

Ch 9: Control

Introduction: The Right to Rule?

Think about your average day...

Where do you go?

What actions or activities do you participate in?

How many of those daily activities require the use of land?

Who owns and protects that land?

Who gave permission for the land to be used for that particular activity?

How many rules and laws guide and govern your actions?

How many organizations do you have to obey?

What are the consequences if you don't?

*Who gave those groups permission to make those laws
and enforce them?*

NOTE. In the second half of the curriculum has a heavy focus on land: how it is controlled and the process that determine its use. Pay close attention to this theme as the course progresses.

Upon this sea of questions floats the study of Political Geography. There are more than 57 million square miles of dry land on the planet earth supporting the lives of more than 7.8 billion people. Every inch of this space and every single human on the planet has come under the control of multiple political organizations. *Political Geography* analyzes the development and evolution of these modern governing systems: how power is gained, the functions of governing organizations, and the challenges facing governments in a rapidly evolving world.



A. Control Over Land and Resources

APPLICATION #1

Using this picture and assuming you have absolute power/ authority over this land: brain storm all the possible uses for this land and its resources.



How is Land Used?

To understand how humanity controls land, it is important to understand the ways humanity utilizes land. Humans are land based creatures, who are unable to survive in the air or underwater (without mechanical assistance). While there is great diversity in how different cultures accomplish the task of surviving on land, there are common purposes all land serves for humans:

- **Survival.** The primary goal of a human life is to stay alive. Humans will use land and resources for food by hunting and gathering, herding, farming, or ranching. Humans will use the land for clean, fresh water sources for drinking and irrigation - such as rivers, lakes or wells. Humans will also utilize plant fibers or animal skins for clothing as well as wood/mud/stone for buildings.
- **Communal Living.** Humans live in communities, and therefore land usage reflects the shared communal needs of the society. People need a place to live, so communities use the land and resources for homes and shelter, to complete their work, and to share resources. Thus, land is utilized for public uses like market places, libraries, schools, office towers, or government buildings. The land is used for signs or images that inform people about the agreed upon purpose of the land or to remind about important norms and taboos. Land is also used for leisure and recreation. Humans enjoy music, dancing, creating art, fitness, sports, exploring and relaxing. All of these recreational activities require designated spaces and resources reserved for such purposes. How each society uses the land to fulfill these purposes creates the unique cultural landscape and sense of place.





APPLICATION #2

Compare this picture to the image from Application #1. Identify the ways humans have utilized land in Chicago, Illinois.

- **Infrastructure Networks.** Modern human societies are composed of a complex series of networks through which goods, people, and ideas flow. All of these networks require land and resources for the systems to function appropriately.
 - **Transportation Networks** require land for the paths people, goods and vehicles use for movement, such as roads and railways. Transportation networks use land for terminals or ports, where people and goods can switch forms of transportation. All forms of transportation require a space for parking and repairs to take place. For example, in car-based America, more land is used for parking lots than any other transportation purpose.
 - **Energy Networks** use land and resources to power human societies. Lands containing coal, oil, or natural gas must be zoned for economic use to allow the resources to be extracted from the ground. Land is used for refinement factories and power plants to transform the natural resource into energy. Land is also used for the pipes and wires that carry the energy to its final destination.
 - **Communication Networks** use land interconnect human societies. The land is used for a massive network communication towers that allow messages to travel at the speed of light (#spaceTimeCompression). Land is used for the internet wires that get buried underground and run along the ocean floor.
 - **Sanitation & Waste Networks** keep people healthy. Sanitation networks clean the water as well as removing human waste away from settlements. Land and resources are used for all the pipes and cleaning plants. Land is also used for the trash, waste, and recycling locations where humans store the remains of the resources they consumed.
- **Economic Gain.** Modern societies are driven by economic activities. Humans use the resources of the earth from primary sector activities and transform them in the secondary sector. The tertiary and quaternary sectors use land for the buildings needed to design, manufacture, transport, store, and sell products.

In conclusion, modern industrialized human societies place a very high demand on the earth's land and resources. The more developed a society becomes, the greater the increase in demand for land and resources.

