Chapter 8: Political Geography

The Cultural Landscape:
An Introduction to Human Geography
Where Are States Located?

• Problems of defining states
  – Almost all habitable land belongs to a country today
    • In 1940, there were about 50 countries
    • Today, there are 192 countries (as evidenced by United Nations membership)
  – Some places are difficult to classify
    • Korea: One state or two?
    • Western Sahara (Sahrawi Republic)
    • Claims to polar regions
United Nations Members

Figure 8-2
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National Claims to the Arctic

Figure 8-5
Where Are States Located?

• Varying sizes of states
  – State size varies considerably
    • Largest state = Russia
      – 11 percent of the world’s land area
    • Smallest state = Monaco
      – Microstate = states with very small land areas
        » About two dozen microstates
Where Are States Located?

- Development of the state concept
  - Ancient states
    - The Fertile Crescent
    - City-state
  - Early European states
  - Colonies
    - Three motives: “God, gold, and glory”
    - Today = some remaining colonies
Colonial Possessions, 1914

Figure 8-8

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Colonial Possessions, 2006

Figure 8-9

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Why Do Boundaries Between States Cause Problems?

• Shapes of states
  – Five basic shapes
    • Compact = efficient
    • Elongated = potential isolation
    • Prorupted = access or disruption
    • Perforated = South Africa
    • Fragmented = problematic

• Landlocked states
Why Do Boundaries Between States Cause Problems?

• Types of boundaries
  – Physical
    • Desert boundaries
    • Mountain boundaries
    • Water boundaries
  – Cultural
    • Geometric boundaries
    • Human features (language, religion, ethnicity)

• Frontiers
Mountain Boundary

Figure 8-12

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Cultural Boundary

Figure 8-15

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Why Do Boundaries Between States Cause Problems?

- Boundaries inside states
  - Unitary states
    - Example: France
  - Federal states
    - Example: Poland
    - Globally, there is a trend toward federations
Why Do Boundaries Between States Cause Problems?

• Electoral geography
  – Boundaries within the United States are used to create legislative districts
  – Gerrymandering
    • Three types: wasted, excess, and stacked vote
    • Illegal (1985 U.S. Supreme Court decision)
Gerrymandering

Figure 8-18
Gerrymandering: Example

Figure 8-19

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Why Do States Cooperate with Each Other?

- Political and military cooperation
  - The United Nations (est. 1945)
  - Regional military alliances
    - Balance of power
    - Post–World War II: NATO or the Warsaw Pact
  - Other regional organizations
    - OSEC (est. 1965)
    - OAS (est. 1962)
    - AU (est. 1963)
    - The Commonwealth

- Economic cooperation
Economic and Military Alliances in Cold War Europe

Figure 8-21

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Why Has Terrorism Increased?

• Terrorism
  – Systematic use of violence to intimidate a population or to coerce a government
    • From the Latin word meaning “to frighten”
    • Use of bombing, kidnapping, hijacking, and murder to instill fear and anxiety in a population
Why Has Terrorism Increased?

- Terrorism by individuals and organizations
  - American terrorists
  - September 11, 2001, attacks
  - Al-Qaeda
    - Jihad
Aftermath of World Trade Center Attack

Figure 8-23

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Why Has Terrorism Increased?

- State support for terrorism
  - Three increasing levels of involvement
    - Providing sanctuary
    - Supplying weapons, money, and intelligence to terrorists
    - Using terrorists to plan attacks
Why Has Terrorism Increased?

• State support for terrorism
  – Examples
    • Libya
    • Iraq
    • Afghanistan
    • Iran
    • Pakistan
Ethnic Groups in Southwest Asia

Figure 8-25

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Major Tribes in Iraq

Figure 8-26

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The End.

Up next: Development