CHAPTER 8: POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

KEY ISSUE 1: WHERE ARE STATES DISTRIBUTED?
**STATES**

- **State:** area organized into a political unit and ruled by an established government that has control over its internal and foreign affairs.
  - Occupies a defined territory on Earth’s surface and contains a permanent population.
  - A state has sovereignty – independence from control of its internal affairs by other state because the entire area of a state is managed by its national government, laws, army, and leaders. (formal/uniform region)
    - Largest State: Russia -6.6 million square miles or 11% of total land area
    - Two dozen microstates – states with a very small land area
      - Example: page v. letter
      - Smallest microstate: Monaco -.6 square miles
A WORLD OF STATES

• THE UNITED NATIONS
  • Most important global organization – created at the end of WWII by the Allies.
    • Provided a forum for the discussion of international problems.
    • On occasion will intervene in conflicts between or within member states, authorizing military and peacekeeping actions.
  • GOAL: promote international corporation to address global economic problems, promote human rights, and provide humanitarian relief.
    • Organized in 1945:
      • 51 members
      • 49 sovereign states plus Belarus and Ukraine
      • 2011 – members reached 193
### HISTORY OF THE UN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1955:   | • 16 countries joined  
         | • European countries liberated from Nazi Germany WWII                  |
| 1960:   | • 17 new members  
         | • Africa: all but one former African colony joined  
         | • 4 Original African States: Egypt, Ethiopia, Liberia, and South Africa  
         | • 6 joined in 1950                                                    |
| 1990-1993 | • Break up of Soviet Union and Yugoslavia led to 26 countries joining UN  
          | • Allowed microstates to join                                          |
UNITED NATIONS

• Replaced the League of Nations (established after WWI)
  • United States was not part of the League of Nations
    • Very ineffective in managing conflicts among member nations.
• 5 permanent members
  • China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States
    • Power to veto a peacekeeping operation

COLD WAR ERA:
• US and Soviet Union would veto to prevent undesired UN intervention
  • Soviet Union delegate walked out of the Security Council meeting in 1950 so UN was able to send troops into South Korea.

Recent:
• China and Russia has made it difficult for the international community to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

WEAKNESS OF THE UNITED NATIONS:
• Relies on individual countries to supply troops, which they lack enough of them to keep peace efficiently.
• Tries to remain neutral, but difficult in places like Bosnia.
GAME:
ARE THE FOLLOWING STATES 1 OR 2?
GAME:
ARE THE FOLLOWING STATES 1 OR 2?
GAME:
ARE THE FOLLOWING STATES 1 OR 2?
KOREA: ONE STATE OR TWO?

- Colony of Japan until WWII
- US (south); Soviet Union (north)
- 1940: Divided into Northern and Southern sections along the 38th north latitude
- Soviet Union: Democratic People’s Republic of Korea
  - North Korea
- US: Republic of Korea
  - South Korea
- Conflict:
  - Korean government wants to unify into one sovereign state.
    - 2000: agreed to allowed families to visit
  - Cooperation halted when N. Korea built nuclear weapons while the rest of the country was lacking food, electricity, and basic needs.
- North & South admitted into the UN as separate countries.
CHINA AND TAIWAN: ONE OR TWO?

- MOST COUNTRIES CONSIDER CHINA AND TAIWAN AS SEPARATE AND SOVEREIGN STATES

- According to China:
  - Government of Taiwan is not sovereign but a part of China.
  - Civil War during the 1940s between the Nationalists and the Communists led to the split of the country.
    - Nationalist leaders fled to Taiwan.

- According to Taiwan:
  - They are still the legitimate rulers of the entire country of China.
  - Temporarily satisfied with govern their island until they can recapture China
    - 1999: declared Taiwan is a sovereign independent state
      - US support Nationalists during the Civil War
  - 1971: UN voted to transfer China’s seat from Nationalists to the Communists.

- TAIWAN IS THE MOST POPULOUS STATE NOT IN THE UNITED NATIONS.
WESTERN SAHARA: ONE OR TWO?

- Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (Western Sahara)
  - Most Africans consider it a sovereign state.
- Morocco claims Western Sahara
  - Built wall around to keep rebels out
- Spain withdrew (1976)
  - Sahrawi Republic was declared by Polisario Front and recognized by most Africans.
    - Morocco and Mauritania annexed northern and southern portions of Western Sahara
  - Morocco in sole control (now); occupies most populated areas
    - Polisario Front occupies desert
- UN FAILED RESOLUTION AMONG PARTIES.
POLAR REGIONS: MANY CLAIMS

The Antarctica Treaty:
- 1959 – legal framework for managing Antarctica
  - States may establish research stations there for scientific investigations
  - No military activity

1982: Law of the Sea
- United Nations convention permitted countries to submit claims inside the Arctic Circle 2009
  - Rich in energy sources
DEVELOPMENT OF STATE CONCEPT: ANCIENT STATES

- ANCIENT MIDDLE EAST – FERTILE CRESCENT
  - Formed an arc between the Persian Gulf and the Mediterranean Sea.
    - Center for land and sea communications

- MESOPOTAMIA:
  - Centered in the valley formed by the Tigris and Euphrates rivers (present day – Iraq)
  - First states to evolve were known as city-states—a sovereign state that comprises a town and the surrounding countryside.
    - Wall were built to establish the boundaries of the city
    - Outside the walls is where agricultural land was designated.
    - Countryside provided an outer line of defense against attack by others.
      - One city or tribe would gain military dominance and form an empire – Sumerians, Assyrians, Babylonians, and Persians.

- EGYPT:
  - Nile River Valley known as the extension of the Fertile Crescent
PAUSE AND REFLECT:

1. WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FERTILE CRESCENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELIGIONS?

1. HOW DO YOU THINK THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANCIENT STATES AND RELIGIONS IN THE REGION ARE RELATED?
DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE CONCEPT: MEDIEVAL STATES

ROMAN EMPIRE:
- Political unity in Europe was at its highest
  - Controlled most of Europe, North Africa, and Southwest Asia
  - Modern-day Spain to Iran and from Egypt to England.
- 38 provinces — each used the same laws that were created in Rome.
- Built massive walls for defense

COLLAPSE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE:
- 5th century — series of attacks by people living on its frontiers and because of internal disputes.
- European portion was fragmented into a large number of estates owned by competing kings, dukes, barons, and nobles.

1100:
- Large number of these estates developed
  - Led to the development of modern states (England, France, and Spain)
  - Consolidation continued into a handful of empires (Austrian, French, Ottoman, and Russian)
DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE CONCEPT: NATION-STATES IN EUROPE

- **Nation-state**: state whose territory corresponds to that occupied by a particular ethnicity.
  - Wanted to preserve and enhance distinctive cultural characteristics, seeking to govern themselves without interference.
    - **Self-determination**
  - 19th and 20th century movement
  - Identify nationalities on the basis of language spread elsewhere in Europe during the 20th century.

- **AFTER WWI**:
  - Leaders of the allies met at the Versailles Peace Conference to redraw the map of Europe.
  - Language was the most important criterion the Allied leaders used to create new states in Europe and to adjust the boundaries of existing ones.

- **1930**:
  - Nazis claimed that all German-speaking parts of Europe constituted one nationality and should be unified into one state.

- **AFTER WWII**:
  - Germany was divided into two countries (1949-1990)

- **END OF COMMUNISM**:
  - German Democratic Republic ceased to exist, and its territory became part of the German Federal Republic.
    - Boundary of Germany today does not resemble the 20th century.
CHAPTER 8: POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

KEY ISSUE 2: WHY ARE NATION-STATES DIFFICULT TO CREATE?
NATION-STATES AND MULTINATIONAL STATES

- **Multiethnic**: state that contains more than one ethnicity
  - no state has a population that is 100% of a single ethnicity.
  - Some ethnicities in states contribute features to the formation of a single nationality.
    - Example: United States

- **Multinational state**: country that contains more than one ethnicity with traditions of self-determination.
  - Example: Soviet Union (former) Russia (present)
NATION-STATES IN EUROPE - DENMARK

- 90% of the population of Denmark consists of ethnic Danes.
  - Unity derives from shared cultural characteristics and attitudes and a recorded history that extends back more than 1000+ years.
    - Language: Danish
- 10% of Denmark’s population consists of ethnic minorities
  - Largest group of workers: Turkish and former Yugoslavia due to ethnic cleansing.
- TWO TERRITORIES:
  - Faeroe Islands - 21 islands, 50,000 inhabitants that speak Faeroese.
  - Greenland - world’s largest island. 58,000 inhabitants, Inuit. 12% are Danish. Controls own affairs.
NATION-STATES IN EUROPE: SLOVENIA

Former republic within Yugoslavia

• Was the most prosperous republic and attracted many migrants to the region who have remained there.

