

## D. History of the State

### Hunting and Gathering

The vast majority of time in human history was consumed with hunting and gathering. Since the main goal of groups was for family members to cooperate for survival, political organization was minimal and non-centralized. Few situations required formal organization, and usually the best hunters and warriors would assume the lead roles. Otherwise, everyone shared a level of equality because everyone's contribution was equally needed and valued.

Indigenous cultures and folk-animist religions developed into societies where land ownership was and individual property rights were not needed. The earth was a space to be lived upon as an interwoven part of the animist spiritual community; thus making it impossible to own land as property. Any fighting that took place between groups was related to the access of food or other resources, not property rights.

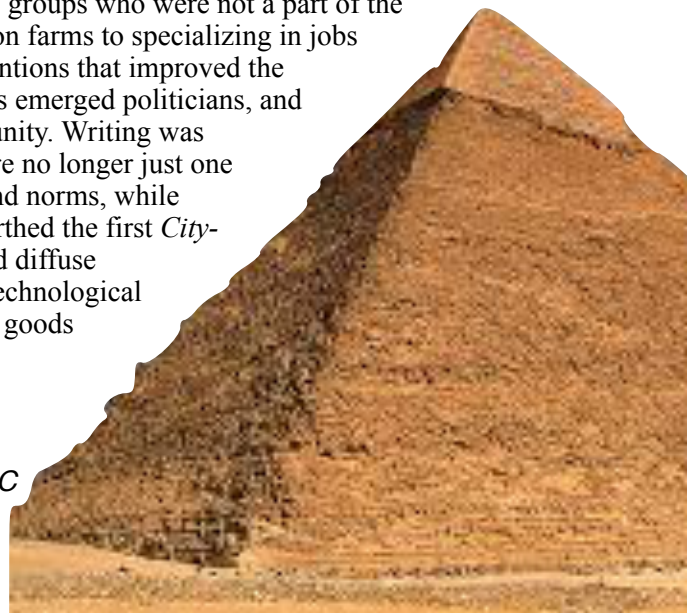


Archeological evidence and oral tradition both give evidence to trade agreements and peace treaties between bands and tribes. In Sub-Saharan Africa, there was a complex web of peaceful agreements between cultures ranging from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indian Ocean. Peace was established through marriage when the daughter of one tribe would be married to the son of another tribe. While the Chief's daughter was alive and well in the neighbor's camp, the tribe would not attack.

### Agriculture and the City-State

Political Geography drastically changed with the Agricultural Revolution as populations began to explode in size in the River Valley Civilizations of the Middle East, India, and China. The increased quantity of food eventually improved life expectancy and infant mortality rates while also encouraging an increase in fertility rate to raise a larger workforce. Due to the limited amount of fertile land and clean water on the planet, land ownership became a priority. Religions evolved to support this trend, with ethnic deities claiming land to be holy and destined for the cultural group. Deities began to have specific names, personalities, and traits and were attributed with control over fertility, plants, and rain. With fertile land being limited, a group's survival depended on possessing and securing as much fertile and resource rich land as possible. Many religions developed a deity of war, who encouraged expansion through conquest. The leader of the tribe or chiefdom was the person who was appointed by the deities to lead, having special access and privileges. This meant that anyone who went against the will of the chief was also disobeying the deities that put him in power.

The first formal urban centers began to appear in Mesopotamia. The farming communities were easy targets for hunting and gathering groups who raided farms and stores of grains, the world's first grab-and-go establishments. Communities came to the realization that there was a benefit to joining together and organizing so housing was built close together. Places to store grains and to sell goods were placed in the center of the community. Labor was organized to build a wall around the community, in order to keep out the groups who were not a part of the community. Surplus of food allowed people to transition from working on farms to specializing in jobs that advanced the technology and knowledge of the group; creating inventions that improved the harvests and the quality of life within the community. From these actions emerged politicians, and bureaucracy, who invested their full efforts into the affairs of the community. Writing was invented to keep track of economic transactions. Since communities were no longer just one family, codified laws were developed to formalize cultural complexes and norms, while penalizing taboos across large populations and land spaces. Thus was birthed the first *City-State*. City-States were independent innovations that began to appear and diffuse throughout the Middle East, India, and China. The surplus of food and technological innovations led to the regional trade network of cities and the sharing of goods and ideas from places as distant as India, Greece, and Egypt.



## The Age of Empire

As populations expanded, the human occupation of land expanded. Cities expanded into kingdoms (or chiefdoms). As the Middle East began to run out of unclaimed fertile land, political organization took a new direction: the development of empire. Sargon of Akkad began to conquer the surrounding city-states to build the first empire. The first empires were *unitary states*, ruled by one man and established by might-makes-right military campaigns. Empire building was reinforced by religious practices giving supernatural approval to the actions of kings who conquered and reigned as divinely appointed rulers. Social hierarchies developed based around citizenship and occupation: kings, priests, and military leaders were at the top of the social ladder; merchants, craftsmen, and soldiers in the middle; farmers and slaves were at the bottom.

Empires diffused across humanity, changing societies as well as the role of leadership. Alexander the Great expanded the concept of empire from being a regional domination to intercontinental, normalizing the concept of kings pursuing global conquest. While his empire did not last long, his conquest diffused Greek language and culture from Greece to India; giving the world its first lingua franca and increasing trade from regional to intercontinental. He also forced the assimilation and acculturation of indigenous groups on three continents to Greek culture.

As empires increased in size, the role of leaders evolved. Leaders who were previously viewed as having special connection to the deities began to view themselves as being uniquely appointed by the deities. The Europeans would call it the *Divine Right of Kings*. The Chinese called it the *Mandate of Heaven*. Kings eventually viewed themselves as being deities themselves, the embodiment of the supernatural in the flesh.