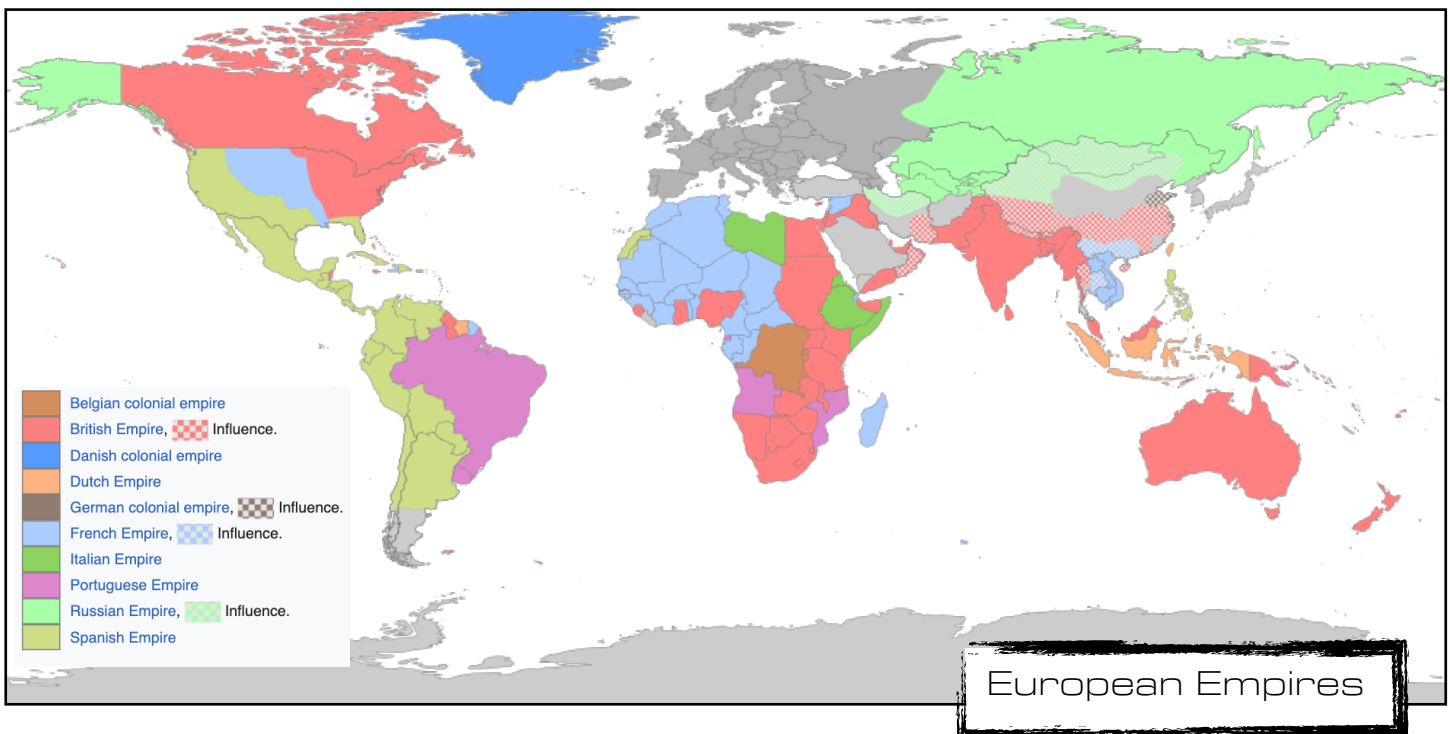
How is Land Controlled?

