

Self-Determination in the Modern World Order: A Look at Kosovo



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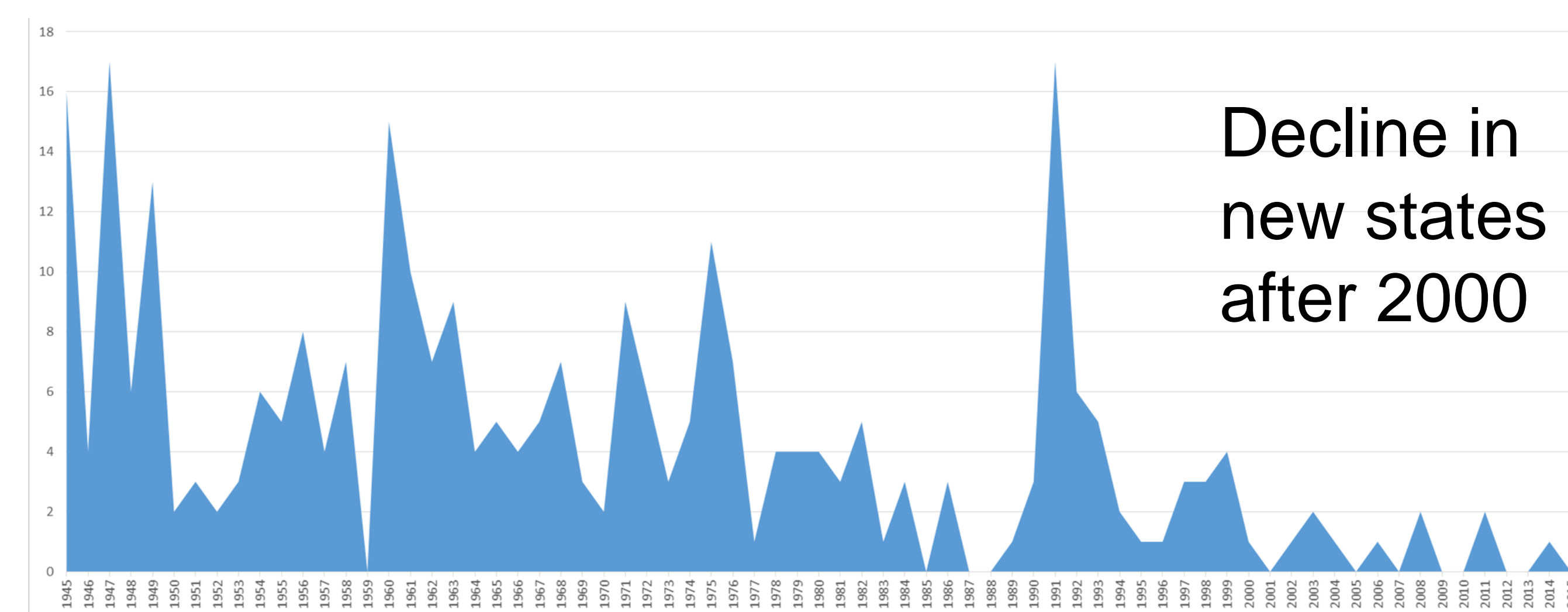
Puzzle

Why does the international community support self-determination on paper but not in practice?

Lit Review

1. Precedents & Unbridled State Creation, threatening sovereignty
2. Unlimited Ethnic Fragmentation, leading to war
3. Change in context surrounding Self-Determination makes it harder to apply

Historical Background



Self-Determination is said to be guaranteed, yet it is no longer granted in the previous rates

Unique Case of Kosovo:

It declared independence on February 17th, 2008, not a UN or EU member

Still not fully recognized, independence seen as controversial

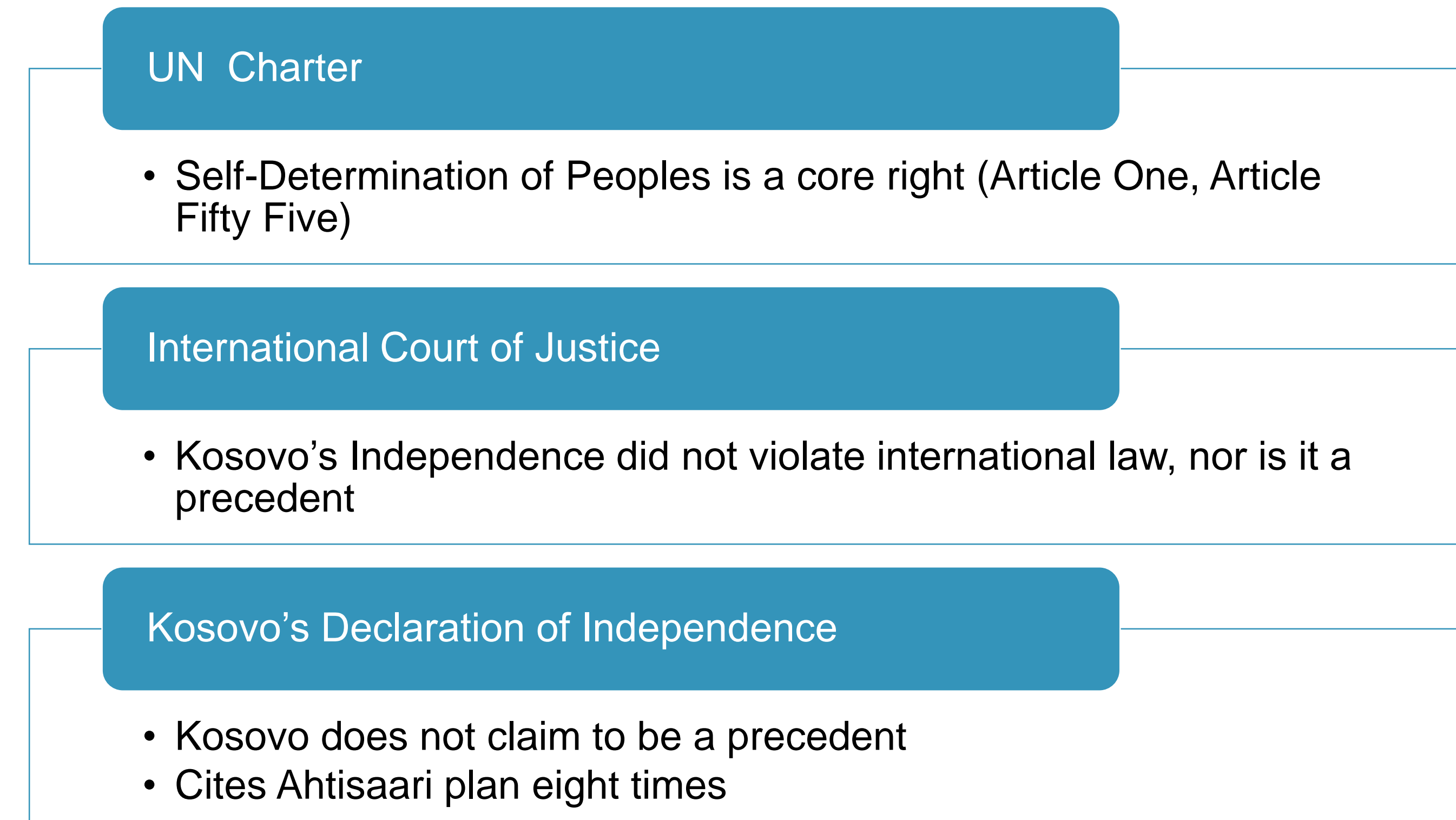
Methodology

- I conducted a Discourse Analysis in order to show the various understanding of self-determination in the case of Kosovo.
- Analyzed historical documents for a basis in the principle
- Dominant Discourse: Kosovo has Independence/Self-Determination
- Competing Discourse(s): Kosovo is not Independent and/or Kosovo is not Self-Determined
- Looked for communication between the sources
- Was aware of my parental lineage hailing from Kosovo, as well as my location in an institution of higher learning in the United States

