This chapter focuses on the nature of the State and the criteria for statehood. International law evolved to regulate the relationships between the communities that became known as States, and it is States that remain the plenary subjects of international law. In any event, under international law it is States that possess full, objective legal personality, endowing them with full legal capacity with respect to rights, powers, and obligations within that legal system. Within international law, these include, *inter alia*: the ability to appear before international tribunals or national tribunals in order to enforce rights under international law; to be subject to obligations under international law; to make binding international agreements (treaties); and to enjoy some or all immunities. Conversely, other entities regarded as subjects under international law, whether individuals or national liberation movements, have come to be regarded as having international personality only through conferral or recognition by States.
5. States as subjects of international law

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