

Unit 4: Political Patterns and Processes

Topic 4.1 – Introduction to Political Geography

1. Explain the difference between a nation and a state. **A nation is a large group of people who share a common history/cultural characteristics with a history of self-determination. A state is a geographic area organized into one political unit. Nations deal with groups of people with a culture tied to a hearth/homeland, while a state is a territory with a recognized government.**

2. Complete the table below.

	Definition	Example
Nation-state	A sovereign state that is made up of subjects who are relatively homogenous	The majority of European countries
Stateless nation	A nation with a history of self-determination but does not have a recognized state	Catalonia, Palestinians
Multinational state	A state that contains two or more nations with a history of self-determination who have agreed to coexist as one state	Soviet Union, Russia
Multistate nation	A nation that stretches across states	North and South Korea, Kurdish Nation

3. What is the difference between an autonomous and semi autonomous region? **Autonomous regions are regions that have a certain degree of autonomy from the national government. These regions can govern themselves and have a high degree of freedom and self-governance. Semi-autonomous regions have a moderate degree of self governance. These regions have some say over their own economic and political systems but the national government can step in when it feels necessary.**

4. Explain what type of region Native American Indian reservations would be. **Autonomous region. This is because they are located inside the United States of America, but they have a high degree of autonomy.**

Topic 4.2- Political Processes

1. Define sovereignty. **This is the authority of a state to govern itself without any interference from another government, state, or group of people.**

2. Explain how self-determination impacts a territory. **Self-determination is the idea that nations have the right to govern themselves. They do this in order to preserve their cultural characteristics.**

3. Identify three ways in which colonialism reshaped the world. **1) Spread languages such as english and spanish around the world. 2) New ideas and goods/services were traded. 3) New agricultural products allowed for population booms. 4) Countries citizens were suppressed and in some cases killed or sold into slavery. 5) Diseases spread around the world.**

4. Why does Africa have less nation-states compared to other parts of the world? **This is because of colonialism and the Scramble for Africa. When European powers created states in Africa they based them on longitude and latitude not ethnic groups. This made it difficult for homogenous nation-states to form. Africa also has such a large variety of different ethnic groups that live in a small geographic area that it would be hard to have a nation-state for each ethnic group.**

5. What is the difference between self-determination and devolution? **Self-determination is the idea that a nation has the right to govern itself to protect its traditions and culture. Devolution is the transfer of power to a lower level of government.**

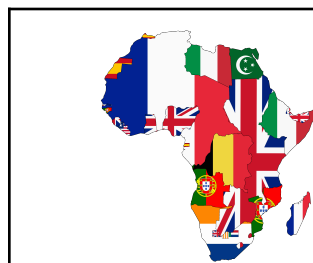
6. Which country experienced devolution, Yugoslavia or Madagascar? **Yugoslavia**

Topic 4.3- Political Power and Territoriality

1. Define territoriality. This is how people use space to communicate ownership or occupy a geographic area.
2. How has China been using neocolonialism in Africa? China has been spending large amounts of money on African infrastructure projects. The goal is to use their economic and political power to influence African countries to side with them politically and also use their cheap labor to make cheap products for their country. China is indirectly influencing the content of Africa without directly ruling it.
3. Identify two problems that a country in a shatterbelt region may experience. 1) Political and economic influence from outside countries. 2) May get pulled into a war that does not concern them. 3) Could see fighting within their country. 4) Citizens have to live in uncertainty as they do not know what will happen with the larger conflict. 5) States will see lower economic growth and possibly less autonomy
4. Explain why countries around the world pay special attention to choke points. Countries pay close attention to choke points, especially ones that involve trade, because if these points were ever closed or transportation/travel was hindered the world economy would be impacted. Choke points are geographic areas that have to be passed to reach a certain destination. Countries who control a choke point gain political and economic power over countries who do not own the choke point but wish to travel through it.

Topic 4.4- Defining Political Boundaries

1. Identify the two boundary categories. Cultural boundaries and Physical boundaries
2. What makes a geometric boundary unique and which boundary category is it part of? A geometric boundary is a form of a cultural boundary. Here the boundary is created to go with latitude and longitude.
3. Which map/image shows a superimposed boundary? Why? Map A shows a superimposed boundary because we can see the states in Africa were created by European powers.
4. Which map/image shows a relic boundary? Why? Image B shows a relic boundary. The Berlin wall is no longer up today, but it still impacts the cultural landscape.
5. Which map/image shows a consequent boundary? Map C would be an example of a consequent boundary. The former Yugoslavia split and created new states based on the different ethnic groups in the area.



