

Unit 5 - Political Geography

Studying the interactions between states
and the division of space on the planet



State/Country

Countries are physical areas that have established borders and a permanent population and are recognized by other countries. States are the sovereign entities that control their land.



How Many Countries Are There?



State/Country

Geographers tend to use these terms interchangeably - as you go on in other social studies courses you will see that it is more complex. The biggest difference is that the “state” tends to refer to the government that is in charge of a physical area.

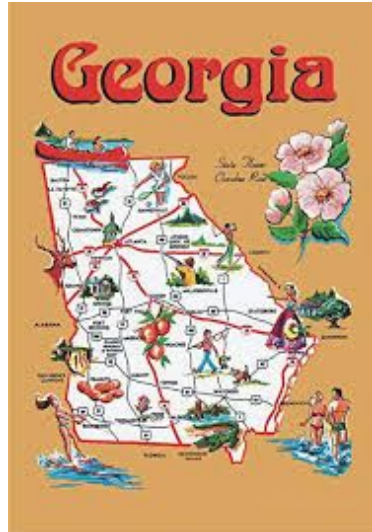
Yemen, Syria and Afghanistan are all countries. They each have a government but the government does not control all its territory. The “state” only control part of its land so it is not “sovereign”.

In northern Iraq, at times, there has been a state called Kurdistan - it controls territory but has not been recognized as an independent country.



State versus State?

12. What is the difference between a state/country and a state/province?
(p.188-190)



Unitary States and Federalist States

13. What are the differences in how power is distributed in unitary and federalist states (or confederations)? (p. 192)

Unitary states	Federalist states/confederations
<p>The central government is in control of the smaller parts with very limited shared power</p> <p>(The power is centralized)</p>	<p>Power is shared between the national government and the smaller state/provincial governments</p> <p>Smaller entities are allowed some self-rule</p> <p>(The power is de-centralized)</p>

What type of government is the United States?

Sovereignty

The power of a government to control its own affairs without interference from anyone else.

Sovereignty has a long history - the word comes from the “Sovereign” - a king - who controlled his lands without interference from anyone else. As time went on and more governments became republics and democracies, the idea of sovereignty shifted to the modern use.

In the United States, we have a complex view of sovereignty called federalism. This divides the power of the government into things the national government can do and things state governments can do.

In different places and at different times, sovereignty is seen differently (often because of different political points of view). This leads to controversy over the use of the term. We will discuss this more when we talk about Supranationalism

Complex sovereignty in the United States

At the top is the national government (U.S. Constitution)

Anything not mentioned in the constitution is **reserved powers** for the states

BUT: Native American groups are known as **sovereign nations** in the U.S.

-they are above state governments but below the national government

Can you think of examples of how this plays out in Minnesota?

Gambling, fish and game laws, reservation laws

Territory



Territory - land that is part of a country but is governed by a special relationship between the country and the territory. Its people are citizens of the country but also have some autonomy (independence).

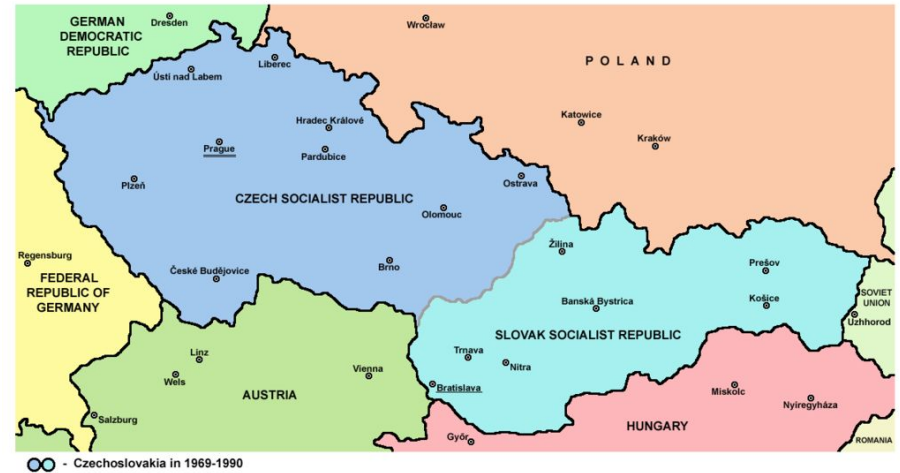
Ex. In the U.S., the people of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are full citizens, they pay taxes, serve in the military and have unrestricted travel rights in the U.S. but under the constitution, they can only vote for their territorial government (governor), not the national government (Congress and the President)

