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## ENCLAVE AREAS: MACRO-PROBLEMS OF MICRO-REGIONS

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**Abstract:** This article focuses on the history, classification, geopolitical situation, economic and socio-geographic characteristics, and development aspects of the enclave regions, which cause problems between the areas. Unlike other studies, enclave regions are approached as a geographic and geopolitical category rather than a political entity.

The article's main content is a theoretical analysis of the concepts of enclave and exclave, with a description of their geographical aspects. They were also analyzed based on economic-geographical principles as a territorial and political space

**Key words:** enclave, exclave, mainland state, surrounding state, classification of enclaves, full enclave, semi-enclave, pure exclave, peneenclave, boundary problems, delimitation, demarcation, interstate relations.

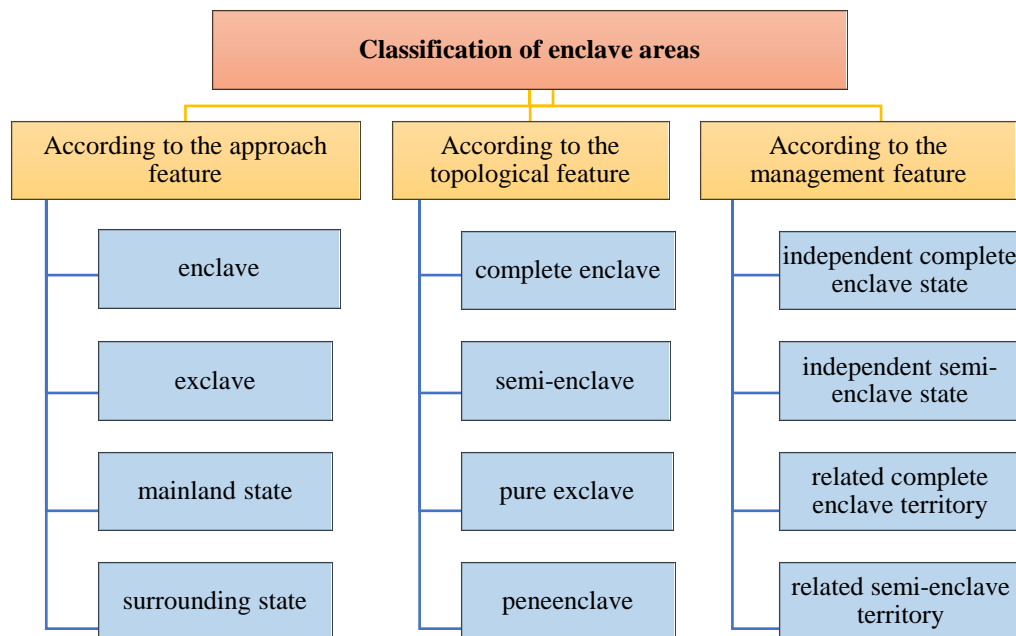
**Introduction.** The system of international relations of the modern era is very important because of the existence of many complex and difficult problems. Critical political struggles among states, the delimitation and demarcation of the enclave/exclave and state borders causing armed conflict are among the most pressing issues. Most of the current conflicts and inter-state conflicts in the world are directly or indirectly related to regional conflicts.

**The main part.** Numerous studies have been conducted to analyze the political and social situation of enclave and exclave regions. Foreign scientists such as Y.Vinokurov (2007), M.Vinogradov (2003), S.Zhuravski (2000), A.Koychiev (2001), V.Maslov (2001), Y.Shuler (1876), and others are actively involved.

Enclaves and exclaves have a distinct geography. As a result of showcasing this peculiarity through numerous economic and geographical concepts, a thorough study based on meaningful integrity becomes conceivable (Figure 1).

Enclave and exclave areas are classified using the **geographic and geopolitical method** – enclave, exclave, mainland state, and neighboring country.

**Figure 1**



### **Manifestation of the enclave / exclave territories**

*The figure was formed by the authors*

**Enclave** (in French, enclave means "*lock*", "*encircle*") is a part or territory of one state surrounded by the territory of another state [1, – P. 351] that is, the enclave is an area belonging to one country, but within the borders of another state [2, – P. 84]. In particular, San Marino is a state within the Italian Republic, surrounded by its territory. In the broadest sense, the enclave is the state of isolation of a particular area, subject, group or event from the environment. Apart from geopolitics and geography, the phrase is used in a variety of fields to refer to the presence of a specific part (foreign fragment) within a certain context. The term "enclave" is used in geology to describe individual rock shards.

