

## Chapter 08

# Political Geography

# Key Issues

- Where are states distributed?
- Why are nation-states difficult to create?
- Why do boundaries cause problems?
- Why do states cooperate and compete with each other?

## Chapter 08

Key Issue 1:

Where are states Distributed?

# Where Are States Distributed?

- A *state* is an area organized into a political unit and ruled by an established government that has control over its internal and foreign affairs.
  - Occupies defined territory
  - Permanent population
- A state has *sovereignty*, which means independence from control of its internal affairs by other states.

# Monaco – a “microstate”



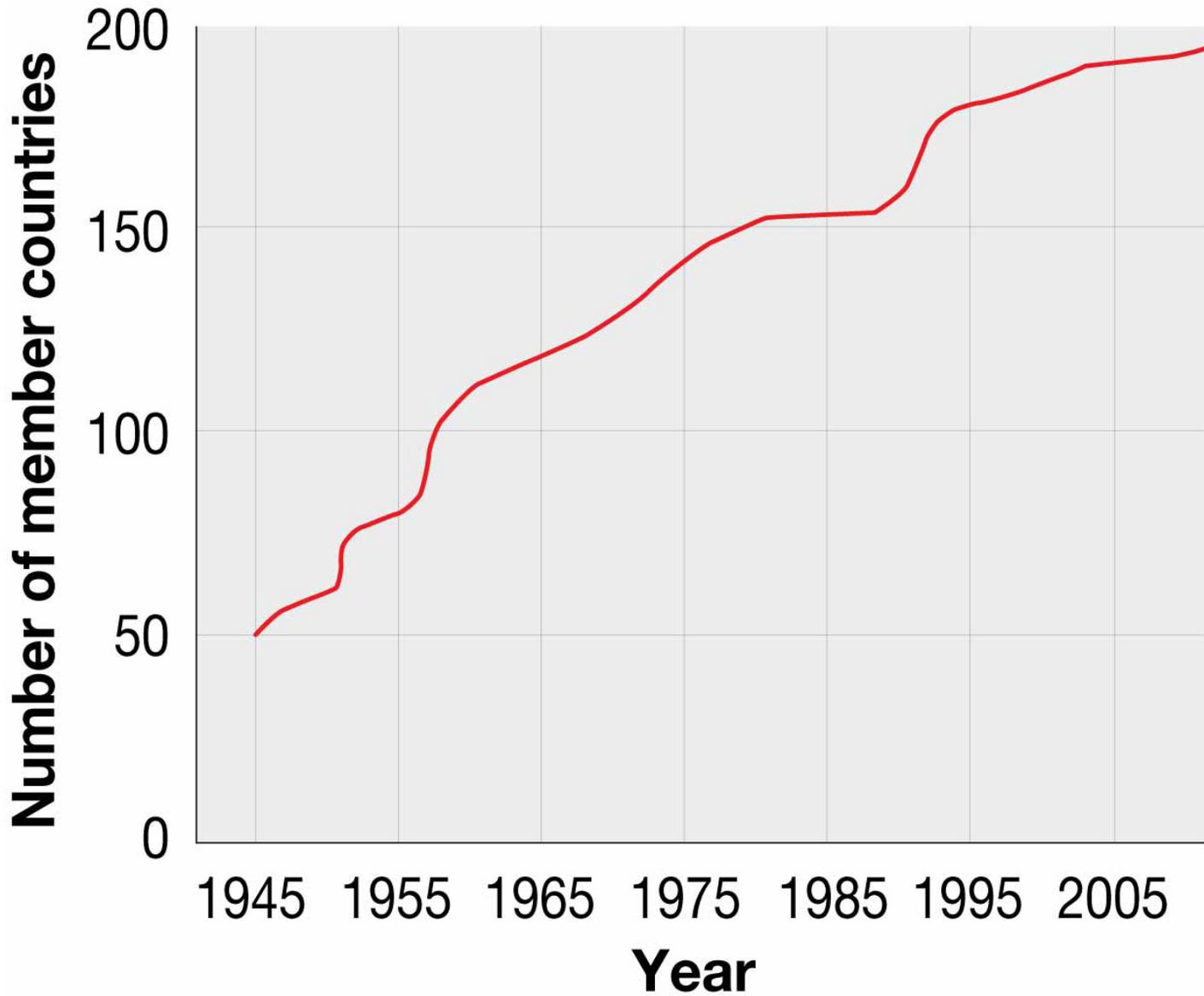
# Where Are States Distributed?

- The United Nations
  - Created at end of World War II to serve the role of a facilitator for discussions regarding international problems.
  - At times, UN has intervened in conflicts between or within member states.
  - UN Membership increased rapidly on three occasions.
    1. 1955: 16 mostly European countries joined as a result of the Nazi Germany breakup.
    2. 1960: 17 mostly former African colonies joined.
    3. 1990-1993: 26 countries joined as a result of Soviet Union and Yugoslavia breakup.