Nation / Nation State

Nation - a group of people with a shared identity, culture, language, history and tradition

Nation-State - When people of a nation form a sovereign state. An idea developed in the 19th century (1800's)

Historically there were differences between Czechs and Slovaks but they had been controlled by outside forces for many years. After the end of the Cold War, the country of Czechoslovakia became two nation-states Czechia and Slovakia(1992)



Nation-states in Europe

Notice how state borders generally follow ethnic borders

(Language as a key element of culture)

Ethnic Groups in Eastern Europe



Examples of Nation-states

Denmark: the territory occupied by the Danish ethnicity roughly corresponds to the state boundary of Denmark

Most of the European states have boundaries drawn following ethnic lines



Nations, States, and Nation-states



Border/boundary tools

When countries establish boundaries (borders) they use some geographic tools to help them:

Physical boundaries - rivers, mountains, lakes and other natural features can help countries divide one from another.

Cultural boundaries - languages (isogloss), religions, ethnic or nationalities present in an area can often help distinguish one area from another and lead to the establishment of boundaries

Latitude and longitude - these are often superimposed because they do not correspond to the human or physical landscape of areas.

Types of borders

Antecedent - borders that are put into place when there are few people living in an area. (They are “ante” - they come before the settlement of large numbers of people)



The Louisiana Purchase - 1803 - The U.S. bought this territory from France. The boundaries were mainly physical but especially in the west and the north the specific were not clear.

Types of borders

Superimposed - borders that are established by more powerful outside countries in areas that already have an established human landscape. (These are the most common kinds of borders)

The 38th parallel divides North and South Korea - it was applied at the end of hostilities in the Korean War. It was “super” placed on top of, the existing human landscape



Types of borders

Subsequent - created once people are settled, to keep cultural or ethnic groups together.

South Sudan broke away from Sudan and became an independent country in 2011. The South was more Christian and African and wanted its own nation.



As compared to **antecedent** which is created before the people settle in a place, i.e. -48th parallel between US and Canada

Types of borders



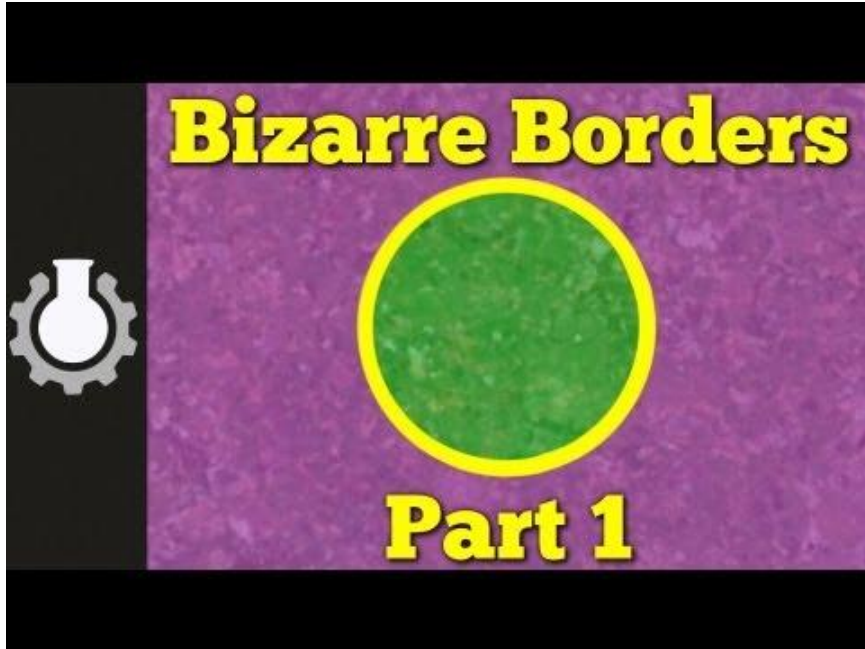
Relict - borders that used to exist but do not anymore. These historical borders still affect people's perceptions of areas.

Irondale Human Geography



Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Types of Boundaries



14. What is an advantage of using each of the following to determine a border between states? (p. 195)

Feature	Advantage?
Geometric borders/absolute locations (latitude and longitude)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-provides a very clear understanding of the demarcation line (border) separating two areas-can lead to conflicts as people who are traditionally not of the same area may be forced to now live together
Physical features (lakes, rivers, mountains, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-also provides clear understanding-over time, physical features may change or other groups may rival and claim areas as theirs from historic times

Patriotism

Definition: The combined love of feelings of pride one feels for his or her country.

