Chapter 8 Lecture

Chapter 8
Political Geography

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Political Geography: Key Issues

1. Where Are States Distributed?
2. Why Are Nation-States Difficult to Create?
3. Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?
4. Where Do States Face Threats?
Key Issue 1: Where Are States Distributed?

1.1 Introducing Political Geography

1.2 Challenges in Defining States
1.1 Introducing Political Geography

- *State* is a synonym for *country*: political unit with control over internal and external affairs.

- Estimating the number of sovereign states is complicated:
  - North and South Korea
  - China and Taiwan
  - Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands
  - Sahrawi Republic (Western Sahara)
Figure 8-1: Colors indicate date of United Nations membership; nearly every state is a member of the UN.
Figure 8-4: The Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands are claimed by both China and Japan.
Figure 8-6: Western Sahara is claimed by Morocco, which controls most of the territory. The Polisario Front controls the far eastern portion, behind a sand berm built by the Moroccan government.
Key Issue 2: Why Are Nation-States Difficult to Create?

2.1 Development of States
2.2 Nation-States and Multinational States
2.3 Russia: The Largest Multiethnic State
2.4 Nation-States in the Former Soviet Union
2.5 Colonies
Nation-state: ethnicity with sovereign territory

- Ancient states: Fertile Crescent city-states
- Medieval states: European realms
- Twentieth-century Europe: boundaries matched to ethnicities
2.1 Fertile Crescent

Figure 8-7: This region was home to some of the earliest known city-states.
2.1 Roman Empire

Figure 8-8: The Roman Empire represented a unified political body over many disparate ethnicities.
Figure 8-9: After the fall of the Roman Empire, Europe had many small political units.
Figure 8-10: Smaller political units became part of larger empires by 1800.
Figure 8-11: After World War I, the victors redrew boundaries on the basis of language.
2.2 Nation-States and Multinational States

- Self-determination: right for an ethnicity to govern itself
- Multiethnic state: more than one ethnicity, shared nationality
- Multinational state: more than one ethnicity with histories of self-determination
2.2 Ethnic Diversity

Figure 8-12: Ethnic diversity by state varies throughout the world, with Africa having the most ethnically diverse states.
Figure 8-13: Multinational states like Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia eventually divided, and a largely German population divided between East and West Germany was reunited.
Figure 8-16: Nauru and other microstates are extremely susceptible to rising oceans.
2.3 Soviet Union

Figure 8-17: The former Soviet Union was a multinational state with 15 republics that are now independent states.
2.3 Ethnicities in Russia

Figure 8-18: The majority population is ethnically Russian, but there are diverse groups along Russia’s borders and in its center; some have histories of self-determination.
2.3 Ethnicities in Ukraine

Figure 8-19: Ukraine’s eastern region is home to more ethnic Russians. Crimea was occupied by Russian forces in 2014.
Figure 8-21: The Caucasus region’s three nation-states of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan also have non-majority ethnic populations that seek independence or changes to borders.
Figure 8-22: The five states of Central Asia that were once part of the Soviet Union have experienced varying levels of conflict without correlation to ethnic diversity.
2.5 Colonies

Figure 8-23: Present-day colonies are mostly small, isolated islands or island groups.
Figure 8-24: Much of the world was in the colonial possession of European powers at the start of World War I.
Key Issue 3: Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?

3.1 Cultural Boundaries
3.2 Geometric Boundaries
3.3 Physical Boundaries
3.4 Shapes of States
3.5 Governing States
3.6 Electoral Geography
3.7 Geography of Gerrymandering
Figure 8-26: The island of Ireland is divided between the Catholic-majority Republic of Eire and the Protestant-majority Northern Ireland, part of the United Kingdom.
3.1 Ethnic Cultural Boundary: Cyprus

Figure 8-27: Cyprus is divided between Greek and Turkish nationalities that face difficulty in creating a unified state.
3.2 Geometric Boundary: North Africa

Figure 8-30: The Aouzou Strip is a once-disputed geometric boundary between Libya and Chad.
3.2 Geometric Boundary: South Pole

Figure 8-31: Signatories to the Antarctic Treaty do not recognize claims to Antarctica.
Figure 8-33: The border between Bolivia and Chile is a largely uninhabited desert.
3.3 Physical Boundaries: Mountain

Figure 8-34: The Andes Mountains are the border between Argentina and Chile.
3.3 Physical Boundaries: Water

Figure 8-35: Lake Victoria is a water boundary between Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania.
3.3 Physical Boundaries: Law of the Sea

Figure 8-36: The Law of the Sea guarantees countries different levels of control over the waters near their shores.
3.4 Shapes of States

- Compact: efficient
- Elongated: isolation
- Prorupted: access or disruption
- Perforated: South Africa
- Fragmented: by water or another state, problematic
Figure 8-37: All five shapes are represented by different countries in Africa. Counterclockwise from top right: Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi are compact. Democratic Republic of Congo and Namibia have protrusions. The Gambia is elongated. Angola is fragmented (by the DRC). South Africa is perforated by Lesotho.

