Political Geography
• State – politically organized territory recognized by the international community.

• Must contain
  » 1) a permanent population
  » 2) a defined territory,
  » 3) a functioning government and economic system

• Nation – tightly knit group of people who feel a belonging to a cultural community, share a common history (stateless nations – no national territory; Kurds, Palestinians)
• Evolution of the Nation-State
• Treaty of Westphalia (1648) – sets legal precedent for national *sovereignty* – states have the right to make decisions for themselves

• Doctrine of *nationalism*, creates supreme loyalty to “our people”

• Colonialism rose from European countries seeking wealth and often disregarded local sovereignty
• Territorial Morphology:
  • Size – not always an advantage
    – U.S. = yes (resources, relative location)
    – U.S. = no (large heterogeneous population, size and long borders create challenges)
    – Microstates - Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco
  • Relative location - situation
    – Resources – exceptions: Congo (resource-rich but unable to use for own benefit); Switzerland & Japan (few resources, but in economic cores)
    – Global Activity – Singapore has access to many trade routes
Singapore: Microstate but wealthy
• **Shape**
  - **Compact** – distance from geometric center is similar
  - **Elongated** – a.k.a. attenuated
  - **Fragmented** – two or more separate pieces

• **Perforated** – territory completely surrounds that of another state

• **Protruded** – a.k.a. prorupt; have a protruded area that extends from a more compact core
• Evolution of Boundaries
  – Boundary – a vertical plane that cuts through the subsoil & airspace (even outer space)
  – Definition – legal document or treaty drawn up to specify actual points in the landscape
  – Delimitation – cartographers put the boundary on the map
  – Demarcation – boundary is actually marked on the ground w/ wall, fence, posts,…

• Types of Boundaries
  – Geometric – straight-line, unrelated to physical or cultural landscape, lat & long (US/Canada)
  – Physical-political (natural-political) – conform to physiologic features (Rio Grande: US/Mexico; Pyrenees: Spain/France)
• Boundary Disputes
  – Definitional – focus on legal language (e.g. median line of a river: water levels may vary)
  – Locational – definition is not in dispute, the interpretation is; allows mapmakers to delimit boundaries in various ways
  – Operational – neighbors differ over the way the boundary should function (migration, smuggling)
  – Allocational – disputes over rights to natural resources (gas, oil, water)

Almost all boundary disputes today are operational or allocational.
Relative Location of Kuwait

Major area of dispute w/ Iraq in 1990s
Colonialism has changed the global order of politics; often creating unequal cultural and economic relations.
• Core-Periphery Model
  – World Systems Analysis (Immanuel Wallerstein) – view the world as an interlocked system of states
  – Core – economically dominant states
  – Periphery – developing states; have little autonomy or influence
  – Semi-periphery – middle; keeps the world from being polarized into two extremes
  – The world must be seen as a system of interlinking parts; ties political and economic geography together
World Incomes

- Low-income economies ($760 or less)
- Middle-income economies ($761 to $9,360)
- High-income economies ($9,361 or more)
- No data

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• Geopolitics:

• Heartland Theory: Halford Mackinder (Br)
  – Heart of Eurasia – resource-rich, land-based “pivot area” - military focus is the army

• Rimland Theory: Nicholas Spykman (US)
  – Eurasian rim, not heart – focus on the navy

  – The US does not fit into either theory
Mackinder’s Heartland Theory & Spykman’s Rimland Theory
• Cities in political geography

• Capital city – pol. nerve center, seat of gov’t, center of nat. life, & nat. headquarters

• Forward capital – capital city moved for a nat. objective; culture, disputed territory, …

• Primate city – By far the largest city; most expressive of culture, may be capital: Mexico City, Paris, Jakarta, … (many countries don’t have: e.g. US)
• Unitary state – nation-state w/ highly centralized gov’t, central authority exerts power equally over its territory (UK, Fr)
• Federal state – central gov’t represents various entities w/in a nation-state, allows entities to retain some power (Canada, US)
• Electoral geography: US – 435 seats in House, after 1990 census, gov’t instructed States to develop majority-minority districts
  – Gerrymandering – redistricting for advantage; 1812 – Gov. Gerry of Massachusetts (salamander-looking dist.)
Florida's 3rd Cong. Dist. - 1990
310,000 African-Americans
240,000 whites
16,000 Hispanics

“Gerrymander”
“Below” the State Boundaries

Tarrant County
Local self-government (municipalities)

Southlake

Tarrant County

white = Fort Worth
yellow = unincorporated
• Centripetal Forces – promote unity
  – Charismatic leaders, external threats (Iraq)
  – Nationalism – religion, education, national ideology, …

• Centrifugal Forces – divisive forces
  – Internal religious, linguistic, ethnic, or ideological differences
  – Tribalism – people identify more w/ their local affiliation than with their country
• Supranationalism:
• Venture involving three or more states for pol. (UN), econ. (EU), mil. (NATO) and/or cultural (African Union) objectives
• Benelux – first multinational union; no tariffs, quotas, licenses; joined EEC later
BeNeLux
Members of the European Union (EU)
• United Nations – established after WWII (much more successful than the League of Nations); 193 members inc. South Sudan

• UNPO – unrepresented people (53 members); Tibetans, Kurds, Australian Aborigines,…

– Not a world gov’t, no standing army
– Truman Proclamation (1945) – had claimed natural resources up to continental shelf
– Argentina (in 1946) – claimed water above

• UNCLOS (UN Convention on Law of Sea) – signed by 157 states (not US) in 1982; territorial sea up to 12 naut. miles, EEZ (Exclusive Econ. Zone) up to 200 naut. miles (rights to nat. resources up to cont. shelf)
Median-line Principle:
Drawing a boundary midway b/w two states’ coasts when terr. sea or EEZ conflict

- South China Sea – area of major disputes; Spratly Is. (rich in oil, claimed by six states)
Devolution – when regions within a state gain political strength and growing autonomy at the expense of the central gov’t

Ethnonationalism – love for your nation

- Scotland – voted in favor of greater autonomy, vote for total independence failed
- Spain – Basque, Catalonia: 17 Autonomous Communities established
- Belgium – Flemish (Dutch) vs. Walloon (Fr.)
Regions of devolution due to ethnonationalism – Scotland, Belgium, and Bosnia
- More causes of devolution
  - Economic
    - Spain – Catalonia (industrially strong)
    - Italy – North (industrially strong)
    - France – Corsica (island)
    - Brazil – South (federal govt. misuse of taxes)
  - Spatial - Distance, remoteness & peripheral location are allies of devolution
Devolutionary Pressures in Europe, 2002
• More changes:
  – Growing influence of religion – religious fundamentalism vs. secularism, stereotypes (Islamic world vs. Judeo-Christian world)
  – Antiquated boundary framework – 21\textsuperscript{st} c. world w/ 19\textsuperscript{th} c. borders (most devolving movements occur in periphery of states)
  – Rise of terrorism – superpowers supplied allies w/ weapons during Cold War; increasing threat of nations w/ nukes, chemical & biological weapons, suicide missions = potential to unite or divide world
  – Shatterbelts - region of the world in which there are problems with a large number of smaller nations leading to “state problems”.