



Chapter 8: Political Geography

Key Issues

- Where are states distributed?
- Why are nation-states difficult to create?
- Why do boundaries cause problems?
- Why do states cooperate and compete with each other?

Where Are States Distributed?

- A *state* is an area organized into a political unit and ruled by an established government that has control over its internal and foreign affairs.
 - Occupies defined territory
 - Permanent population
- A state has *sovereignty*, which means independence from control of its internal affairs by other states.

- **Nation**: group with a common culture (think ethnicity)
- **Nation-state**: a country whose population possesses a substantial degree of cultural homogeneity and unity.
- **Stateless nation**: is the case of an ethnic group of people without a state
- A **microstate** (or mini-state) is a sovereign state having a very small population or very little land area

Where Are States Distributed?

- The United Nations
 - Created at end of World War II to serve the role of a facilitator for discussions regarding international problems.
 - At times, UN has intervened in conflicts between or within member states.
 - UN Membership increased rapidly on three occasions.
 1. 1955: 16 mostly European countries joined as a result of the Nazi Germany breakup.
 2. 1960: 17 mostly former African colonies joined.
 3. 1990-1993: 26 countries joined as a result of Soviet Union and Yugoslavia breakup.

Political and military cooperation

The **United Nations** (est. 1945)

Represents a forum where virtually all states can meet and vote on issues without resorting to war – **Political Cooperation**



- 193 members**
- Original members: 51
 - 1940s: Added 8
 - 1950s: Added 24
 - 1960s: Added 42
 - 1970s: Added 25
 - 1980s: Added 7
 - 1990s: Added 31
 - 2000s: Added 4
 - 2010s: Added 1
 - Nonmember



Where Are States Distributed?

- Challenges in Defining States
 - Disagreement exists about actual number of sovereign states as a result of historical disputes involving more than one claim to a territory.
 - China
 - Most other countries consider China (People's Republic of China) and Taiwan (Republic of China) as separate and sovereign states.
 - China's government considers Taiwan part of China.
 - Western Sahara (Sahrawi Republic)
 - Most African countries consider Western Sahara a sovereign state.
 - Morocco claims the territory.
 - » Built a 2,700 km. (1,700 mi) wall around it to keep rebels out.

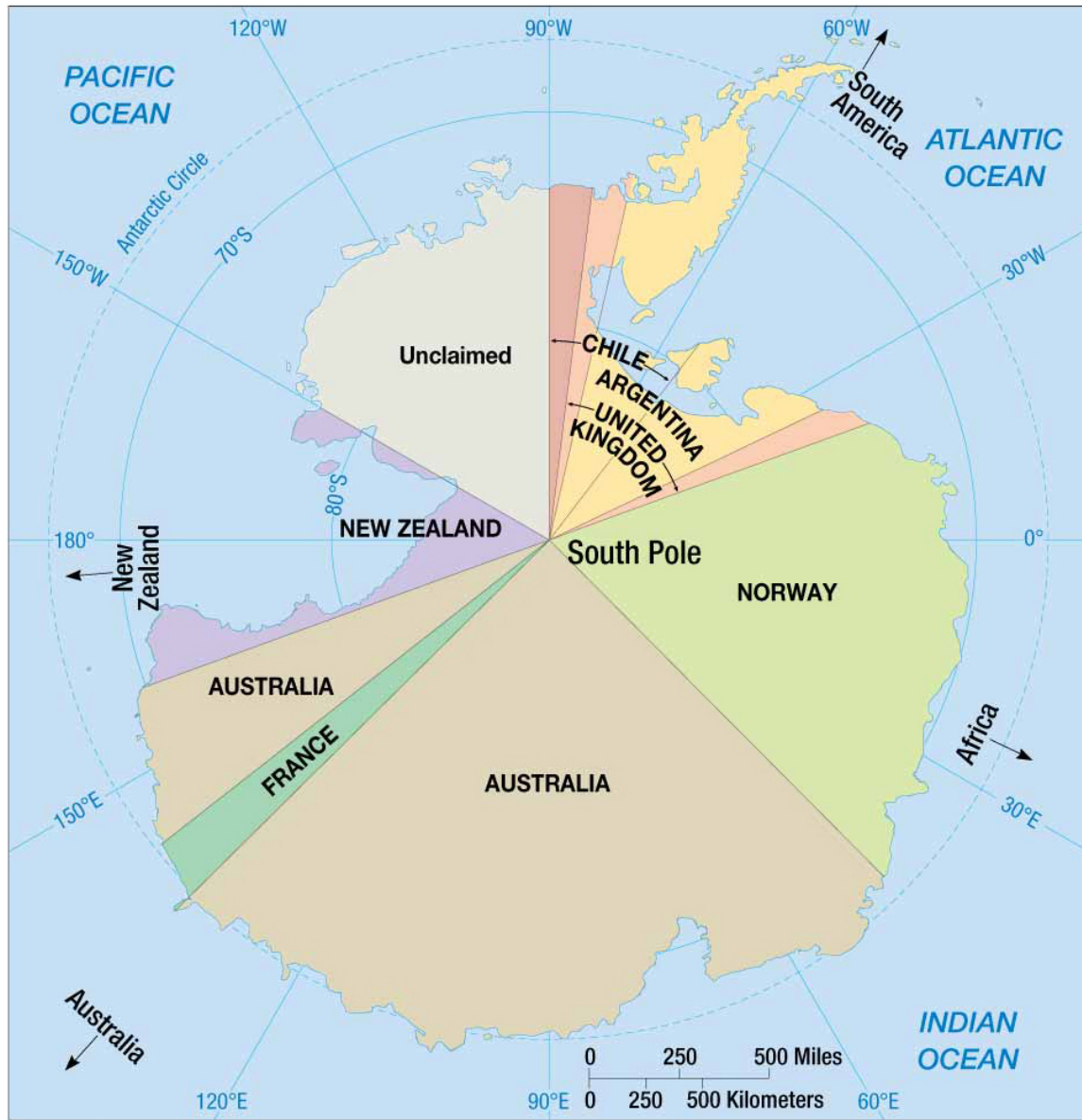


Where Are States Distributed?

- Challenges in Defining States

- Polar Regions: Many Claims

- Several states claim portion of the South Pole region
 - » Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway, and the U.K.
 - Some claims in the South Pole region are overlapping and conflicting
 - » Argentina, Chile, and the U.K.
 - U.S., Russia, and many other states do not recognize claims to Antarctica.
 - 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea permitted countries to submit claims inside the Arctic Circle by 2009.





"WHEN IN ROME"

THE ORIGINAL YOLO

reddit.com/r/AdviceAnimals



117 AD



city-states, which are comprised of towns and their

controlled by city to produce food

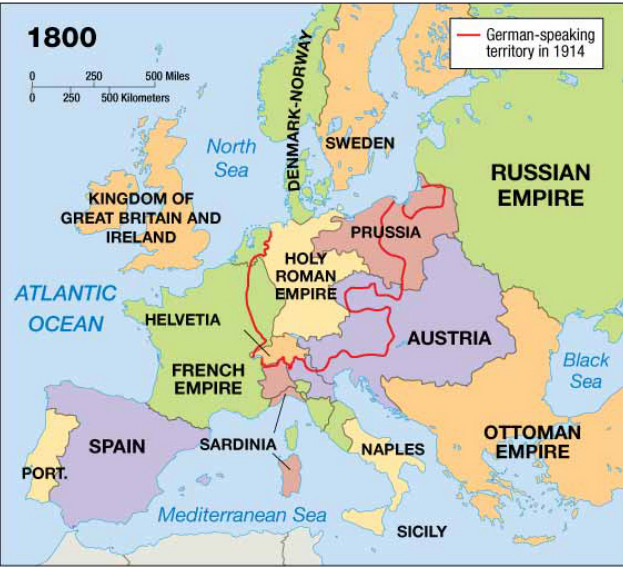
individual city-states led to the

formation of empires. e.g. Roman Empire

- Roman Empire collapse in 5th century led to its land being parceled up and controlled by various monarchies.

