

# Levels of Government

Universal definitions pertaining to the structure and function of governments

# State

- Basic organization of a group of people into a sovereign state with defined borders
  - Synonymously a country



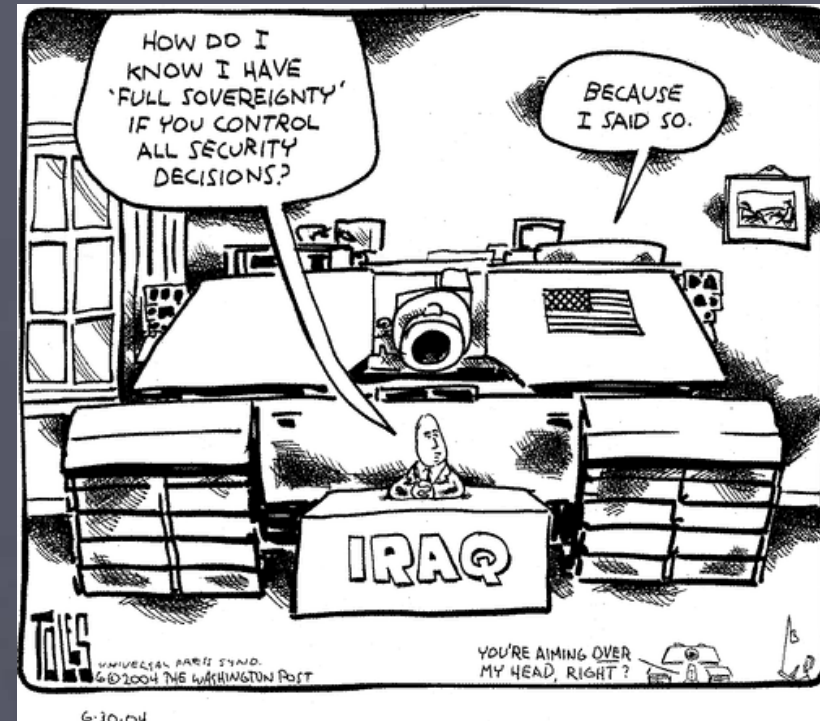
# Gaining Statehood

- Have a defined territory with permanent population and functional government
- Declare and effectively gain independence
- Gain recognition from established states as sovereign state
- Join the United Nations General Assembly



# Sovereignty

- Ultimate authority for decisions pertaining to government, defense, and foreign politics
  - Simply put: Complete control of decision making without outside interference



# Nation

- A group of people in a given geographical area with common heritage, and culture



# Nation-State

- A mostly ethnically homogenous state with a sovereign government with clearly defined borders
  - Often nations will push for independence citing differing nationality

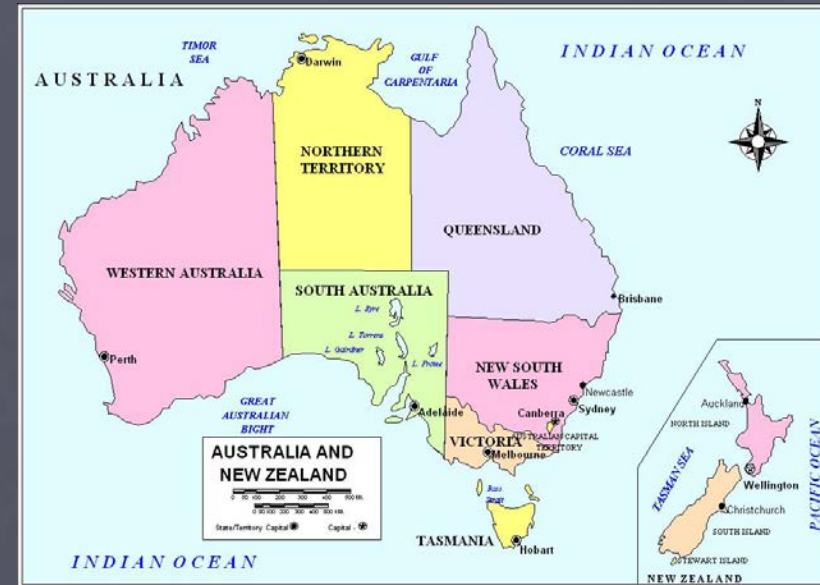


## Ethnic groups:

Japanese 98.5%, Koreans 0.5%, Chinese 0.4%, other 0.6%

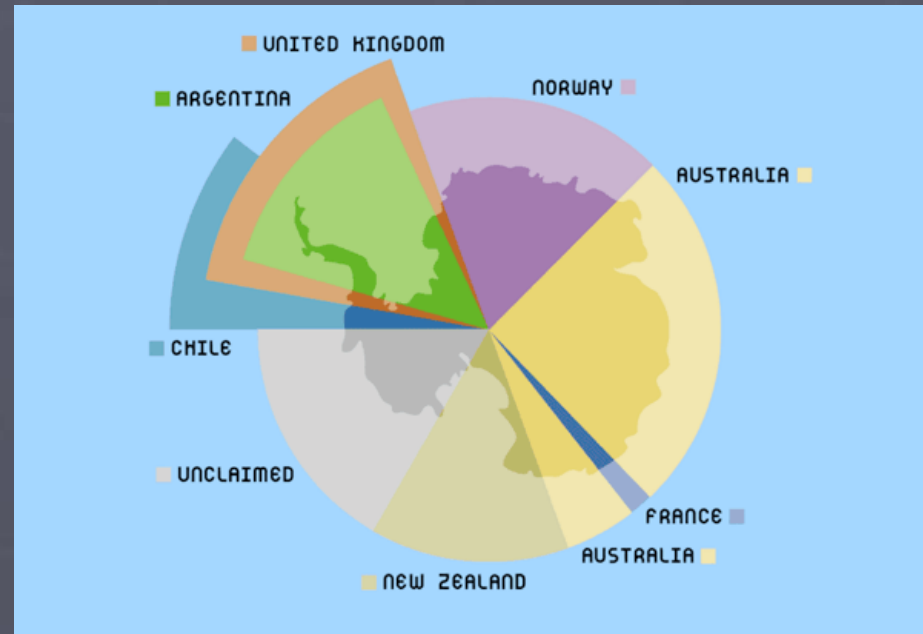
# Territory

- An area of land under the jurisdiction of a state but has not yet gained full rights of being part of the state
  - Ex. Voting rights, representation, etc..



# Frontier

- Zone where no state exercises political control
  - Referred to as *Terra Nullius* or “Land belonging to no one”





# Executive Branch

- Body of government broadly responsible for implementing, supporting, and enforcing the laws made by the legislative branch and interpreted by the judicial branch
- Large amounts of variation from country to country in the types of limitations of power on the country's executive branch
  - Ex. Chief executive of North Korea has total and complete authority



# Legislative Branch

- A deliberative body responsible for debating, formulating, and passing the series of laws which the citizens of a country abide by.
- Using a representative based body which reflects the general will of the people
  - Representatives of a state's legislative body act as either delegates where representatives directly respond to the wills of the people , or as trustees where representatives make decisions based on what they feel is best for the people



# Judicial Branch

- Body of government ensuring the legal operation of the government within the confines of the established state's constitution.
  - Interpret laws to determine government's legal obligations to meet the requirements of the law
- Will be used as a method for checking, or adding constitutional credibility to the actions of the other branches.