Empires were temporary structures that proved to be unstable and very vulnerable to the external threats of outside invaders who desired expansion to fulfill spiritual and resource needs. Successful invaders used advanced technologies to gain control in a seemingly endless string of wars for power. Centrifugal forces from rebellious internal threats were also prominent. Rich and powerful nobles sought ways of increasing their own power and standing by organizing assassinations and rebellions to position themselves as next in line for the throne. Insurgent leaders found support in the lower classes, who were willing to follow leaders promising food and a better quality life. In response to these centrifugal forces, kings established police forces and intelligence agencies to maintain control and minimize threats. However, even the most advanced empires crumbled when faced with the combination of internal power struggles and external forces seeking fertile land and resources.





In the midst of the growth of tyranny, the small city-state of Athens, Greece gave birth to *democracy*. Ruled over by a series of ruthless and corrupt tyrants, the nobility in Athens decided to stage a revolution. Once the tyrants and followers were dead, the nobleman Cincinnatus established a system where power was shared equally by all land-owning adult male citizens in Athens. He stepped down, giving each member a chance to vote directly upon every major issue facing the city-state. Athens' democracy was ended by the conquest of Alexander the Great but was later revived in Rome, Italy via stimulus diffusion. The Italian city-state instituted the 12 Tablets that created a *representative democracy*, also known as a *Republic*. The all male-land owning citizens selected a person to represent them in making laws in the Senate. The Roman Republic, whose citizens thought themselves to be children for the War-God Mars, expanded to create an empire from Spain, around the Mediterranean Sea and into Africa. Rome's republic would eventually succumb to the tyranny of the Caesars - who lived as gods of the flesh in the world's then-largest empire.

The end of the Ancient Era saw the collapse of the world's largest empires in Europe, India, and China. In its wake was left anarchy and chaos. However, all major forms of political organization had been created, experimented, and diffused among the major population centers; with the model of unitary state/one man rule serving as the political default for human societies.

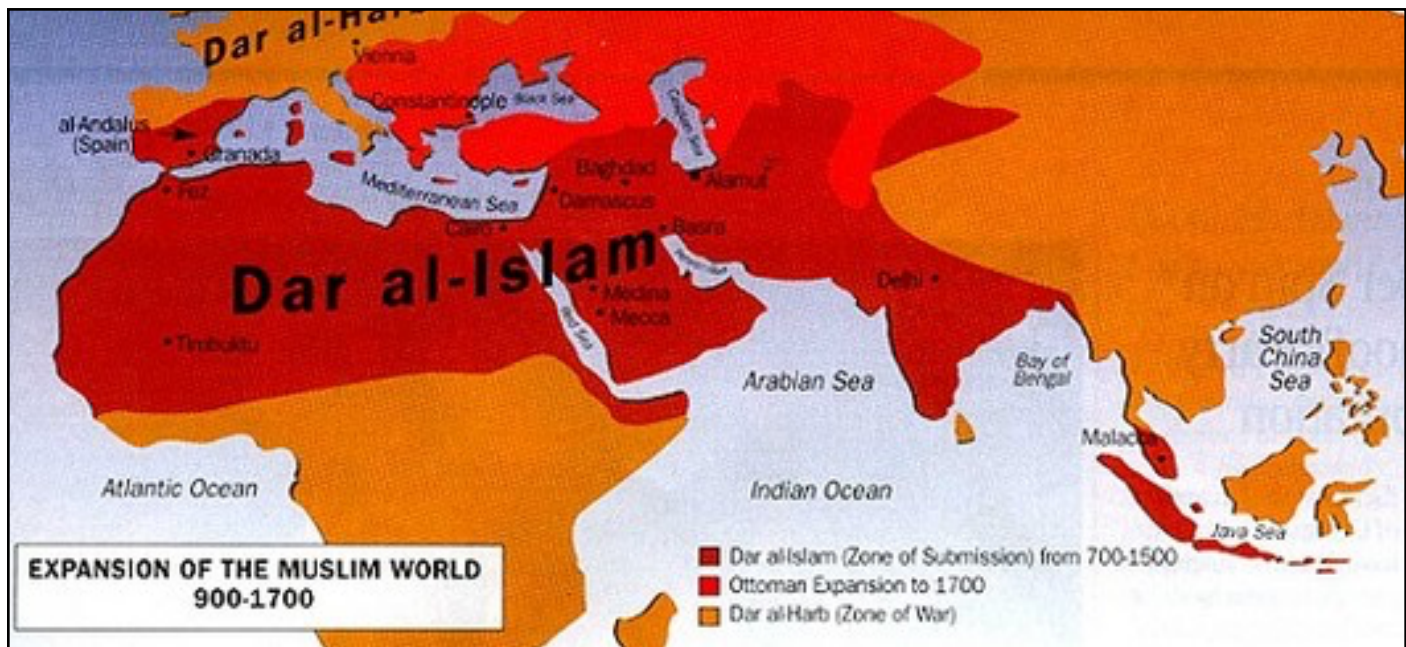


Great Empires of Ancient World (400 AD)

## 500-1500 AD

In the age following the great imperial collapses, new political institutions began to take shape. In Europe, there was rampant fighting between Germanic Tribes and Viking invaders. *Feudal systems* were established where kings granted land rights to *nobles* in exchange for organizing an army, and nobles granted land rights in exchange for growing food and fighting. The power of kings continued to be universal until 1215 and the signing of the *Magna Carta*. The *Magna Carta* officially limited the king's power, sharing it with a parliament of voting nobility.

In the Middle East, a new power arose: *Dar al-Islam - The Kingdom of Islam*. As Islam began, Muhammed intertwined the Islamic faith with Arabic as its official language and a codified set of government policies. Religion was no longer just religion, it was a complete cultural system shaping the way a society functioned. As Islam spread across Africa, Europe, and Asia through trade and conquest, formerly indigenous groups from Spain to Indonesia assimilated into the Islamic theocratic political model.