The term "enclave" is used in church law to distinguish one area from another that is customarily encountered by another eparchy [3, – P. 11].

The word refers to industries within the national economy that are dominated by foreign capital in economics (for example, the sugar industry in Africa and South America).

In sociology and other social sciences, the phrase refers to a densely populated area that differs greatly from the surrounding area in terms of national, political, sociocultural, or other features. In the literature, the terms "ethnic" or "religious" enclaves are frequently used to characterize specific ethnic or religious groups in highly populated places [4, – P. 18]. The word is useful in examining the organization of communities and townships in different Chinese regions, ranging from residential quarters to ghettos [3, – P. 12]. Furthermore, the term is common in the military, agriculture, land management, and industry.

As a geographical category, the enclave is a section of the mainland state territory that is surrounded by the territory of another state. Area encompasses not only land but also territorial waterways. An enclave is a segment of the territory of a certain state that is totally surrounded by the territory of one or more other states and is an integral element of the state's territory.

The concept "enclave" has a long history of use as a regional categorization. Although the name is not used, information on the presence of enclaves in certain places can be found mostly in religious sources. The term "enclave" was first used in an official document in 1526, in the Madrid Treaty. The term "enclave" was coined in English later, in 1868, than it was in French.

**Exclave.** Although the phrase is used in regard to enclaves, the notions are not synonymous. As a result, the enclave and the exclave share the same geographical position. The exclave geographical entity is employed by the state to which the territory belongs if the enclave relates to another geographical entity—the area enclosed by the territory of the state [5, – P. 29]. Exclave is a natural expansion of the term enclave, which means "exo"-external, "claves"-that is, "outside land and surrounded by another state."

Thus, if the separated territory is an enclave according to its location, it is considered an exclave according to its affiliation. For example, although Vorukh belongs to the Republic of Tajikistan, it is located within the Kyrgyz Republic. It is an exclave of Tajikistan and an enclave of Kyrgyzstan.

The mainland state and the exclusion zone are both territorial components of the same country. If one must theoretically show which of these is the mainland state and which is the exclave, what criterion should be used to determine the mainland state and the exclave? Dr. Evgeny Vinokurov advocated investigating three theoretical criteria in particular: the location of the capital, the relative size of the region, and the relative population. In practice, it is preferable, in accordance with the international law agreement, to designate the region where the capital is located as the principal state, regardless of population or territorial size. The fundamental reason for this is the centralization of state power. As previously stated, such difficult scenarios can arise while establishing the status of territories, albeit infrequently. For example, the region of East Bengal, where more than half of the population of Pakistan emerged in 1947, was considered an exclave of Pakistan until 1971, when the independence of Bangladesh was declared. As the capital of the country and the administrative power are concentrated in the western part of the country, the western part of Pakistan is considered the main state in relation to East Bengal [3, – P. 42].

**The mainland state.** The mainland country is the enclave, which is administratively separated from the territory to which it belongs. While many scholars, including G. Robinson [6], H. Catudal [7], B. Whyte [8] refer to the mainland state as a "Family state", P. Raton [9] prefers to describe it as a "Central state" [4, – P. 18]. For example, Llvia is an enclave for France, a Spanish exclave. Therefore, the main (family or central) country for this exclave is Spain.

**Surrounding state.** If the enclaves are not geographically interconnected with the mainland state, it is naturally located within the territory of another state. The surrounding country is a country that encloses the enclave but does not belong to it. Also referring to the surrounding country, H. Catudal is featured in the 1979 book

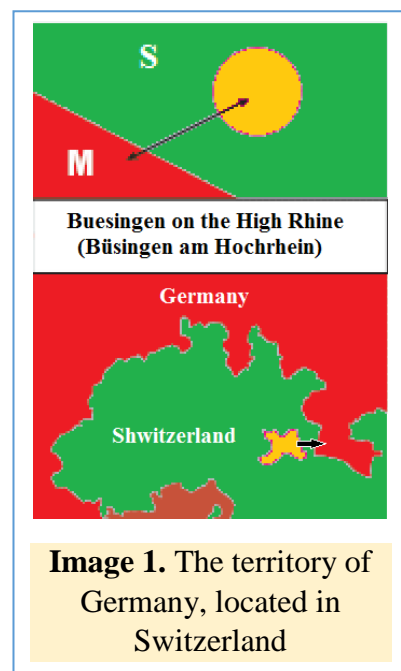


“The Exclave Problems of Western Europa” and B. Whyte's 2002 book “Boordering on the Ridiculous? While a Comparison of the Baarle and Cooch Behar Enclaves” used the term “boss state”, Robinson recommends that the 1959 Exclaves article be called a “neighbor state.”

