) have great weightage in international affairs while small states have no impact on national power but some time small state with rich natural resources have deep impact on its national power, like oily rich countries of Middle East



# Elements of National Power:- Tangible Elements

## ▶ Natural Resources

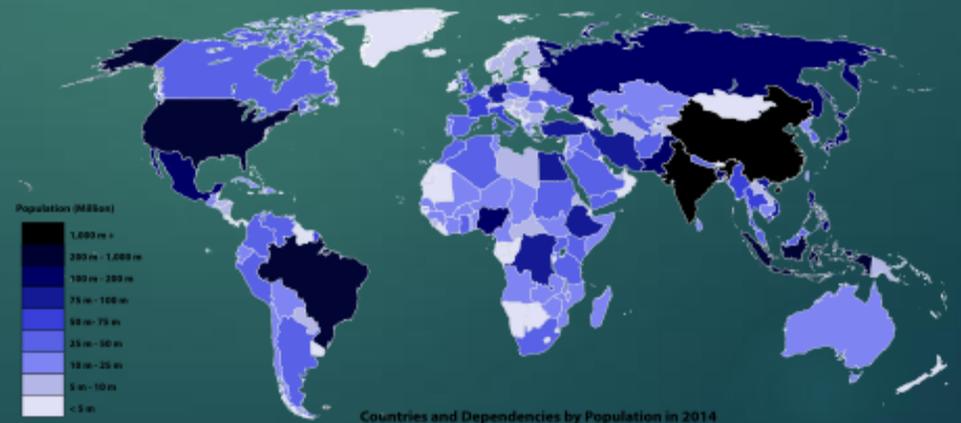
- ▶ They include waterfall, fertility of soil, oil, iron, copper, gas and coal etc.
- ▶ Natural resources plays very significant role in national power. For example, Kuwait is very small state but due to rich oil resources it plays very vital role in international politics.
- ▶ Natural Resources by themselves do not create power. They have to be exploited with the help of capital, technical know-how and skilled labours.



# Elements of National Power:- Tangible Elements

## ▶ Population

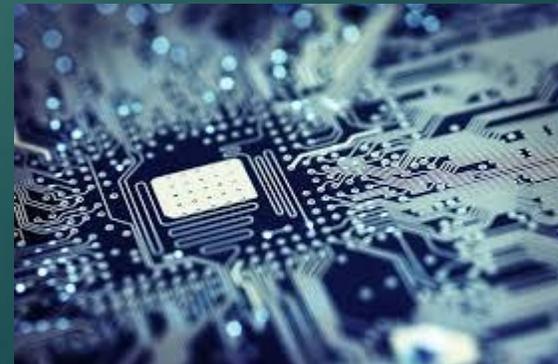
- ▶ Population is one of the most important element of national power
- ▶ Large population is a source of strength, integration, development in developed countries
- ▶ In developing state a large number of population is sign of its weakness i.e. unemployment, disintegration and corruption etc.
- ▶ Scientific and industrial development cannot be accomplished without manpower.



# Elements of National Power:- Tangible Elements

## ▶ Technology

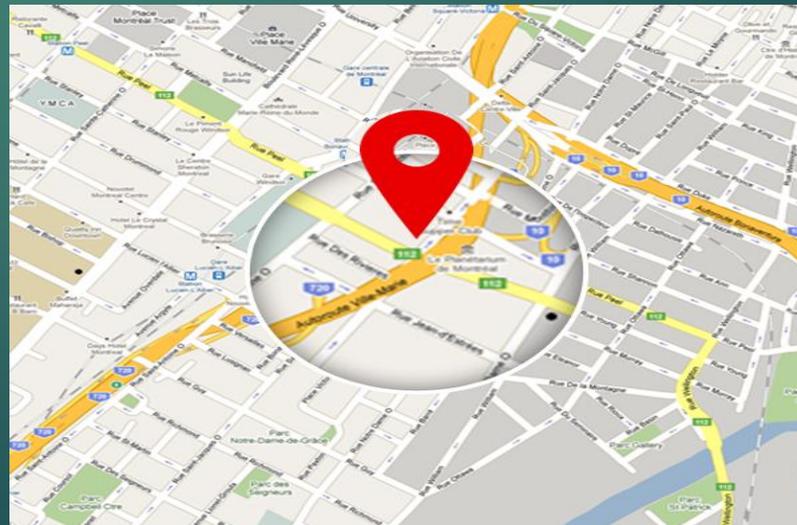
- ▶ It involves a complex, social process including many elements science, education, research and development under private and public auspices, management, technology, production facilities, workers and labour organization.
- ▶ Technological change reflects the actual adoption of new methods and products.
- ▶ Technology at least in three sphere i.e. industrial, communication and military, has greatly influenced the power of the state.



