

# **Territorial Self-governance in Practice**

Examining Arguments for and against  
Territorial Self-governance

# Territorial Self-governance

- TSG is the legally entrenched power of territorially delimited entities **within** the internationally recognized boundaries of **existing states** to exercise public policy functions independently of other sources of authority in this state, but subject to its overall legal order.
- As a tool of **ethnic conflict resolution**, territorial boundaries are drawn in accordance with ethno-demographic boundaries to allow maximum number of members of one ethnic group to live in the same entity

# Arguments **FOR** Territorial Self-governance

- Addresses **group/minority** concerns:
  - Physical and cultural security
  - Democratic participation
  - Self-determination
- Addresses **state/majority** concerns:
  - Sovereignty
  - Territorial integrity
  - Quality and experience of democratic governance

# Arguments **AGAINST** Territorial Self-governance

- Stifles **group/minority** development:
  - (Self-) isolation/ghettoisation
  - Limitation of choice
  - Repression of internal dissent
- Undermines the **state**:
  - First step to secession
  - Precedent for further disintegration
  - Constrains on applicability of human rights

# Arguments

## FOR

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## AGAINST

- Stifles **group/minority** development:
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