In East Asia, China was the other main political and economic power, with a monarchy over 3,000 years old. China was technologically superior to the rest of the planet, funding trade missions to India, the Middle East, Africa, and (with growing archeological evidence) California. China could have colonized the world, enforcing ancestor worship, Confucianism, and obedience to the Emperor. However, China's ethnic religion preached that China was the sacred promised land underneath the shadow of heaven, and all other lands were cursed and barbaric. Instead of colonization, their cultural and political models promoted the cultural and economic power of China. These same policies eventually morphed into xenophobia, fueling the rebuilding of the Great Wall of China in the north while shutting Chinese ports to the world. China became isolationist.

## Colonization

Meanwhile the Europeans were reorganizing their conquest-oriented culture. The Germanic and Viking heritages of Europeans had promoted a strong devotion to kings and a religious justification for war. These Germanic and Viking traits had become amalgamated with Christianity's universalist expansionist principles. The kings of Europe used these two traditions of war and global evangelism to unite Europeans against a common enemy: the Islamic empire. European forces drove the Muslims out of Spain and parts of Eastern Europe. As a result of Muslim and Jewish hatred, Spain setup the *Casta*, a social hierarchy based upon ethnicity: "pure" Spaniards had full privileges, everyone else had limited-to-no privileges; the mixed-blood had varying ranges of rights. This immediately resulted in the religious persecution of Muslims and Jews in both Spain and Rome.

Because of Muslims controlling trade routes, Europeans had to expand their search for resources and began to explore and colonize Africa and the Americas. Through the *Treaty of Tordesillas*, the Pope had "given" the land owned by non-Christians to Spain and Portugal. As the Spanish and Portuguese were fighting for control of the world, they diffused the *Casta* system and Christianity across the globe. After the Protestant Reformation decreased the political



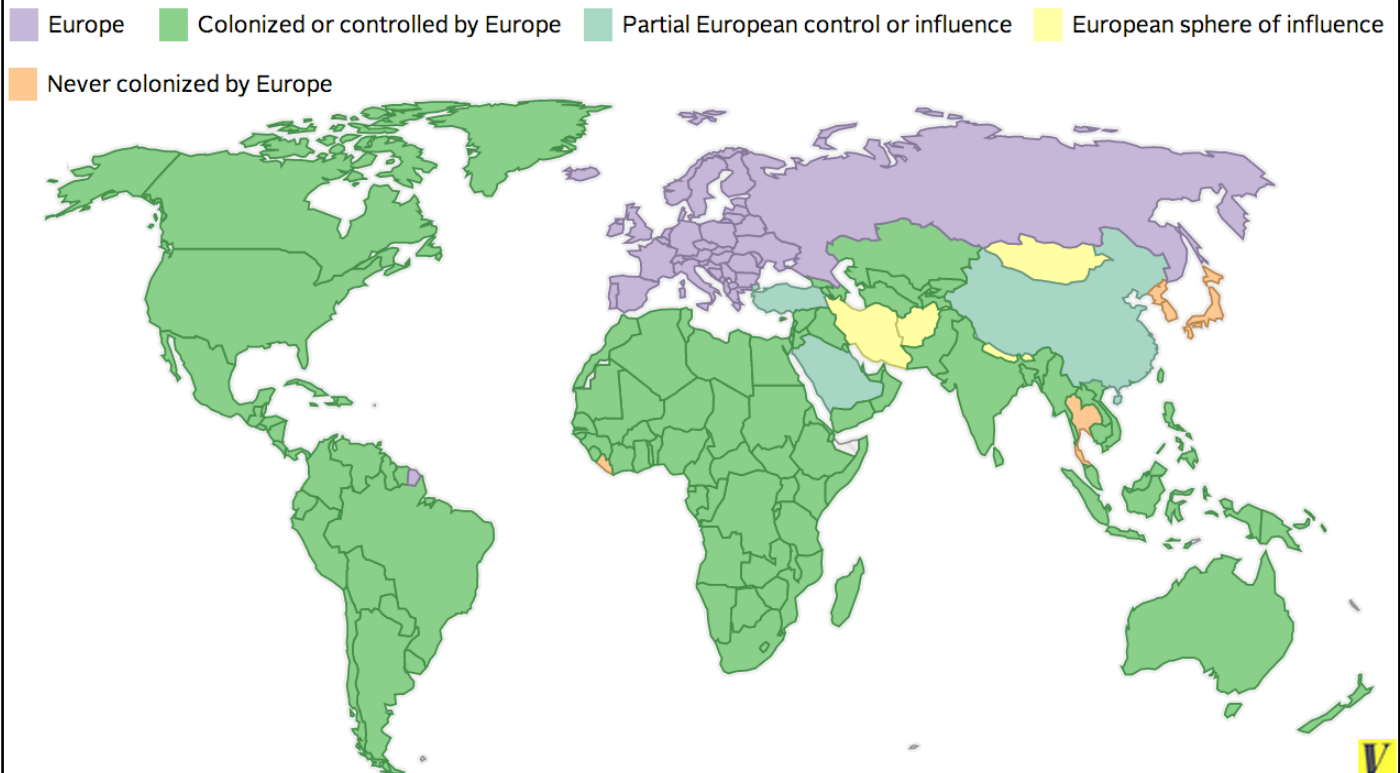
power of the Pope, England, France, and the Netherlands joined in colonization; creating strong competition for land and resources globally. The European ideals of racial superiority, the use of guns, and deadly contagious diseases from living with animals on farms led to the *Great Dying* of 10 million Native Americans. The loss of these Natives as workers helped spawned the African Slave Trade, involving 10-15 million Africans being force migrated, enslaved and/or killed.

European colonization also led to conflicts over land and boundaries at home. Fearing that one state would become too powerful, or that land wars would spark a global conflict, the Europeans agreed to the **Treaty of Westphalia**. While many details of the treaty are specific to the events of 1648, the treaty established important principles of states that still impact the world today. The first was the use of *official boundaries* and borders to mark a states' territory. The people of the state have a right to *self-determination*, choosing who rules and system of governance. The second was a respect of *territorial sovereignty*, with an agreement not to meddle in the affairs of neighboring states; especially regarding the structure of power in a neighboring state. Third, the idea of *balance of power* was to be sought by states. Every state had an equal say in international affairs. One state was not allowed to become more powerful than another, for fear they would dominate the rest. The *Westphalian System* is noted as being the start of the modern state system AND modern international relations.