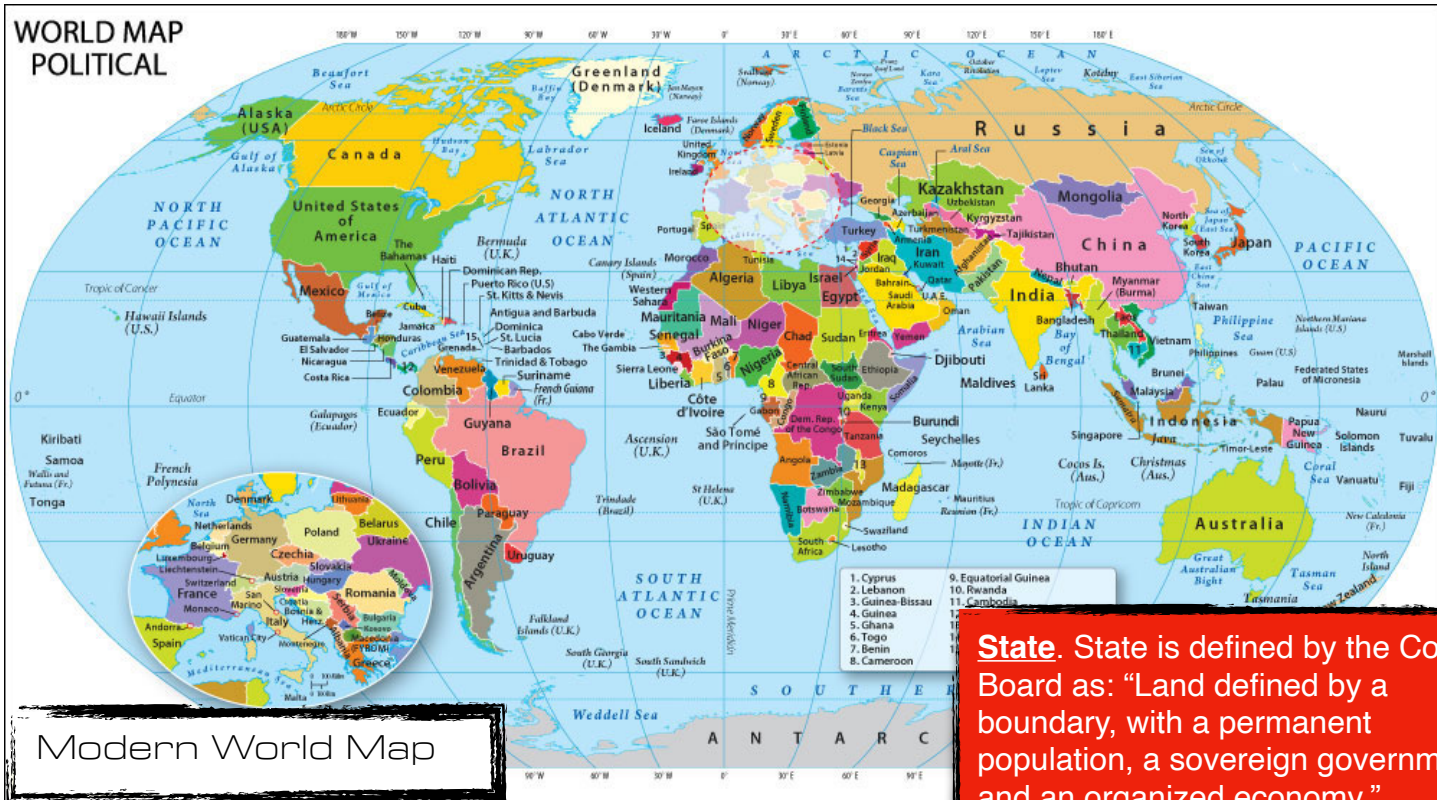
If land is critical to the success of human society, how do societies achieve *territoriality* over important pieces of land? In pre-agricultural societies, humans lived on the land as hunters and gathers. These transhumance groups did not attempt to gain control of the vast lands they lived upon. These were primarily animist and ancestral cultures which believed the land COULD NOT be owned or possessed. Due to the small populations on the earth, there was relatively little competition over the land and its resources.

The story of territoriality changed with the *agricultural revolution*. Around 10,000 BCE, transhumance tribes began to settle on ecumenable sites that could support farming or ranching. These intensive subsistent agricultural settlements were permanent, resulting in tribal groups claiming land as their own. The tribes developed into nations as they began to associate their cultural ethnic identity, language, religion, political, and economic systems with the land they were living upon. The increased food security and demand for primary sector labor caused a massive spike in population growth. As the settlements outgrew their *carrying capacity*, selected members of the society migrated to create new colonies on nearby fertile lands. Cities transformed into kingdoms. Nearby transhumance groups either joined the settled kingdoms or were over run, being forced off the fertile lands and into the isolated regions that farmers did not find usable (yet).

As populations expanded through increased CBR and migration, there was increased competition between kingdoms over the control of ecumenable land. This was especially true of sites with highly fertile land, fresh water sources, or key resources needed for economic success - like gold, iron, or copper. Control over land evolved into waging wars and military conquest in order to violently take control of strategic pieces of land. Military innovation and population size determined an empire's ability to conquer and maintain territorial boundaries for over 10,000 years. By 1500, technological improvements and population growth allowed the Europeans to expand their exploration establish colonies outside of their native region. By 1700, Europeans had built colonial settlements in the Americas, Africa, and Asia. By 1930, industrialization had allowed the Europeans to gain (almost) complete global control.

