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 it 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