Where Are States Distributed?

- Development of the State Concept
 - Nation-States in Europe
 - A *nation-state* is a state this territory corresponds to that occupied by a particular ethnicity.
 - » The concept that ethnicities have the right to govern themselves is known as *self-determination*.
 - After WWI, leaders of the victorious countries met at the Versailles Peace Conference to redraw the map of Europe.
 - » Language most important criterion to create new European states and to adjust existing boundaries.
 - » Nation-states created by Versailles conference lasted through most of 20th century with little adjustment.



KI #2 Why Are Nation-states Difficult to Create?

- Nation-states and Multinational States
 - A state that contains more than one ethnicity is a *multi-ethnic state*.
 - Multitude of ethnicities in some cases all contribute cultural features to the formation of a single nationality. e.g. United States of America
 - A *multinational state* is a country that contains more than one ethnicity with traditions of self-determination. e.g. Russia

Why Are Nation-states Difficult to Create?

- Nation-states and Multinational States
 - Nation-States in Europe
 - Denmark
 - 90% of population are ethnic Danes
 - Nearly all Danes speak Danish
 - » Nearly all world's Danish speakers live in Denmark
 - Slovenia
 - 83% of population are ethnic Slovenes
 - Nearly all of the world's Slovenes live in Slovenia



Why Are Nation-states Difficult to Create?

- **The Largest Multinational State: Russia**
 - Russia's 39 ethnicities are clustered in two principal locations.
 1. Along borders with neighboring states
 - Buryats and Tuvinians near Mongolia
 - Chechens, Dagestanis, Kabardins, and Ossetians near the Azerbaijan and Georgia
 2. Clustered in the center of Russia, especially between the Volga River basin and the Ural Mountains.
 - Most numerous ethnicities include Bashkirs, Chuvash, and Tatars.



Turkic peoples	Slavic peoples	Other Indo-European peoples	Other Uralic and Altaic peoples	Paleo-Siberian peoples
Tatars, Bashkirs	Russians	Lithuanians, Armenians, Ossetians	Karelians, Mari, Komi, Mordvins, Udmurts, Mansi, Khanty, Nentsy, Buryats, Kalmyks, Evenki, Eveny, Nganasany	Chukchi, Koryaks, Nivkhi
Azerbaijdzhani	Ukrainians	Germans		Eskimos
Other Turkic peoples	Caucasian peoples	Jews		Uninhabited or sparsely settled
	Georgians, Chechens, Ingush, peoples of Dagestan			

Why Are Nation-states Difficult to Create?

- The Largest Multinational State: Russia
 - Turmoil in the Caucasus
 - Caucasus region is situated between the Black and Caspian seas.
 - Home to several ethnicities including Azeris, Armenians, and Georgians.
 - With the breakup of the region into independent countries, long-simmering conflicts among ethnicities have erupted into armed conflicts.





REGRETS

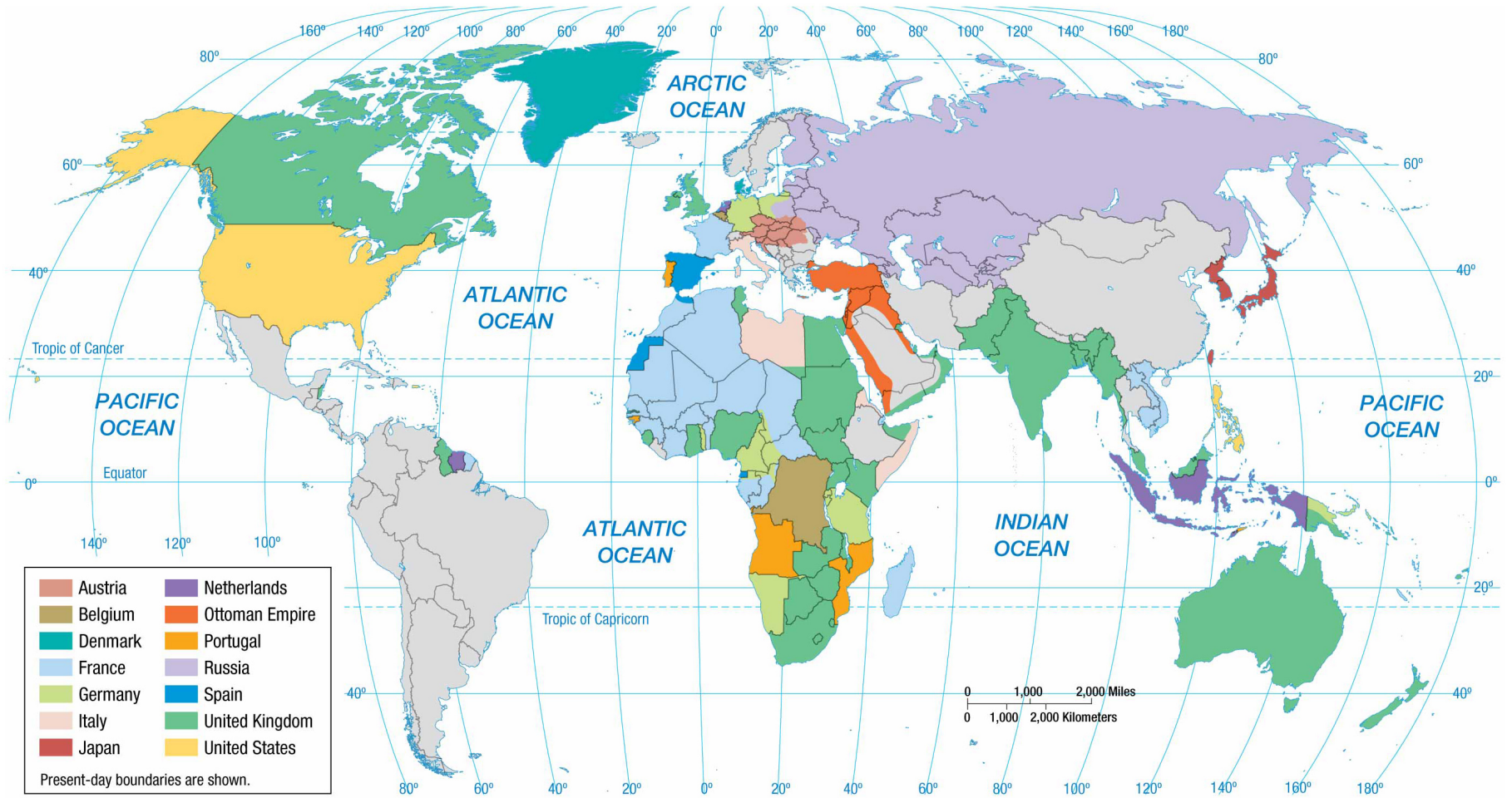
Those were the droids you were looking for.



territory

Colonialism ----

- Three motives: “God, gold, and glory”
 - Today = some remaining colonies
- Imperialism – control of a territory already occupied and organized by an indigenous society.



- After colonialism – new countries are formed. Conflict arises from the superimposed boundaries.
 - Superimposed boundaries are a political boundary placed by powerful outsiders on a developed human landscape.
 - Occurred in Africa, Asia, Middle East. Leads to conflict among different ethnicities that are now part of the same country.

Mackinder's Heartland Theory:

*“Who rules East Europe commands the Heartland
Who rules the Heartland commands the World Island
Who rules the World Island commands the world”*



Theories not in our book ----

- **Heartland Theory** MacKinder; early 1900s; based on land power. Believed that the best base for world domination would be the Eurasian Heartland.
- **Rimland Theory** Spykman; 1944; based on coastal power. Reasoned that the best base for global conquest would be the Eurasian Rimland.