Territoriality. Territoriality is defined by the College Board as the “connection of people, their culture and their economic systems to the land.”



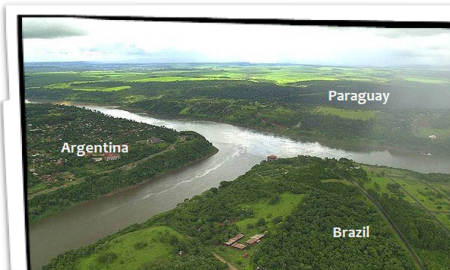


After WWII, the global European empires began to decolonize, creating a tidal wave of independence movements around the world. *Boundaries*, or invisible lines, were drawn as the Europeans left. Some of the boundaries were determined by the people living there, while others were forced upon colonized countries by the Europeans. Every inch of the world's land is now owned and controlled by the political power of some governmental institution. Soon, the approximately 20 colonized empires had become over 190 independent states. Because of the fear of nuclear bombs, societies rarely used war to conquer land from others. Instead, land changed hands through purchase agreements and treaties. However, even this has become rare because of the rapid increase in international trade. Industrialized communication and transportation have become so fast and inexpensive, societies of the world trade for the commodities they need. Lines of transportation and communication now extend beyond the traditional borders. More money is spent each year on the networks that interconnect us, instead of the militaries that defend us.

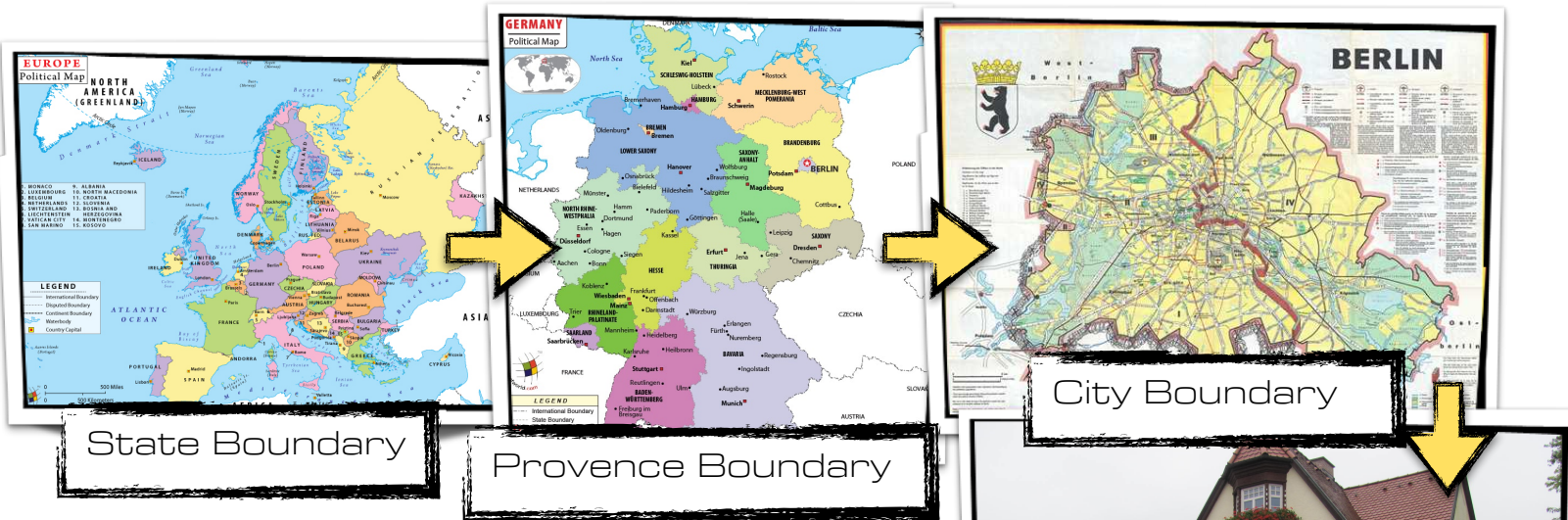
Government Control Over Land & Resources Within the State

Since all land and resources are ultimately controlled by States, how do modern governments exercise control over the land and resources within the state?