Enclave growth and socioeconomic life are frequently influenced by the surrounding state. Life in the enclave would be like a jail if the boss prevented the state from taking over its area. For instance, Shakhimardan is an Uzbek region but an enclave in Kyrgyzstan, which is difficult to access and exit due to border issues between the two nations. It was easy to imagine how problematic the export-import connection may be. As a result, the enclave resembles a section of a closed boiler that is cut off from the outer world. As interstate ties strengthen, the boundary, rather than the separation of boundaries, improves.

The location, rather than *the classification of the topological principle*, expresses the territoriality of enclaves and exclaves more explicitly (Greek, “topos” – place). Depending on the extent of the enclave contained with the surrounding state and the distinctiveness of the mainland state, there are numerous territorial variations of enclaves and exclaves. Based on the aforementioned topological principle, the enclave and exclave areas can be classified as follows: complete enclave, semi-enclave, pure exclave, and peneenclave.

A **complete enclave** is a chunk of a state's mainland territory that is surrounded by another state. They can be compared to islands in terms of geopolitics. It is shut off from the family state not merely by ocean but also by “foreign land” (Image 1). The majority of enclaves around the world are located fairly near to the mainland state boundary, and the inhabitants can go there in a short amount of time. For example, the



Turkish exclave of Suleimanshakh in Syrian territory is only 200 meters from the mainland state.

The placement of the enclaves near the mother country's border is directly tied to their historical creation, which is characterized by the formation of these enclaves in the past as feudal estates [10, – P. 345].

There were 256 full enclaves in the globe until recently. 253 of them, or 98.8%, were within 10 kilometers of the main country's border [4, – P. 56]. It should be noted that the number of enclave areas reduced dramatically in 2015/2016 following the distribution of around one hundred enclave territories between Bangladesh and India [19]. As previously stated, the "geopolitical islands" developed in the Fergana Valley in Central Asia might be included among the total enclave regions near the border. The Fergana Valley's enclave/exclave regions are the "result" of faulty demarcation, like in many other parts of the world.

The demarcation of the national state in 1924 produced border concerns in Central Asia. The historical, geographical, and socioeconomic aspects of the peoples of the region received scant attention. It was denied that, notwithstanding the disparities between the peoples of this region's various nations and languages, cultural and economic activities are politically generalized under the framework of a single government. As a result, the path was cleared for major border issues. Because the national state's delimitation was founded only on national principles.

In fact, in the spiritual and ideological spheres, the country should carry out a Russification policy based on the slogan of "national in form, socialist in content" culture, and in the future, this policy should serve the integration and assimilation of the country's indigenous population with "the great Russians" [11, – P. 247].

At that time, academic V.V. Bartold, in his report prepared at the request of the government, showed that the demarcation of the national state in the territory of Central Asia was a copy of the European countries and was completely incompatible with the types of economies that had been formed historically. Also, V.V. Bartold shows that it is necessary to pay special attention to the fact that Eastern countries



were formed on the basis of territorial principles and European states were formed on the basis of national principles. Because, throughout the history of the Eastern peoples, historically created economic kinds and agro-climatic conditions played a much larger impact in the formation of countries than national distinctions. The same circumstance led V.V. Bartold to the conclusion that, despite the fact that Eastern countries are multi-ethnic, national features do not play a significant influence in the development of national governments. "National differences did not play a significant role in Central Asian political life," asserts academic V.V. Bartold [12, – Pp. 257–258]. As a result of the political-administrative division of the natural-historical territory, as in the preceding situations, problems in the usage of the components of the entire region have developed (water, land, flora and fauna, minerals). These issues are most visible in the Fergana Valley's enclave and exclave districts. Sokh, Shakhimardon, Vorukh, Chongara (Northern Sokh), Djangail (Khalmion), and Western Kalacha (Kayragach) are examples of such enclaves/exclaves (Image 2).



