

C. States & Nations

To understand the modern political landscape, it is important to understand *the state*: what a state is, what holds a state together, and what challenges threaten to pull it apart.

The State: Sovereignty & Legitimacy

The modern political map is composed of States. *The State* is defined as having:

- **A Territory with a defined Border.** A state has ownership of a specific piece of land. This land has an agreed upon border that delimits and demarcates where its authority and ownership begins and ends. This ownership of the land is permanent.
- **A Permanent Population.** The state has one or multiple *nations* who live on the land as their home. A *nation* is a culturally/ethnically related group of people who share a common identity tied to their language, history, and home land. This population is not a temporary gathering or collection of people. Instead, these are people who call this land their home or their permanent residence where they live, work, play, and create community.
- **An Organized Economy.** This permanent population has developed a community of businesses/institutions that utilize the resources of the land to meet the needs of its citizens.
- **A Sovereign and Legitimate Government.** The people have organized a system of political leadership considered sovereign and legitimate. *Sovereignty* is defined as the power to control the land and its people. *Legitimacy* is defined as the recognized authority of the government by the citizens. The citizens agree and accept the ruling institutions, giving them the right to rule. Legitimacy also extends to the neighboring states when the State and its leadership have achieved the International Recognition by other states, or the United Nations, as being the rightful, sovereign rulers over the defined land and people.



The ISIS Caliphate (2014)

WARNING. Learning something unknown is hard. Redefining a word you ALREADY know is even harder. This section will use words that you already know, but in a different way. Be prepared to redefine the words: State (*government*), Nation (*the people*), and Country (*the land*).



2 Maps of the Middle East



While the terms and concepts of *political geography* are straight forward and fairly easy to grasp, the application can be messy. A government can be sovereign, but not considered legitimate. For example: ISIS used its military might to become “sovereign” over land and people in the Middle East, but the United Nations and the neighboring States refused to give ISIS recognition as the legitimate rulers of the area. Another case study is Israel’s sovereignty over its territory and people, with a government that is considered legitimate by the citizens of Israel. Israel’s legitimacy is recognized by the UN, the USA, and European states. However, Israel is NOT recognized as legitimate by the other Arab nations in the Middle East. Instead, the territory is labeled “Occupied Palestine,” and refuses to meet with the Israeli leadership. To states such as Saudi Arabia and Lebanon, the Palestinian government is the legitimate ruler of the territory, even though they are currently not sovereign.

Taiwan is considered a sovereign and legitimate state by the USA. China, however, considers Taiwan a rebellious province that needs to come back into the fold.

Categories of States

Every State and Nation can be organized into one of four categories:

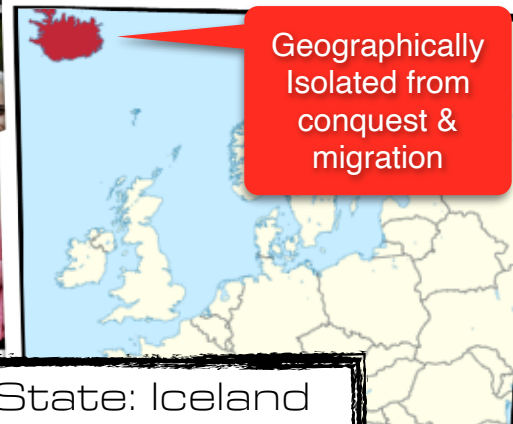
- **Nation-State.** A *nation-state* is defined as a sovereign and legitimate state whose permanent population is overwhelmingly one nationality. A *nation* is a group of people with a similar cultural heritage (language, customs, religion), who claim historical ownership of a specific piece of land. Nation-states tend to form in places that are isolated, like islands or peninsulas, and which have historically avoided waves of invasions or migrations thereby developing an *ethnic homogeneity* and *ethno-nationalism*. In modern times, these states have strict immigration laws to keep foreigners out to preserve their cultural uniqueness.

While no single state is 100% composed of one nationality, the citizenry of nation-states is usually more than 80% from one national identity. Iceland is a nation-state with 93% being Icelandic. In Japan, 98% of their population is ethnically Japanese. South Korea, Tonga, Ireland, Portugal, and Lesotho are also considered nation-states, with similar ethnic homogeneity.

- **Multination-State.** *Multination states* have a citizenry composed of multiple nationalities but ruled over by one government. Multinational states have a strong diversity of languages, cultures, and religions within their political boundaries. Many multinational states were formed during the Age of Empires when one nation conquered and has maintained rule over other nationalities ever since. Case in point, in the 1700s, Russia expanded their empire from the Ural Mountains, near Europe, eastward to the Pacific Ocean bordering China. Over the past 300 years, Russia has maintained sovereignty over this land and its mixture of nationalities. Russia now spans 11 time zones worth of territory and controls over 186 unique nationalities, making it both the largest state AND the most ethnically diverse state on the planet.

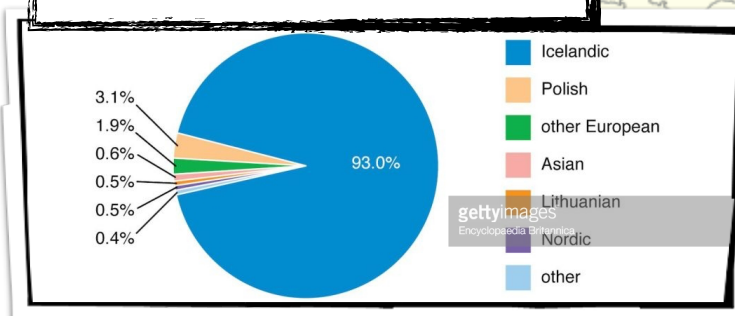
Multination states can also form from voluntary migration. When a society has a strong economy, it creates a *pull factor* that attracts migrants from other territories. These migrants choose to belong to the multination state and are willing to work together, as long as they feel their voice is heard and their rights are protected. Consider the USA. While the USA started with former British citizens conquering indigenous tribes, the USA started to experience successive waves of economic migrants.

The Nation-State has its roots historically in the Nationalism of the late 1800s. The world was primarily comprised of multination empires. Nations began to clamor for independence, claiming the right of self-determination: the ability for a nation to decide its own government and rule over their own historical lands. After WWI, nations broke away forming Nation-States.