As the Europeans colonized the Americas and beyond, they forced assimilated the Westphalian principles upon the native populations. Where indigenous groups viewed land as being sacred and universal, the European's Westphalian Model promoted that land was to be named, claimed, and ruled. Indigenous groups viewed political organization as being tied to spirituality and being decentralized. Westphalia promoted centralized government, reinforced by military control, with legal and bureaucratic structures.



## Countries that have been under European control



## Enlightenment and Revolution

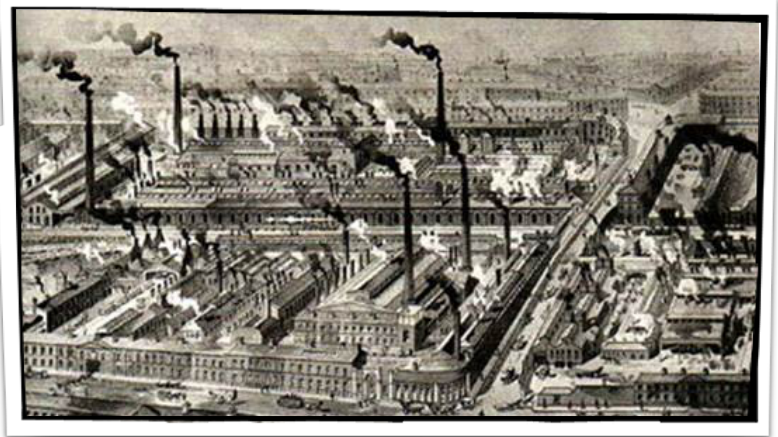
In the 1700s there was a burst of intellectual activity in Europe surrounding political organization. The *Enlightenment* philosophers of England and France used the principles of scientific reasoning to analyze society. They concluded that sovereignty and legitimacy do not belong with gods and kings or with the rich and landowning, but with the people. Power should be divided into multiple institutions, with checks and balances, in order to protect the human rights of the masses.

The European ideas of the enlightenment also diffused to their colonies. In 1776, the American Revolution was the culmination of economic and cultural centrifugal forces mixed with distance decay; culminating in the decision of the Colonies separating from the UK. The French Revolution and the overthrowing of the French Monarchy were the end results of centuries of economic and social centrifugal forces. Napoleon's conquest of Europe allowed for the South American colonies and Haiti to declare independence and self determination, aided by distance decay and built up centrifugal forces. The Americas had been transformed from decentralized, animist tribes and kingdoms into independent, Westphalian states with an Indo-European language and Christian religion.



## Industrialism and Imperialism

In the 1800s, Europe underwent another major change: *enclosure*. Before the 1800s, every community had “common land” where the poor could go to work and grow enough food to live. An example would be Robin Hood and Sherwood Forest. The Sheriff of Nottingham lived on his own estate, which passed on from generation to generation. Sherwood Forest was where the poor commoners made their living. Enclosure changed this. *Enclosure* established property laws and privatized all land; allowing rich people to purchase once-common land. The poor people were removed from the land, with nowhere to go.



Fortunately, the *Industrial Revolution* was underway. The factories needed ample supplies of workers, who were housed in urban communities formed around the industrial complexes. As workers moved from the common land to the factories, the political organization changed. Where people were once able to be self-sufficient on the common lands, they now needed to pay for all of life's essentials: housing, food, transportation, clothing, etc. Governments became more active, organizing communal services like education, health care, sanitation networks, and transportation. As a result of these government services, the crude death rate and infant mortality rate began to drop, spiking the Natural Increase Rate. As the populations exploded, people who were already struggling in poverty began to starve with the abundance of extra children in households. Parents kicked youths out of the house, creating an influx of homeless children. Crime skyrocketed, requiring a larger police force. The increased need for services demanded an increase in taxes, with the question of who should pay the taxes: the workers who were struggling to get by or the land-owning business elites. The city dwellers understood the need for higher taxes, as they understood the value of higher quality services. People living outside the urban centers bristled at the idea of higher taxes, and since they did not need or use those services, they did not believe they should pay the taxes.

Having lost control of the American Colonies, the Europeans turned their attention to Africa and Asia. The Europeans had learned from previous attempts at colonization that investing technology into colonies creates rebellions. So instead, the Europeans decided to underinvest in their empires, keeping the regions dependent on the *metropole*, or home country of the empire. Just enough technology and infrastructure was invested to be able to extract the needed resources back to Europe to be manufactured. As with the Americas, Westphalian Statehood, enclosure, and industrialization were force assimilated into Africa and Asia; turning once animist tribal areas into enclosed, centralized states.



During this time, there was a question of how to best conquer and rule the world. One philosophy was the *Halford Mackinder's Heartland Theory* which promoted that to control the world, a state would need to control Russia and Eastern Europe. Control of these lands would give a state the resources needed to feed the population and fuel its industries, eventually dominating the "rimland."