**Image 2.** The Fergana Valley and its enclaves

In this regard, interregional and cross-border collaboration, as well as mutual ties at all levels, have been formed for the first time in recent years in order to eradicate the aforementioned problematic situations. "In 2017, we found solutions to many delicate issues, such as collaborative use of water resources with our neighbors,

demarcation of boundaries, opening of crossing points, restoration and expansion of transport traffic," stated Uzbekistan's President, Sh.M.Mirziyoyev. In particular, the exclaves, enclaves, and other problematic border areas between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, as well as the unfinished delimitation work with Tajikistan, are being resolved positively [13, – P. 516]. The liquidation of the Barak enclave can be mentioned as a practical result of such work. In August 2018, an agreement was reached between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan on the exchange of land. That is, Uzbekistan allocated an area equal to the territory of the enclave from the area adjacent to the border of neighboring Kyrgyzstan. After that, it was decided to move the barracks to this area, and this issue was resolved. As a result, the "Barak issue", which has been considered problematic for many years, was resolved.

In addition, there are enclaves that were first directly adjacent to the mainland state, and later separated from the mother state and remained inside another country. As an example of this, one can cite reasons such as a neighboring country annexing the intermediate territory under the pretext of passing a road from a place close to the border, renting land and using it as a pasture.

Such a situation can be observed in the relations between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. In particular, in the 30s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when food, meat, etc., could be exchanged for land rent, part of the pastures in the upper reaches of the Isfara River were leased by the Soviet Union to cattle herding Kyrgyz. Thus, the Kyrgyz began to own the pastures between Vorukh and Chorku. But after the end of the lease period, the territory was not returned to the Tajiks, and Vorukh was cut off from the main state as an enclave [14].

The majority of extant complete enclaves are located like a single island, although in some locations, complexes of enclaves or geopolitical archipelagos are concentrated in a specific area. In truth, the world has a limited number of enclave complexes. Among them are Baarle-Nassau (complex of 22 exclaves in the Netherlands of Belgium), Baarle-Hertog (complex of 8 exclaves in the Netherlands), Bangladesh Cooch Behar (complex of 92 exclaves in India), and Indian Cooch Behar

(complex of 106 exclaves in India) [15, – Pp. 21-55]. The second of these two major groupings, however, has already established a historical enclave.

**Half enclave.** Area encompasses not only land but also territorial waterways. Even if a part of a state is surrounded by land from another territory, it is referred to as a "semi-enclave" or "coastal enclave" if it has unilateral access to the sea [3. – P. 28]. Not every peninsula, however, is a semi-enclave. because the surrounding state's boundary must be longer than the watercourse, and it is defined as follows:

$$L_G / L_w > 1$$

Here,  $L_G$  is the length of land border with the surrounding country,  $L_w$  is the length of the sea borders, and **1** – the ratio coefficient [4, – P. 22].

The Republic of Gambia is located west of the subregion of Africa. The Republic of Gambia is surrounded 740 km by the Senegal Republic to the north, east, and south and 80 km west of the Atlantic Ocean. Hence, its relations with other countries on the mainland are mainly through Senegal. In theory, if one should prove the nature of the semi-enclave, then, as mentioned above, attention is drawn to the ratio of boundaries, so:

$$740 / 80 = 9.25 > 1$$

Apparently, the value is greater than 1, and the land limit is about 9 times longer than the water limit. All this confirms the absolute semi-enclave of the Gambia.

**Pure exclave.** If there is a more commonly used term, "enclave," you may wonder if the term "exclave" itself is necessary. The importance of this term can be clearly demonstrated in the presence of regions that can represent "pure (real) exclaves".

A pure exclave is a geographical entity that is separated from the mainland state by more than one state. In principle, a pure exclave cannot be an enclave in regard to other countries, but must be an

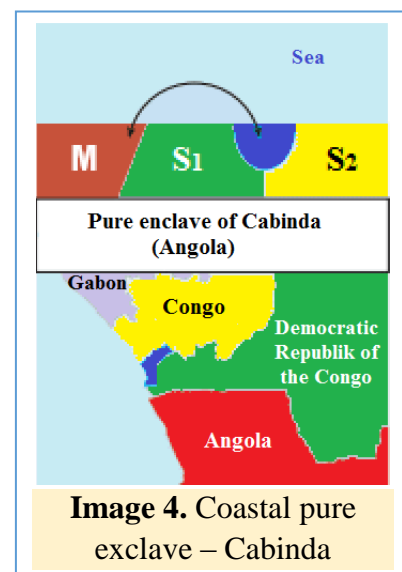


**Image 3.** Pure exclave in the land

exclave of the state's main area. Azerbaijan, for example, owns the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic. However, it is separated from the main region by the border between Armenia and Iran (Image 3). As a result, Nakhichevan cannot be considered an enclave in reference to either Armenia or Iran, although it does display exclave features as a result of its isolation from the main state. In such circumstances, enclave-specific challenges caused by neighboring states may be reduced (though not eliminated), but the problem of exclaves persists owing to separation from the core state. The example of Russia's Kaliningrad area demonstrates the importance of relations in this regard. This area corresponds to the scientific definition of a pure exclave. Because it shares boundaries with Poland and Lithuania. These two countries, on the other hand, are members of the European Union. As a consequence, the Kaliningrad region is a semi-enclave in connection to EU countries, which means that the exclusion of persons in the exclave, as well as problems with supply and export of commodities, are the result of EU discretion.