Map/Image A



Map/Image B



Map/ Image C



Map/Image D

6. What is the difference between an antecedent and relic boundary? An antecedent boundary is a boundary that has existed before the development of the cultural landscape. A relic boundary is a boundary that revolves around a boundary that no longer exists but still impacts the cultural landscape.
7. Compare and contrast a subsequent and consequent boundary. Consequent and subsequent boundaries both illustrate divisions in culture. However, the difference between the two comes with how the boundary is created. Subsequent boundaries are developed along the cultural landscape, they are not created due to conflict or division. Consequent boundaries are created to accommodate differences between cultural groups.

Topic 4.5- The Function of Political Boundaries

1. Provide an example of a definitional boundary dispute. **Egypt and Sudan had a boundary dispute over the Halayib Triangle. Both countries were using different documents to define the border. These documents had conflicting information on the definition of the boundary.**
2. Explain when a locational boundary dispute would happen. **These disputes happen because geographic features of an area have shifted, causing the boundary to shift with it. Example a river that splits two states may move over time causing part of one state to now be in the other state.**
3. Provide an example of an operational dispute. **The United States border with Mexico. Both countries can not agree on a way to handle the migration of people over the border.**
4. Why would an allocational boundary dispute happen? **There is confusion over who gets the resources on the boundary, and both countries want to have the resources.**
5. Identify two historical examples of international conflicts that have impacted a country's boundaries. **The DMZ between North and South Korea, the Berlin Wall, Israel and Palestine, the World Wars.**

Complete the table below.

Name	Size	States rights
Baseline	This is the shoreline	State has sovereignty over their internal and external affairs
Territorial Zone	12 nautical miles from baseline	States can set laws regulating passage of ships from other countries
Contiguous Zone	24 nautical miles	States may enforce laws concerning pollution, taxation, customs, and immigration
Exclusive Economic Zone	200 nautical miles	States have the sole right to all natural resources. Example oil, natural gas, or fish
International Waters	N/A	No state has control

6. How has the Law of the Sea helped resolve disputes over boundary disputes in the sea? **It sets clear rules in place to help better understand what rights states have off of their countries' shore line.**

Topic 4.6- Internal Boundaries

1. Identify two ways in which gerrymandering impacts political elections in the United States. **1) Diminishes the impact of citizens votes 2) Creates safe districts where politicians do not have to worry about being reelected. 3) Can diminish voters ability to hold politicians accountable**
2. What is the difference between packing and cracking? **Cracking is when politicians spread like minded voters across many districts. This limits the impact of their vote, since they will be the minority in all of the different districts. Packing is where politicians put like minded voters all into a few districts. This causes them to win those districts but lose the rest of them.**
3. Explain how the spatial layout of a voting district can impact election results. **By creating districts that are based off of people's voting history politicians can manipulate elections and diminish the impact of citizens' votes. This reduces the citizens ability to hold politicians in check and can alienate citizens from the political system.**

Topic 4.7- Forms of Governance

1. Identify where the power is located in the following forms of governance.

	Central Gov.	Regional Gov.	Pro	Con
Unitary	Has all of the power	Does not have any power	The government can make big changes quickly	Government will not be able to address the concerns of each region
Federal	Still hold a large amount of power, however, shares certain power with regional government	Has their own power, with some shared powers with the central government	Can keep a strong national identity, while also addressing the concerns at each level of society	Disputes can happen between regional governments and the central government over control of power
Confederation	No power	All of the power	Regional government can make laws for specially their region	Can be hard to keep a national identity, due to the lack of a central power

Topic 4.8- Defining Devolutionary Factors

1. Identify general factors that lead to the devolution of states.

Economic	States with high inflation or an economy that has been struggling for a significant amount of time will see more pressure from citizens for drastic change. This could lead to a shift in power away from a centralized government to more regional administrations
Social	Citizens who do not feel like they are being heard in the government will seek change. We can see this in states with ethnic groups who make up a large percentage of a geographic area but have little to no representation in the government. If groups are denied and/or oppressed in society we could see more radical pushes for change, such as terrorist groups starting to form.
Political	As more ethnic groups with self-determination seek autonomy governments may create more autonomous or semi-autonomous regions shifting power from the central power to regional levels. We could also see political parties demand changes in the operation of current political systems to allow more representation of the people.
Environmental	Physical geography can create isolated groups that evolve independently of other cultural groups in the geographic area. The terrain of an area can also create unique cultures due to the differences in the terrain over the geographic area.