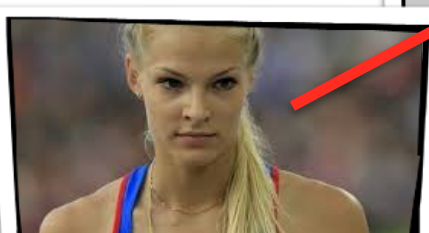


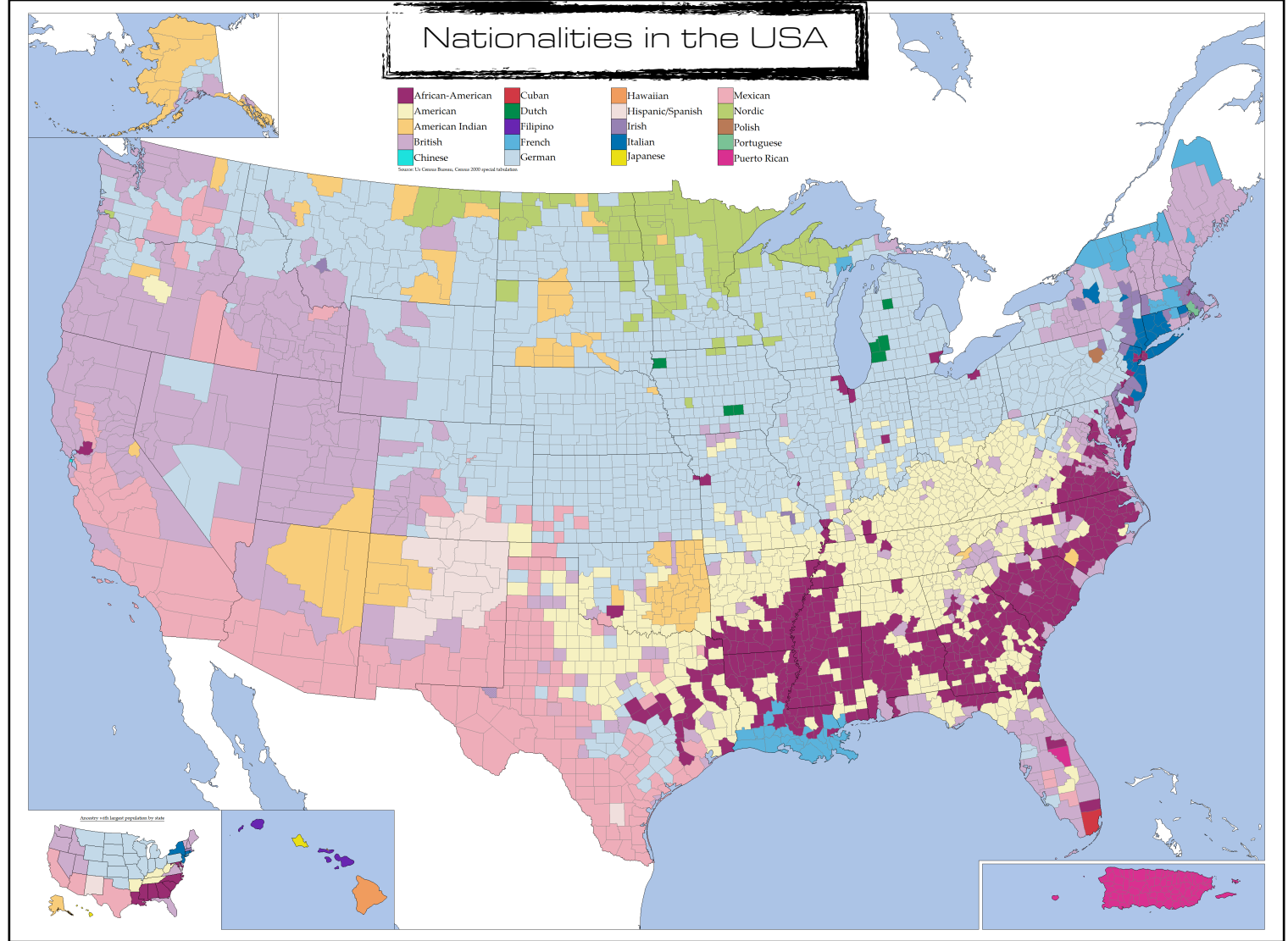
Geographically Isolated from conquest & migration

Nation State: Iceland



Multination State: Russia



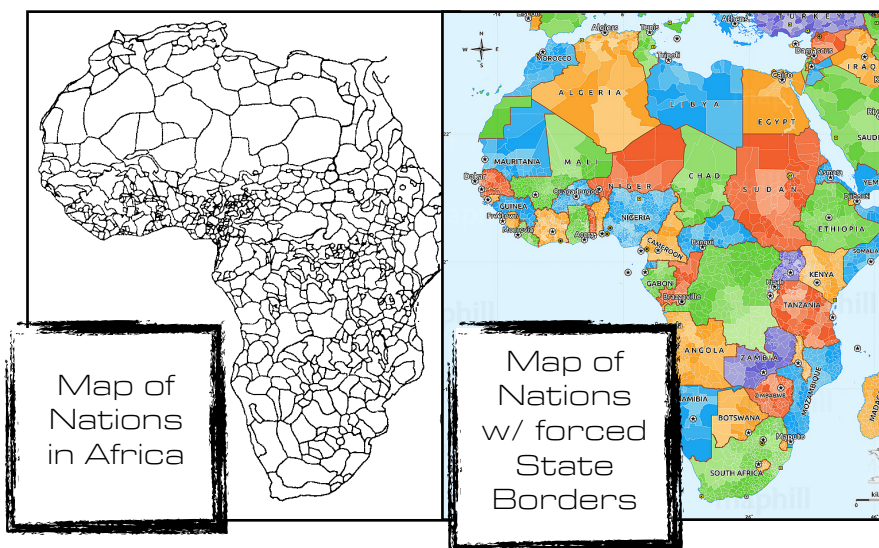


Soon, the Irish, Chinese, Germans, Scandinavians, Italians, Russians, Eastern Europeans, West Africans (not by choice), and Latin Americans joined the British in the expansion westward. The result was a multination state that formed (mostly) by the choices of the people to migrate and willingly become a citizen of the state.