The context in which the enclave or exclave is analyzed in reference to the outside world determines the use of a term. The fact that Kaliningrad was cut off from Russia's main region as well as the border between the two countries demonstrates its exclusivity. However, how does its capacity to access the sea, as a semi-enclave, keep it from being classified as a pure

exclave? No, it does not. Because the region has access to water, but it also has boundaries with more than one state and is independent from the mainland state. In this regard, pure exclaves are classified into two types: a) pure exclaves inside the land (such as Nakhichevan); and b) Coastal Pure Exclaves (part of the exclave is connected with water). For example, Angola's Cabinda region, to the right of the Congo River on the Congo and DRC border, and to the west,



washing off the Atlantic Ocean, is independent from the family state (Image 4). The

Gaza Strip is another such exclave on the eastern edge of the Mediterranean and part of Jordan. It is bounded on the east by Israel and on the west by Egypt. It would have displayed semi-enclave if it hadn't been for the short distance to Egypt.

**Peneenclave** (Latin, "paene" – almost, "enclave" – closed, enclosed) is an area that is not separated from the mainland state of the country, but its connection with the neighboring state is mainly. Although the Peneenclaves are not separated and dislocated as enclaves or exclaves, they are similar to the enclaves or exclaves in connection with the family state and the similarities of the existing problems. For example, the economic region of Fergana is the eastern region of Uzbekistan, separated from the main territory of the country by the Kurama Mountains. During the Soviet era, Tajikistan had no problem connecting with other parts of the country by road and rail across the Asht region of Tajikistan. However, once the states gained independence and the border was operational, the Fergana region became a penankliness with freight and passenger traffic issues. Although the Tashkent-Angren-Kokand motorway connecting Tashkent in 1959 had been carried out, its low throughput and orographic complexity made it difficult to communicate. From the first years of independence, great attention was paid to road independence. For example, the repairs of the transcontinental highway from Uzbekistan to Uzbekistan in 1999-2000 were carried out in accordance with international standards, and later, the Angren-Pap railway (2016) was eliminated, although the Peneenclave nature of the Fergana Valley is still somewhat difficult, situations are noticeable.

Kleinwaldzertal (Austria), Point Roberts (USA), and Dramalli (Italy) are examples of peneenclave regions (Ireland). Furthermore, when the main region is linked to the peneanclavia via a tunnel or similar means, its enclave characteristics are lost. Samnaun in Switzerland (before the construction of a mountain road) and Val D'Aran in Spain (before the construction of a mountain tunnel) were both characterized by a pneanoclave until 1912, and are now removed from the list, etc. [4, – P. 40].

If the enclaves/exclaves are geographical in nature, their sovereignty is a political feature. From this vantage point, management principles can be distinguished, namely sovereignty – independent full-state enclave, independent semi-enclave state, corresponding full-enclave territory, and corresponding semi-enclave territory.

**Independent complete enclave** is a sovereign country, surrounded by only one state. At the same time, all external communications (excluding air transport) are carried out through the surrounding country. Countries of this type are often referred to as “enclave states”. Only three countries in the world – the Vatican, San Marino and Lesotho – have this status. In particular, the Vatican (44 hectares) and San Marino (61 km) are fully surrounded by Italy, and Lesotho (30.3 km) with South Africa.

**An independent semi-enclave** state is a landlocked state, but with access to the sea [16]. Due to the nature of the semi-enclave, as described above, the land boundary must be longer than the watercourse and be related to the surrounding state. In this respect, countries such as Denmark (Germany), the Republic of Korea (with the North Korea), Canada (with the US), Qatar (with Saudi Arabia), and Portugal (with Spain), although bordering only one state on land, are not semi-enclave countries. Firstly, their coastal line is longer than the land boundary, and secondly, they have no access to the neighboring state as a result of their free access to the open sea.



This means that any country that can access water from one side cannot be a semi-enclave state.