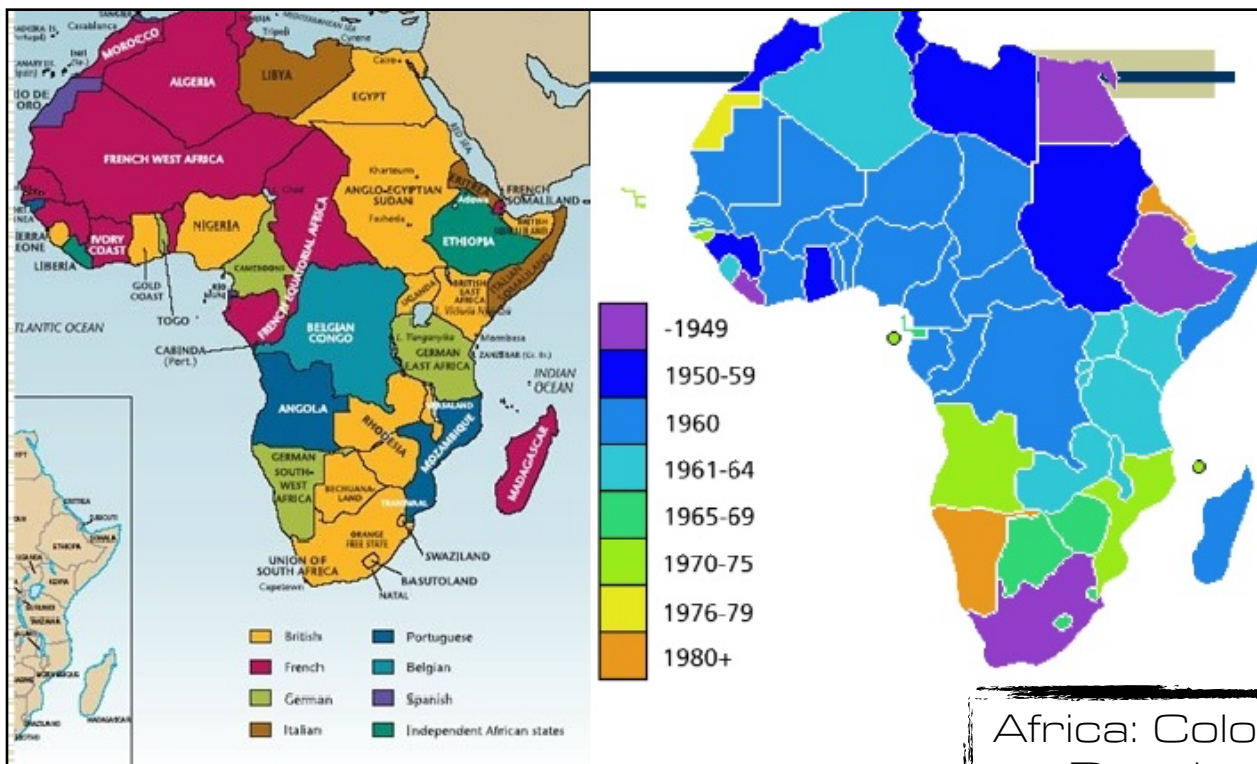
The second theory was *Nicholas Spyman's Rimland Theory*. Inversely, Spyman promoted controlling the coastal lands around Europe and Asia. Possessing the rimland would grant control of the critical naval choke points for trade and military movement as well as access to all major population centers; thus controlling the world.



Finally, there was *Ratzel's Organic Theory*. Ratzel theorized that States were like organisms: they must consume to survive. States must conquer other lands and territories in order to live. Conquer or be conquered. These theories drove WWI and WWII, as states competed for who could rule the world, leading to nearly global destruction.

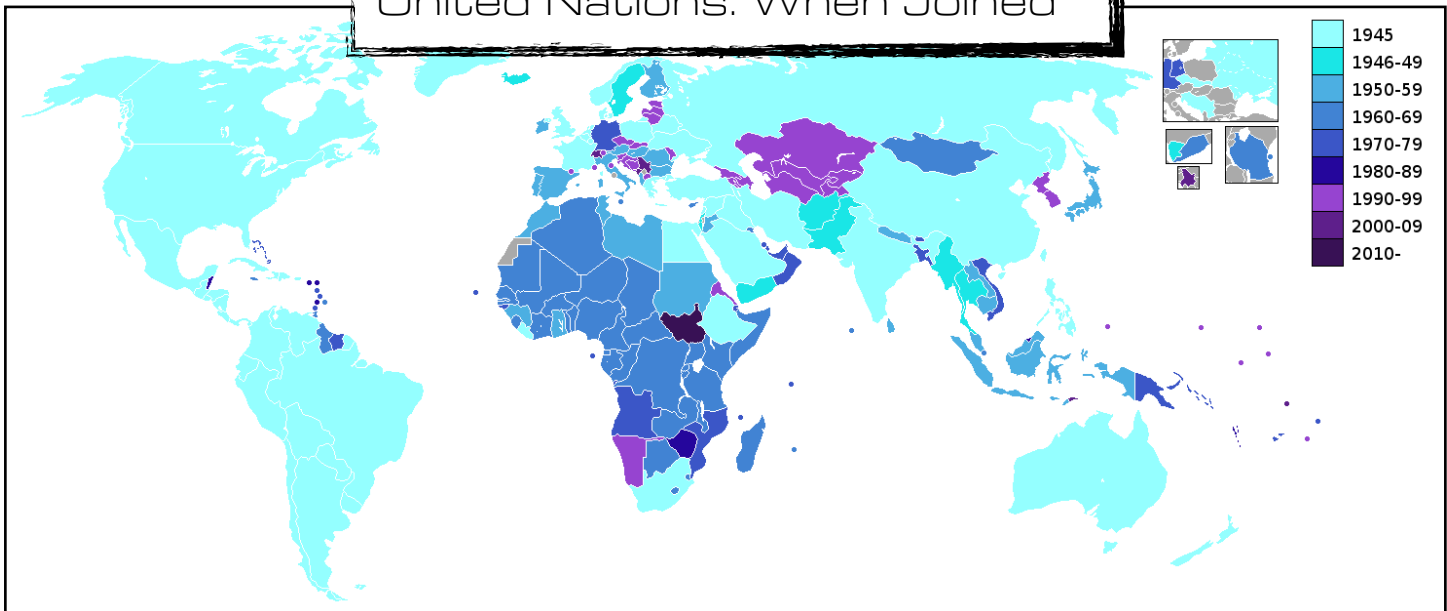
## Cold War

After WWI and WWII, the European states were broken and no longer able to maintain their once great empires, leading to the decolonization of Africa and Asia. Before colonization Africa had been a decentralized tribal continent, without formal property rights. As the Europeans left, there were no "historic state boundaries" to reestablish order. Instead the Europeans superimposed European defined boundaries upon Africa; drawing boundary lines to create over 50 new states *without the consent or input of the Africans* who lived in those areas. Boundaries were drawn based on land resources, not tribal or cultural knowledge. As a result, some tribes were divided between two states, creating multi-state nations. In other situations, enemies were grouped together politically and forced to take part in an imposed democracy. African nations who had a tradition in decentralized political organization, with a century of being subjected to European military domination, were now asked to run functioning bureaucratic democracies. Needless to say, the results were disastrous at first. Wars for independence plagued the continent as nations fought for their independence or, in some cases, for the chance to keep power. Many states found stability when military leaders stepped in with force to seize power and violently enforce peace.