Boundaries. Modern governments utilize boundaries as a tool to help administer the territory they are sovereign over. *Sovereignty* is having the power and authority to rule; in this situation the authority to rule over land. *Boundaries* are defined as imaginary lines agreed upon by two or more groups of people marking where one authority's sovereignty ends and another's begin. Boundaries delimit and demarcate the territory a government (or people) are sovereign over. *Delimitation* means the place where a group/person's power ends; limiting where the control of one person/group ends and another's begin. The boundary's point of delimitation is *demarcated*, or marked visibly, by objects that show where the sovereignty ends. This can be a sign, painted line, fence, wall, river, mountains, etc. It becomes the obligation of the people in power to administer and maintain the territory and its demarcations.

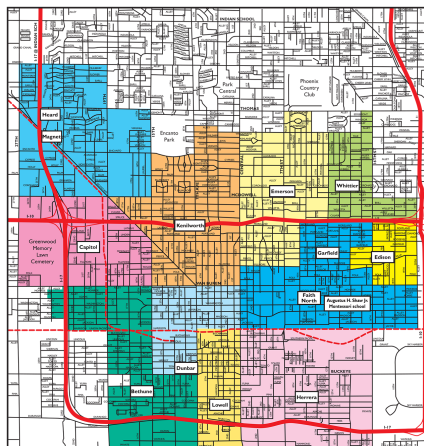


Netherlands/
Belgium Border



Boundaries are useful for many purposes:

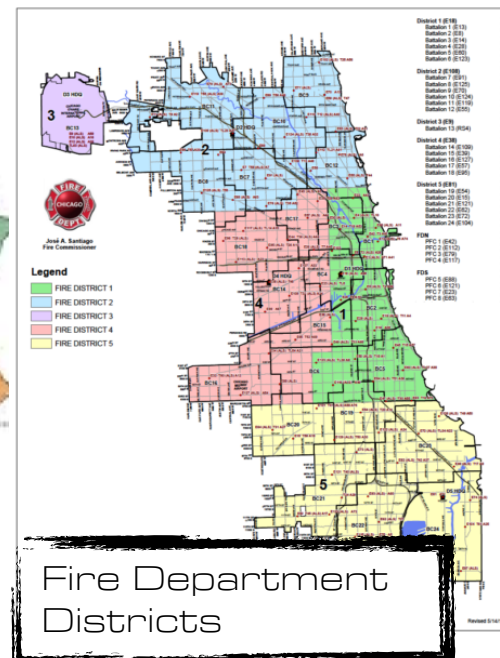
- Boundaries can be used to define where a person/groups power begins and ends at all scales of society. On the regional/national scale borders show where a state's sovereignty begins and ends. With a state, boundaries can be used to demarcate provinces and counties which are utilized to divide a large territory into smaller units for administrative purposes. At a local level, boundaries are used to demarcate and delimitate the boundary of cities, towns, and villages. At a personal level, boundaries are used to mark personal or commercial property.
- Boundaries assign purpose for how land and resources are to be used. For example, governments can use boundaries to reserve a plot of land for economic activities like primary and secondary sector industries. Governments can also use boundaries to protect the environment by restricting the use of the land's resources to only allowed activities.
- Boundaries can also restrict to flow of goods, people, and services by limiting or forbidding the movement of people and goods across a certain piece of land. Boundaries can also be used to encourage flow. For example, a state can create an "open boundary" where people and goods may move freely without tax or penalty. In the European Union, they have created the *Schengen Area*, where people and goods can move across State boundaries without checkpoints or tariffs.
- Boundaries can be used for services. Governments draw boundaries to determine which land is covered by which emergency service (police, fire, EMS). These boundaries are also used for school districts as well as voting districts.



School Districts



Voting Districts

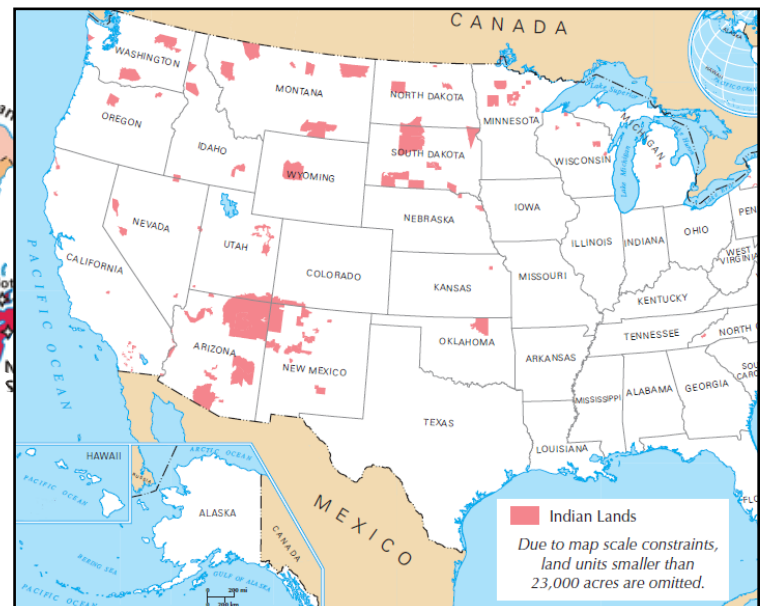


Subnational Political Units. To govern a large territory, governments use boundaries to create subnational political units for better governance. By dividing a territory, these subnational units can better control the land and resources. For example, the USA covers around 3.7 million square miles. This is a massive territory for one person or group to manage because of the differing needs of each region. The needs of Arizona's deserts are different from the frozen tundra in Alaska and the lush redwood forests of California. Thus, the USA divided the territory into 50 administrative regions (states) so that each region is able to make the independent decisions best for their territory.

Large Regions

State governments also divide their territory into larger regions and establish political leaders to make decisions about the land and resource use. Canada and China call these large regions *Provinces*. France refers to them as *Departments*. Larger regions govern larger land/resource issues that affect the economy and residents: highways, water sources, forests/mining, power plants and power grids, etc. However, these regions also have a say in the larger State government AND they have to follow 100% of the laws and policies of the State.

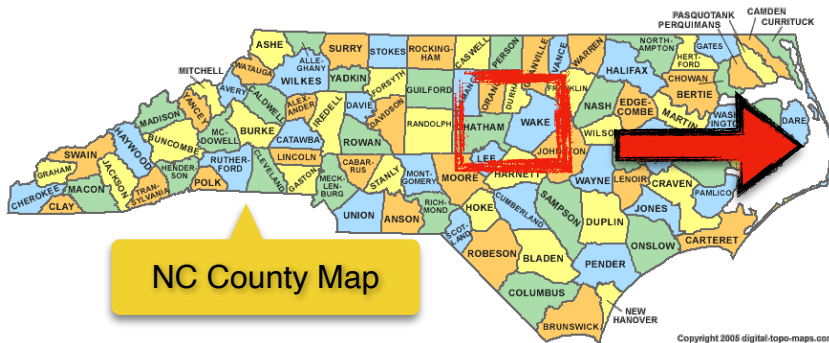
Some States designate certain regions as *Autonomous Regions*, areas which are officially part of the State but which are also given a large degree of *autonomy* - or control - over their territory, resources, and people. *Autonomous regions* are zones that are either (a) geographically distant from the larger population or (b) a cultural minority - often an indigenous nation - that is now unwillingly under someone else's control. For example, Bermuda is a part of the United Kingdom's empire and is loyal to the monarchy in London. However, Bermuda has been given the power to make its own laws, raise their own taxes, and make their own decisions on the island. In Canada, the northern territory of Nunavut is home to the indigenous Inuit tribes/clans who fought the Canadian government for independence to preserve the Inuit way of life since the 1950s. In 1999, Canada *devolved* (granted) autonomy to Nunavut, allowing the Inuit to form their own government, make their own laws, and have control over their own natural resources. Similarly, the USA has 567 recognized native tribes, with 326 native reservations run by tribal leadership. USA laws do not apply, US courts do not have jurisdiction and have limited ability to bring convictions. However, the reservations do not have their own voice in the US government.