# UN Member Nations



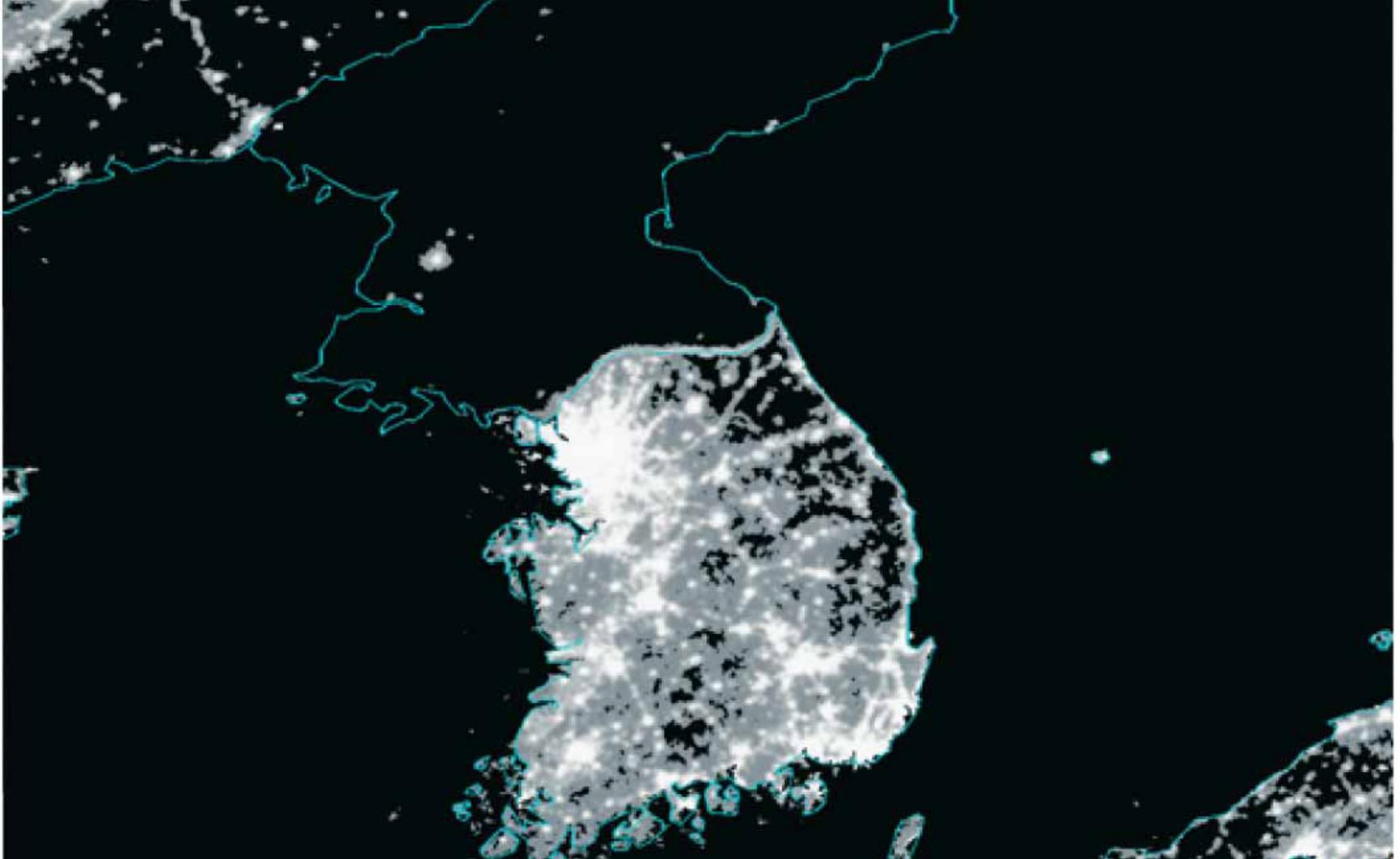
# Growth in UN Membership



# Where Are States Distributed?

- Challenges in Defining States
  - Disagreement exists about actual number of sovereign states as a result of historical disputes involving more than one claim to a territory.
    - China
      - Most other countries consider China (People's Republic of China) and Taiwan (Republic of China) as separate and sovereign states.
      - China's government considers Taiwan part of China.
    - Western Sahara (Sahrawi Republic)
      - Most African countries consider Western Sahara a sovereign state.
      - Morocco claims the territory.
        - » Built a 2,700 km. (1,700 mi) wall around it to keep rebels out.

# North and South Korea at night



# China and Taiwan – one state or two?



# Western Sahara



Morocco built sand walls during the 1980s to isolate Polisario Front rebels fighting for independence