2. Define irredentism. A movement by a nation to unite with other parts of the nation that are located in a different state or states.

Topic 4.9- Challenges to Sovereignty

1. Identify different ways political, economic, cultural, and technological changes have challenged state sovereignty.

Political factors	Globalization has led to the creation of more supranational organizations, which have powers that exceed state boundaries. States that wish to participate in international organizations, territories, trade deals sometimes give up parts of their sovereignty.
Economic factors	States today participate in a variety of international organizations, and trade deals with other states. States that join may have to give up some sovereign control over certain economic aspects to participate in these groups/deals. States that refuse to join or go against internal organizations can also have their sovereignty hindered through tariffs, sanctions, or military actions.
Cultural factors	People do not live in isolation and with advancements in communication/ technology we have seen a global culture start to form. This has diminished the ability of cultures to remain isolated and maintain one single identity.
Technological factors	With the diffusion of technology like the internet, cell phones, and social media more and more states are seeing challenges to their governments. This can happen in terms of election meddling, interference of daily life, or political revolution like seen during the Arab Springs, or recently Hong Kong.

2. How has technology facilitated supranationalism? With the increase in communication and access to information more and more sovereign states are interacting. This has led to more alliances for cultural, economic, or military reasons.

3. How can global efforts to address a changing world create more supranationalism? The global community has been working to resolve a variety of global issues. Such as climate change, with the Paris Agreement. As sovereign states work with other states to address global concerns more and more supranational organizations are created.

4. Identify two supranational organizations and explain how they impact state's sovereignty. 1) The United Nations. While states who are part of the U.N. retain their sovereignty they also must follow the U.N. charter and support U.N. actions. 2) The European Union. States in the European Union give up control over a variety of decisions such as immigration, trade deals, and more. 3) The Eurozone. States give up control over the currency, having to use the Euro instead of their own currency.

5. Explain how subnational political units illustrate the concept of devolution. Subnational political units is a small geographic area that has its own local government. Here devolution has occurred, meaning that power has shifted from a central government to the regional level. Allowing the formation of a subnational political unit to form. (Oftentimes in the form of a village, town, city, extra..)

Topic 4.10- Consequences of Centrifugal and Centripetal Forces

1. What is the difference between centripetal forces and centrifugal forces? **Centripetal forces are factors that unify people and keep a state together. Centrifugal forces are factors that divide people and push a state apart.**
2. Define ethnonationalism. **A form of nationalism where the nation is defined in terms of ethnicity. Here nations are defined by a shared cultural heritage**
3. Identify different political, economic, cultural, and geographic factors that can lead to centripetal forces and centrifugal forces.

	Centripetal	Centrifugal
Political	Unified government, political system that allows citizens to participate in society, strong sense of patriotism, war with another state	Corruption in the government, lack of voice for citizens, oppression of rights, discrimination against certain citizens
Economic	Growing GDP, low unemployment, sense of mobility in the economic system	High inflation, lack of economic opportunities in society, high unemployment, lack of economic growth
Cultural	Homogenous society, one national identity, ethnic groups that retain differences while also being part of a shared culture	Ethnic conflicts between citizens of a state, discrimination of certain cultural groups, lack of political or economic opportunities for certain ethnic groups
Geographic	Compact state with citizens living in a geographically close area, lack of isolated groups due to the physical geography	fragmented states that have isolated groups, physical geographical features that divided groups of people

4. How can centripetal forces and centrifugal forces apply at the state/regional scale and country/national scale? **Regionally people are bound over local rivalries, cultural traditions unique to the area, and sports. People become divided over local politics, or major changes over the cultural landscape. Nationally people are held together with a sense of nationality, identity, and pride in the country. They are pulled apart due to cultural differences, or debates over how the country should be run.**