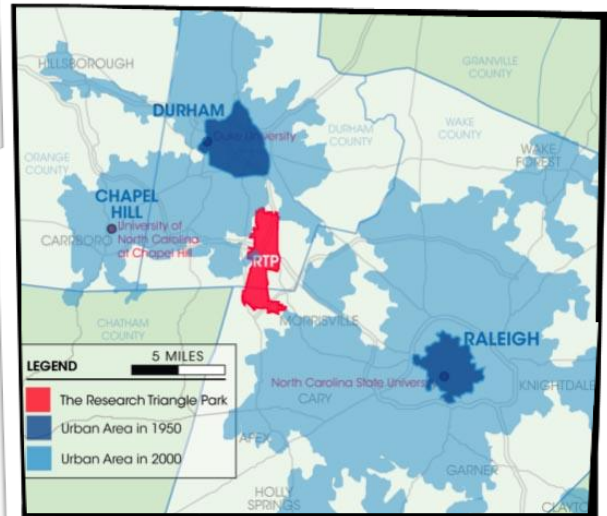
Medium Regions

Within large regions, power will be further subdivided into smaller governmental units. In North Carolina, the territory is sub-divided into counties. Medium regions can also be referred to as boroughs and parishes. In the USA, county governmental organizations are used for providing smaller regional services like voting/election organization, policing, demographic data (birth/death/marriage certificates), and health/welfare services.

Other areas create regional planning commissions to determine how land and resources could be best developed to improve the surrounding communities. In North Carolina, Research Triangle Park was a multi-community project started by a regional planning commission to oversee use of central North Carolina's land and resources to attract quaternary sector jobs into the area. Its efforts have turned the Triangle area into one of the fastest growing housing and job markets in the USA.

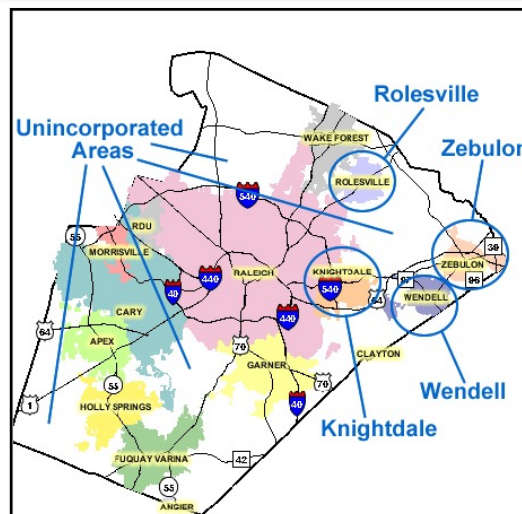
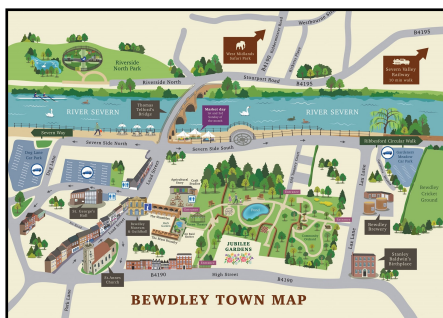