Examples:

- Olympics
- World Cup



Nationalism

Definition: Loyalty and Devotion to a nation. Can lead to nationalist movements that try to bring together the people of a nation.

Nice to know: There are two Types of Nationalist Movements

- ***Separatists Movements:** try to break away from a country to form a new nation.*
- ***Unification movements:** try to add parts of another nation to their country,*

Examples: Russian tried to annex Crimea

-the Canadian province of Quebec has tried to secede

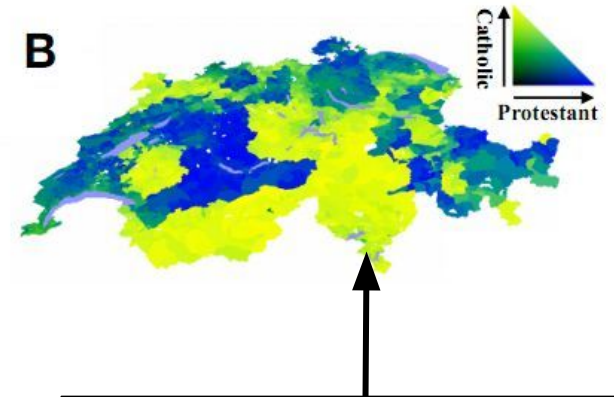
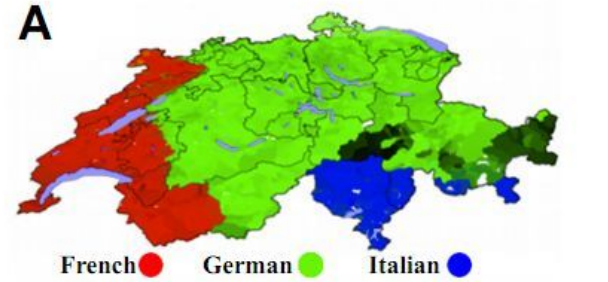


Multi-National States

Definition: states comprised of more than one nation of people.

Nice to Know: Some countries work better with multiple nationalities and the government supports minority groups. However, if the situation is not handled properly it can lead to conflict between groups.

Example: Switzerland, United States, Canada



Switzerland -has four official languages, recognizing the interests of the four main nationalities
(Romansh is not the majority in any one region and not listed on the maps)