Africa: Colonized vs. Decolonized.

## United Nations: When Joined



After surviving two world wars and the development of nuclear weapons, a new political phenomena emerged: *Supranational organizations*. Supranational organizations are collections of countries working together to make rules and policies that the abiding states agree to follow; giving up sovereignty for security. By 1960, dozens of supranational organizations existed: the United Nations, NATO, OPEC, the Warsaw Pact.... Each organization had an economic or political goal it was attempting to achieve by working together. A new age of globalization and industrialized transportation/communication created a new age of political organization. As a result of supranational organizations, in 1975 political leaders from around the world met and agreed to the *Helsinki Accord*. The tenets were as follows:

1. Sovereign equality and respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty
2. Refraining from the threat or use of force
3. Security of frontiers
4. Territorial integrity of States
5. Peaceful settlement of disputes
6. Non-intervention in internal affairs
7. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedoms of thought, conscience, religion, and belief
8. Equal rights and self-determination of peoples
9. Cooperation among States
10. Fulfillment in good faith of obligations under international law

The result of the Helsinki Accords was powerful. It promoted territorial integrity, effectively ending the pursuit of conquest over land. States focused on peaceful, non-violent (non-nuclear) ways of solving disputes between states. States shifted their focus from personal self-protection to economic and political policies of integration and interconnectedness.

As the Cold War came to an end, the Communist states were bankrupt and being pulled a part by economic and cultural centrifugal forces. Between 1989-1992, USSR leaders devolved power to the regions while opening up the USSR economy to competition and trade. The result was a wave of independence movements, as long suppressed nations clamored for self-determination. Many communist states experienced massive balkanization. States like Yugoslavia balkanized into five nation-states, mostly along ethnic lines. In 1992, USSR ceased to exist; leaving in its wake dozens of new nation-states.

The Cold War was over.



Former Yugoslavia

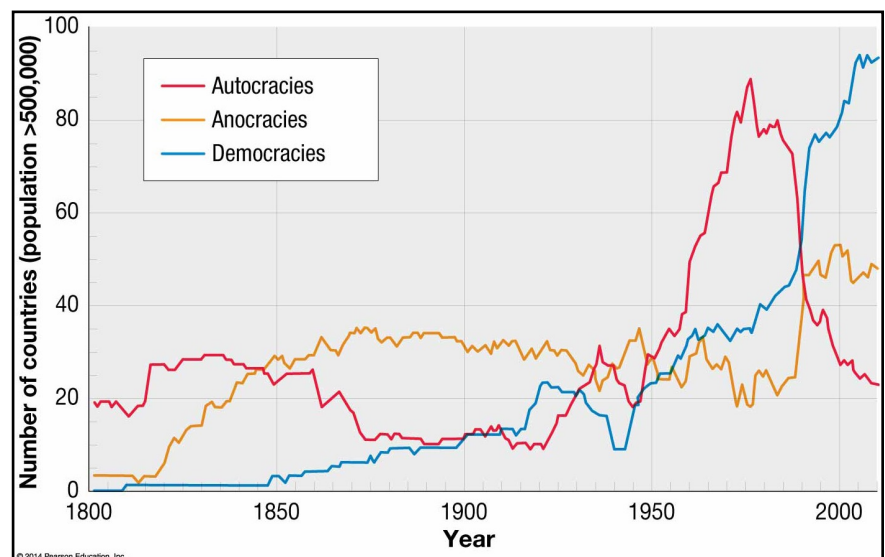


## USSR Balkanized



Between 1960 and 2010 there has been a rapid increase in democracies. This phenomenon is unique throughout human history, as the default of humanity has been *autocracy*, or one-person, rule. There are a number of geopolitical forces behind the trend of democratization:

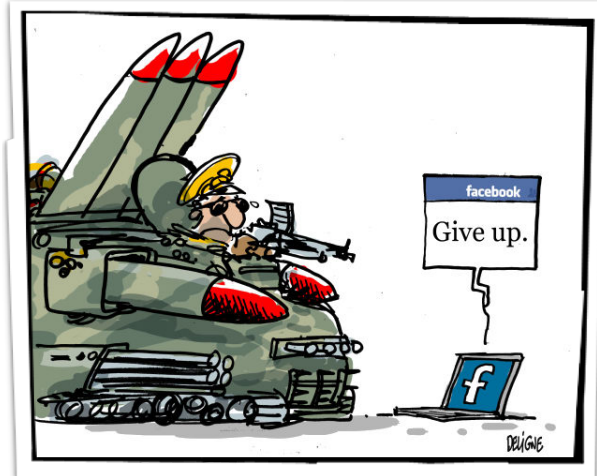
- Cold War Cultural Imperialism.** The Cold War was a war of ideologies - Communism vs. Capitalism; autocracy vs. democracy. During the Cold War, the USA invested billions of dollars to spread democratic ideals across the world. The USA also made billions of dollars available in money to developing to periphery states, but with a requirement that the states accepting money must move toward a democracy. The tension between autocratic communism and democratic capitalism created shatter belts throughout Asia - dividing States like Korea and Vietnam into North & South based upon ideological lines. However, coming out of the Cold War in 1992, the USA's cultural ideology had won. The USA continued to promote democracy to the Middle East and Africa; stirring up the Arab Spring rebellions, as well as working with Iraq and Afghanistan during the War on Terror to establish democratic institutions.
- Increase in Number of States.** Until the 1950s, the vast majority of the world was either indigenous or ruled by a European Empire. With decolonization in the 1950s, states began to break off from the European powers, seeking self determination with most balkanization revolving around nation/cultural boundaries. In Africa, the boundaries were first superimposed, but later rebellions and revolution fragmented regions into smaller nation-states. In 1992, the collapse of the USSR and the Eastern Bloc resulted in the balkanization of states in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. In both cases, many of these newly self-determined nation-states adopted democracies, as the people wanted a greater say in their governments for the first time in their region's history. Also, as stated above, it was a prerequisite for receiving development funds from the IMF and World Bank.