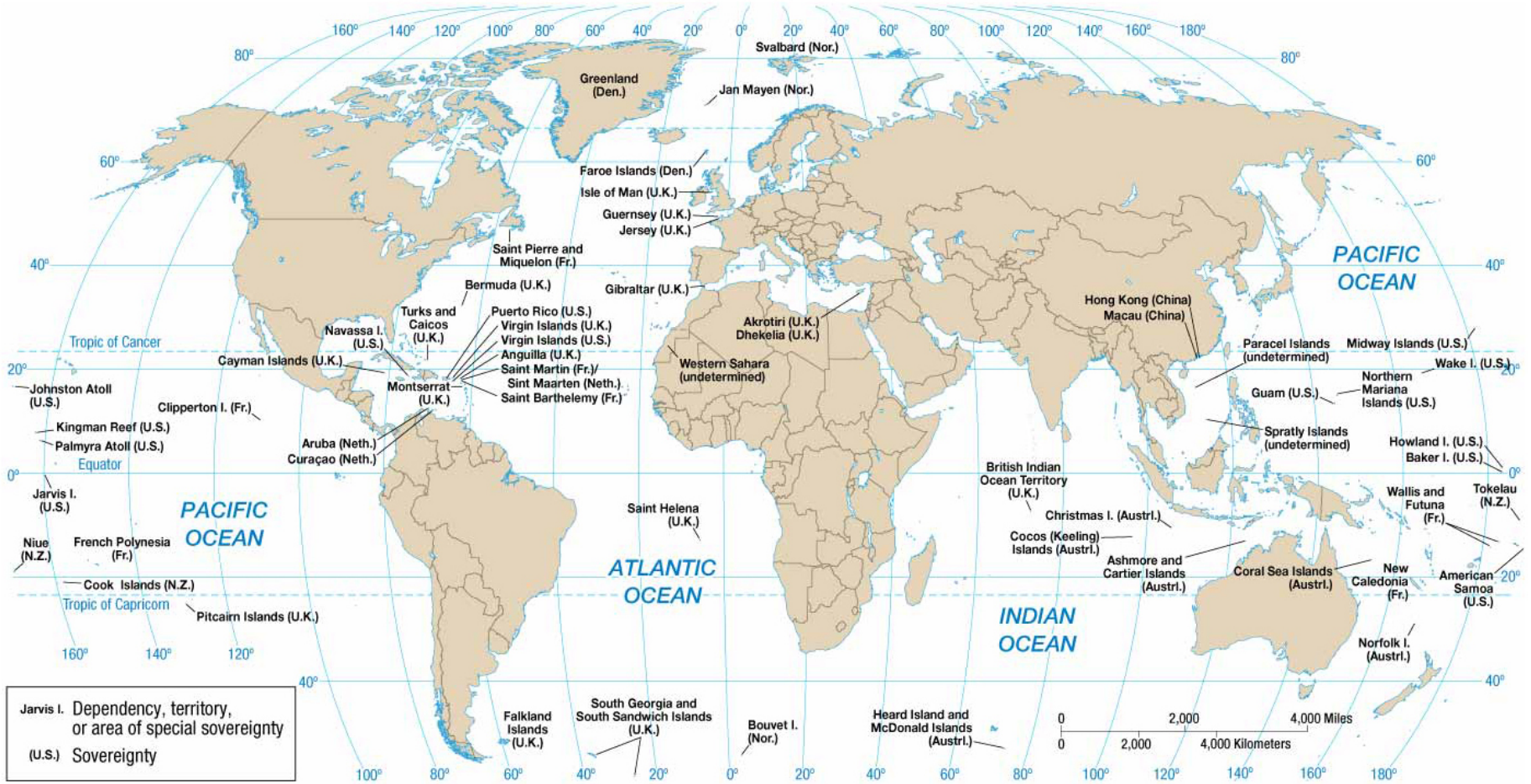


Why Are Nation-states Difficult to Create?

- Colonies

- The Remaining Colonies

- U.S. Department of State lists 68 places in the world that it calls dependencies and areas of special sovereignty.
 - 43 indigenous populations
 - 25 with no permanent population
 - Most current colonies are islands in the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea.
 - » Ex. Puerto Rico, a commonwealth of the U.S., is home to 4 million residents who are U.S. citizens, but they do not participate in U.S. election or have a voting member of Congress.



Centripetal and Centrifugal Forces

- **Centripetal forces** as things that bind or hold a nation together & promote national unity:

- Strong leadership-
charismatic leader
- External threat
- Education
- Ideology-Fascism,
Communism or Democracy
- Movement or circulation



**Centrifugal Forces
Divide a State**

- Ethnic Conflict
- Social Injustice
- Poverty
- Dictatorial Leadership
- Religious Intolerance
- Nationalism
- Loss of Rights
- Any Other Divisive Force



**Centripetal Forces
Hold a State Together**

- Ethnic Unity and Tolerance
- Social/Economic Equity
- Just and Fair Legal System
- Charismatic Leadership
- Religious Acceptance
- Nationalism
- Common Heritage
- Common Language
- Any Other Unifying Force

Centripetal and Centrifugal Forces

- **Centrifugal forces** are things that divide or tear a state apart: (also called Devolutionary forces)
 - Ethnic or cultural differences
 - Religious differences
 - Linguistic diversity
 - Economic disparity
 - Movement or circulation
 - Physical geographical differences



Centrifugal Forces Divide a State

Ethnic Conflict
Social Injustice
Poverty
Dictatorial Leadership
Religious Intolerance
Nationalism
Loss of Rights
Any Other Divisive Force



Centripetal Forces Hold a State Together

Ethnic Unity and Tolerance
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Devolution –

Movement of power from the central government to regional governments within the state.

What causes devolutionary movements?

Ethnocultural forces

Economic forces

Spatial forces

The Forces of Devolution

- Since 1990 about 26 new nations created.
- Ironically with EU & adoption of **euro** greater centrifugal forces in Europe.
- London's decision to join EU encouraged Scottish nationalism.
- 1990s Scottish National Party encouraged devolution.
- 1997 Labour Party gave Scots & Welsh chance to vote-both voted to have their own parliaments



Ethnocultural Devolutionary Movements

Scotland

rise in independence movement is coupled with:

- European Union
- Scotland's oil resources



The Forces of Devolution-Cultural

Forces

- Most of the world's 200 nations have multicultural populations.
- **Spain-Basque & Catalonia** in 1979 signed autonomy agreements
 - Have their own parliaments
 - Languages have official status
 - Control over education
 - Power of taxation
- But **Basque** separatist were not satisfied-continued bombing & terror attacks



The Forces of Devolution-Cultural Forces

- **Belgium-Flemish** (Dutch) in north, **Walloons** (French) in south
- **Czechoslovakia** split in Jan. 1993 in the “Velvet Divorce”
- **Sudan**-Muslim north & Christian south
- **Sri Lanka**-Tamils, a Hindu minority fight for independence from the Sinhalese a Buddhist majority



The Forces of Devolution-Cultural Forces

- Greatest tragedy was Yugoslavia which erupted in Civil War in the 1990s
- Thrown together after WW I with Serbia as the core of “The Land of the South Slavs”
- 7 major, 17 minor ethnic groups, 3 religions & 2 alphabets
- North-Croats & Slovenes-Catholic
- South-Serbs are Orthodox, Muslim enclaves
- Rule by royal house of Serbia, during WWII German occupation the Croats supported the Nazis, Serbs fought as anti-Nazi partisans.
- **Josip Broz Tito** emerged as a communist leader after WWII-nationalism suppressed under his iron fist.

The Forces of Devolution-Cultural Forces

- After the death of **Tito** & later the collapse of communism-ethnic conflict of Croat versus Serb and everyone versus Muslims emerged again.
- Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia-Montenegro & Macedonia became independent.
- **Bosnia**-no clear majority, Dayton Accords partitioned Bosnia & ended the civil war- Muslims 44%, Serbs 32% & Croats 17%



Ethnocultural Devolutionary

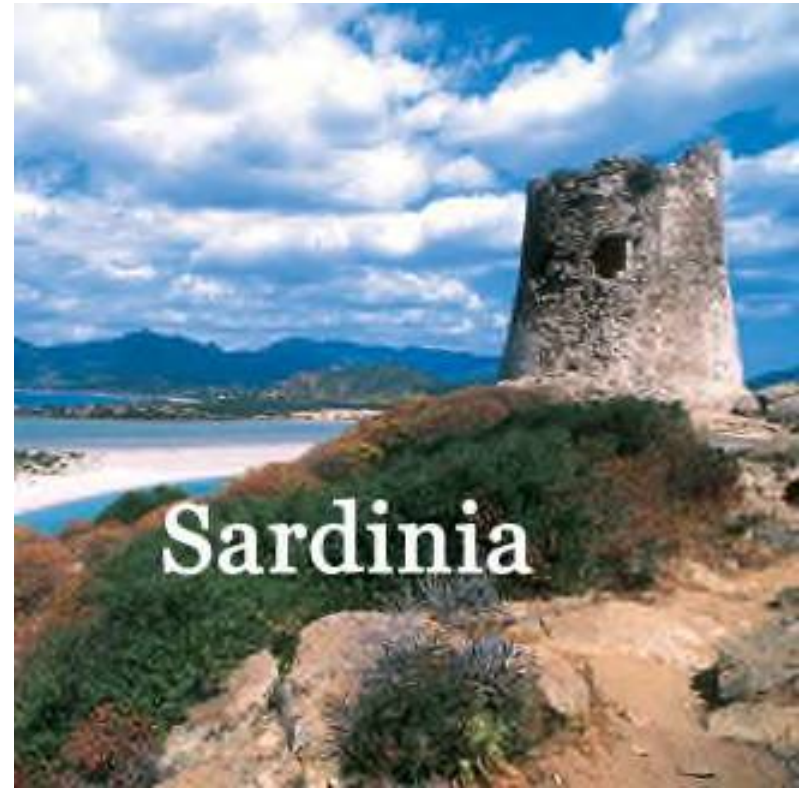
Movements Eastern Europe

devolutionary
forces since
the fall of
communism



The Forces of Devolution-Economic Forces

- **Catalonians** in Spain site reasons for economic independence-6% of territory, yet have 25% of exports & 40% of industrial exports.
- **Italy-Mezzorgiono** (region of the south is poor & agrarian) Sardinia feels neglected and there is a growing disparity between the industrial North & agricultural South
- Italy has moved to a federal system due to pressure by the north.



Economic Devolutionary Movements

Catalonia, Spain

Barcelona is the center of banking and commerce in Spain and the region is much wealthier than the rest of Spain.



The Forces of Devolution-Economic Forces

- **France-Corsica**, a small minority of the islands 25,000 demand autonomy. It was taken from Genoese, Italy in 1768. Bomb attacks (600) in 1996 caused tourism to drop.
- **Brazil-1990s** the 3 southern states: Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Parana claimed the govt. misspent money in Amazon-had a leader, created flag, and demanded independence for the Republic of the Pampas.



The Forces of Devolution-Spatial Forces

- Spatial factors-remote frontiers, isolated villages, rugged topography or repeated historic invasions contribute to devolution
- Many islands such as Corsica, Sardinia, Taiwan, Singapore, Zanzibar, Jolo (Philippines) and Puerto Rico have demanded independence.
- **Hawaii**-indigenous population demand autonomy; **Puerto Rico** small, but vocal independence movement; **Cascadia**-Washington, Oregon & British Columbia.



Devolution of the Soviet Union

- 50 years a Bi-Polar World of Cold War arms race & danger of nuclear war.
- In 1980s centrifugal forces increased-multiculturalism, multi-nationalism, economic troubles
- Gorbachev loosened the Soviet grip on Eastern Europe & at home introduced perestroika (restructuring) & glasnost (openness)
- Fall of 1989 the Iron Curtain collapsed, the Berlin Wall was opened.



The Devolution of the Soviet Union

- Failed coup attempt in August 1991 led to the collapse of communism & dissolution of the USSR on Dec. 25, 1991.
- Commonwealth of Independent States created, Baltic States & Georgia stayed out & became completely independent.
- Muslim Azerbaijan & Christian Armenia had armed conflict.
- Georgia had a civil war, Abkhazia in Northwest declared independence
- Near Abroad-what the Russians called the 25 million Russians who live in the former Soviet Republics.

The Devolution of Russia

- Within Russia-16 autonomous homelands for some of the minorities-boundaries were changed to reward or punish certain groups
- Soviets created many geographical problems just like the colonial powers in Asia & Africa
- 1991-95 about 5 additional republics recognized in Russia
- Checho-Ingushetia became Chechnya and Ingushetia
- **Chechnya**-Muslim population in the Caucasus demanded independence-Moscow refused, war & destruction of Grozny resulted-terrorist attacks in Moscow, Beslan, etc.
- Russia had given in on many occasions-created 21 republics & 68 regions in a federal framework.
- Russia is still the largest nation on earth, but only 6th in population

KI #3 Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?

- Boundary – an invisible line marking the extent of a state's territory.
 - Physical and cultural features
 - Boundaries can generate conflicts





is a zone where no state exercises complete political control, rather than boundaries separated states.

– Three types of physical elements serve as boundaries between states:

1. Desert Boundary

– Effectively divide two states, because deserts are hard to cross and sparsely inhabited.

Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?

- Types of Boundaries

- 2. Mountain Boundary

- Effectively divide two states, if the terrain is difficult to cross.
 - Useful boundaries because of the terrain and tendency to be sparsely populated.

- 3. Water Boundary



...ivers, lakes, and oceans.

...erall than mountain boundaries
...cies of water levels to change in
...d river channels to move over time.

- Types of boundaries
 - Physical
 - Desert boundaries
 - Mountain boundaries
 - Water boundaries
 - Cultural
 - Geometric boundaries
 - Religious Boundaries
 - Language Boundaries
 - Ethnic Boundaries
- Frontiers – a zone where no state exercises complete political authority



» Boundary established in 1960 by the U.S. and Great Britain.

- **Ethnic Boundaries**

- Boundary coincides with differences in ethnicity, especially language and religion.
- Language differences influenced the demarcation of boundaries in England, France, Portugal, and Spain before the 19th century in Europe.

Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?

- Shapes of States
 - Controls the length of its boundaries with other states.
 - Affects the potential for communication and conflict with neighbors.
 - Shape is part of a country's unique identity.
 - Shape also influences the ease or difficulty of internal administration and can affect social unity.

Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?

- Shapes of States

- Countries have one of five basic shapes

1. Compact States: Efficient

- Distance from center of state to any boundary does not vary significantly.

- » Ideal theoretical example would be circle-shaped with the capital in the center.

2. Elongated States: Potential Isolation

- Long and narrow shape.

- May suffer from poor internal communications.

- Example: Chile

- » 4,000 km. (2,500 mi.) long north and south

- » Rarely exceeds 150 km. (90 mi.) wide east and west.

Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?

- Shapes of States

- Countries have one of five basic shapes

- 3. Prorupted States: Access or Disruption

- Otherwise compact state with a large projecting extension.

- Prorptions created for two principal reasons.

- 1. Provide a state with access to a resource, such as water.

- 2. Separate two states that other would share a boundary.

- 4. Perforated States: South Africa

- A state that completely surrounds another one.

- Encompassed state is dependent on the surrounding state for interactions beyond its boundary.

- » E.G. Vatican City surrounded by Italy

Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?

- Shapes of States

- Countries have one of five basic shapes

- 5. Fragmented States: Problematic

- A state that includes several discontinuous pieces of territory.

- Two kinds of fragmented states

- 1. Fragmented states separated by water

- 2. Fragmented states separated by an intervening state.