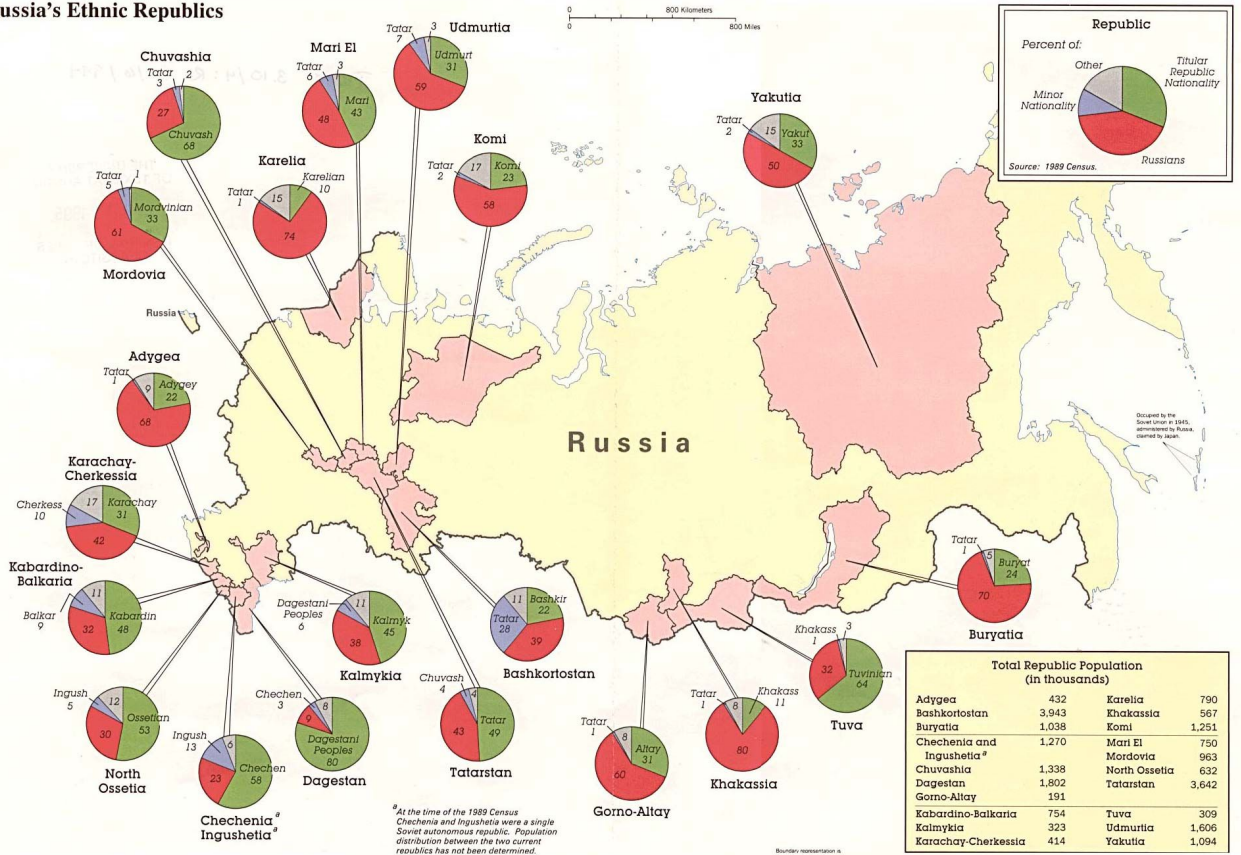
Great Britain as a Multi-national state

Although Great Britain has had a history of internal conflicts, it has survived and is a relatively peaceful multinational state (at the moment)

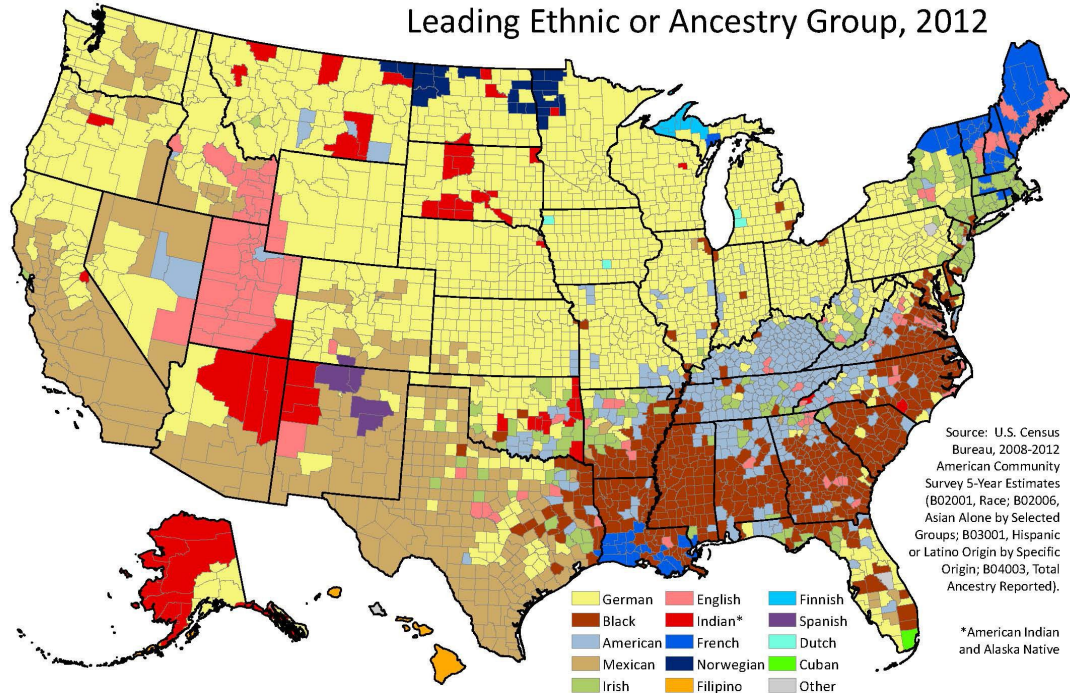


Russia - Nation-state or Multi-national state?

Russia's Ethnic Republics



United States: nation-state or multi-national state?



Stateless Nations

Definition: a national group that does not have a country of their own. The group has no place to call home and are usually divided across countries.