Among the semi-enclave countries in the world are the Brunei Sultanate, the Gambia and the Monaco prince. Gambia's border with Senegal is 9 times longer than the coast line (Image 5), while Monaco's border with France is

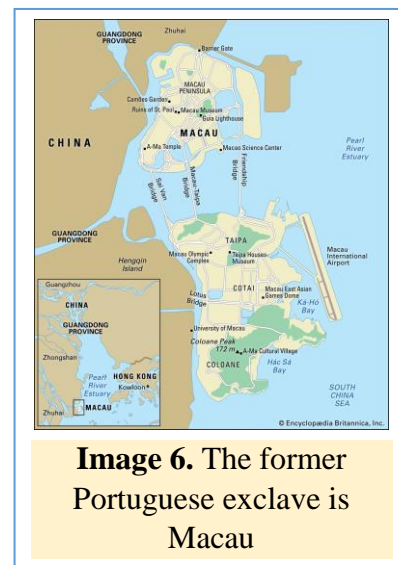
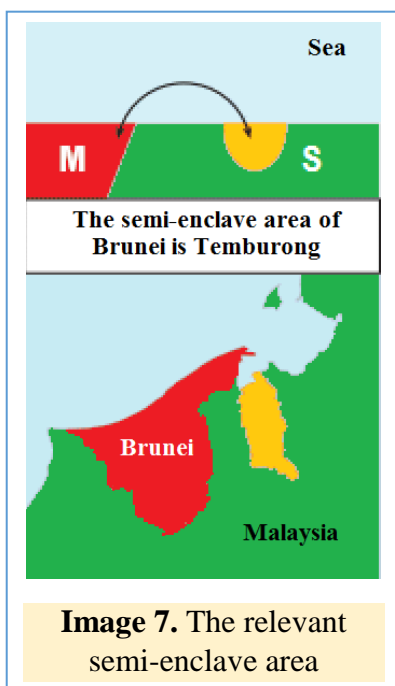


about 3 km longer than the coast. Brunei is a semi-enclave state on the island, surrounded exclusively by the North China Sea and the rest of the Sultanate of Malaysia.

**Complete enclave area.** This territorial unit of the enclaves is independent of itself and is a component of a particular sovereign state. At the same time, they should pay special attention to their legal aspects. In particular, the enclaves may be de facto (in practice), but if de jure is not recognized, there may be specific regional problems. In particular, although the West Berlin enclave exists in the territory of the former German Democratic Republic, the Socialist Germans did not recognize it de jure, and only in 1949 was West Berlin recognized as the German enclave in the GDR region [17, – P. 22]. Such cases of enclaves/exclaves should be explained through the dynamics of political and economic relations between the countries.

Relevant full enclave areas include all enclaves and exclaves that have not been abandoned the "enclave state". For example, the Oman exclaves of the UAE, such as Madha or the Azerbaijani exclaves of Armenia, are part of the administrative state of the mainland state.

**Relevant semi-enclave area.** In terms of sovereignty, such semi-enclaves are part of an independent state and differ from the



independent semi-enclave in terms of governance. The legal status of the relevant semi-enclave is its main focus. In particular, the Macau semi-enclave de facto has long been known as the Portuguese coastal exclave on the territory of China (Image 6), but has never been officially recognized as Portuguese territory by the

Chinese government because of the leased territory [18]. However, Macao, as a Portuguese exclave, has existed on the Chinese coast for over 400 years. In December 1998, it was officially included in China.

Temburong Province (east coast of Brunei), Alaska (Northwest 49 US), Crimean Peninsula (Republic of the Russian Federation), Musandam Province (Northern Conservation Oman), and Ambeno County are among the semi-enclave areas of any independent state in the world (western province of Timor-Leste). Of the aforementioned semi-enclaves, Temburong is a semi-enclave area belonging to a semi-enclave state (Image 7).

### **Conclusion**

The enclave and exclave territories have their own geographical, geopolitical, and socio-economic features. In particular, the presence of enclaves is the result of boundary incompatibility. Moreover, administrative and territorial boundaries, which were not conducted during the colonial period without deep analysis, have become international over time and are causing inter-state tensions. Typically, the enclaves are based on several indicators:

- ✓ The right to enter the enclave
- ✓ economic issues, particularly trade;
- ✓ dependence on the surrounding state in terms of the provision of necessary resources, i.e. food, drinking water, heat (electricity and natural gas).

The geographical and geopolitical analyses above show that the surrounding state possesses factors that can easily exert pressure on the enclave. At the same time, the main and surrounding states use the enclave as a weapon in the "big game" of geopolitics. Therefore, the presence of enclaves is of great importance in interstate relations.

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