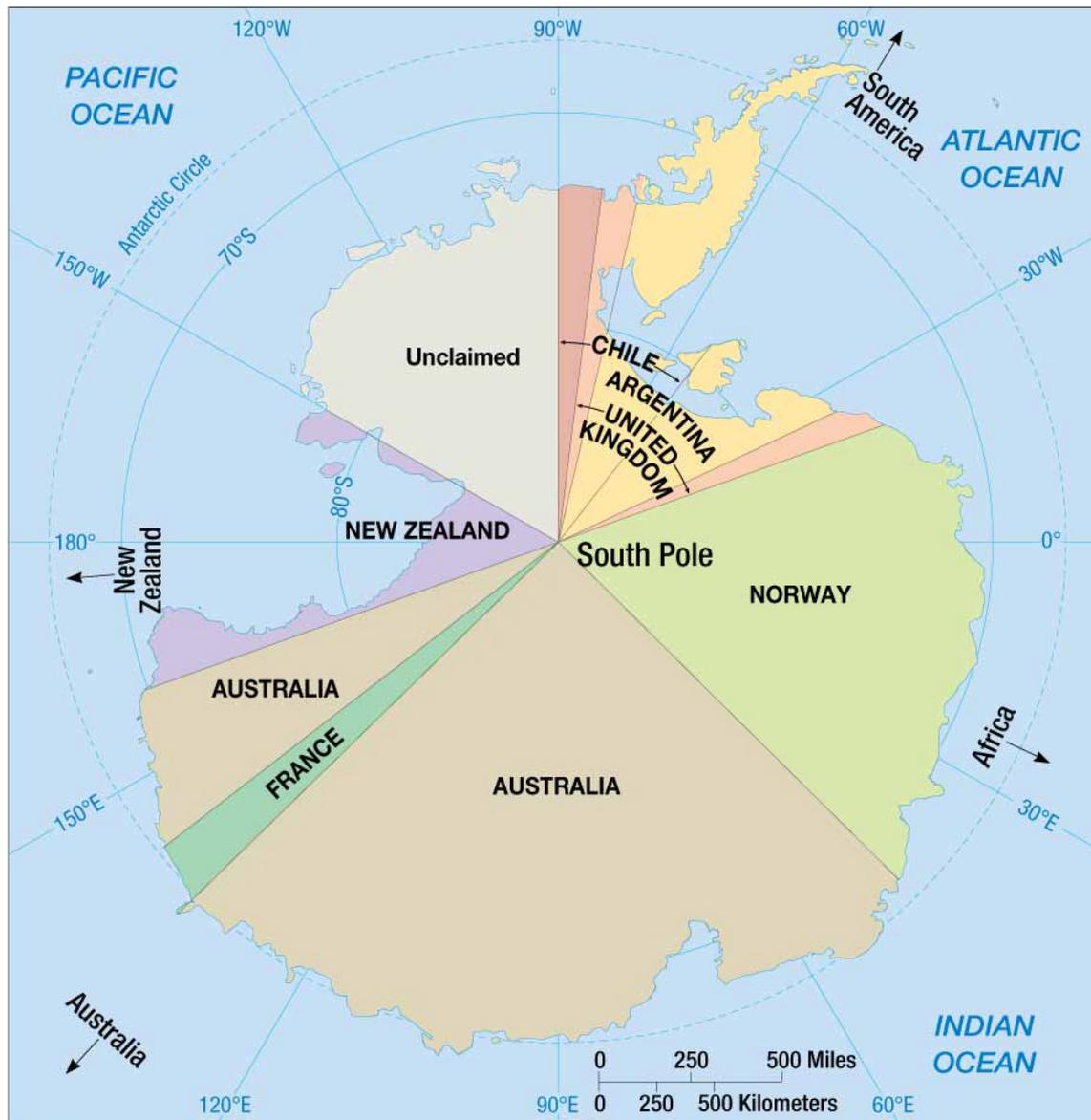
# Where Are States Distributed?

