NATION – a group of people with a common culture living in a territory and having a strong sense of unity.

STATE – An independent unit that occupies a specific territory and has full control of its internal and external affairs.

“COUNTRY” is synonymous to “state” and can be used interchangeably.

NATION-STATE – A nation and a state occupying the same territory and having full autonomy (self-rule) over the territory.

- United States of America, United States of Mexico, Great Britain, Iran, India

STATELESS NATION – A nation that does not have autonomy over the territory it occupies.

- Kurds, Palestinians, and Basques
- American Indian nations (Chickasaw, Dakota, Cherokee)

NATION, STATE, NATION-STATE, STATELESS NATION
Political Geography

Chapter 8
STATE

State – a politically organized territory with a permanent population, a defined territory, and a government. To be a state, an entity must be recognized as such by other states.
QUALIFICATIONS OF A STATE

1. Must have a defined territory
2. Must have a permanent population
3. Government that ensures sovereignty - control over its own international and internal affairs
4. Recognition by the international community

What is the only landmass on Earth’s surface that is not part of a state?
WHO OWNS THE OCEANS?

A Territorial Sea of up to 12 nm- coastal states have sovereignty, including exclusive fishing rights. Vessels of all types normally have the right of innocent passage through this region, but noncommercial (research & military) vessels can be challenged.

A Contiguous Zone to 24 nm- not complete sovereignty but it can enforce customs, immigration, and sanitation laws and has the right of hot pursuit out of its territorial waters.

Internal waters
All water on the landward side of the baseline. Foreign vessels have no right of passage.

Territorial waters
States may set laws regulating passage.

Contiguous zone
States may enforce laws concerning pollution, taxation, customs, and immigration.

Baseline
Normally the low water line.

Exclusive economic zone
State has sole right to exploit natural resources, such as fishing.

International waters
No state control.
**Exclusive Economic Zone** - up to 200 nm- state has the recognized right to explore, exploit, conserve, and manage natural resources, both living and non-living, of the seabed and waters. Freedom of the seas is maintained in this zone.

**High Seas** - open to all states- coastal or landlocked- freedom of the seas.

**Median Line Principle** - an approach to dividing and creating boundaries at the mid-point between two places.
HOW MANY COUNTRIES ARE IN THE WORLD TODAY?
Fig. 8-1: The UN has increased from 51 members in 1945 to 191 in 2003.
PROBLEMS DEFINING A STATE

- North & South Korea
- China & Taiwan
- Western Sahara & Morocco
- Kurdistan
- Tibet
STATE AND NATION

- **State** from the Latin word “status” or “standing”—a political entity—used interchangeably with country.

- **Nation**—an ethnic or cultural group with similar language, religion, customs and territory—historic connection.

- **Berlin** was a divided city between 2 states—West Germany and East Germany—but it was a nation split by divisions of the Cold War.
DEFINING THE NATION-STATE

A Nation should have:
- A single language
- A common history
- A similar ethnic background

A Nation-State has:
- Clearly delineated territory
- Well-organized government
- Shared political and cultural history
- Emotional ties to institutions or political systems or an ideology.
STATELESS NATIONS

- **Sovereignty** - complete control over a territory’s political & military affairs. Some nations do not have their own state—this can lead to conflict.

- **Palestinians** are the most well known example—a stateless nation in conflict with Israel over territory.

- **Kurds** - about 20 million people live in Kurdistan (region)—which covers 6 states.
Multinational State –
A state with more than one nation.
Slobadan Milosevic, leader of Serbia launched 4 Balkan Wars that killed 250,000 & left 2.5 million homeless.
Multistate Nation –
A nation with more than one state.
Bi-national State - 2 nations in a state

Irredentism - the claim by the government or by political groups, of one country that a minority living in a neighboring country belongs instead to it because of historical cultural connections.

Ethnic Enclaves - a small area occupied by a distinctive minority culture usually surrounded by a larger culture group

Ethnic Exclaves - a culture group separated from the larger culture group by another culture group
C is B's exclave, but is not an enclave.

C is B's exclave, and A's enclave
EVOLUTION OF THE STATE

The development of a state can be traced back to the ancient Middle East – Fertile Crescent – also called Mesopotamia.

**City-State** - a sovereign state that comprises a town and the surrounding countryside.

**Empire** - a large expanse of territory, governed by a centralized authority that hold the territory together by force and including people who are culturally distinct and usually held against their will.

Huge empires were created as a result of colonization.
Colony - aka protectorates & territories - a territory that is legally tied to a sovereign state rather than being completely independent.