The final method of developing into a multinational state is through *superimposed boundaries*. As the Europeans were undertaking an imperial conquest of Africa and Asia, they drew boundary lines and formed States - forcing

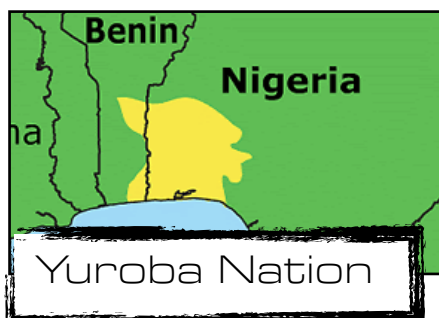
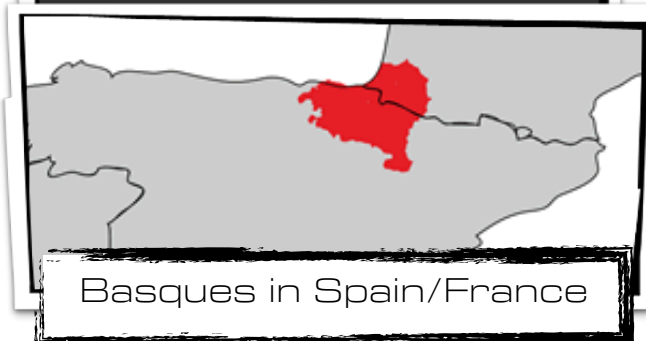
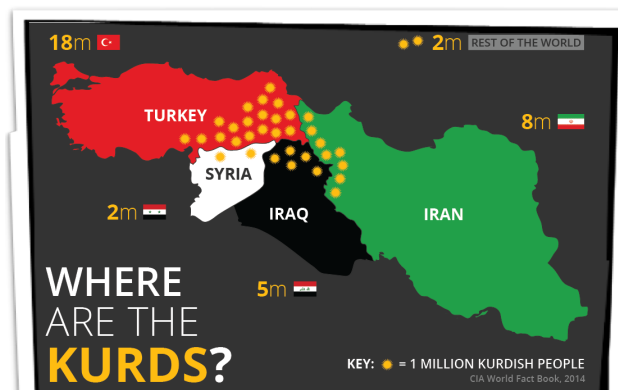
indigenous nations to work together, or sometimes split apart, to suit European needs. Indigenous nations were forced to coalesce, or come together, sometimes despite having nothing in common culturally/linguistically or possibly when they had been in conflict for centuries.

Nigeria is now home to over 50 nations (14 dominant groups), and South Sudan has 60 unique nations. India, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan... all formed in the same fashion.



- **Stateless Nations.** Not every nation has a self-determined state. *Stateless nations* are unique nationalities that believe they have a claim to cultural homeland, but do not currently have sovereignty or universal legitimacy of that land. Many stateless nations were created by the Europeans, when they superimposed boundaries to create new states in the 1950s-60s. They drew lines based on the geography, with zero regard for nationality. One example of a stateless nation are the Kurds. The Kurds are distributed in Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria. The Kurds have been demanding self-determination, desiring the right to rule over themselves. However, the ruling governments in Turkey, Iraq, and Iran have refused. The Kurds have created their own militia to fight for their own independence, using violent actions against government forces to fight for their own freedom. The governments in Turkey and Iraq have labeled the Kurds as rebels and terrorists.

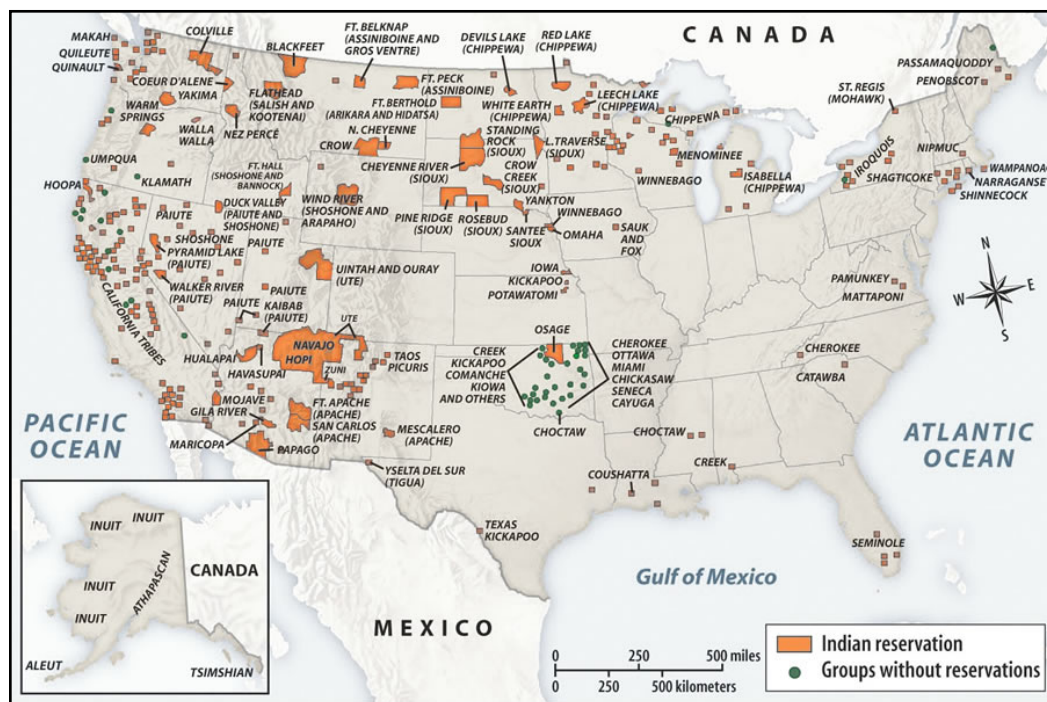
Similarly, the Basques in Spain represent another stateless nation. Located in the northern mountains of Spain, the Basque language and cultural traditions are unique to Europe. The Basque want independence and to run their own state and affairs. Their demands for independence have been refused by Spain. Other Stateless nations include: the Catalans & Galatians in Spain, Palestinians in Israel, Gypsies/Roma in Romania, Tartars and Chechens in Russia, Sami in Norway, Uyghurs & Tibetans in China and Tamil in India/Sri Lanka.



- **Multi-state Nation.** A *multi-state nation* is a nation who has become divided across multiple state borders. Again, tracing back to the European superimposed borders, many nations found borders divided them into multiple states. The Kurds - discussed above - were divided between Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria. The Tutsi were divided between Rwanda and Burundi. The Yoruba nation was divided between Nigeria, Benin, and Togo. The Irish are divided between the UK (North Ireland) and the Republic of Ireland. Many stateless nations are also multi-state nations.