- Challenges in Defining States

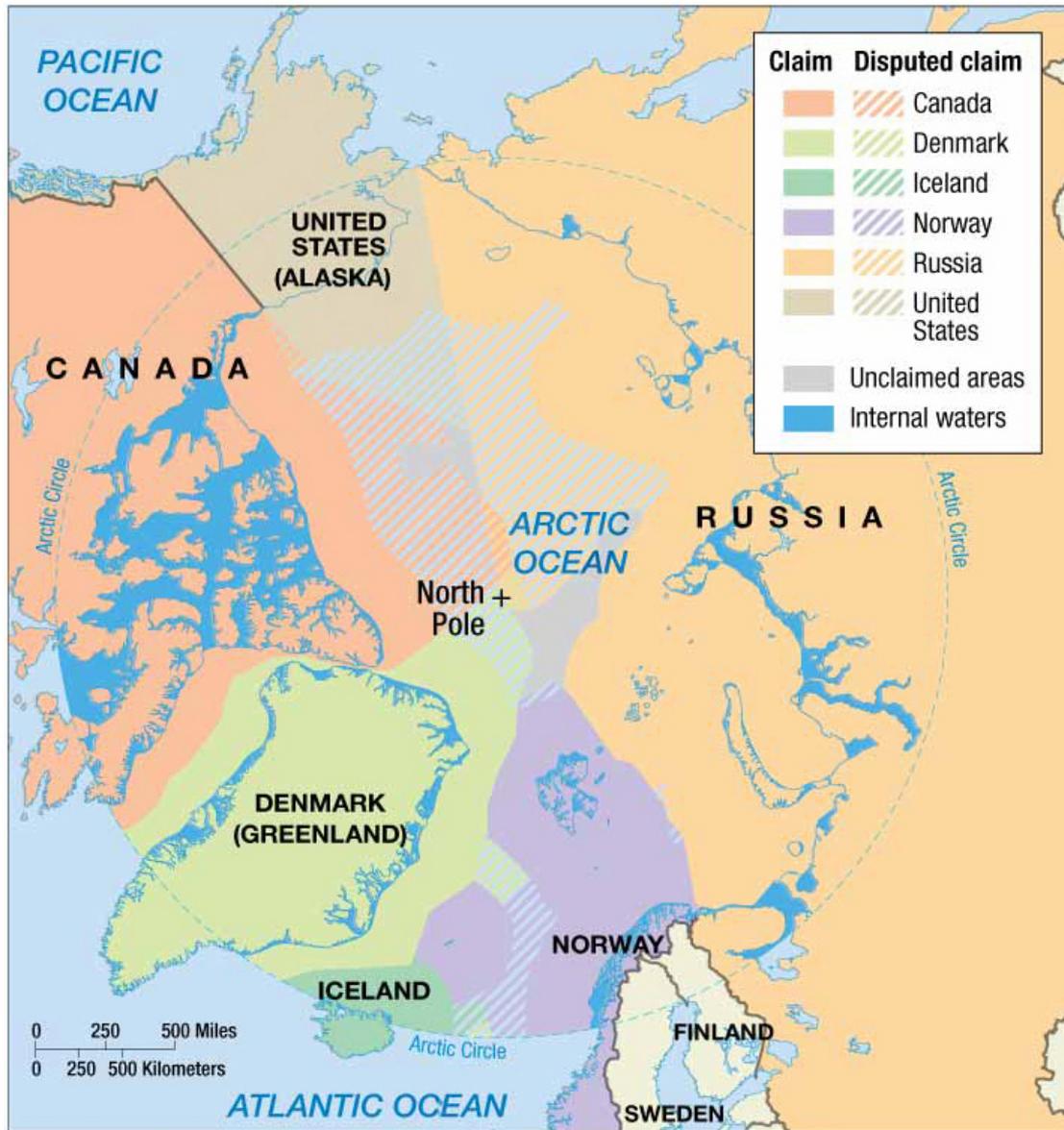
- Polar Regions: Many Claims

- Several states claim portion of the South Pole region
      - » Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway, and the U.K.
    - Some claims in the South Pole region are overlapping and conflicting
      - » Argentina, Chile, and the U.K.
    - U.S., Russia, and many other states do not recognize claims to Antarctica.
    - 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea permitted countries to submit claims inside the Arctic Circle by 2009.

# National Claims to Antarctica



# National Claims to the Arctic



# Where Are States Distributed?

- Development of the State Concept
  - Development of states traced to the Fertile Crescent.
  - Evolution of States
    - First states were known as *city-states*, which are sovereign states that are comprised of towns and their surrounding countryside.
      - Walls delineated boundaries.
      - Area immediately outside walls controlled by city to produce food for urban residents.
    - Medieval States
      - Gained military dominance of individual city-states led to the formation of empires. e.g. Roman Empire
      - Roman Empire collapse in 5<sup>th</sup> century led to its land being parceled up and controlled by various monarchies.

# Where Are States Distributed?

- Development of the State Concept
  - Nation-States in Europe
    - A *nation-state* is a state this territory corresponds to that occupied by a particular ethnicity.
      - » The concept that ethnicities have the right to govern themselves is known as *self-determination*.
    - After WWI, leaders of the victorious countries met at the Versailles Peace Conference to redraw the map of Europe.
      - » Language most important criterion to create new European states and to adjust existing boundaries.
      - » Nation-states created by Versailles conference lasted through most of 20<sup>th</sup> century with little adjustment.

# Ancient States – The Fertile Crescent



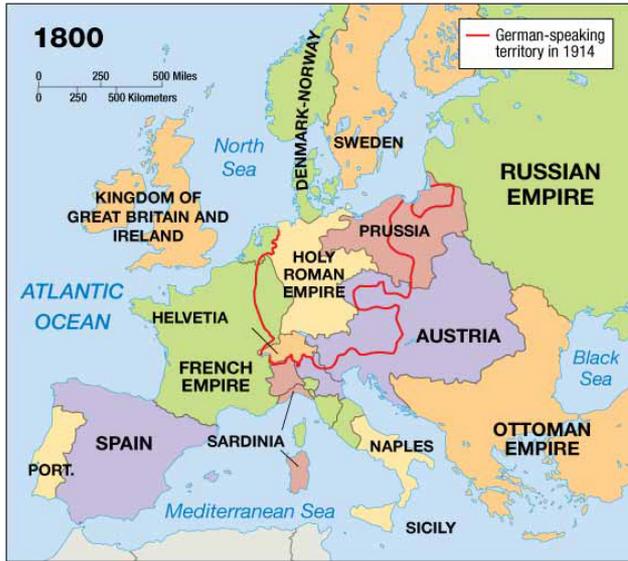
# Medieval States – Roman Empire, 100 AD



# Europe in 1300 – small estates



# Nation-States in Europe, 1800 and 1924



In 1800, much of Europe was organized into empires.



After World War I, much of Europe was organized into nation-states.

# Nation-States in Europe, 1800



# Nation-States in Europe, 1924



## Chapter 08

### Key Issue 2:

Why are Nation-States difficult to create?

# Why Are Nation-states Difficult to Create?

- Nation-states and Multinational States
  - A state that contains more than one ethnicity is a *multi-ethnic state*.
    - Multitude of ethnicities in some cases all contribute cultural features to the formation of a single nationality. e.g. United States of America
  - A *multinational state* is a country that contains more than one ethnicity with traditions of self-determination. e.g. Russia