- God (to promote Christianity)
- Gold (they provided resources)
- Glory (more colonies = more power)

Largest colonial empire - United Kingdom - sun never set on their empire

Most colonies today are in Pacific Ocean or Caribbean Sea
Most populous remaining colony – Puerto Rico
Smallest colony - Pitcairn (South Pacific) UK - 54 people
Largest in land area - Greenland (Denmark) - 56,000 people

Colonies only make up 1% of the world’s population but it is a long list
- most a islands
- most are relatively isolated
- small in population and area
- remnants of formerly widespread colonial empires
- most do not seek independence
Dominant Colonial Influences, 1550-1950

This map shows the dominant influence, as some places were colonized by more than one power in this time period.
A state’s size and shape can become a centripetal or centrifugal force.

- Largest State – Russia
- Smallest State- Vatican City
- Microstates (sovereign state, small land area, small population) – Monaco, Vatican City (smallest), Bahrain under 500 square miles
Large

- Advantage: large population (more talent & large army), natural resources, economic self-sufficient
- Disadvantage: difficult to unify, population (spread out and diverse), transportation difficult

Small

- Advantage: easier to unify (close together, less culturally diverse), transportation is easy
- Disadvantage: small population (less talent, small defense force), vulnerable to attack, fewer natural resources, economically vulnerable
**STATE SHAPE**

- **Territorial Morphology** - shape, size & relative location of a state.
- **Compact** - distance from the geographic center does not vary greatly.
- **Fragmented** - consisting of 2 or more separate pieces divided by water or other territory.
- **Elongated** - long & thin states.
- **Prorupted** - states that are nearly compact, but have a narrow extension.

- **Perforated** - having another state lie within one's territory.

- **Exclave** - an outlier of a state located within another.

- **Enclave** - the counterpart of exclave - it lies within a country and is independent or ruled by another country.
Fig. 8-7: The Tin Bigha corridor fragmented two sections of the country of Bangladesh. When it was leased to Bangladesh, a section of India was fragmented.
LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES

- **Landlocked** states have a serious disadvantage in trade and access to resources.

- **Africa** has more landlocked states than any other continent.

- **Asia**—Mongolia & Nepal are landlocked with rough terrain, great distances and limited communication, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Armenia & Georgia.

- **South America**—Bolivia and Paraguay

- **Europe**—Austria, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Moldova, and Belarus
Landlocked States
Southern, central, and eastern Africa include states that are compact, elongated, prorupted, fragmented, and perforated.
HOW ARE BOUNDARIES ESTABLISHED, AND WHY DO BOUNDARY DISPUTES OCCUR?
LAND BOUNDARIES

- Not just a line, but also a vertical plane that cuts through subsoil, rocks and the airspace above-coal, gas & oil reserves often cross these lines.

- Belgium, Germany & Netherlands argued over coal seams & natural gas reserves.

- Kuwait Oil drilling prompted the 1991 Gulf War (Rumaylah Reserve)
3 Stage Evolution of Boundaries:

- **definition** - A document is created that indicates exact landmarks;
- **delimitation** - Cartographers place the boundary on the map;
- **demarcation** - Boundary markers such as steel posts or concrete pillars, fences or wall marks the boundary.
**LAND BOUNDARIES**

- **Frontier** - is a geographic zone where no state exercises power.

- Boundaries keep out adversaries or keep citizens inside-limit smuggling, migration, etc.

- Internal boundaries - provinces or states within a larger state.
TYPES OF BOUNDARIES

- **Geometric** - straight line boundary such as US-Canada or many in Africa.

- **Physical or Natural** - Political Boundary - river, crest of a mountain range or some other physical landmark.

- **Cultural or Anthro-Geographic Boundary** - Language and religion lines sometimes used as a boundary.
  - India/Pakistan
Fig. 8-9: The straight boundary between Libya and Chad was drawn by European powers, and the strip is the subject of controversy between the two countries.
Richard Hartshorne, a leading political geographer developed this classification system;

**Antecedent Boundary** - physical landscape defined the boundary well before human habitation. Malaysia-Indonesian boundary on Borneo is sparsely settled.

**Subsequent Boundary** - Vietnam-China border results from a long period of modification.


**Relict boundary** - no longer serves its purpose, but the imprint is still evident in the landscape. Vietnam-North South boundary, West and East Germany boundary, especially in Berlin.
Fig. 8-14: Ethnic boundaries do not match country boundaries, especially in Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.
Fig. 8-10: Cyprus has been divided into Green and Turkish portions since 1974.
Fig. 8-8: Several states in the Arabian Peninsula are separated by frontiers rather than precise boundaries.
Buffer Zone

- A country or area separating ideological or political adversaries (enemies).

Ex: Thailand was a buffer state between British and French colonial domains in mainland SE Asia.
Shatter Belt

• Region caught between stronger, colliding external cultural-political forces, under persistent stress and often fragmented by aggressive rivals.

Ex: Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia