

Things to know from Unit 4 (Chapter 8)

4.1 Introduction to Political Geography

Types of political entities

states, nations, nation-states, stateless nations, multinational states, multistate nations, autonomous and semi-autonomous regions, such as American Indian reservations.

4.2 Political Processes

What are the processes that have shaped contemporary political geography?

The concepts of sovereignty, nation-states, and self-determination shape the contemporary world.

How colonialism, imperialism, independence movements, and devolution have influenced contemporary political boundaries.

4.3 Political Power and Territoriality

Know the concept that political power is expressed geographically as control over people, land, and resources.

This is shown through neocolonialism, shatterbelts, and choke points.

Know how territoriality is the connection of people, their culture, and their economic systems to the land.

4.4 Defining Political Boundaries

Define types of political boundaries

relic, superimposed, subsequent, antecedent, geometric, and consequent boundaries

4.5 The Function of Political Boundaries

Know the nature and function of international and internal boundaries

Know how boundaries are: defined, delimited, demarcated, and administered.

Know boundary disputes in relation to definition, delimitation, demarcation, and administration.

4.6 Internal Boundaries

Explain the nature and function of international and internal boundaries.

How do voting districts, redistricting, and gerrymandering affect elections both locally and nationally.

4.7 Forms of Governance

Know the differences between federal and unitary states

Unitary states tend to have a more top-down centralized form of government

Federal states have more locally based, dispersed centers of power

4.8 Defining Devolutionary Factors

Know the factors that lead to devolution

Factors can include:

Physical geography, ethnic separatism, ethnic cleansing, terrorism, economic and social problems, and irredentism.

4.9 Challenges to Sovereignty

Know how political, economic, cultural, and technological changes challenge state sovereignty

Devolution occurs when states fragment into separate autonomous regions

Examples of possible devolutionary forces:

Spain, Belgium, Canada, Nigeria

Examples of where devolution occurred:

Eritrea, South Sudan, East Timor, former Soviet Union

4.10 Consequences of Centripetal and Centrifugal Forces

Centripetal forces can lead to ethnonationalism, more even infrastructure development, increase cultural cohesion.

Centrifugal forces can lead to failed states, uneven development, stateless nations, and ethnic nationalism movements.