APPLICATION #1:

In the USA, Indigenous Nations had been forcibly migrated off their homelands. This map demonstrates the autonomous reservations that have been formed through treaties and congressional legislation. Should they be allowed to form their own independent states or should they stay in their autonomous reservations? What would be the consequences to the Stateless nations & to the USA?



Centripetal Forces

Centripetal forces are forces within society that create unity - turning "you and me" into "we." It is especially important in multinational societies for governments to use tools to overcome the differences between groups that could tear a society apart. Some of the forces that can help create national pride and unity are:

- **Unifying Institutions.** These are forced practices that help impose a unified mindset in the people. One example is mandatory K-12 education, where the state controls the information being engrained into young, developing minds. Every industrialized country requires education of its youth to lay a foundation of unifying ideas. In school, children learn the state's glorious history, say a pledge of allegiance, learn the state's primary language, and learn the skills needed for economic success.

A second example is required military or civil service after high school. Israel and Switzerland both require 18 year olds to serve 2 years in the military or equivalent institution. This teaches national loyalty and pride in one's society.

A third example are national holidays, allowing everyone to stop and celebrate together. In the USA, Thanksgiving, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, and the 4th of July are holidays used to create unity and bring people together.

- **Religion.** Promoting a common religion can bring unity amongst a diverse group of people. A common faith creates unity by celebrating shared experiences, shared holy sites, shared music/media, shared holidays, and festivals. For example: two Muslims may be from different tribes and different parts of the State. But, when they show up to the same Mosque on Friday for Jumrah (the day of gathering), those differences are overpowered by the common, unifying elements of the faith.
- **Homogenous Population/Ethno-nationalism.** When there is ethnic unity amongst the citizen's ethnicity, there is a sense of greater unity. "Our heritage, our language, our history, our land, our people...."
- **Signs and Symbols.** Giving people a common symbol to unite around helps to unify a population. States use songs/anthems, flags, and sports to encourage unity. The Olympics and World Cup soccer give the citizens of each country a cause to cheer together for "our state." For example, before every football/basketball/baseball game, everyone joins together to sing the USA national anthem while the flag is raised. It doesn't matter the ethnicity, job, region, class, or religion; it is an action meant to unite everyone.
- **Language.** In a society that speaks many languages, creating an official language gives common ground for all citizens to be able to communicate with each other. When societies are progressing from Stage 2 into Stage 3, it is common for the government to designate one language as an "official language." People can still learn their indigenous language, but they will also learn the common/official language. This allows people from across the state, from all different backgrounds to be able to communicate and to share in common economic activities, common transportation services, common news services, common media experiences... For example: In India there are 60 languages spoken across the various nationalities in the State. India made English an official language to bring unity and order between its vastly different regions. This also allowed India to be better positioned to compete globally for jobs in America, Britain, and Australia.



- **Charismatic Leaders.** Bold, charismatic leaders can captivate the national audience and help bring a common identity to a diverse group of people. For example, Winston Churchill helped unite the British People (and the British allies) across their global empire with his rousing speeches during WWII. His speeches brought hope and boosted national morale and unity during the hardest time of the war. In the USA, JFK was a charismatic leader who inspired unity and a common identity with his actions and attitude. Anytime a political leader wants to stir the heart of the USA, they quote JFK's "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country!" Osama Bin Ladin's charisma and boldness brought unity to a diverse group of Islamic followers across the Middle East, Northern Africa, and Europe. Nelson Mandela helped unite South Africa after it ended the racial segregation movement known as Apartheid. Mandela was then elected as the first black president of South Africa.



- **Devolution and Democracy.** When people feel they have autonomy, are respected, and are trusted with responsibility, it brings a feeling of pride and unity. A society can also create unity by increasing the effect that people have through voting. A central government can also keep unity by *devolving*, or transferring power and autonomy, to the regional governments. For example, many people in Scotland want to break away from the UK to create the kingdom of Scotland. They held a referendum vote on the decision, however, the citizens of Scotland ultimately chose to remain a part of the United Kingdom in exchange for London devolving more autonomy over their regional government.



- **State Morphology.** The shape of the state impacts the feelings of being united. States that are compact have an easier time making connections within the state, thus feeling more connected within the state. Compact states share similar climates, similar challenges, similar resources.
- **Improved Economy.** When an economy is growing strong, people have a positive attitude and feel positive emotions towards the state. In the 1990s, China and South Africa had an outpouring of national pride which overcame ethnic diversity, resulting in 8-13% annual growth in their GDP and low unemployment rates. Differences get washed away when everyone is enjoying the economic prosperity.
- **Transportation and Communication Infrastructure.** When people feel isolated, they create a unique culture and mindset that may not align with the masses. Transportation and communication create interconnectedness by reducing the friction of distance and improving space-time compressions, creating an improved flow of people, goods, and ideas. Interaction creates blendedness and a sense of unity across society.



- **Relocated or Forward Capital.** Some states that were once a part of colonial empires have moved their capital city to a new location to better unite their population. The European colonizers had established capitals in their colonies based upon what was in the best economic interest of the Europeans. The freed-societies chose to create a new capital and to shed the old colonial identity to forge (or renew) a new, unified identity. They may also choose a more centralized location to bring jobs and opportunity to more regions of the state. For example, Brazil had Rio de Janeiro as its capital while ruled by the Portuguese empire. Later, the independent Brazilian government decided to build a brand new capital in Brasilia, a city more centrally located in the state. In the 1970s, the newly independent Pakistani government moved the capital from Karachi, on the coast, to Islamabad in order to make the state capital (and its resources) more accessible to all parts of society.
- **External Threats.** Nothing unifies a diverse group of people like a common enemy. In 2001, the USA was very divided as a State because of a divisive election. The 9/11 tragedy helped to bring people together under the cause of fighting Bin-Laden and Al Qaeda.
- **Disaster Relief.** When a tragedy strikes a State, the process of bringing relief and support can help bring national unity and solidarity. When Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, people came from all across the USA to lend a hand and provide resources.