# Why Are Nation-states Difficult to Create?

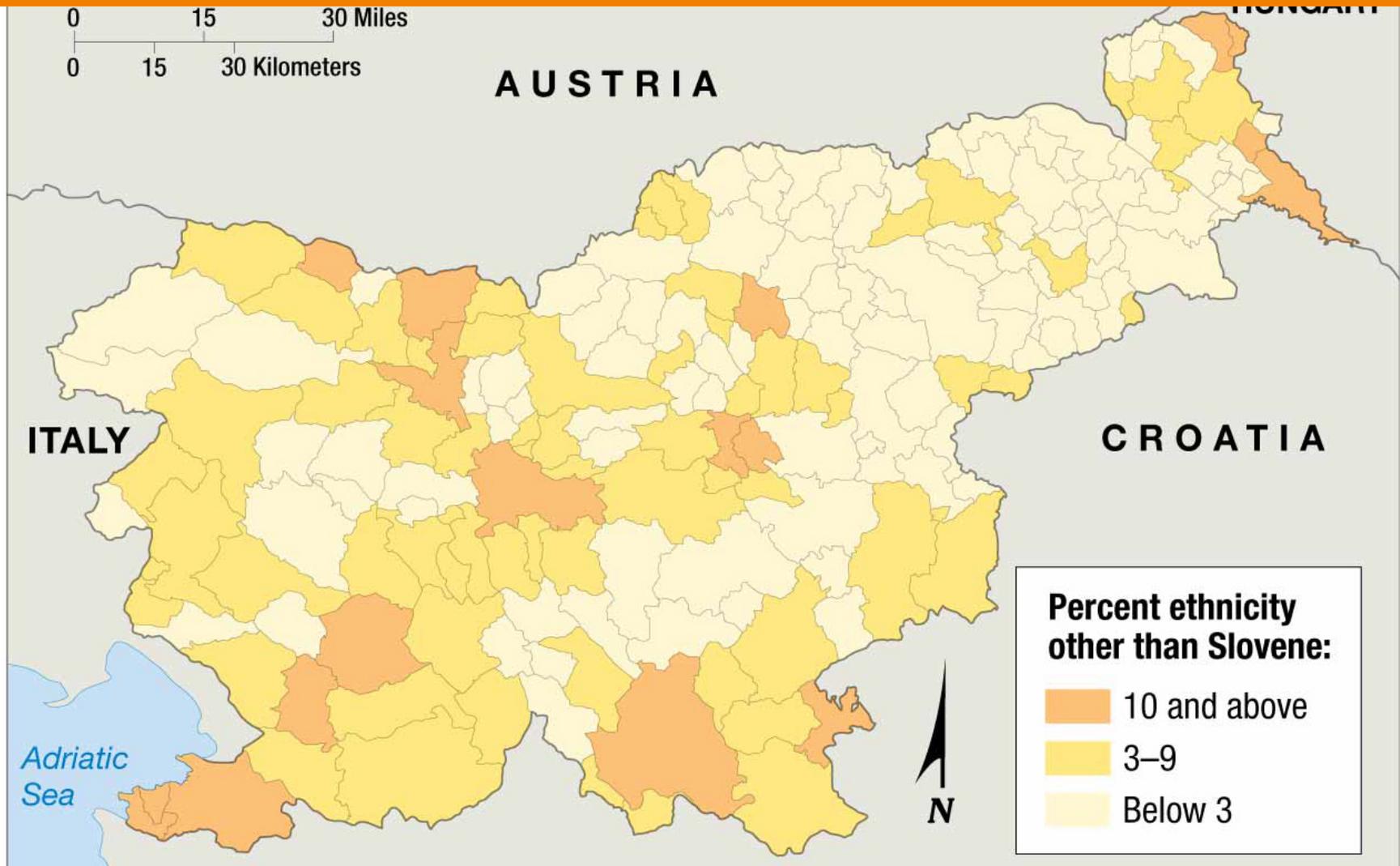
- Nation-states and Multinational States
  - Nation-States in Europe
    - Denmark
      - 90% of population are ethnic Danes
      - Nearly all Danes speak Danish
        - » Nearly all world's Danish speakers live in Denmark
    - Slovenia
      - 83% of population are ethnic Slovenes
      - Nearly all of the world's Slovenes live in Slovenia

# Denmark and Greenland

90% of Denmark is ethnically Dane.  
Only 12% of Greenland's 58,000 residents are "Dane" – the remainder are primarily Inuit.



# Slovenia



Slovenia was once part of Yugoslavia. It gained independence in 1991.

# Why Are Nation-states Difficult to Create?

- Independent Nation-States in Former Soviet Republics
  - Former Soviet Union consisted of 15 republics based on its 15 largest ethnicities.
  - 15 republics became 15 independent states consisting of five groups.

# States in the Former Soviet Union



# Why Are Nation-states Difficult to Create?

- Independent Nation-States in Former Soviet Republics
  - Three Baltic States
    - Estonia
      - » Mostly Protestant (Lutheran)
      - » Speak a Uralic language related to Finnish
    - Latvia
      - » Mostly Protestant (Lutheran)
      - » Speak a language of the Baltic group
    - Lithuania
      - » Mostly Roman Catholic
      - » Speak a language of the Baltic group within the Balto-Slavic branch of the Indo-European language family

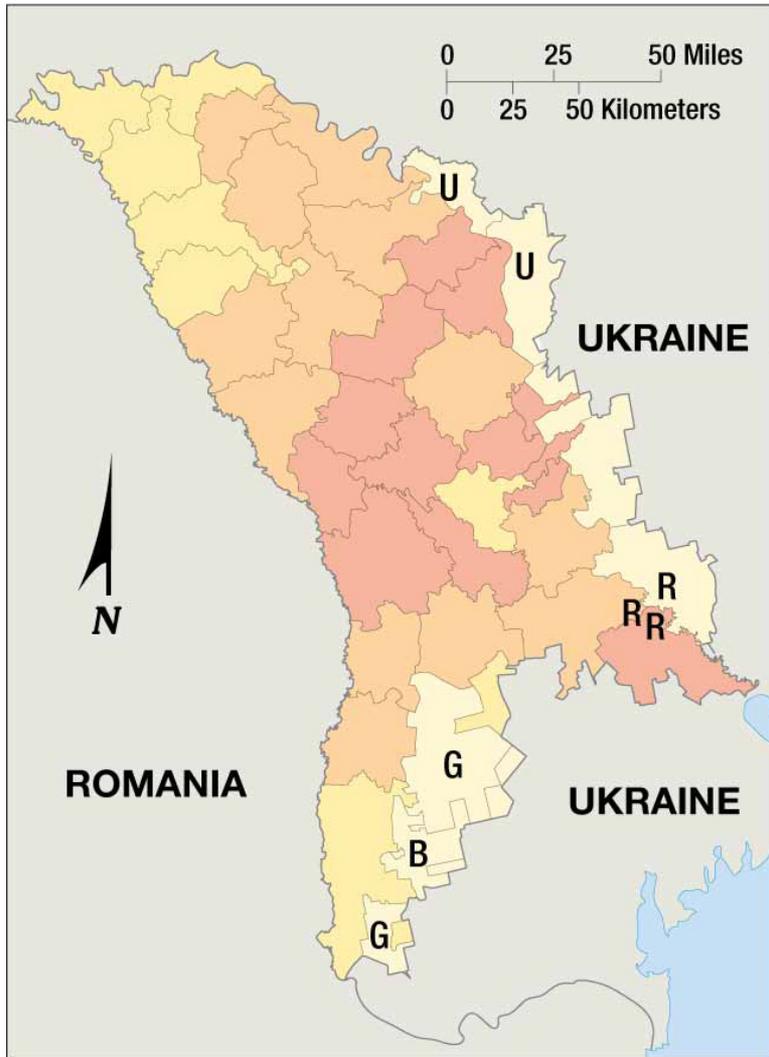
# Why Are Nation-states Difficult to Create?