- Shapes of
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 - Landlocked
 - surrounded



including states

continuous Russia/

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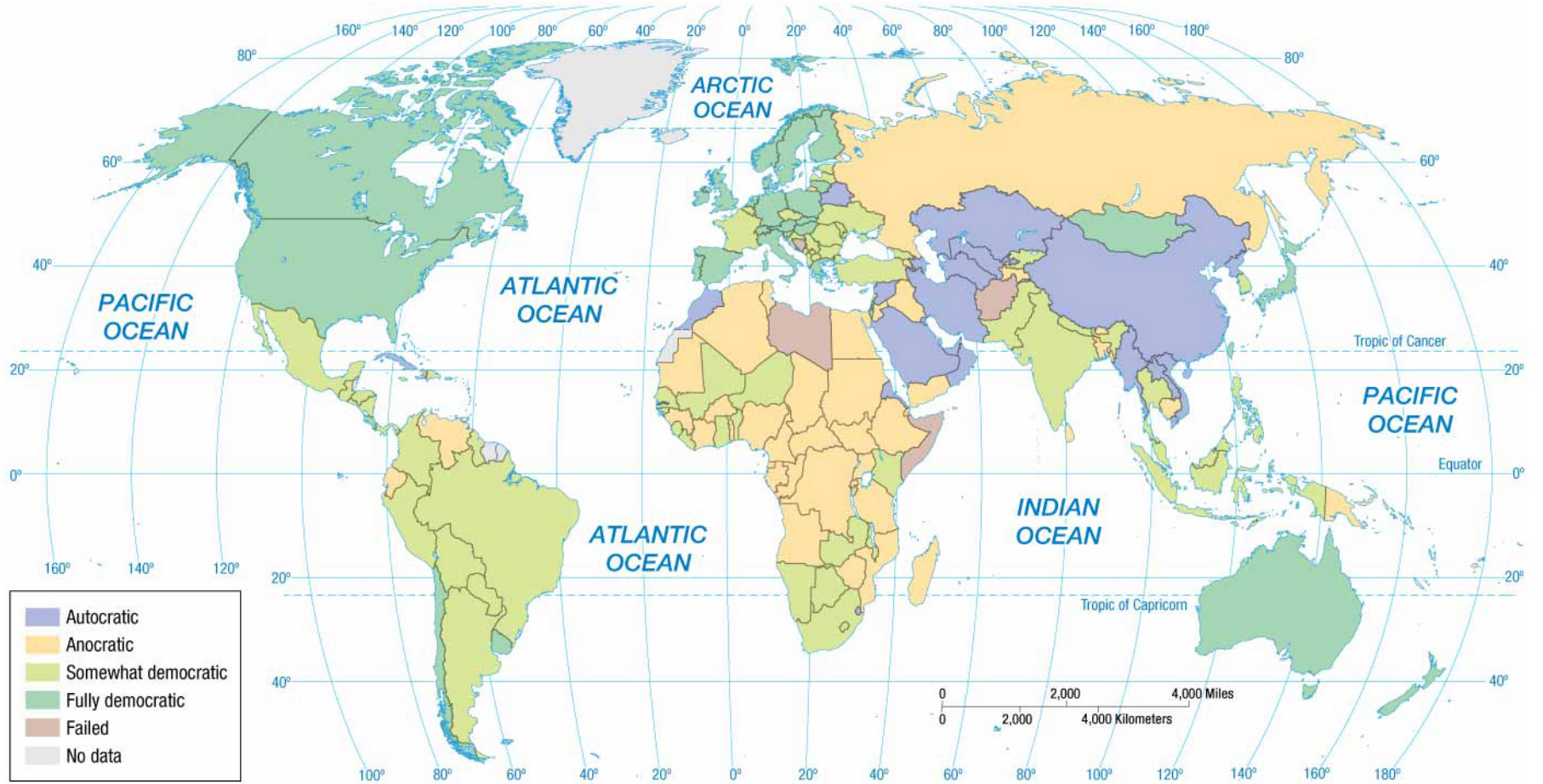
sea,

Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?

- **Governing States**
 - National governments can be classified as democratic, autocratic, or anocratic.
 - A *democracy* is a country in which citizens elect leaders and can run for office.
 - An *autocracy* is a country that is run according to the interests of the ruler rather than the people.
 - An *anocracy* is a country that is not fully democratic or fully autocratic, but rather a mix of the two.

- Boundaries inside states
 - Unitary states
 - Example: France
 - Federal states
 - Example: Poland, US
 - Globally, there is a trend toward federalism





Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?

- **Governing States**

- **National Scale: Regime Types**

- Democracies and autocracies differ in three essential elements:

1. **Selection of Leaders**

- » Democracies have institutions and procedures through which citizens can express effective preferences about alternative policies and leaders.
- » Autocracies have leaders who are selected according to clearly defined (usually hereditary) rules of succession from within the political elite.

2. **Citizen Participation**

- » Democracies have institutionalized constraints on the exercise of power by the executive.
- » Autocracies have citizens' participation restricted or suppressed.

Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?

- **Governing States**

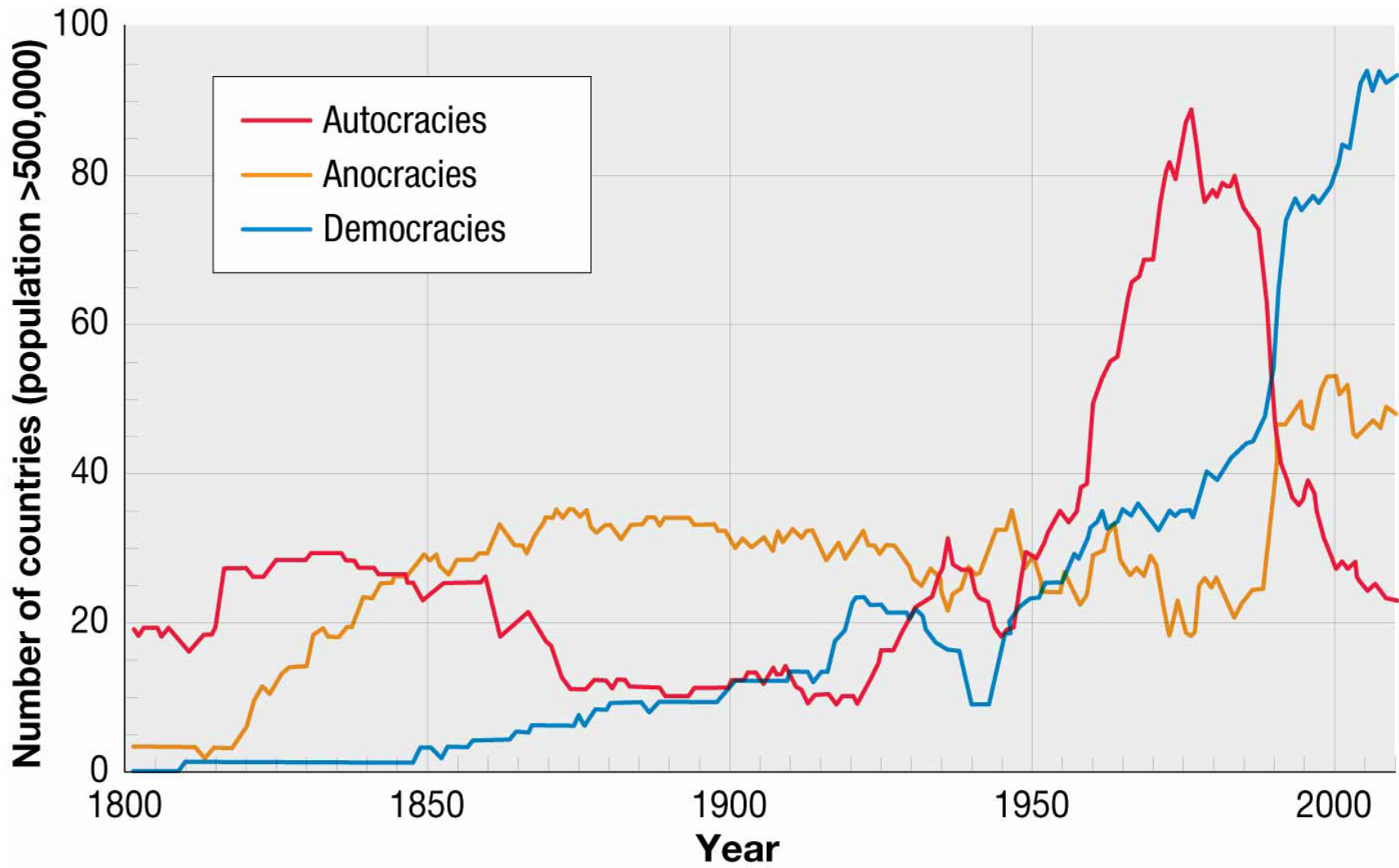
- **National Scale: Regime Types**

- Democracies and autocracies differ in three essential elements cont'd:

- 3. Checks and Balances:

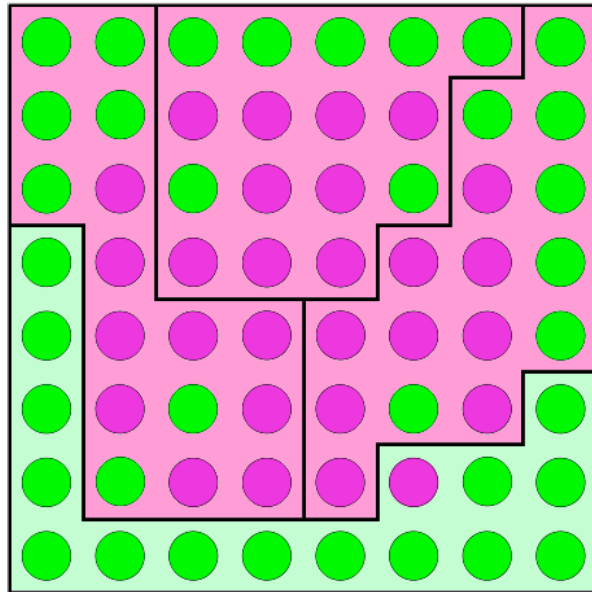
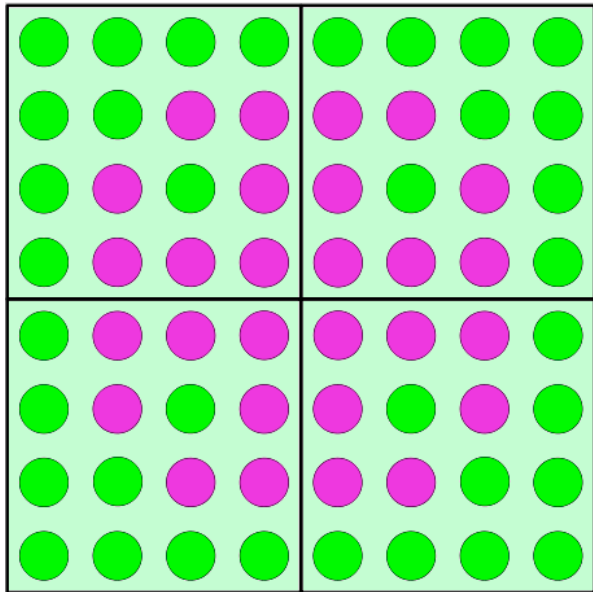
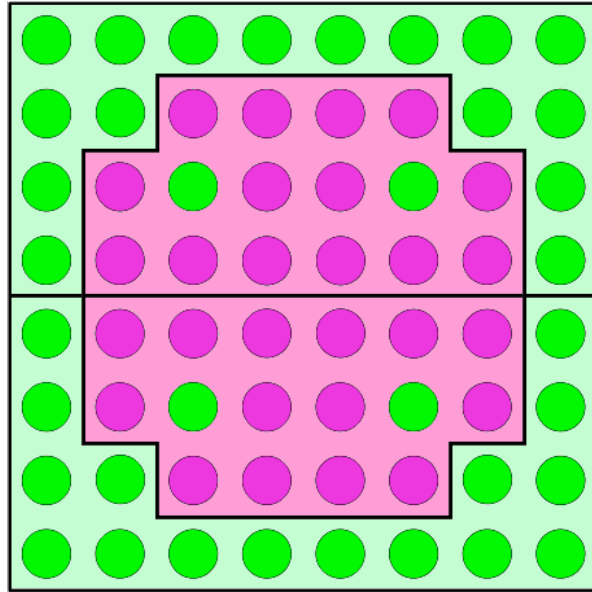
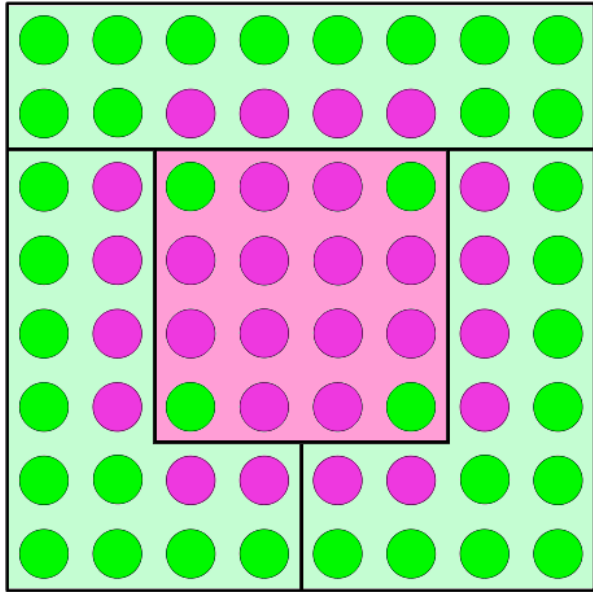
- » Democracies guarantee civil liberties to all citizens.
 - » Autocracies have leaders who exercise power with no meaningful checks from legislative, judicial, or civil society institutions.

- In general, the world has become more democratic since the turn of the 19th century.



Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?

- Electoral Geography
 - Boundaries separating legislative districts within the U.S. and other countries are redrawn periodically to ensure each has about the same population.
 - 435 districts of the U.S. House of Representatives are redrawn every 10 years, following the Census Bureau's release of the official population figures.
 - Process of redrawing legislative boundaries for the purpose of benefits the party in power is called *gerrymandering*.



Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?

- Electoral Geography

- Gerrymandering takes three forms:

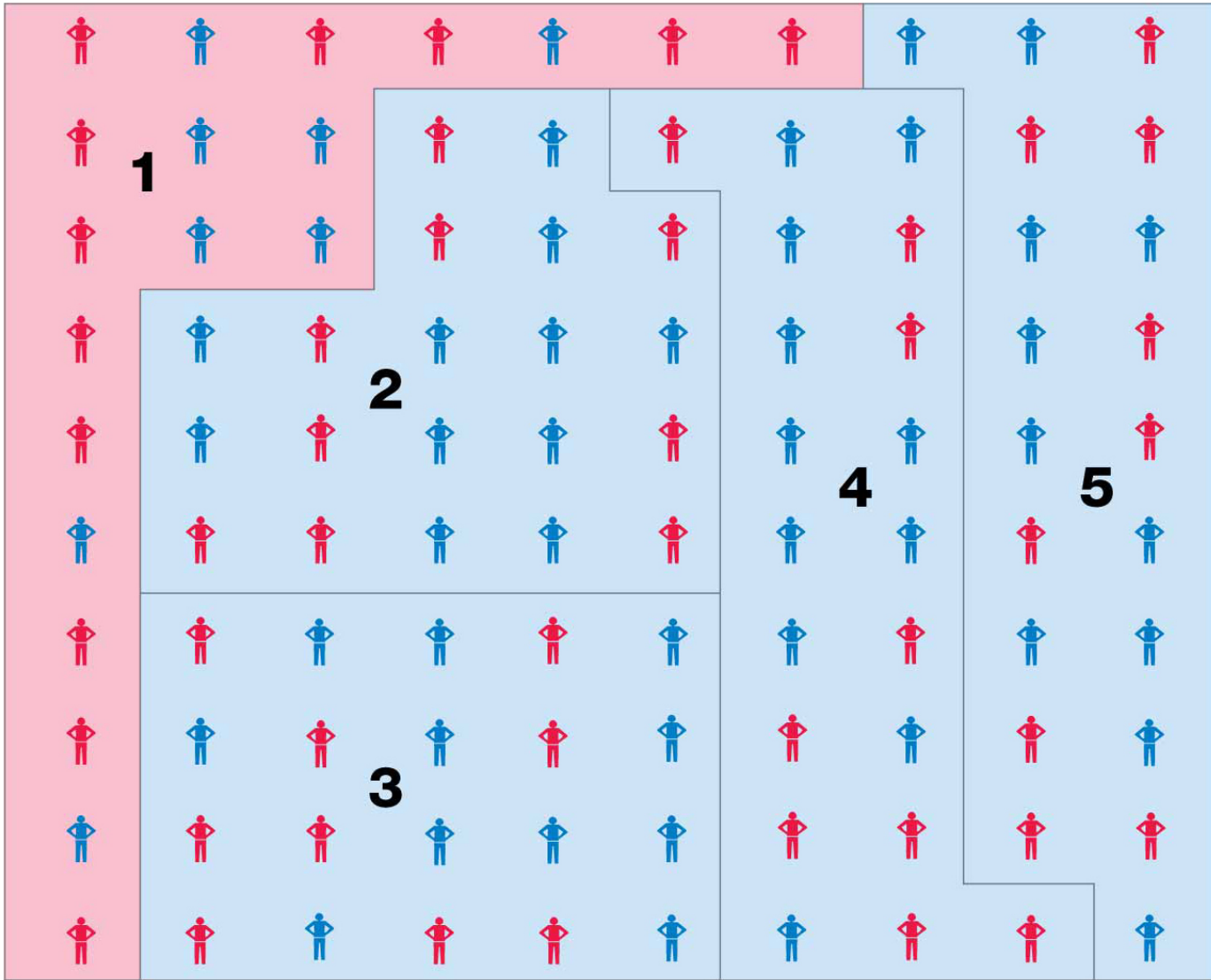
1. *Wasted vote* spreads opposition supporters across many districts but in the minority.