- **Technology.** Advancements in technology have further increased the push for democracy around the world. As education is a key element to a functioning democracy, the internet has allowed for individuals to gain access to information from around the world, instantaneously. More people around the world have been able to access to the Enlightenment ideas that inspired the European and American revolutions in the 1700s-1800s, as well as information about other governing/organizing initiatives.

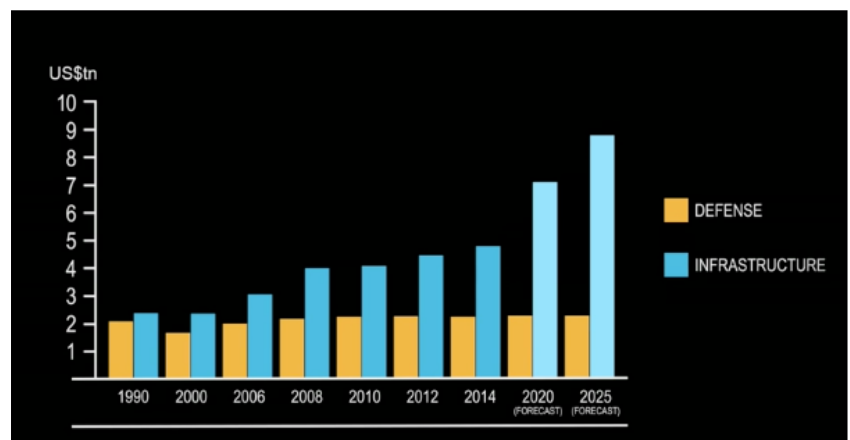
Internet technology has dramatically improved interconnection and dialogue between peoples. People must be able to communicate to share ideas, discuss, and debate. Cell phones reduced the space-time compression; allowing instant global connection at any time of day. This mass communication and the ability for all citizens to communicate and organize (digitally and physically) is difficult for states to manage. Thus, the internet began to devolve power from the state to the people.

In the Arab Spring, it was nicknamed the “Facebook Revolution” because the use of the internet, cell phones and social media allowed people to communicate ideas and organize at lightning speeds. People were able to connect and share their stories of anger and oppression, and also their dreams and ideas of what a different world could look like, outside of the censored society and media propaganda. Social media also allowed people to share videos and stories of oppression to the world through unmonitored satellite phones; allowing other state governments to see how people were being treated. Government agencies could not keep up with trying to stop the protest movements that were springing up. The moment one would disband, a social media message would be sent out to reorganize in a new area. In Tunisia and Egypt, this led to the dictators stepping down. In Libya, social media helped organize international support to overthrow long standing dictator Muammar Gaddafi. Social media helped give true power to the people.



## Age of Connectivity

Since the 1950s, the rapid advancement of industrialized transportation and communication technologies has begun to transform global political geography. From the Agricultural Revolution through Alexander the Great and Hitler, land meant power. Land meant wealth. Land meant resources. The advancement of space-time compression technologies, and their diffusion during European Imperialism and the Cold War, have rewired the world into an interconnected global network. States are no longer isolated entities who must rely on themselves for survival. Instead, human society has evolved into the Age of Connectivity.





# The World's Networked Infrastructure



**PINK** = Highways/  
Railways

**BLUE** = Internet/  
Telecommunication

**YELLOW** = Energy  
Pipelines

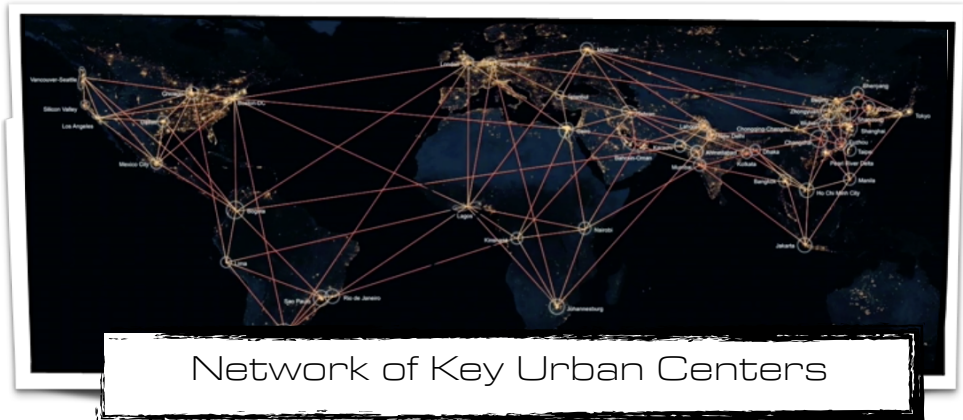
A society's success is now bound to its access to networks. According to Parag Khanna, there are over 39 million miles of highways, 2.4 million miles of railways, 1.2 million miles of energy pipelines, and 600 thousand miles of internet cables interconnecting the world.

For the first time in human history, more money is being invested into physical infrastructure than military defense. States are investing MORE to be interconnected to other territories and resources than to protect and defend against invaders. Since the Age of Connectivity is currently revolutionizing the world's Political Geography, there are a few trends that have already emerged:

**New International Division of Labor.** Because of globalized mass transportation, containerization, and high-speed communication infrastructure, products travel tens of thousands of miles along supply chains—moving from one factory to the next. Each step or link in the chain is controlled by a business with machinery and workers specializing in one step of the process. Resources from the six major continents are harvested, mined, transported, processed, and sold around the globe. Data and sales information is shared instantly, translated into dozens of languages, interconnecting billions of people.