- Independent Nation-States in Former Soviet Republics
  - Three European States
    1. Belarus
    2. Ukraine
    3. Moldova
      - » All 3 states speak similar East Slavic languages
      - » All predominantly Orthodox Christians.
        - » Some western Ukrainians are Roman Catholics
  - Five Central Asian States
    - Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
      - » Predominantly Muslims
      - » Speak an Altaic language

# Why Are Nation-states Difficult to Create?

- Independent Nation-States in Former Soviet Republics
  - Five Central Asian States cont'd
    - Kyrgyzstan
      - » Predominantly Muslims
      - » Speak an Altaic language
    - Kazakhstan
      - » Predominantly Muslims
      - » Speak an Altaic language
    - Tajikistan
      - » Predominantly Muslims
      - » Speak a language in the Indic group of the Indo-Iranian branch of Indo-European language family.

# Ethnicities in Moldova



## Percent Moldovan

- 90 and above
- 80–89
- 40–79
- Below 40

## Other ethnicities:

- R Bulgarian
- G Gaguzian
- R Russian
- U Ukrainian

Moldova was part of Romania until 1940.

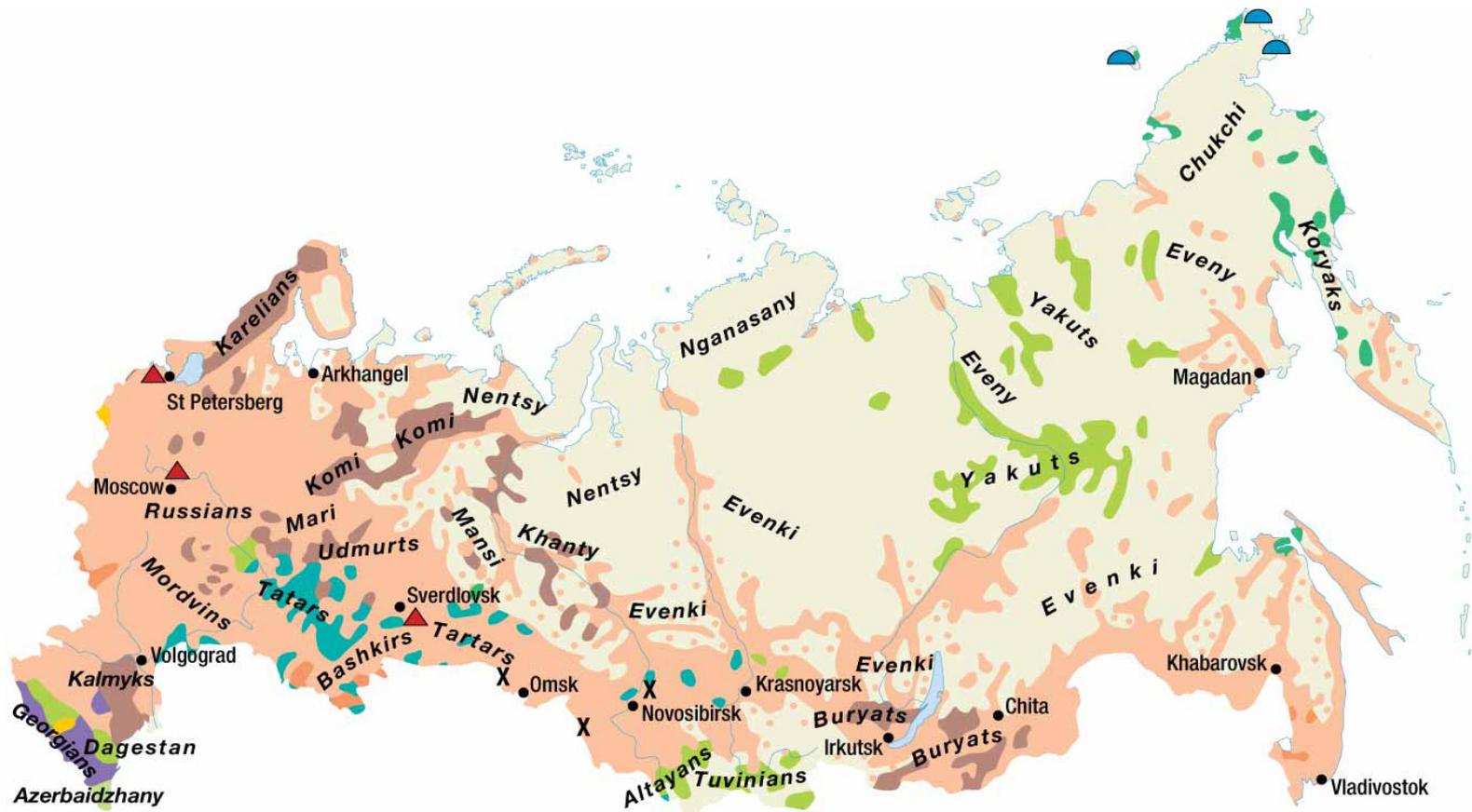
# Ethnicities in Central Asia



# Why Are Nation-states Difficult to Create?

- **The Largest Multinational State: Russia**
  - Russia's 39 ethnicities are clustered in two principal locations.
    1. Along borders with neighboring states
      - Buryats and Tuvinians near Mongolia
      - Chechens, Dagestanis, Kabardians, and Ossetians near the Azerbaijan and Georgia
    2. Clustered in the center of Russia, especially between the Volga River basin and the Ural Mountains.
      - Most numerous ethnicities include Bashkirs, Chuvash, and Tatars.