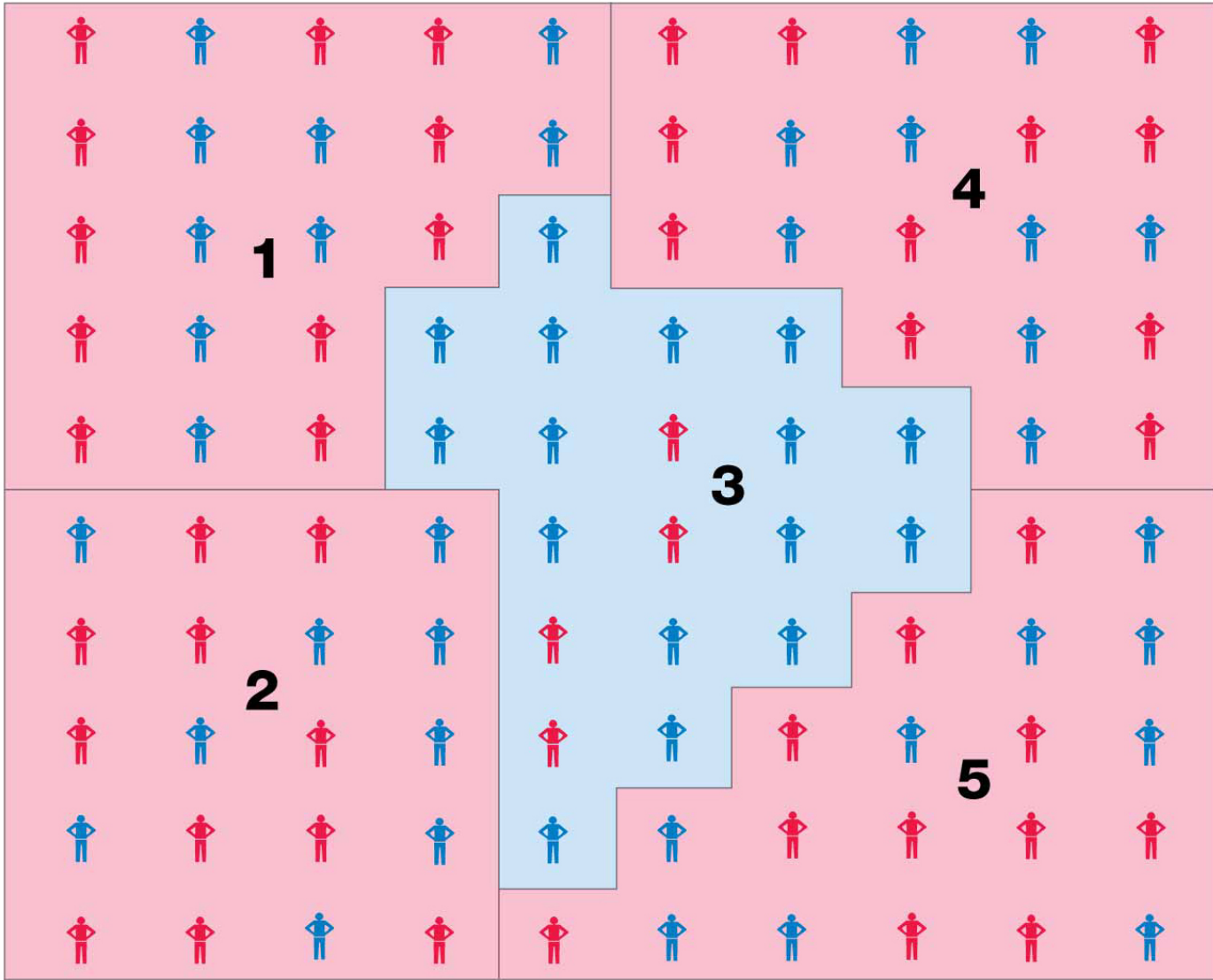
2. *Excess vote* concentrates opposition supporters into a few districts.

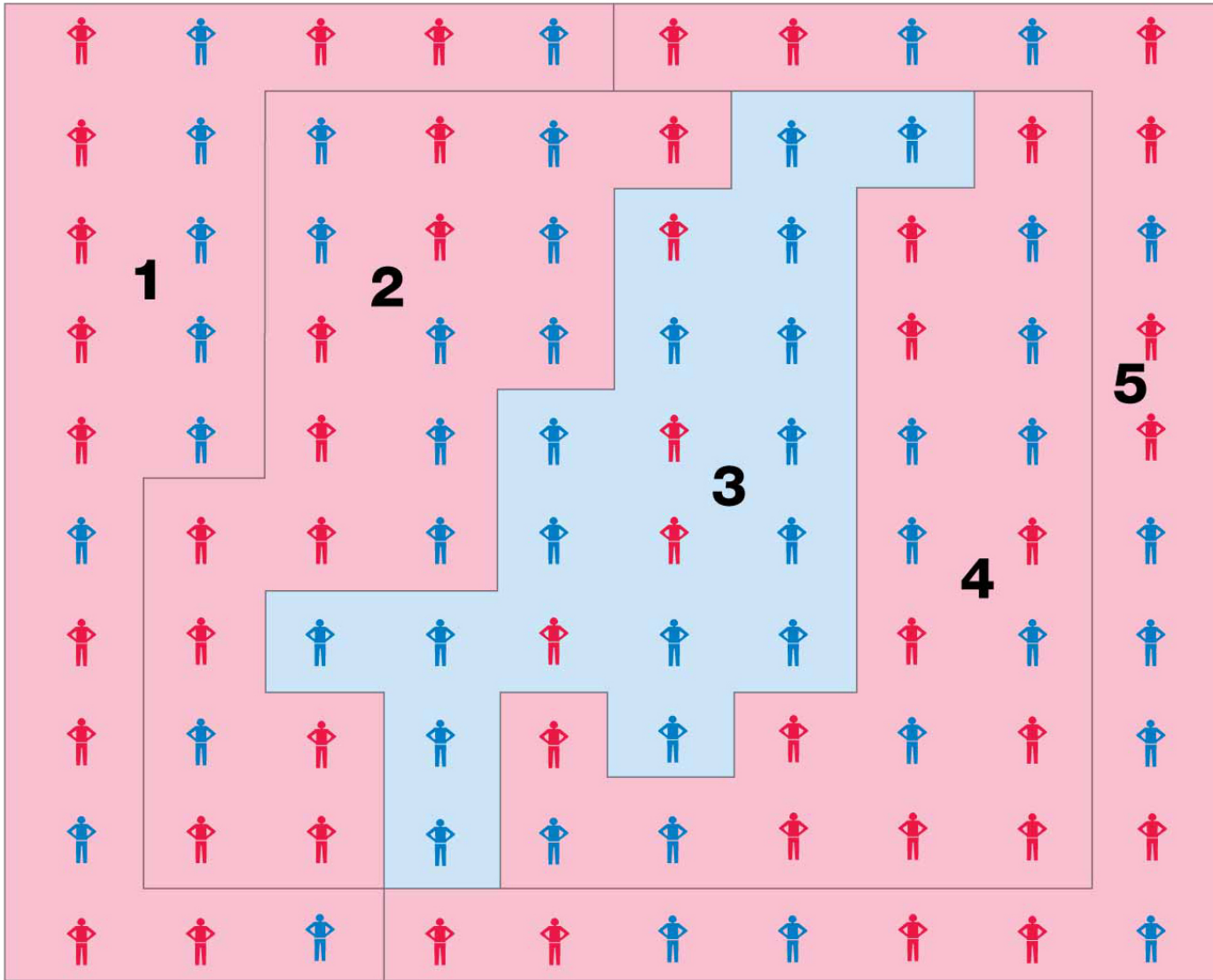
3. *Stacked vote* links distant areas of voters through oddly shaped boundaries.

- U.S. Supreme Court ruled gerrymandering illegal in 1985 but did not require the elimination of existing oddly shaped districts.

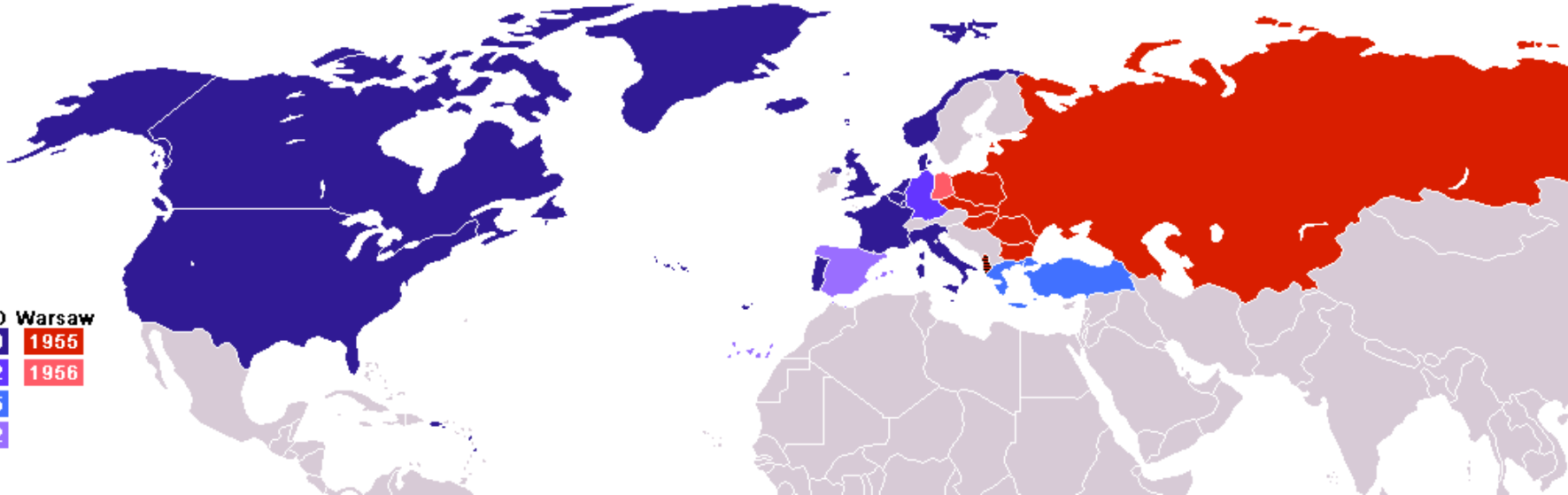








NATO	Warsaw
1949	1955
1952	1956
1955	
1982	



superpowers- U.S. and Soviet Union.

Cooperation in Europe

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military alliance of democratic states, including the United States and other European states.

Warsaw Pact

A mutual defense agreement among Communist and other European countries to defend each other.



Why Do States Cooperate and Compete with Each Other?

- Cold War Competition and Alliances
 - NATO and Warsaw Pact were designed to maintain a bipolar balance of power in Europe.
 - NATO's Objective: prevent the spread of communism by the Soviet Union.
 - Warsaw Pact Objective: Provide the Soviet Union a buffer of allied states between it and Germany to discourage a third German invasion of the Soviet Union in the 20th century.
 - Disbanded once Europe was no longer dominated by military confrontation between two blocs.

- **Supranationalism - 3 or more countries form a union for economic, political, or cultural cooperation. (Examples U.N., NAFTA, EU)**
- Economic Cooperation
 - Most important elements of state power are increasingly economic rather than military
 - European Union (spans 27 countries)
 - Main task of the EU is to promote development within the member states through economic cooperation.



Why Do States Cooperate and Compete with Each Other?

- **Economic Alliances in Europe**
 - **European Union (EU)**
 - Formed: 1958
 - Members: Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, & West Germany
 - Purpose: Heal Western Europe's scars from WWII
 - **Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON)**
 - Formed: 1949
 - Members: 7 Eastern European Communist states from the Warsaw Pact plus Cuba, Mongolia, and Vietnam.
 - Purpose: Promote trade and sharing of natural resources



Why Do States Cooperate and Compete with Each Other?

- Economic Alliances in Europe

- The EU in the 21st Century

- Expanded to 12 countries during the 1980s; expanded to 27 in the 2000s.
 - Main task of the EU is to promote development within member states through economic and political cooperation.
 - Eurozone
 - » Most dramatic step toward integrating Europe's nation-states into a regional organization.
 - » European Central Bank given responsibility of setting interest rates and minimizing inflation throughout the Eurozone.
 - » Common currency established- euro





Why Do States Cooperate and Compete with Each Other?

- Terrorism by Individuals and Organizations
 - *Terrorism* is the systematic use of violence by a group in order to intimidate a population or coerce a government into granting its demands.
 - Distinctive characteristics of terrorists include:
 - Trying to achieve their objectives through organized acts of terror. e.g. bombing, kidnapping, hijacking, taking of hostages, and assassination.
 - Viewing violence as a means of bringing widespread publicity to their cause.
 - Believing in a cause so strongly they attack despite knowing they will probably die in the act.
 - Differs from other acts of political violence
 - Attacks aimed at ordinary people rather than military or political leaders.



Why Do States Cooperate and Compete with Each Other?

- Terrorism by Individuals and Organizations
 - State Support for Terrorism
 - Several Middle Eastern states have supported for terrorism in recent years, at three increasing levels of involvement.
 - Providing sanctuary for terrorists wanted by other countries
 - » Afghanistan and probably Pakistan have provided sanctuary for al-Qaeda terrorists.
 - Supplying weapons, money, and intelligence to terrorists
 - Planning attacks using terrorists



Why Do States Cooperate and Compete with Each Other?

- Terrorism by Individuals and Organizations
 - Supplying Terrorists
 - Iraq and Iran accused of providing material and financial support for terrorists.
 - Extent of involvement is controversial.
 - Iraq
 - U.S. asserted that Saddam Hussein had close links with al-Qaeda
 - Iran
 - U.S. Accusations
 - » Harboring al-Qaeda members
 - » Trying to gain influence in Iraq
 - » U.S. and other countries feared Iran's development of a nuclear program was intended to develop weapons.

Summary

- Earth's land area is divided into nearly 200 states.
- It is impossible to find a perfect match between the boundaries of a state and the area inhabited by a single ethnicity.
- States are separated by boundaries, which are either physical or cultural.
- Competition among states has been replaced in some regions by economic alliances, especially in Europe.