

The Political Landscape



Introduction to Political Geography

- Political Geography is the study of the patterns and methods humans have used to organize claims to portions of the Earth's surface



State

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



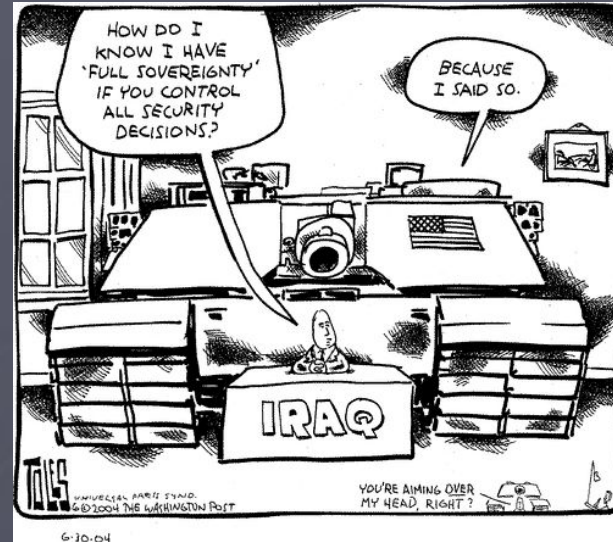
Gaining Statehood

- 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

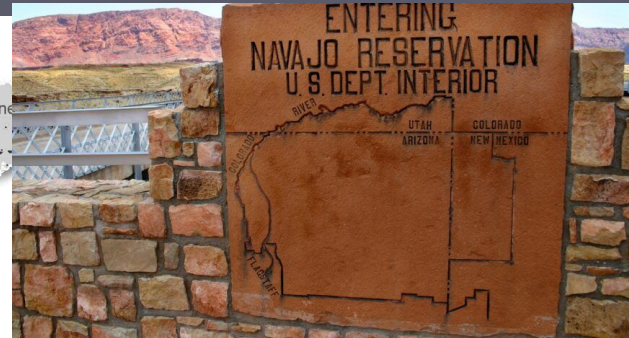
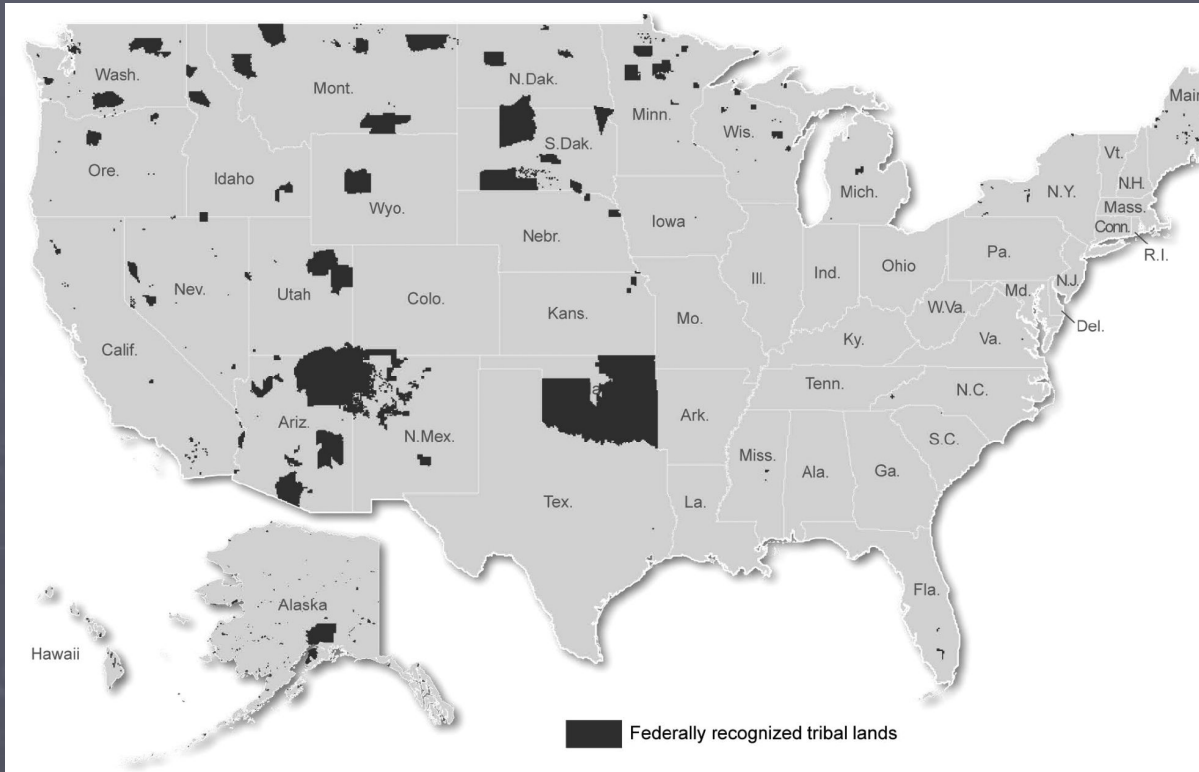