Discourses Analyzed

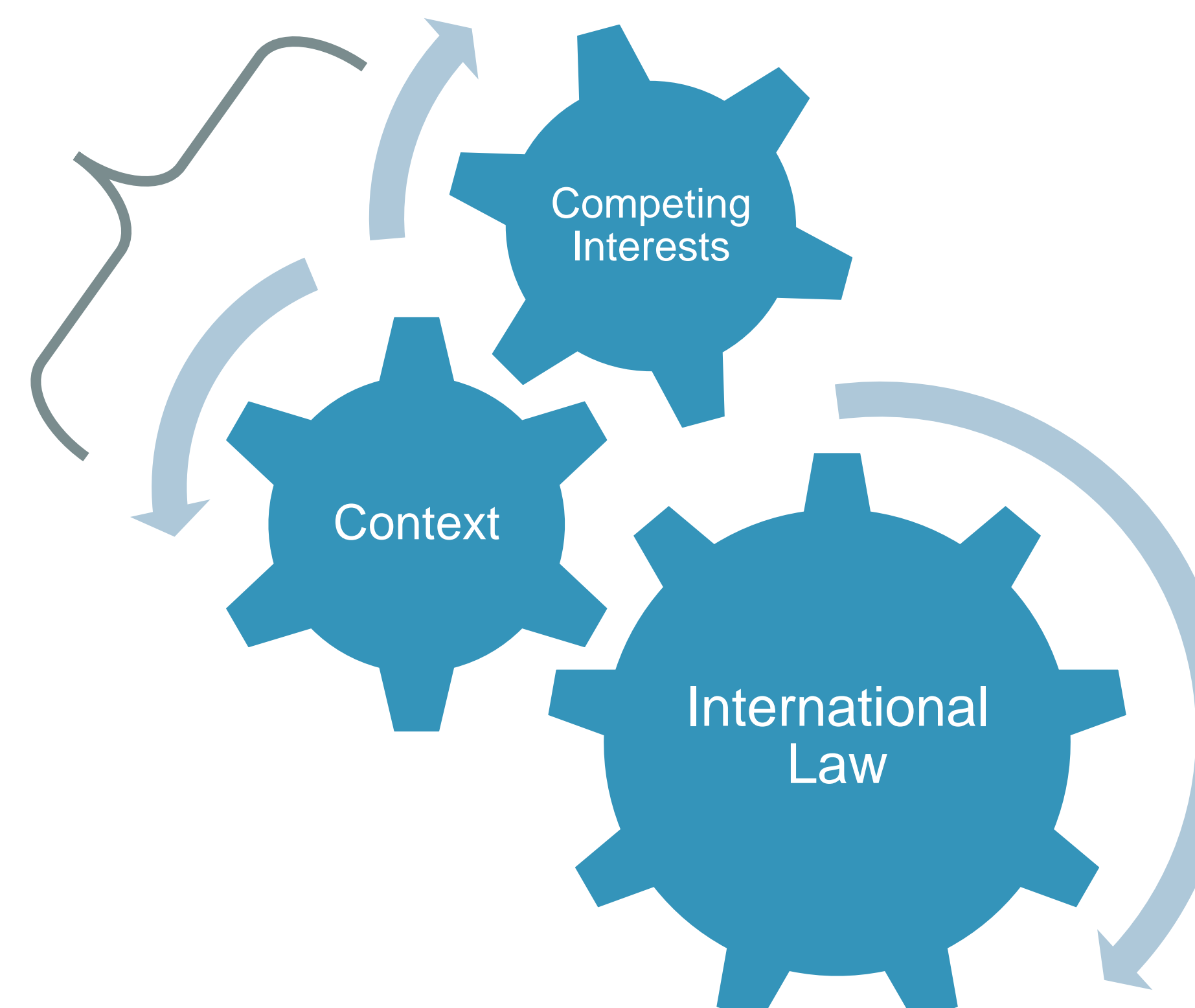


Key Observations

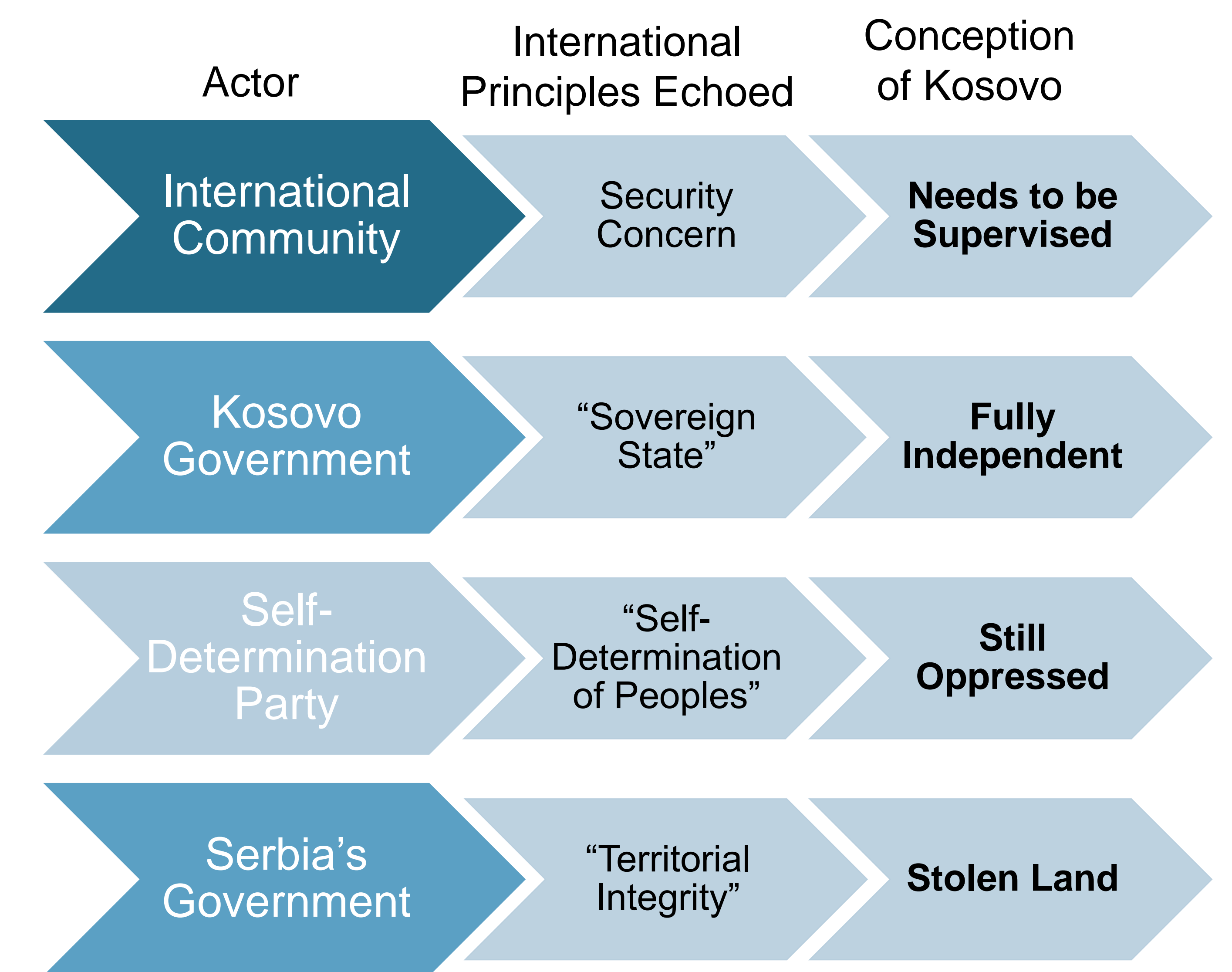


Importance of Context

Determine how International Law is Understood and applied



Results



Conclusion

- Showed that the concept of self-determination is much more nuanced than I understood.
- This research helps us better understand how the Serbian Nationalists, Kosovo Government, and Vetvendosje can all believe they are legitimate by looking at the same international discourses.
- My findings forced me to rethink my conception of self-determination, as well as the literal understanding of international agreements

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