Nice to Know:

- *Sometimes mistreated in country and seek asylum in another country.*
- *Often underrepresented in government*

Examples: Kurds, Hmong, Basque, Palestinians

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Kurds in Northeast Syria



Hmong in
Southeast
Asia

Hyper Nationalism

Definition: extreme devotion (loyalty) to the betterment and superiority of the nation. If the forces of nationalism are allowed to get out of hand, hyper nationalism can lead to ethnic cleansing and genocide.

Example: Nazi Germany, Serbia (1990s)



19. Examine each of the political cartoons and explain which geopolitical issue it represents:



Ethnic Cleansing

Definition: the act of removing (either by deportation or killing) all the people from a particular cultural group from existence. Often used to make a country homogeneous (all the same.)

Examples: Darfur Sudan, [the Rohingya](#)

Arabic led Sudanese government tried to remove the traditional AfDarfi people from their lands. Estimates that 400,000 Darfuri were killed and 2.7 million displaced from lands.



Genocide

Definition: the attempt to completely or partially eliminate a certain group of people.

Genocide can also mean a form of policies of actions that a government takes that inflict serious mental or bodily harm, such as the use of concentration/labor camps, preventing births, removing children.

Example: Holocaust (1940s): 11 million people died

Rwanda (1994): 800,000 people died

[What is the difference between ethnic cleansing and genocide?](#)



Territorial Dispute

Definition: can be as simple as disagreements over where the border actually is, or as complex as disputes over huge areas of land.

Example: Kashmir (Pakistan or India?)

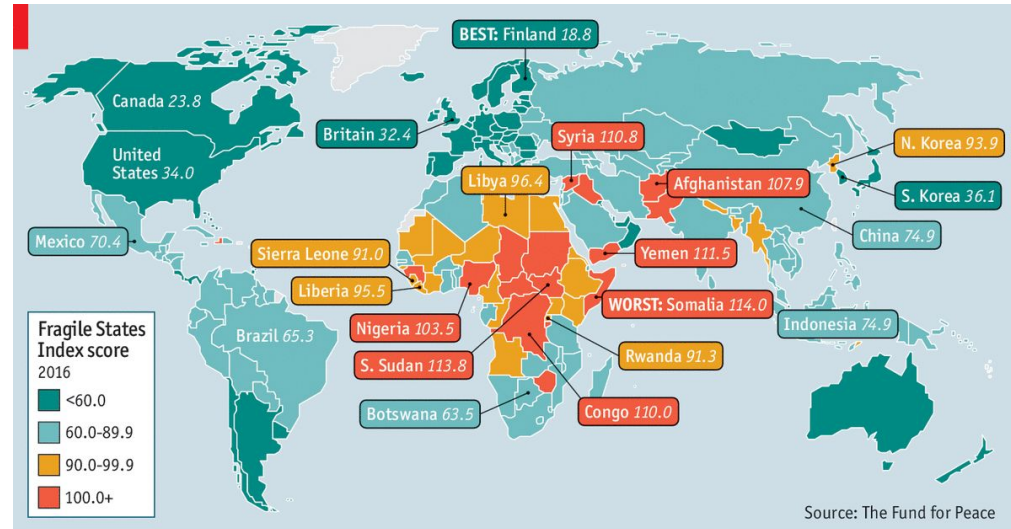
Example: Falkland Islands (Owned by British or Argentina?)



Failed States

Definition: a country where the central government no longer has control of the country. When this happens, smaller government authorities or warlords attempt to take over the country.

Example: Afghanistan and Syria



Supranationalism

Different organizations that work with three or more countries to promote economic, political or cultural unity:

Examples: The United Nations, European Union, World Trade Organization (WTO), World Bank, African Union, OPEC, NAFTA

Organization	What it does (Purpose/actions)
United Nations (p. 208)	-goal is to promote international peace through political and economic cooperation and to assist in the development of LDCs
World Trade Organization (p. 208)	-works to promote trade and remove trade barriers between countries
World Bank (p. 209)	-provides money to LDCs and promotes economic growth in these areas
European Union (p. 2010)	-has removed all trade barriers from member nations and allows for full economic cooperation
NAFTA (p. 210)	-has lessened trade barriers between Canada, US, and Mexico (trade has increased to help US, but US has also lost jobs)
NATO (p. 210)	-provides collective security to member nations (military alliance) -US, Canada, and most Western European nations

Economic Union

-Also known as a trading bloc

Limiting trade tariffs, quotas, and import taxes to increase economic deals between members

Collective Security

Member countries join together for collective (mutual) defense

Ex. NATO, CENTO, Warsaw Pact, SEATO

NATO Treaty Article 9 - An attack on one is considered an attack on all