# Ethnicities in Russia



Turkic peoples	Slavic peoples	Other Indo-European peoples	Other Uralic and Altaic peoples	Paleo-Siberian peoples
Tatars, Bashkirs	Russians	Lithuanians, Armenians, Ossetians	Karelians, Mari, Komi, Mordvins, Udmurts, Mansi, Khanty, Nentsy, Buryats, Kalmyks, Evenki, Eveny, Nganasany	Chukchi, Koryaks, Nivkhi
Azerbaidzhani	Ukrainians	Germans		Eskimos
Other Turkic peoples	<b>Caucasian peoples</b>	Jews		Uninhabited or sparsely settled
	Georgians, Chechens, Ingush, peoples of Dagestan			

# Why Are Nation-states Difficult to Create?

- The Largest Multinational State: Russia
  - Turmoil in the Caucasus
    - Caucasus region is situated between the Black and Caspian seas.
      - Home to several ethnicities including Azeris, Armenians, and Georgians.
      - With the breakup of the region into independent countries, long-simmering conflicts among ethnicities have erupted into armed conflicts.

# Ethnicities in the Caucasus



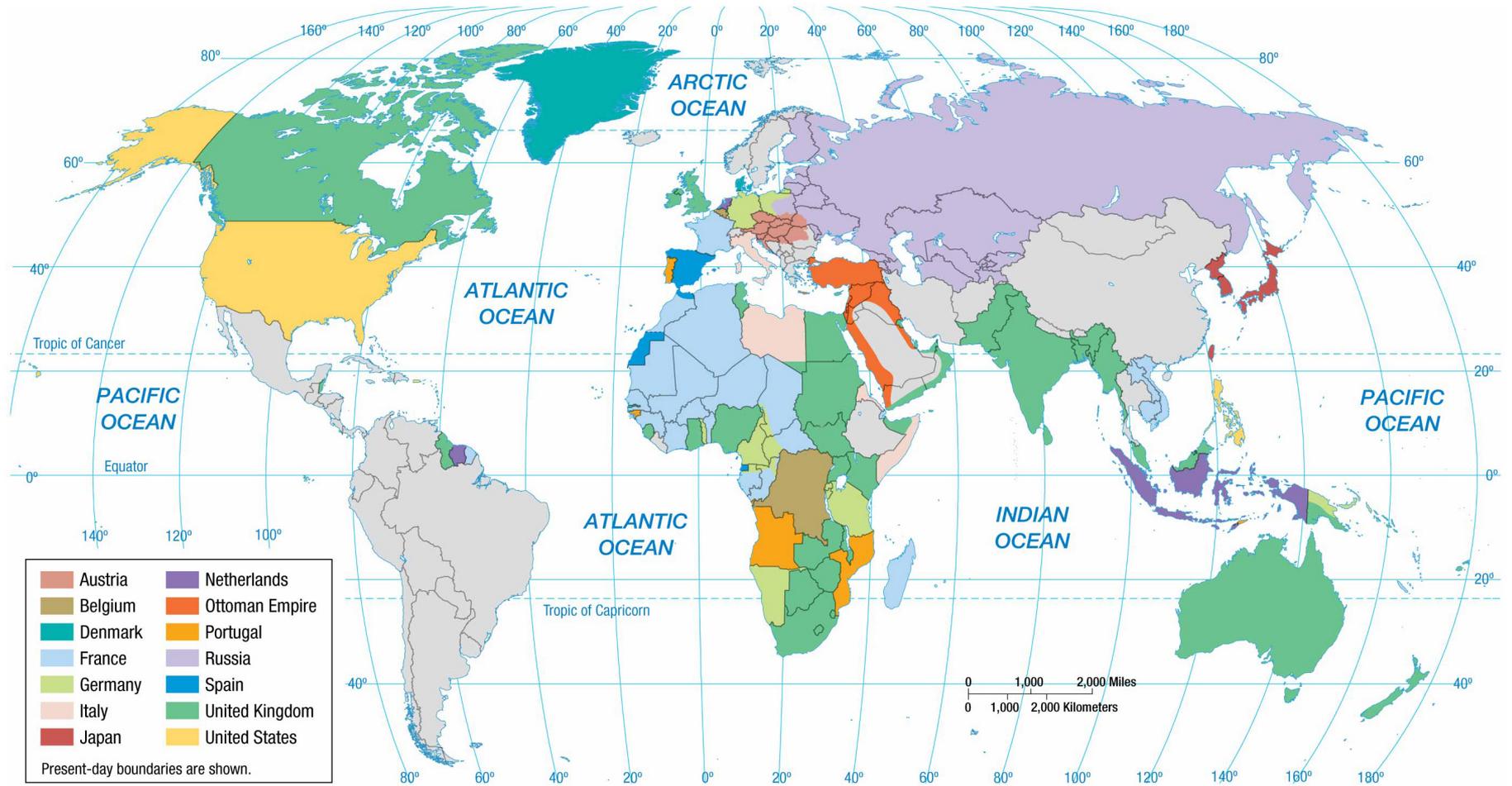
# Why Are Nation-states Difficult to Create?