Countries in bright color are landlocked with no ocean boundaries.
3.4 Landlocked States in Africa

Figure 8-38: Rail is the most cost-effective way to transport goods to and from landlocked states, but not all states have good access to oceanic trade.
Regime types:

- Democracy: citizens elect leaders
- Autocracy: interest of ruler(s) dominant
- Anocracy: somewhere between democracy and autocracy

Government organization:

- Unitary state: strong central government
- Federal state: strong local/regional governments
### 3.5 Comparing Democracy and Autocracy

**TABLE 8-1 Comparing Democracy And Autocracy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Democracy</th>
<th>Autocracy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selection of leaders</td>
<td>Institutions and procedures through which citizens can express effective preferences about alternative policies and leaders.</td>
<td>Leaders are selected according to clearly defined (often hereditary) rules of succession from within the established political elite.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizen participation</td>
<td>Institutionalized constraints on the exercise of power by the executive.</td>
<td>Citizens’ participation is sharply restricted or suppressed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checks and balances</td>
<td>Guarantee of civil liberties to all citizens in their daily lives and in acts of political participation.</td>
<td>Leaders exercise power with no meaningful checks from legislative, judicial, or civil society institutions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 8-39: Governance regimes vary between full democracies and autocracies. A few countries are considered “failed states” because they effectively have no government.
Government have become more democratic and less autocratic, especially since the 1980s.

Figure 8-40: Governments have become more democratic and less autocratic, especially since the 1980s.
Figure 8-41: The most fragile states are clustered in Africa, especially south of the Sahara.
Figure 8-42: All 5 districts have a slight majority of Blue Party voters (6 to 4 in each).
Figure 8-43: Even though the Red Party has fewer total voters, concentrating Blue Party voters into two districts gives the Red Party a majority in 3 of 5 districts.
Figure 8-44: Boundaries can be drawn to connect distant groups of voters, in this case giving the Red Party a majority in 3 of 5 districts despite being smaller in number than the Blue Party.
3.6 Iowa’s Congressional Districts

Figure 8-46: Iowa’s district boundaries are set by a nonpartisan commission following county boundaries.
3.6 Origin of Gerrymander Term

Figure 8-47: A political cartoon lampooned the odd shape of an electoral district in Massachusetts after Governor Elbridge Gerry approved oddly-shaped districts in a stacked vote strategy.
Figure 8-48: The Washington Post estimated the amount of gerrymandering in a district’s shape; more compact districts have lower scores.
3.7 Geography of Gerrymandering

Figure 8-49: North Carolina has many congressional districts with oddly shaped boundaries.
3.7 Redistricting Nevada

Figure 8-50: Nevada’s new congressional district boundaries as proposed by: (a) Democrats, in a wasted vote and stacked vote strategy; (b) Republicans, in an excess vote and stacked vote strategy; and (c) the nonpartisan decision by the court.
Key Issue 4: Where Do States Face Threats?

4.1 Global Cooperation and Competition
4.2 Competition and Cooperation in Europe
4.3 Terrorist Attacks Against the United States
4.4 Terrorist Organizations
4.5 State Support for Terrorism
United Nations

- Important forum of global cooperation
- Membership has grown dramatically
- Forum for United States and Soviet Union to negotiate during Cold War
4.1 Growth in UN Membership

Figure 8-51: The UN reached 193 members in 2011.
Figure 8-53: At the United Nations, the United States presented aerial photographic evidence of the Soviet Union threatening the balance of power. (a) Soviet ships unloading and (b) staging missiles in Cuba, threatening the United States.
Cold War Military Alliances:

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- Warsaw Pact

Cold War Economic Alliances:

- European Union (EU)
- Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON)

NATO and EU expanded after Cold War.
4.2 Cooperation in Other Regions

- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
- Organization of American States (OAS)
- African Union (AU)
- Commonwealth
Figure 8-54: NATO and the Warsaw Pact represented the balance of power between the United States and the Soviet Union.
Figure 8-55: NATO has expanded to most Warsaw Pact countries.
Figure 8-56: The European Union has most recently expanded to the east.
Figure 8-57: The number of terrorist attacks has increased in the last decade, especially in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nigeria, and Syria.
Figure 8-58: The number of deaths from terrorist attacks has also increased in the last decade, especially in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nigeria, and Syria.
4.3 September 11, 2001, Terrorism

Figure 8-60: The attacks of September 11, 2001, were the most dramatic and deadly attacks on Americans.
4.4 Terrorist Organizations

Al-Qaeda

- Founded by Osama bin Laden
- Several attacks against U.S., including 9/11

Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL)

- Branched from Al-Qaeda
- Controls territory in Iraq and Syria

Boko Haram

- Northern Nigeria
- Allied with Islamic State
4.4 Al-Qaeda in Yemen

Figure 8-61: A branch of Al-Qaeda controls parts of Yemen in a complex civil war there.
Figure 8-64: The Islamic State controls much of eastern Syria and portions of western Iraq.
4.5 State Support for Terrorism

States may support terrorism:

• Sanctuary for terrorists: Pakistan
• Supplying terrorists: Iraq and Iran
• Sponsoring terror attacks: Libya
4.5 Osama bin Laden’s Compound

Figure 8-65: Osama bin Laden lived in this compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan for many years, only 6 km (4 mi) from the Pakistan Military Academy.
Figure 8-67: Iran has insisted on its right to develop nuclear power, but several countries including the United States are concerned the program includes building nuclear weapons.