# Elements of National Power:- Tangible Elements

## ▶ Location

- ▶ Location determines the country's security and its spatial relationship with outside world.
- ▶ Location is more important than geography because it determine the climate and influence the economic system.
- ▶ Location and Climate determines the food production, economy and even the culture of a nation.





# Elements of National Power:- Intangible Elements

## ▶ Military

- ▶ Military Power regarded as absolutely essential for achieving the objective of security of the nation.
- ▶ The possibility of violation of security of a nation through war and aggression by other nations is always considered as a distinct possibility and hence every nation gives first priority to her security by improving her military power.
- ▶ No state can get recognition as a super power or big power without becoming a big military power.





# Elements of National Power:- Intangible Elements

## ▶ National Character and Morale

- ▶ National character is a collective name for referring to the traits of the people, their attitude and aptitude towards work and national needs.
- ▶ Along with national character, national morale is also an element of national power. National morale, in the context of national power, refers to 'the degree of determination with which a nation supports the foreign policy of its government in peace and war.
- ▶ A high and healthy national morale can be a big source of power which can lead to successful use of power for securing the national interest. The high morale of Indian army was a factor in the victories in 1971 Bangladesh war and 1999 Kargil war with Pakistan.

**"THE NATIONS  
MORALS ARE LIKE  
ITS TEETH, THE  
MORE DECAYED  
THEY ARE THE  
MORE IT HURTS TO  
TOUCH THEM."**

**GEORGE BERNARD SHAW**

# National Power in International Relations

- ▶ National Power is the means to control the behaviour of other states with a view to accomplish certain ends.
- ▶ National Power is recognized as the currency with which a nation can secure the desired values—peace, security, progress, development, status, and more power.
- ▶ Only those nations have influence which are powerful nations.
- ▶ The ability of the statesmen and diplomats to act and react with others is again determined by the national power of their respective nations.

# Forms and Methods of National Power

## ▶ Military Power

- ▶ It is the most distinct form of national power. It is the last shape the other forms assume to express power. Every aspect of State is aimed at developing the capacity to wage and win war

## ▶ Power over Opinion

- ▶ Power over the opinion of masses is important for political purposes. It is used to give false news to lower down the morale of the enemy and also to turn other countries against him. Conversely, it is used to build up morale at home, create public spirit for sacrifices and national unity.

## ▶ Power over Diplomacy

- ▶ It is through diplomacy that some weak and poor nations may gain prestige in the international community.

## ▶ Economic Power

- ▶ It helps not only in building and maintaining huge military establishment but also in controlling markets, raw-materials, credit and transportation. It is used to exert pressure on other countries.

# Means for Exercising National Power

- ▶ Force

- ▶ By the use of military power or physical force, a powerful nation can compel a desired change in the behaviour of another nation.

- ▶ Reward

- ▶ A nation can give material help to another nation in times of crisis or even otherwise. The practice of giving economic aid and easy loans or grants-in-aid is a method of winning support and inducing a change in the behaviour of other states

- ▶ Punishment

- ▶ A powerful nation can inflict punishment on an offending or unhelpful state by imposing economic sanctions or norms or policies or placing trade restrictions or ensuring a denial of a possible reward

- ▶ Persuasion

- ▶ It consists of defining and logically explaining a particular problem or issue or dispute to other nations or any other nation.

Thank You