Sovereignty Disputes

- When two or more states claim an area which often results in diplomatic tension
 - Often requiring mediation or intervention by the United Nations



Case Study: Tribal Sovereignty



Case Study: Falklands War 1982

- Disputed claims over the Islands reaching as far back as 18th Century
- British and Argentine claims resulted in brief bitter war
- Islands remain disputed with both sides claiming rights



Nation

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



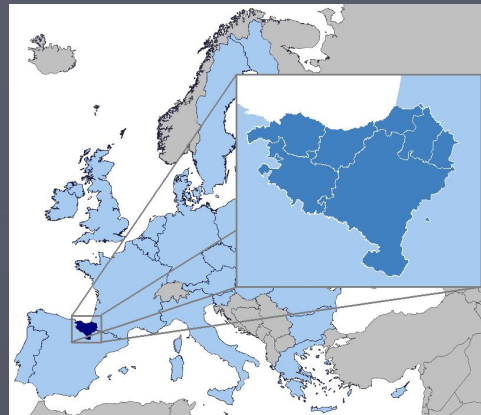
Nation-State

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



Case Study: Basque

- Region of Northern Spain and southwest France almost entirely comprised of people declaring Basque, not Spanish, nationality
 - Basque has unique cultural heritage not linked to that of either Spain or France
 - Attempts to gain independence



Multinational States

- Country with multiple nationalities contained within it's borders
 - Can lead to cultural convergence and the creation of a hybrid culture
 - Can result in conflict



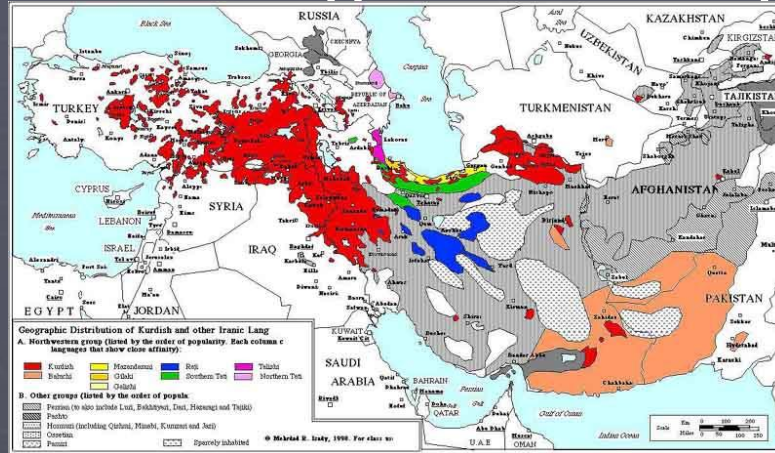
State-less Nations

- A large group of people from a particular ethnic group in a territory that is without a sovereign state of its own
 - Minority ethnic group in multiple states
 - Often leading to persecution and resentment



Case Study: Kurdistan

- Ethnic Kurds scattered throughout Western Asia
 - Especially in Turkey, Iraq, and Iran
- Persecuted throughout history by hosts



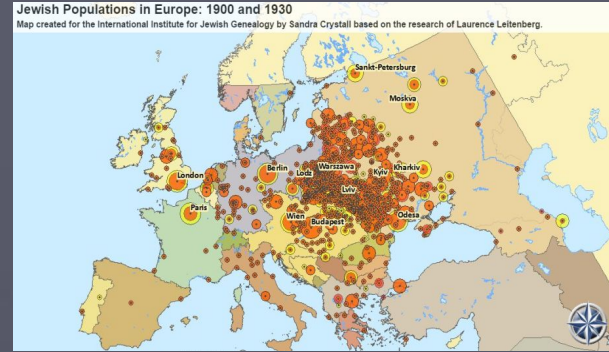
Problems of Nationalism: State-less Nations