NC County Map

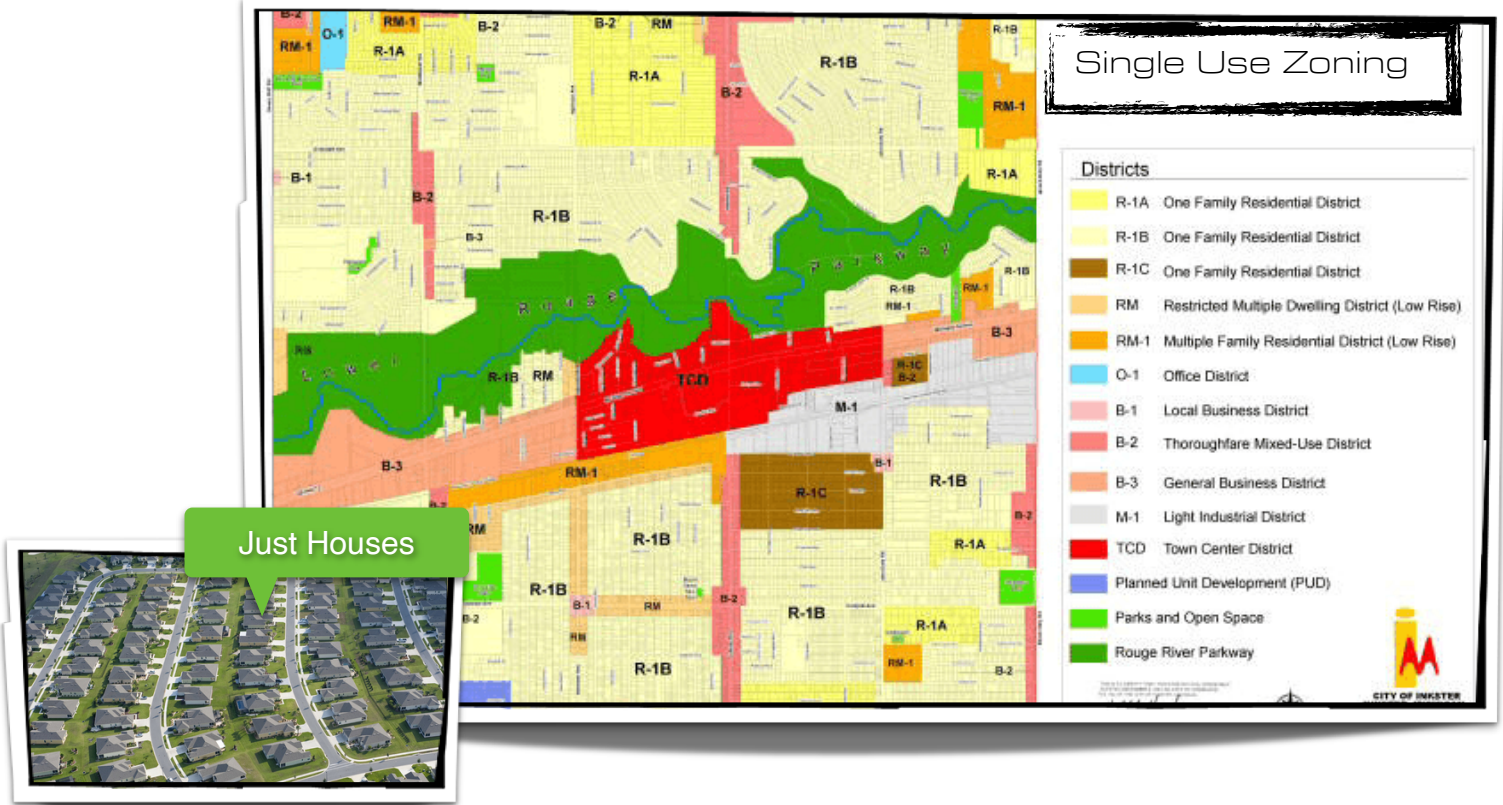


Small Regions

Within medium regions, power will be further divided into smaller units of cities, towns, and villages. These political bodies deal with the land, resources, and the needs of the people residing within their boundary, such as houses/neighborhoods, business complexes, local sanitation systems, local power wires, local roads, and local parks. When cities increase in size, they can annex (add) near by land and then redrawing/redefining their boundary. Depending on the organization of the county-city relationship, services like education, policing, fire fighting, and EMS can also be organized as the local level.



Connection Activity. Brainstorm a list of all of the layers or levels of government that currently make policies that effect the land you live on and the resources you use.



Zoning. Local governments and regional planning commissions decide how the territory within their jurisdiction will be utilized. The political organizations use boundaries to *zone*, or reserve, land for specific purposes. Land can be zoned for residential housing (individual housing, large group/apartment housing), commercial development (small retail, large retail, office space), industrial (light industrial, manufacturing, warehouse), and to protect land (greenbelts, nature reserves, reserved farmland). Zones can have incentives like tax breaks, special utilities, or lower prices to try to attract development. Zones are also useful for arranging the physical infrastructure (utilities, transportation, sanitation) that are needed to accommodate each specific need.

There are two main types of zoning: *single use zoning* and *mixed use zoning*.

- **Single Use Zoning** is when land is zoned or reserved for only one purpose. In a residential zone, there would only be houses. In a commercial zone, only businesses could be built. In an industrial zone, only industries could be located there. In recreation zones, only recreational complexes could be located there. Single use zoning is beneficial for agglomerating, or clustering, businesses and industries together that have similar needs, thereby reducing the cost of providing them certain services. The down side of single use zoning is that types of land use are spread far away from each other. All the homes are together, all the businesses are together, all the leisure is together. This encourage automobile or mechanized transport and can isolate communities from beneficial services.
- **Mixed Use Zoning** is when land is zoned to allow multiple functions or purposes. For example, in a mixed use development residential, recreational, and commercial buildings are be built next to each other or even share the same building (businesses on the bottom floor, apartments on the upper floors). Mixed Use Zoning creates walkable communities and encourages greater interaction between communities of different types. Historic city centers were traditionally mixed us. There is a large movement in the USA today to reduce the amount of single use zoning and encourage mixed use neighborhoods as a more sustainable and person-friendly way of development.