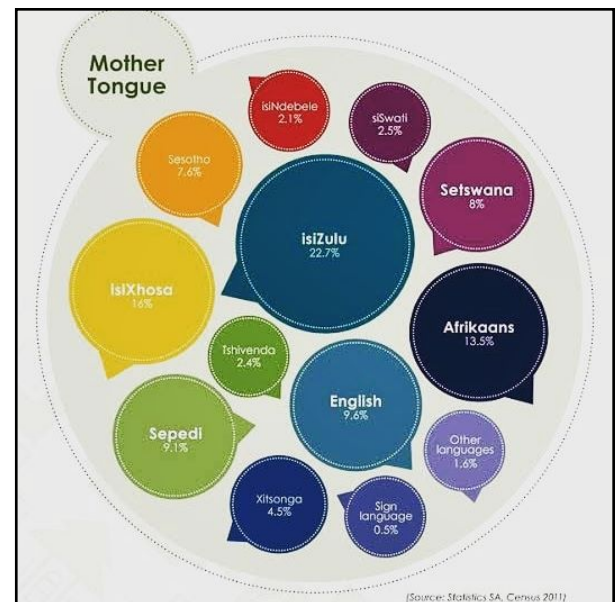


Centrifugal Forces

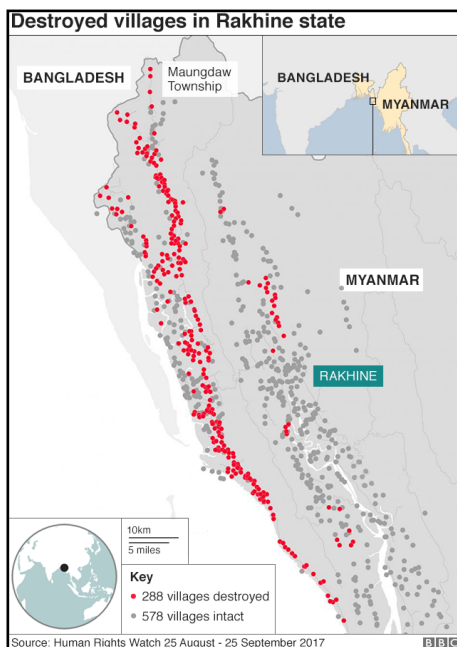
Centrifugal forces are factors that pull a state apart, causing a collapse or fragmentation of the state. These are forces that break populations apart from “we” into “you and me:”

- **Religious Conflict.** When multiple religions exist in the same state, it can cause tension and conflict. A root cause is a lack of freedom to worship or specific laws aimed at oppressing one or many religions religion. For example: In Israel, Orthodox Jews are given freedom of movement, with unrestricted access to holy sites and worship opportunities. Conversely, the Islamic Palestinians are walled off (literally) in the Gaza Strip and West Bank regions. Palestinians have to cross through a check point, limiting access to the Islamic holy sites. This has caused strong centrifugal tensions between the Israelis and Palestinians, increasing the demands for Israel to be broken into two states. In India, the Hindu majority government has passed legislation that restricts citizenship and opportunities based upon religion, specifically discriminating against Muslims. This has sparked violent protests across India.

- **Multiple Languages.** When a region speaks many different languages, there is a communication barrier, making unity difficult. Language becomes a point of discrimination, as the majority uses language as a means to discriminate and isolate those who do not speak the majority's language. This is especially true for language dependent opportunities in the educational and economic sectors. If an official language is declared, bitterness and anger develops by the groups whose language was not chosen to the official language. The disenfranchised nations may decide they would rather break away and create their own state, instead of watching their culture slowly disintegrate and disappear. South Africa has tried to solve this tension by making 11 languages “official languages,” but that has not fully diffused the tensions.



- **Multiple Ethnicities.** In Multinational States, it is easy for *ethno-regionalism* to develop amongst the majority people. This is particularly true when one ethnicity has economic success and political power, while the other(s) struggle and feel oppressed. This can cause tension, division, and fragmentation. One modern example is that of the Hutu committing genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. Another example occurred in Myanmar: in 2016, the Buddhist Majority used its power and position to forcibly remove and “ethnically cleanse” the state of the Rohingya Muslims. The actions of the Buddhist government and Buddhist militias has resulted in nearly 1 million Rohingya refugees fleeing to Bangladesh and Indonesia.



- **Separatists Movements.** When a nation or ethnic group demands self-determination and the right to establish their own state, but is repeatedly and forcibly denied, it creates violent *separatist movements*. In North Ireland, there was separatist violence as the result of Irishmen wanting Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to be unified. In Spain, the Catalans of Barcelona have made multiple requests for independence. Each request has been denied, resulting in protests in the street. Belgium is home to the northern Dutch-based Flemish culture and the southern French-based Walloon. The two sides of Belgium speak different languages, have different cultural identities, different levels of economic development, and different sources for news and media. They share little-to-no universal Belgium culture - not even a Belgian census. This has led to calls for separation into two separate kingdoms - along national lines. In Syria, tensions between the treatment of ethnic groups and political power erupted into a civil war. In Iraq, neglected groups formed together to create ISIS, an organization using violence and terrorist attacks to achieve its political goals.

- **Physical Barriers.** A barrier separates members of a state, making it difficult to communicate or transport goods and people. This causes isolation and a unique identity to form that is different from the rest of the State. For example, the mountainous region of the Basque in Spain has caused the development of a language and culture completely unique from other regions in Spain; the Basque want to break off into their own nation-state to preserve their culture.
- **Multicore and Inequality.** Inequality and desperation pull societies apart. When a society has uneven development, there may be several rich urban centers surrounded by other-wise impoverished communities. This division can slowly pull a community apart. India has multiple core regions, surrounded by poverty, and each region threatens to break off and become their own state. After every election in the USA, Texas and California have movements to break off because they are tired of “carrying the weight of poorer regions.” In Italy, the northern regions are significantly more developed, wealthy, and technologically advanced than the southern regions. This has caused resentment in the north and calls for division in Italy.
- **Inequality in Infrastructure.** The inability to move and communicate in a modern society is devastating. The peripheral/rural areas of many countries have terrible transportation, communication, and sanitation systems. This makes it difficult to move across the state, which hinders profitability and access to resources. A government that does not invest in its people will not govern for long. The Europeans did not invest into infrastructure in South America and Africa, leaving many former colonies without the tools needed to succeed as a state in the modern world.
- **Balkanization/Fragmentation.** *Balkanization* is the breakdown and division of one state into several smaller states. This is most commonly due to hostilities between ethnic groups, with the divides transpiring along ethnic territorial boundary lines. After the Cold War, the USSR and the Eastern Bloc balkanized into many smaller states. Most famously, Yugoslavia started the 1990s as one unified multinational state, but Balkanized the early 1990s into six separate nation-states. Each of the new nation-states was based around the ethnic make up of the region.
- **Irredentism.** *Irredentism* is when a nation tries to reclaim land they had lost, believing that it historically belongs to them and needs to be given or taken back. In 2015, Russia entered Crimea, in Ukraine, stating the land had historically belonged to Russia and was home to a majority of ethnic Russians, thus it should belong to Russia. They pursued an *irredentist policy*, demanding the land from the Ukrainian government.