- Forming new states
 - Often at the expense of pre-established states
 - Often results in the relocation and displacement of cu



Case Study: Israel

- Jewish peoples scattered over thousands of years of history
 - Often facing brutal persecution
- Jewish state formed in 1948
 - Zionist movement: Encouraged the movement of Jews back to historic homeland
 - Created heavy tension with residing Palestinians



Case Study: Palestine

- Creation of Israel immediately displaced 700,000 people
- At current Palestinians only occupy Gaza and West Bank
 - Leading to major conflict between Israel, Palestinians, and Arab neighbors



Case Study: Palestine



Map of countries that support creation of Palestine

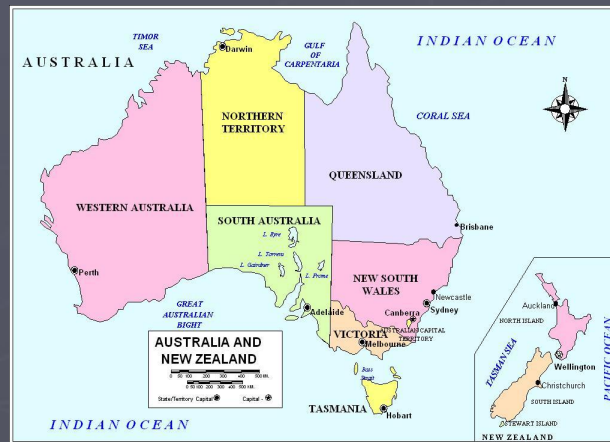
Case Study: Yugoslavia

- Created in 1918 but faced many problems due to many ethnicities
 - Nationalist movements resulted in division of Yugoslavia in 1993

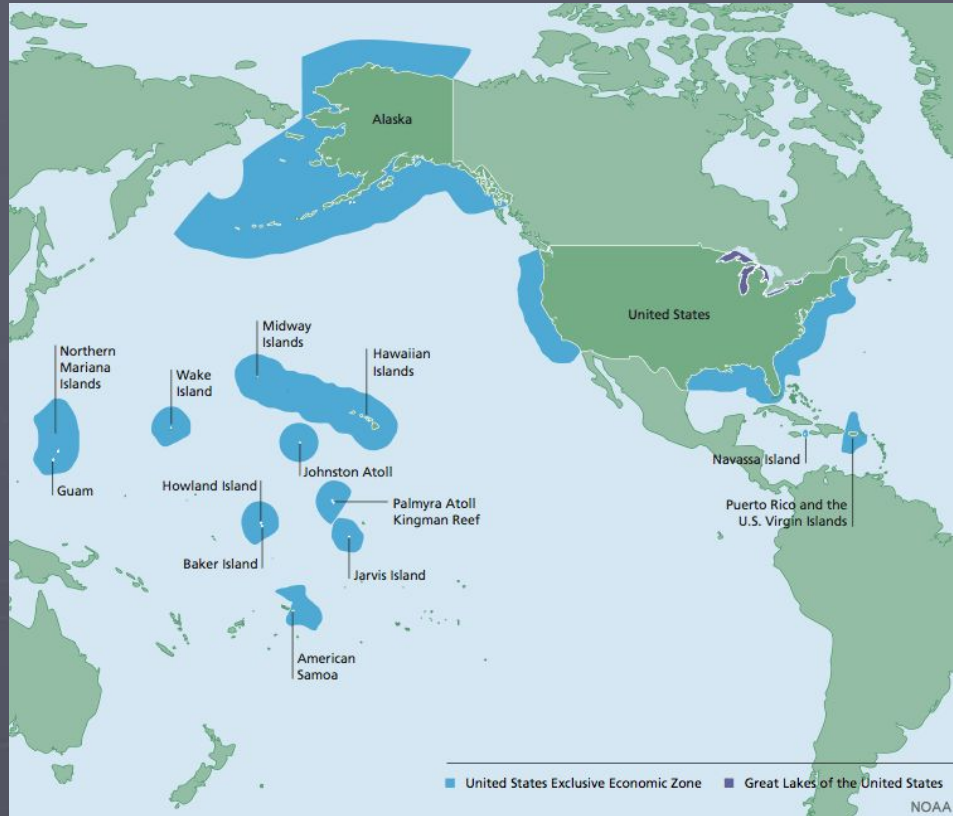


Territory

- 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..

