# Introduction to Political Geography

## Defining a Country

#### State/Country

- A space with a permanent population, territorial boundaries recognized by other states, a government, and sovereignty.
  - A synonym for STATE is COUNTRY

#### Sovereignty

- A state has sovereignty if it has authority over its own political, social, and economic matters.
  - In other words, a country can take care of its own "stuff" without anyone else messing with their "stuff."

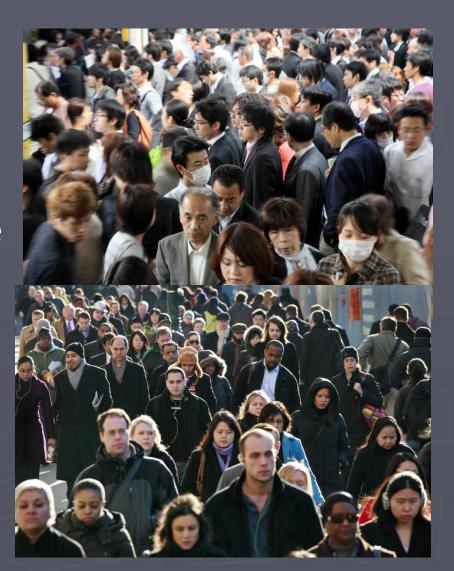
## States/Provinces

- States and provinces are smaller subdivided political units
  - Still controlled by central national government, but have some powers of their own



#### Nations and Nation-States

- Nations are groups of people with a shared heritage, history, and cultural identity
- Nation-States are countries comprised mainly of people from one nation
  - Ex. Ethnic Japanese make up 98.5% of Japan
- A Multi-National State is a country that is made up of people from many nations



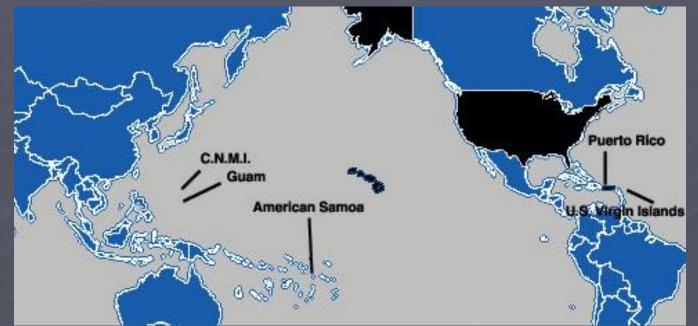
#### Stateless Nations

- Stateless nations are groups of people without a nation of their own
  - Often leads to them being considered
    "others" or being persecuted within countries they are living



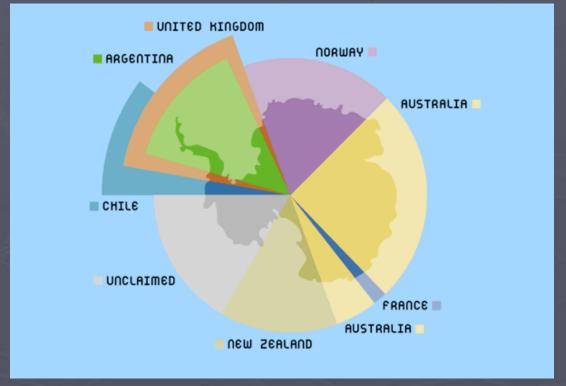
## Territory

- An area of land that is under the political control of a country, but the citizens of the territory are not given full rights of citizenship
  - Often lack ability to vote, or hold certain positions



#### Frontier

 Frontiers are areas of land that are not formally owned and no one exercises political control over it



#### Patriotism and Nationalism

- Patriotism is the love for ones country
- Nationalism is the desire for all the members of a group of people to be united
  - Under a governmental body that represents them

## Hyper-Nationalism

 Extreme nationalism, the belief in the superiority of one's nation and the desire to make it strong



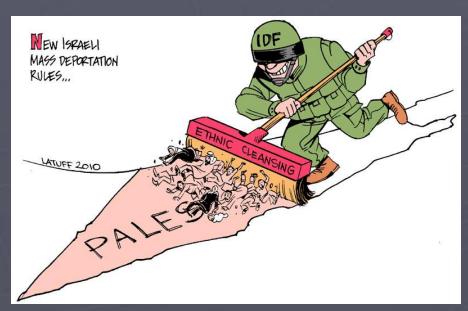


## Ethnic Cleansing and Genocide

- Genocide The attempt to eradicate all peoples of a racial, ethnic, or religious group
- Ethnic Cleansing The aim of establishing cultural homogeneity
  - Does not necessarily use methods of mass killings

# Ethnic Cleansing

- The act of removing "unwanted" ethnicities from an area to attempt to create a ethnically homogenous geographic area
  - Forced deportations
  - Displacement
  - Mass killings

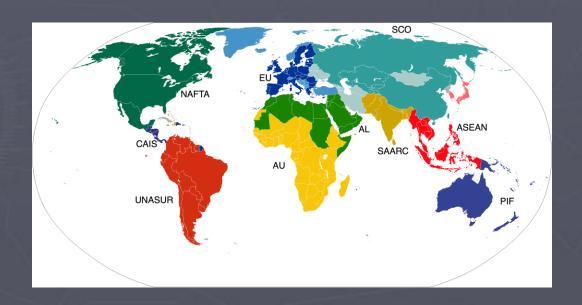


### Supranational Organizations Defined

 Organizations that extend beyond the borders of three or more states that seeks to promote economic, political, or cultural unity between members

## **Economic Unions/Trading Blocs**

- Attempt to foster unity through economic cooperation
  - Remove trade barriers such as Tariffs, quotas, and currency exchange restrictions



# Collective Security Unions

- Members work together to provide mutual defense for one another against outside aggressors
  - Promote peace through creation of super blocs

