

I. The Structure of the contemporary Political Map

* Country, State, Nation do not mean the same thing.

A. Independent States as building blocks.

1. Political units exist at various scales (city, town, county, state, country)

* 2. State

a) Largest political unit

b) formal term for a country

c) Has a defined boundary

d) Has a permanent population

e) maintains sovereignty over its domestic and international affairs

f) Is recognized by other states.

3. These requirements are easy to define but can still become complicated

Ex: China + ~~TRAS~~ Taiwan

- 1949 Civil War Ends → Beijing (Communist) named capital, losing side fled to Taiwan.

- Mainland still claims Taiwan, Taiwan never claimed independence

- Taiwan manages own affairs has relations with about 20 countries

- USA does not recognize Taiwan

4. Sovereignty: power of a political unit to rule over its own affairs.

a) in order to have legitimacy, a state must have sovereignty

b) This is the issue with Taiwan

B. Types of Political Entities

1. Nation: group of people who have certain things in common

a) Share a common cultural heritage

- b.) Have beliefs and values that unify them
- c.) Claim a particular space based on tradition as their homeland
- d.) Desire to establish their own state or express self-determination in another way.

2. Nation - State

a) A singular nation of people who fulfill the qualifications of a state

b) Examples: Japan + Iceland + France

3. Multinational States

a) Country that contains more than one nation

b) Most multinational states have one dominant nation that controls most of the political power.

c) Ex: Canada

4. Autonomous Regions

a) A defined area within a state that has a high degree of self government and freedom from its parent state

Ex: Åland: group of islands in the Baltic Sea, part of Finland, but most residents are ethnically Swedish, self governing

5. Stateless Nations

a) Many Nations do not have a state of their own, but they often have a political organization

b) Seeking to become a state

Ex: Palestinians (Gaza Strip + Occupied West Bank)

Basque NP Spain, SW France

Kurds: SW Asia (Turkey, Armenia, Iraq, Iran, Azerbaijan, Syria)

- 25-30 million people

6. Multistate Nation

a) When a nation has a state of its own, but stretches across borders of other states.

Ex: Hungarians live in Hungary, but many live in the Transylvania region of Romania.

Ex 2 Korean Nation: Divided between N. Korea and S Korea also

w/ large #'s in USA + China