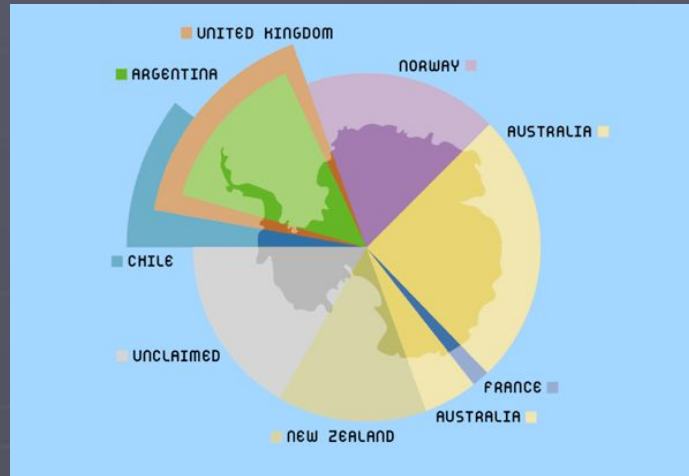


Case Study: U.S. Territories



Frontier

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



Case Study: Antarctica













60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY'S ENTERING INTO FORCE

ANTARCTIC TREATY


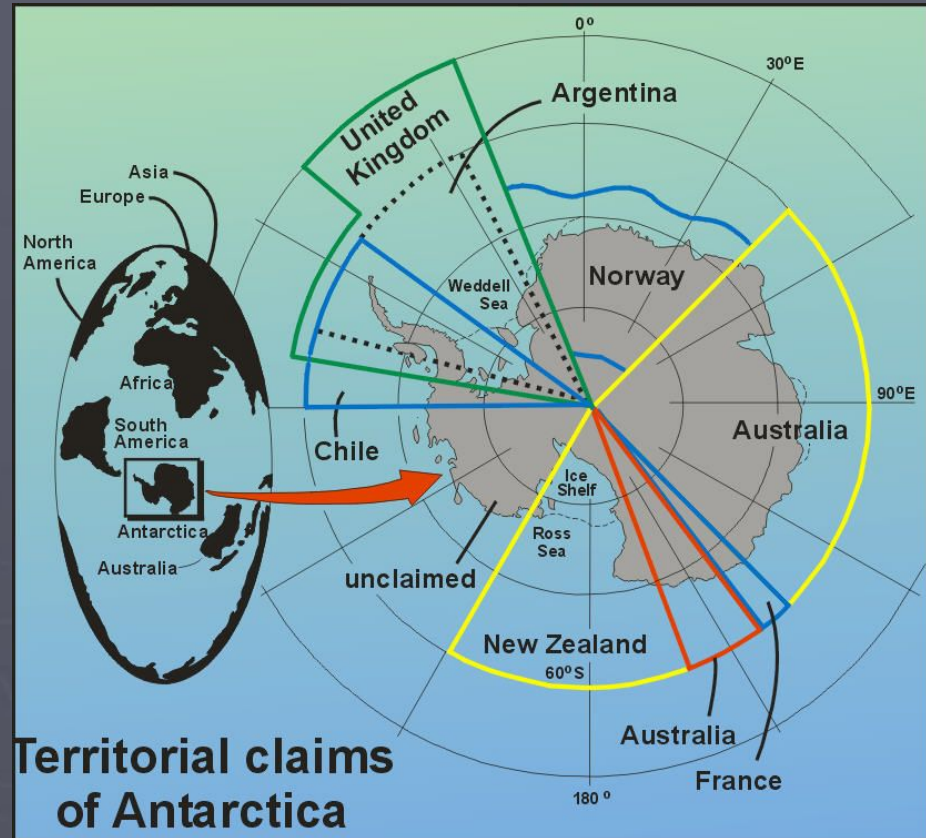
Total Number of Countries involved: 54

Signed: December 1, 1959
Entered into force: June 23, 1961

IMPORTANT POINTS OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY

			
Military activities and weapons testing are prohibited	Complete freedom on scientific research	Free exchange of scientific plans among Treaty nations	Any territorial claims in Antarctica will be on hold
			
Nuclear explosions and nuclear waste disposal are banned	All stations and equipment shall be open to inspection	National laws only apply to citizens, not to areas in Antarctica	Parties shall meet periodically to discuss measures
			
Parties shall ensure no illegal activities are carried out	Issues to be settled by the International Court of Justice	The treaty may be modified by unanimous vote	The Treaty must be legally ratified by any nation wishing to join

REFERENCE: British Antarctic Survey (2021). The Antarctic Treaty Explained. BAS. Retrieved from <https://www.bas.ac.uk/about/antarctica/the-antarctic-treaty/the-antarctic-treaty-explained/>

Disputed Territories

Contested sovereignty of a parcel of land which can strain relationships between contesting states



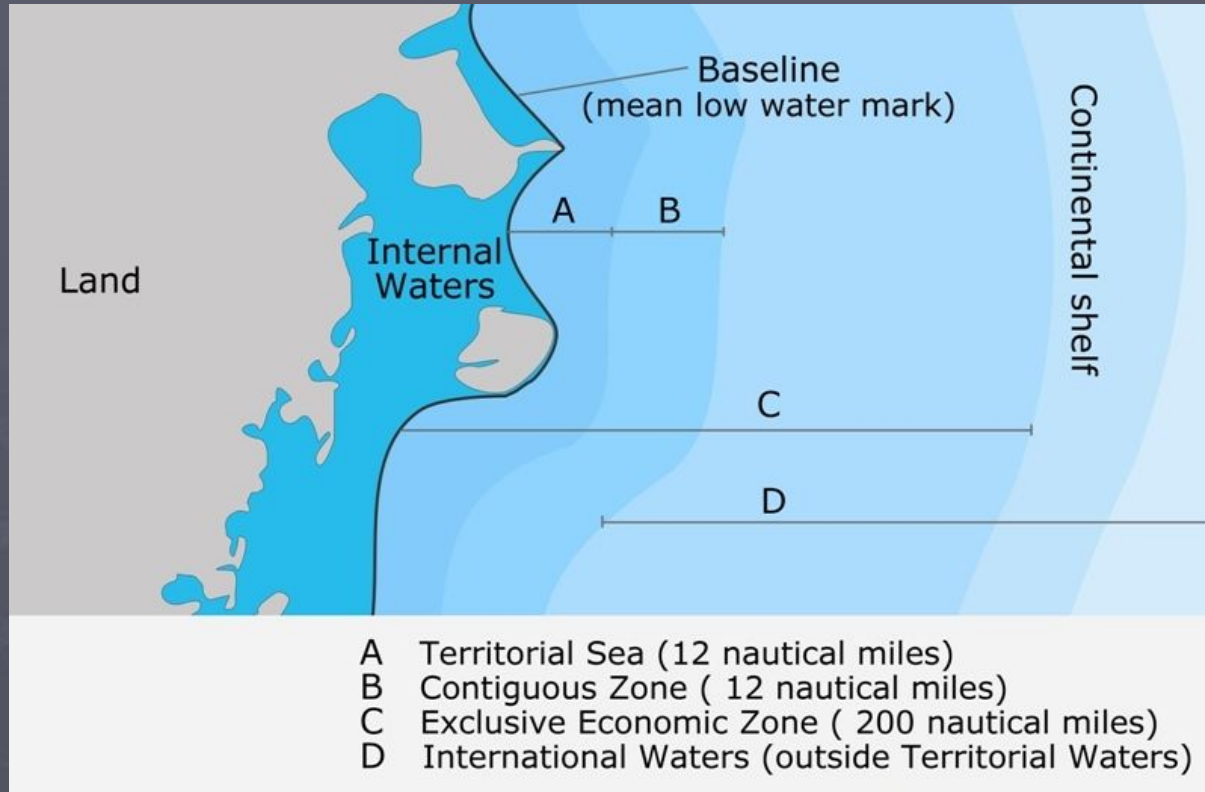
Case Study: Hans Island



Case Study: Dokdo/Takeshima



United Nations Law of the Seas (UNCLOS)



Case Study: French Overseas Holdings