Another example is the Kurds, a stateless nation, whose native homeland is divided between Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria. The Kurds want control of each of these states to gain Kurdish independence through unification of historically Kurdish lands. The Kurds have pursued an irredentist policy, making demands of these states to release the lands to create Kurdistan.



Basque's home in Spain (the Apennines Mtns)



Roads in Bolivia



ETHNIC GROUPS BY COUNTRY IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

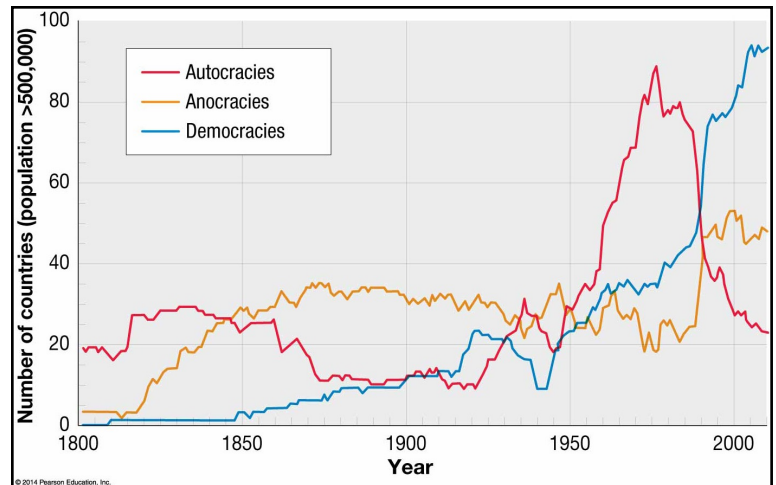
	Bosnian	Croat	Macedonian	Montenegrin	Serbian	Slovene
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,769,592	544,780	no data	1,883	1,086,733	no data
Croatia	39,037	3,874,321	4,138	4,517	186,633	10,517
Montenegro	74,142	6,021	900	278,865	178,110	no data
North Macedonia	19,571	2,686	1,297,981	2,003	35,939	365
Serbia	167,579	57,900	22,755	38,527	5,988,150	no data
Slovenia	32,009	35,642	3,972	2,667	38,964	1,631,363

Sources: DZS, MONSTAT, MAKSTAT, POPIS, RZS, SURS

- **Advanced Communication Technology & Democratization.** The invention and diffusion of cellphones and the internet have aided the diffusion of centrifugal forces. Advanced communication has enabled members of minority groups to communicate and organize more efficiently and effectively. First, groups who had been unable to access and share information easily were now able to access knowledge about other forms and ideas of government, and were able to research and study methods of creating change within their society.

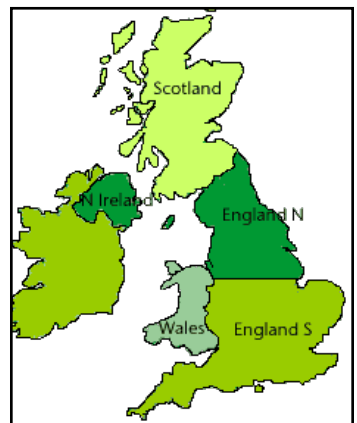
Second, People were able to access more information about the hardships being faced by other members of the community. This further increased the outrage and sense of “us vs. them.”

Finally, the internet and social media allowed dissidents to be able to organize meetings and protests in ways that ruling governments were not able to control. In the 2000s, advanced technology led to an increase in the number of rebellions and calls for democratization in autocratic societies.



Government Response to Centrifugal Forces

When governments are confronted with centrifugal forces, they have a couple paths to choose from when deciding how to respond. The first path is *devolution of power*. When faced with the tensions of ethnic conflict or dissatisfied regions of the state, a government can devolve power and autonomy to the region. In the UK, the Scots, Welsh, and Irish considered balkanizing to become independent. When put to a vote, the regions decided it was in their best interest to stay as a part of the UK, but instead asked for greater autonomy to make more choices for their region. Canada gave Nunavut, a Native American tribe, autonomy over their native lands, allowing the natives to have greater control over the policies and affairs of their region. Similarly, the USSR in 1990 devolved power to individual states like Ukraine and Latvia. However, their decision to devolve power led to these states completely breaking away, causing the collapse of the USSR.



When States are met with centrifugal forces, they can choose to use military force to bring order. This can be an increase in police presence and by possibly implementing policies such as curfews. In 2015 the city of Ferguson, Missouri faced centrifugal tensions because of police brutality against the African American community, and the National Guard was brought in to help bring order to the region. More aggressive policies sometimes result in ethnic cleansing, where one ethnicity seeks to completely remove another ethnicity from the State, resulting in a refugee population, internally displaced people, and higher death tolls. Taken to an extreme, governments can use their military to commit *genocide*, the attempt to completely eliminate an entire ethnicity. In 1995 Rwanda, the Hutus attempted to kill all Tutsis within the State, resulting in the death of 1 million Tutsis. The Syrian government's crack down on separatist rebels has resulted in death of 500,000 people, and the displacement of over 6.5 million refugees.



Challenges to State Sovereignty: Case Studies in Devolution

Case Study #1: Catalan Independence

The Catalan region is current apart of Spain but it has been protesting for independence since the 1920s. The nation of Catalan traces its history back to before the 1200s CE. The Catalan people have their own unique and recognized language, culture, traditions, and legal system. In the 1400s & 1700s, regional wars on the Iberian Peninsula brought the Catalan people under Spanish control, but with a high level of autonomy. After 1715, Catalan was forced to assimilate to Spanish rule and culture, losing all rights to autonomy. During this time, Barcelona - the capital of the Catalan nation - became prosperous. The region was well equipped to industrialize and Barcelona's natural deep harbor allowed it to prosper as a key port city. The rise of Barcelona's wealth rekindled the flame of Catalonian language, art and culture.

After a brief push for independence in the 1930s, Catalan again pushed to be independent in the 1970s. The Spanish government devolved power to Catalan, as one of its 17 semi-autonomous regions. The Catalans could establish their own parliament, president, police, transportation system, and commerce department. However, they still had to cooperate with Spain regarding education, health care, courts, homeland security, and Spanish taxes. While appreciative of the autonomy, Catalans demanded independence. Catalan produced 20% of Spain's GDP & Barcelona oversaw 25% of Spain's exports. Barcelona is one of the most visited cities in Europe by tourists. They did not want to bow to Spanish culture, nor bear the burden for Spain's increasing debts and poor economy.

In 2006, Spain passed legislation devolving more power to the autonomous regions, but the courts said the bill was unconstitutional. Calls for independence increased, especially as Spain's economy nearly collapsed during the 2008 Financial Crisis. In 2017, Catalan had a referendum (vote) for independence. Spain declared it unconstitutional, but the Catalan's held the vote regardless. On the day of the vote, Spanish police flooded the streets of Barcelona, injuring 800 people. Only 40% of Catalans voted, but the results were 90% in favor of Catalan independence. Spain rejected the results, stating they violated the Spanish constitution, then removed Catalan's special autonomy status and arrested Catalan's president, along with 8 other key political members. Outside of Spain, European countries declared the vote as illegal, stating it is time for unity not division. Not a single country recognized the Republic of Catalonia as a legitimate state.

So... now what? Spain's government is still in control of Catalan. 52% of Catalonians want independence, with 48% wanting to stay with Spain. Protests are still going on both for and against independence. Catalonia's independence movement is reliant on Spain's government. Catalonia will not be recognized as sovereign and legitimate by the United Nations, the European Union, nor any other international organization UNTIL SPAIN recognizes Catalonia as independent, sovereign, and legitimate.



APPLICATION #2:

- (a) Summarize the Catalan argument for independence.
- (b) Should Catalan be granted independence from Spain?
- (c) What do you think the Spanish government can do to calm the centrifugal forces in Catalan?

Catalonia secession

7.5m*

Catalonia population

1.6m*

Barcelona population

15percent

of Spain's population

20percent

of economic output

*Approximate



SOURCES: AL JAZEERA



@AJLabs ALJAZEERA

Case Study #2: Nigeria's Delicate Balance

Nigeria is a potentially rising star on the global stage. Nigeria has Africa's largest population, is Africa's richest economy, and has Africa's longest running democracy. Nigeria is playing a key role in the rise of multinational organizations like the African Union to change Africa's position on the global stage. However, Nigeria's potential for success is built on a fragile foundation.



Nigeria's geography is as diverse as its population and is divided into three regions by its rivers. The northern region is a mixture of farm land and deserts; the southeastern region is mountainous, with large oil reserves; the southwestern region has a coastline with natural harbors and is home to Nigeria's ports and industrial complexes. Within this territory exist 400 unique nations.

The political landscape is dominated by four ethnic groups: (1) The Hausa nation: Islamic, Farmers and military officers in the northern region. (2) Fulani: Islamic and Nomadic in the north. (3) Yoruba: a mixture of Christian, Islamic and Isha (indigenous), in control of the ports and industrial complexes. (4) Isha: Christian, in control of the crude oil fields. This mixture creates a unique collection of languages, religions, cultural practices and levels of development throughout the state.

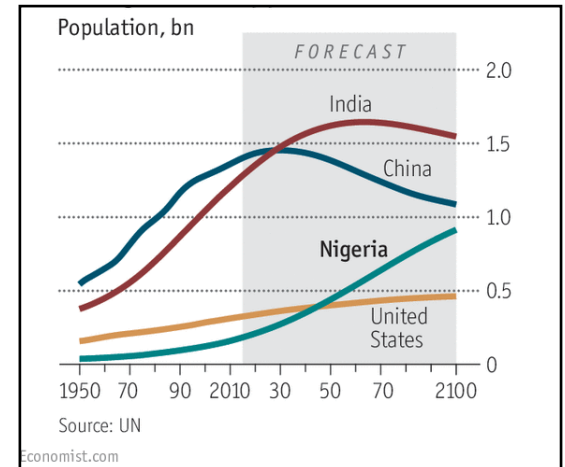
Nigeria has been the historic home of many West African Islamic kingdoms dating back to the 600s CE. Nigeria eventually came to be under British control, with Britain dividing the territory into "Northern Nigeria" and "Southern Nigeria." Southern Nigeria had the oil and ports, thus Britain most heavily invested their time, technology, and attention in the South. The British also selected the city of Lagos as its colonial capital. As a result, the South's interaction with Britain created a high level of acculturation (and some assimilation) to the British Culture (#gravityModel). Meanwhile, the Northern Regions were relatively unregulated and ignored by the British. The Islamic-based north took pride in their defiance of the Christian-British influence in the South. Eventually, Britain unified the North and South into a single colony, creating a system of using wealth generated from the southern regions to finance the debts and development struggles in the northern regions.

Then in 1960, Nigeria gained independence from Britain. Almost immediately regional tensions arose, leading to civil wars, military coups, and corruption. In 1967, the Igbo's used their oil money to try to break away from Nigeria - thinking their Christian brethren, the Yoruba, would support them. The Igbo were wrong. The three other major nationalities joined together to crush the Igbo, to keep Nigeria together. As a result, Nigeria took steps to create unity between the vastly diverse nationalities. The capital was moved from Lagos in the south to Abuja in the exact middle of the territory. A plan was developed to share power between the four major nations, with the presidency rotating between them. While this plan was not perfect, Nigeria began to move forward in its development.

In the 1990s, violence erupted again in Nigeria. Minor nations in the South had oil lines running through their lands, but they were not receiving an equal share of the money when compared to other regions. This uneven wealth and development caused militant groups to arise and take over the oil pipelines - holding the country hostage. In a peace

agreement, the Nigerian government gave the Ijaw nation the vice presidency. Unexpectedly, the Nigerian President from the Northern Region died of natural causes, moving the presidency back down south. The North was outraged by the disruption to the power cycle, because they were supposed to have had the presidency for 8 more years. Groups like Boko Haram arose, using terrorist tactics and militant violence protest for their causes. In 2015, Nigerians elected a President from the Northern regions, restoring balance to the power cycle.

Nigerians believe that their delicate balance between the diverse people groups is essential to their united future. Resources for all parts of Nigeria are needed for the economy and society to thrive. To avoid future problems, the Nigerian government is investing money to reduce the development inequality that has arisen between the North and South. They are also preparing for a population boom as the society progresses into DTM Stage 3, meaning people have longer life expectancies and there is a decrease in infant mortality rates. The future is uncertain in Nigeria, but the common belief is that Nigeria's future will be founded by working together.