1991: independent country

• 83% of population Slovenes - 2 million of the world’s Slovenes.
• 1948: Census showed that Slovenes comprised 97% of Slovenia’s population. (declining steadily)
• National-Assembly reserves 1 seat each for Italian and Hungarian ethnic groups that live there.
  • Boundary changes after WWII resulted in a number of Slovenes in Italy and Italians in Slovenia.
NATION-STATES AND ETHNIC IDENTITY

• **KARL MARX:**
  - Wrote that nationalism was a means for the dominant social classes to maintain power over workers.
  - He believed that workers would identify with other working-class people instead of with an ethnicity.

• **21 CENTURY:**
  - Ethnic identity has once again become important in the creation of nation-states in much of Europe.
  - Break up of Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, and Czechoslovakia during the 1990s gave more-numerous ethnicities the opportunity to organize into nation-states.
  - Less-numerous found themselves in multinational state or divided among more than one of the new states.
    - Example: Balkans

• **COMMUNISM: SOVIET UNION**
  - Used centripetal forces to discourage ethnicities from expressing their cultural uniqueness.
  - Artists and writers were forced to conform to a style known as “socialist realism”
    - Focused on economic and political values of communism.
  - Russian language was promoted and taught as a 2nd language in E. European countries.
  - Religion minimized
INDEPENDENT NATION-STATES IN FORMER SOVIET REPUBLICS

- MANY ETHNICITIES WITHIN THE SOVIET UNION WERE UNABLE TO REALIZE THEIR NATIONALIST ASPIRATIONS AND FORM INDEPENDENT NATION-STATES.
  - Soviet Union consisted of 15 republics (based on largest ethnicities)
  - 15 states consist of 5 groups:
    - THREE BALTIC STATES: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania
    - THREE EUROPEAN STATES: Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine
    - FIVE CENTRAL ASIAN STATeS: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
    - THREE CAUCASUS STATES: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia
    - RUSSIA
# BALTIC STATES

| Lithuania: | 85% Lithuanians  
Majority Roman Catholic  
Language: Baltic group within Balto-Slavic Branch of the Indo-European Family. |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Estonians: | 69% Estonians  
Mostly Protestant (Lutheran)  
Uralic language related to Finnish |
| Latvians:  | 59% are ethnic Latvians  
Lutheran with minority of Catholic  
Language: Baltic group |
| Belarus And Ukraine | • distinct ethnicities due to isolation from the Russians during 13\(^{th}\) and 14\(^{th}\) century.  
• Consequence of the Mongolian invasions and conquests by the Poles and Lithuanians.  
• Russians conquered the Belarusian and Ukrainian homelands in the late 1700s, but after 5 centuries of exposure to non-Slavic influences –have developed 3 distinct ethnicities. |
| Moldova | • Moldovans are ethnically indistinguishable from Romanians, and Moldova was part of Romania until the Soviet Union seized it in 1940.  
• Returned to independent country in 1992 –many Moldovans pushed for reunification with Romania  
• Goal: reunify, but help economic development.  
• 1940: Soviet Union took 10% of Ukraine’s land known as the east bank of Dniester.  
• Inhabitants are known as Trans-Dniestria –Oppose Moldova’s reunification with Romania |
## CENTRAL ASIAN STATES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Ethnic Composition</th>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turkmenistan And Uzbekistan</td>
<td>85% Turkmen, 80% Uzbek</td>
<td>Muslim</td>
<td>Altiac</td>
<td>Example of an ethnic split into multiple countries, Both Muslim, Speak: Altiac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>69% Kyrgyz, 15% Uzbek, 9% Russian</td>
<td>Muslim, Orthodox Christians</td>
<td>Altiac</td>
<td>Resent Russians for capturing farmland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>67% Kazakhs, 18% Russians</td>
<td>Muslim, Orthodox Christians</td>
<td>Altiac, Russian</td>
<td>Twice the size of the other nation-states</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>80% Tajik, 15% Uzbek, 1% Russian</td>
<td>Muslim</td>
<td>Altiac</td>
<td>Civil war, former communist, 15% population homeless from fighting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE LARGEST MULTINATIONAL STATE: RUSSIA