**Planetary Urbanization.** Every 3 seconds a person undertakes a rural-to-urban migration. Cities are the nodes in the global network connecting people to the communication, transportation, energy, financial, and informational networks. Economic opportunities and social infrastructures such as health care, clean water, and food are pulling people to urban spaces at an unimaginable rate.

These nodes and collections of humans are becoming important political and economic players on the global stage. Over 30 *megacities* have populations exceeding 10 million. These cities are creating a powerful urban network, are responsible for over two-thirds of the world's GDP, and are home to the headquarters of most major multinational businesses. Power is devolving from centralized governments to these large cities.



Network of Key Urban Centers

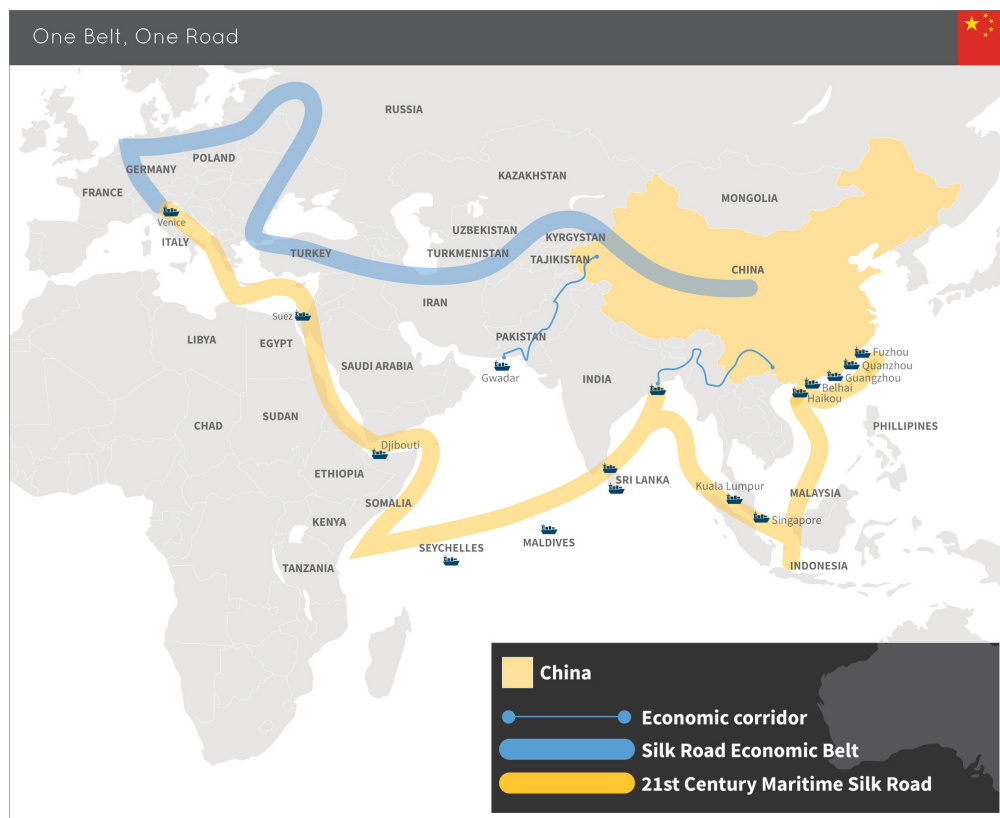
**Neocolonialism.** Core countries are using their financial wealth to re-subjugate the periphery. This has taken the form of massive “development loans” for billions of dollars. It is positive for funding big projects, but it is also harmful because it burdens fledgling states, who cannot pay it back the loans they agree to take on. Also, rich investors and multinational corporations are purchasing primary sector resource land in the periphery. The resources are then

shipped to the core. This robs the periphery states of their land, corporate opportunity, and their native resources. All together, the end result is periphery states dependent on the core for finances, finished goods, and resources... even when those resources are locally or regionally produced.

**Multinational/Supranational Organizations.** Because of the flow people, goods, ideas and technologies beyond the traditional State borders, political organization has evolved. Every State is involved in multiple *Supranational Organizations*. To be disconnected from groups like the United Nations or the European Union is to be disconnected from the flow of power and wealth in the world. States willingly (or unwillingly) give up aspects of the sovereignty for the benefits of interconnectivity. However, not everyone is thrilled with having to obey the global community. North Korea has stayed stubbornly isolated, focusing on building nuclear weapons to have a more powerful military presence in the world. In 2019, the USA defied multiple groups and imposed tariffs on steel and aluminum from China to protect and isolate US businesses from the competition of the global economy. States and organizations are in a battle for the appropriate balancing of power.

## Case Study: China's New Silk Road

In a world that is growing in interconnectivity, China is taking the lead in building the next wave of transportation infrastructure - centered on Chinese interests. Named the *New Silk Road*, China is using its immense wealth to invest \$900 billion to connect China with Central Asia, Europe, India, the Middle East, and East Africa. These regions house over 70% of the world's population. China is willing to lend an additional \$8 trillion across the region to help these countries make further improvements. This project includes building high speed train lines and highways to interconnect France to Moscow, through Istanbul to China. It also includes building ports for mega-cargo ships along the old Indian Ocean trade routes. Many of these countries were former colonies of Western Europe who have been left poor and struggling in the new economic world. They are excited for the opportunity to be a part of this new economic vision China is proposing.



## CONCLUSION

The world is becoming increasingly interconnected. As society continues to evolve, will it move towards a further Globalized Networked Society? Will the fate of humanity be universally tied together? Or will there be push back to the old State-Styled system, or borders and military protectionism?

Only time will tell, as every society continues to find their place in this ever changing world.