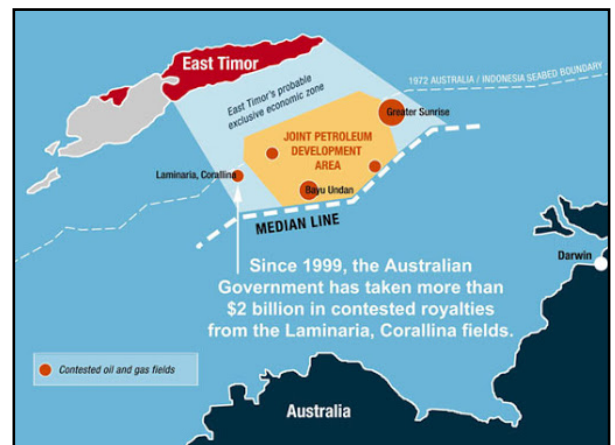
APPLICATION #3:

- Summarize the Centrifugal forces facing Nigeria.
- What strategies has Nigeria tried to bring unity to Nigeria?
- What do you predict is Nigeria's chance of success to saying together? What advice would you give to the Nigerian government moving forward?

Case Study #3: Eritrea & East Timor

Ethiopia and Eritrea were Italian colonies in the late 1800s. After WWII, Eritrea was gifted to Ethiopia as a “thank you for your support” during the war, as a semi-autonomous region. In 1961, Eritrea desired independence and began a 30 year war with Ethiopia. In 1991, Eritrean forces finally defeated the Ethiopians, gaining independence and leaving Ethiopia landlocked. However, border disputes over mineral rich areas continued into 2018 when a formal peace deal was forged. Eritrea and Ethiopia recognized each other as legitimate states and agreed to trade deals that allowed movement between the two countries via their roads, airports, and seaports.

East Timor had been a Portuguese colony until 1975, when Portugal decolonized. East Timor's independence lasted 9 days, as they were brutally invaded by Indonesia. The UN called for East Timor to have the right to self determination... but did nothing. After 30 years of massacres and brutal repression, Indonesia's new prime minister was persuaded to allow East Timor a referendum vote for independence. In 1998, East Timorians voted 78% for independence. Outraged, Indonesian militias burst forth with more violence, leaving 100k people dead or displaced. In 1999, the UN finally sent in Peace Keeping military forces to oversee official East Timor's independence, which was legitimized in 2002. East Timor was left underdeveloped and bankrupt. There is hope in the promise of oil reserves off their coastline, but they are in disputes with Australia for who has the rights to drill.



APPLICATION #4:

How are Eritrea & East Timor different from Nigeria & Catalan?

Ch 9-10 Standards

	Objective	Knowledge
	The political organization of space results from historical and current processes, events, and ideas.	
4.1 Introduction to Political Geography Ch 9c & 10a	For world political maps: a. Define the different types of political entities. b. Identify a contemporary example of political entities.	Independent states are the primary building blocks of the world political map.
		Types of political entities include nations, nation-states, stateless nations, multinational states, multistate nations, and autonomous and semiautonomous regions, such as American Indian reservations.
4.2 Political Processes Ch 9c & 10b	Explain the processes that have shaped contemporary political geography.	The concepts of sovereignty, nation-states, and self-determination shape the contemporary world.
		Colonialism, imperialism, independence movements, and devolution along national lines have influenced contemporary political boundaries.
4.3 Political Power and Territoriality Ch 9b & 10a	Describe the concepts of political power and territoriality as used by geographers	Political power is expressed geographically as control over people, land, and resources, as illustrated by neocolonialism, shatterbelts, and choke points.
		Territoriality is the connection of people, their culture, and their economic systems to the land.
	Political boundaries and divisions of governance, between states and within them, reflect balances of power that have been negotiated or imposed.	
4.4 Defining Political Boundaries Ch 10a	Define types of political boundaries used by geographers.	Types of political boundaries include relic, superimposed, subsequent, antecedent, geometric, and consequent boundaries.
4.5 Function of Political Boundaries Ch 9a & 10a	Explain the nature and function of international and internal boundaries.	Boundaries are defined, delimited, demarcated, and administered to establish limits of sovereignty, but they are often contested.
		Political boundaries often coincide with cultural, national, or economic divisions. However, some boundaries are created by demilitarized zones or policy, such as the Berlin Conference.
		Land and maritime boundaries and international agreements can influence national or regional identity and encourage or discourage international or internal interactions and disputes over resources.
		The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea defines the rights and responsibilities of nations in the use of international waters, established territorial seas, and exclusive economic zones.

	Objective	Knowledge
4.6 Internal Boundaries Ch 9b	Explain the nature and function of international and internal boundaries	Voting districts, redistricting, and gerrymandering affect election results at various scales.
4.7 Forms of Governance Ch 9b	Define federal and unitary states.	Forms of governance include unitary states and federal states.
	Explain how federal and unitary states affect spatial organization.	Unitary states tend to have a more top-down, centralized form of governance, while federal states have more locally based, dispersed power centers.
	Political, economic, cultural, or technological changes can challenge state sovereignty.	
4.8 Defining Devolutionary Factors Ch 9c & 10b	Define factors that lead to the devolution of states.	Factors that can lead to the devolution of states include the division of groups by physical geography, ethnic separatism, ethnic cleansing, terrorism, economic and social problems, and irredentism
4.9 Challenges to Sovereignty Ch 9c & 10a	Explain how political, economic, cultural, and technological changes challenge state sovereignty.	Devolution occurs when states fragment into autonomous regions; subnational political- territorial units, such as those within Spain, Belgium, Canada, and Nigeria; or when states disintegrate, as happened in Eritrea, South Sudan, East Timor, and states that were part of the former Soviet Union.
		Advances in communication technology have facilitated devolution, supranationalism, and democratization.
		Global efforts to address transnational and environmental challenges and to create economies of scale, trade agreements, and military alliances help to further supranationalism.
		Supranational organizations—including the United Nations (UN), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), European Union (EU), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Arctic Council, and African Union— can challenge state sovereignty by limiting the economic or political actions of member states.
4.10 Consequences of Centrifugal and Centripetal Forces Ch 9c & 10b	Explain how the concepts of centrifugal and centripetal forces apply at the state scale.	Centrifugal forces may lead to failed states, uneven development, stateless nations, and ethnic nationalist movements.
		Centripetal forces can lead to ethnonationalism, more equitable infrastructure development, and increased cultural cohesion.