- **Challenge**: maintaining unity and avoiding fragmentation as discontented ethnicities seek to break away and form new nation-states.
  - Russia’s recognizes 39 official ethnic groups as nationalities
    - Many want independence
  - Ethnicities are clustered in 2 locations:
    - Along borders with neighboring states
    - in the center
      - Many ethnic groups were conquered by Ivan IV (Ivan the Terrible)

- **INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS**:
  - Chechens (Sunni Muslims) – speak Caucasian
    - Chechnya was brought under Russian control in the 19th century after a 50-year fight
  - 1991: Soviet Unions breaks up and Russian leaders ignored the desire for independence.
    - Needed because of oil
# Turmoil in the Caucasus

## Azerbaijan
- Azeris trace their roots to Turkish Invaders who migrated from C. Asia in the 8th and 9th centuries and merged with the existing Persian population.
- 1828: treaty allocated northern Azeri territory to Russia and S. Azeri territory to Persia (now Iran -24% of population/oppressed)
- 1923: Russian portion became the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic within the Soviet Union.
- 1991: became independent country (91% population Azeri)

## Armenia
- 3000 years ago – independent kingdom/ christian in 303 lived under rule of Turkish Muslims
- Late 19th/20th century: thousands of Armenians were killed in massacres organized by the Turks.
- Post-WWI: Allies created an independent state of Armenia, but Turkey and the Soviet Union split it between the two.
- 98% of population is Armenian (most ethnically homogenous country)
- War with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh (still a problem)

## Georgia
- More diverse than other 2 countries -71% ethnic Georgians, 8% Armenian, 6% Azeri and Russian, 3% Ossetian, 2% each Abkhazian, Greek, and random.
- Diversity = unrest - Ossetian (south) v. Abkhazian (north)
COLONIES

Colony: a territory that is legally tied to a sovereign state rather than being completely independent.

- Runs only the colony’s military and foreign policy.
- Could also control internal affairs.
COLONIALISM

• The effort by one country to establish settlements in a territory and to impose its political, economic, and cultural principles on that territory

• European States established colonies for 3 reasons:
  • To promote Christianity (God)
  • To extract useful resources; markets (gold)
  • Establish relative power through the number of their colonies. (glory)

• European Colonization of Africa and Asia
  • Imperialism: control of a territory already occupied and organized by an indigenous society
CHAPTER 8: POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

KEY ISSUE 3: WHY DO BOUNDARIES CAUSE PROBLEMS?
PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Desert

Mountain

Water
CULTURAL BOUNDARIES

Geometric

Ethnic

Language
Cyprus’s “green line” boundary

- 3rd LARGEST ISLAND IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA
  - Nationalities:
    - Greek (78% of population)
    - Turkish (18% of population)
- 1960: GAINED INDEPENDENCE FROM BRITAIN
  - Constitution guaranteed the Turkish minority a share of elected offices and control over its own education, religion, and culture.
- GREEK CYPRiot MILITARY:
  - 1974: seized control of the government
  - Turkey invaded Cyprus to protect Turkish minority
    - Government was restored; however, Turkish military never left.
- 1983:
  - Northern 36% of the island is controlled by Turkey
    - Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
- THE WALL:
  - Buffer zone patrolled by the UN
  - Nationalities became geographically isolated
  - Forced migration to each side of wall based on ethnicity
    - Portion of wall down
- UN PEACE PLAN –REJECTED BY GREEKS
SHAPES OF STATES

**Boundary:** invisible line marking the extent of a state’s territory.

5 Basic Shapes:

1. Compact
2. Elongated
3. Prorupted
4. Perforated
5. Fragmented
COMPACT STATES: EFFICIENT

• Distance from the center to any boundary does not vary significantly.
  • Shaped like a circle with the capitol in the middle.
ELONGATED STATES: POTENTIAL ISOLATION

- Have a long and narrow shape.
- Examples: Malawi, Chile, Italy, Gambia
- ISSUE: can suffer from poor internal communications / isolation from capitol.
PRORUPTED STATES: ACCESS/DISRUPTION

- Compact state with a large projecting extension.
  - Provides state with access to a resource (water)
  - Separates 2 states that otherwise would share a boundary.
PERFORATED STATES: SOUTH AFRICA

- A state that completely surrounds another one.
  - Example: South Africa
  - State surrounded: Lesotho
    - Depends on S. Africa for imports and exports of goods.
    - Discrimination between whites/blacks
FRAGMENTED STATES: PROBLEMATIC

- Several discontinuous pieces of territory.

- Two kinds:
  - Fragmented states separated by water
  - Fragmented states separated by an intervening state.
• Lesotho is unique by being completely surrounded by another state, but it shares a common feature with other states, being landlocked.

• **Landlocked State**: lacks a direct outlet to the sea because it is completely surrounded by several other countries.

• Landlocked states are common in Africa, 14 of the continent's 54 states have no direct ocean access.

• This is a remnant of the colonial era, when Britain and France controlled extensive regions.
GOVERNING STATES:

• Two types of governments:
  • National
    • More/less democratic
  • Local

• National governments can be classified as democratic, autocratic, anocratic
  • Democracy: citizens elect leaders and can run for office.
  • Autocracy: run according to the interests of the ruler than the people.
  • Anocracy: not fully democratic or fully autocratic –mix.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Autocracy</th>
<th>Democracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selection of Leaders</strong></td>
<td>• leaders are selected according to clearly defined rules of succession from within the established political elite.</td>
<td>• institutions and procedures through which citizens can express effective preferences about alternative policies and leaders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Citizen Participation</strong></td>
<td>• citizens participate sharply restricted or suppressed.</td>
<td>• institutionalized constraints on the exercise of power by the executive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Checks and Balances</strong></td>
<td>• leaders who exercise power with no meaningful checks from legislative, judicial, or civil society institutions.</td>
<td>• guarantees of civil liberties to all citizens in their daily lives and in acts of political participation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TREND TOWARD DEMOCRACY:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>• the replacement of increasingly irrelevant and out-of-touch monarchies with elected governments that are able to regulate, tax, and mobilize citizens in exchange for broadening individual rights and liberties.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>• the widening of participation in policy making to all citizens through universal rights to vote and to serve in government.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>• the diffusion of democratic government structures created in Europe and N. America to other regions of the world.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ARAB SPRING:

- Began in the late 2010 and reached its peak during spring 2011.
- Consisted of major protests in a dozen countries in Southwest Asia and North Africa.
  - Protests resulted in forcing from power autocratic rulers in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, and Yemen.

- Protests included:
  - Demonstrations, rallies, strikes, and other forms of civil disobedience
    - Led by college-aged people
  - Social Media (improved technology) was used to organize protests and communicate information.
## LOCAL SCALE: UNITARY AND FEDERAL STATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unitary State</th>
<th>Federal State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• places most power in the hands of central government officials</td>
<td>• allocates strong power to units of local government within the country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• works best in nation-states characterized by few internal cultural differences and a strong sense of national unity.</td>
<td>• Example: United States – local governments possess considerable authority to adopt their own laws.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Requires effective communications with all regions of the country, smaller states are more likely to adopt it.</td>
<td>• Can be sued to empower different nationalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Very common in Europe</td>
<td>• More suitable for large states</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Multinational states have adopted unitary systems, so that values of one nationality can be imposed on others.</td>
<td>• Size of state is not always predictable of the form of government being chosen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• can be used to put one ethnic group in power</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ELECTORAL GEOGRAPHY

- **Issue**: Drawing the lines of legislative district boundaries.
  - Boundaries are redrawn based on the census
    - 435 districts of the US House of Representatives are redrawn every 10 years.
  - **Gerrymandering**: process of redrawing legislative boundaries for the purpose of benefiting the party in power.
    - Named after Elbridge Gerry — signed a bill that redistricted the state to benefit his party. (looked like a salamander — gerrymander)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stacked Vote</th>
<th>Links distant areas of like-minded voters through oddly shaped boundaries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excess Vote</td>
<td>Concentrates opposition of supporters into a few districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wasted Vote</td>
<td>Spreads opposition supporters across many districts but in the minority.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>