- Colonies

- Colonialism

- A *colony* is a territory that is legally tied to a sovereign state rather than being completely independent.
      - Sovereign state may run only its military and foreign policy.
      - Sovereign state may also control its internal affairs.
    - European states came to control much of the world through *colonialism*, an effort by one country to establish settlement in a territory and to impose its political, economic, and cultural principles on that territory.

# Colonial Possessions, 1914



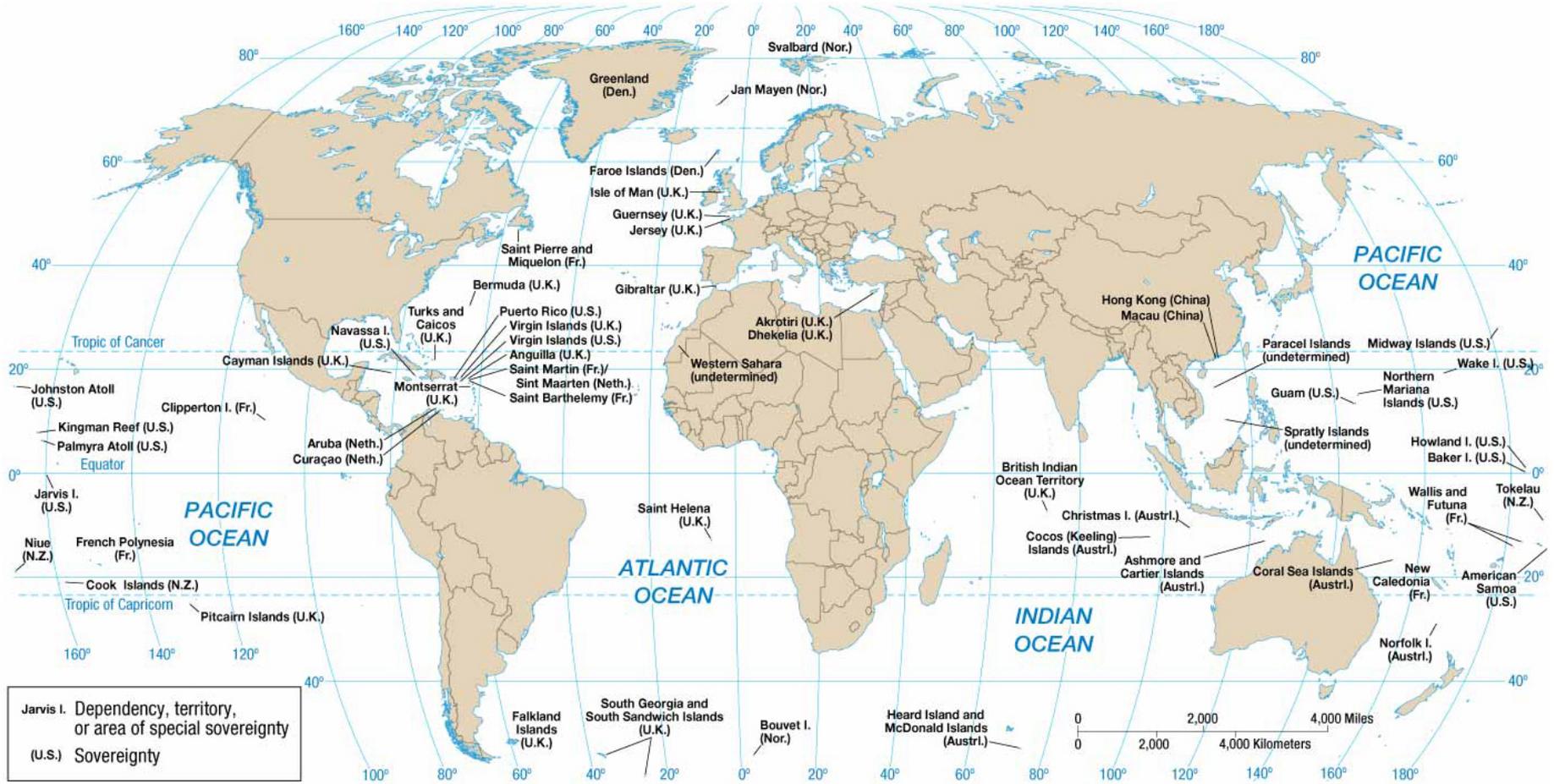
# Why Are Nation-states Difficult to Create?

- Colonies

- The Remaining Colonies

- U.S. Department of State lists 68 places in the world that it calls dependencies and areas of special sovereignty.
      - 43 indigenous populations
      - 25 with no permanent population
      - Most current colonies are islands in the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea.
        - » Ex. Puerto Rico, a commonwealth of the U.S., is home to 4 million residents who are U.S. citizens, but they do not participate in U.S. election or have a voting member of Congress.

# Colonial Possessions, 2012



## Chapter 08

### Key Issue 3:

Why do Boundaries Cause Problems?

# Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?

- Types of Boundaries
  - A state is separated from its neighbors by a *boundary*, an invisible line that marks the extent of a state's territory.
  - Historically, *frontiers*, which is a zone where no state exercises complete political control, rather than boundaries separated states.
  - Three types of physical elements serve as boundaries between states:
    1. Desert Boundary
      - Effectively divide two states, because deserts are hard to cross and sparsely inhabited.

# Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?

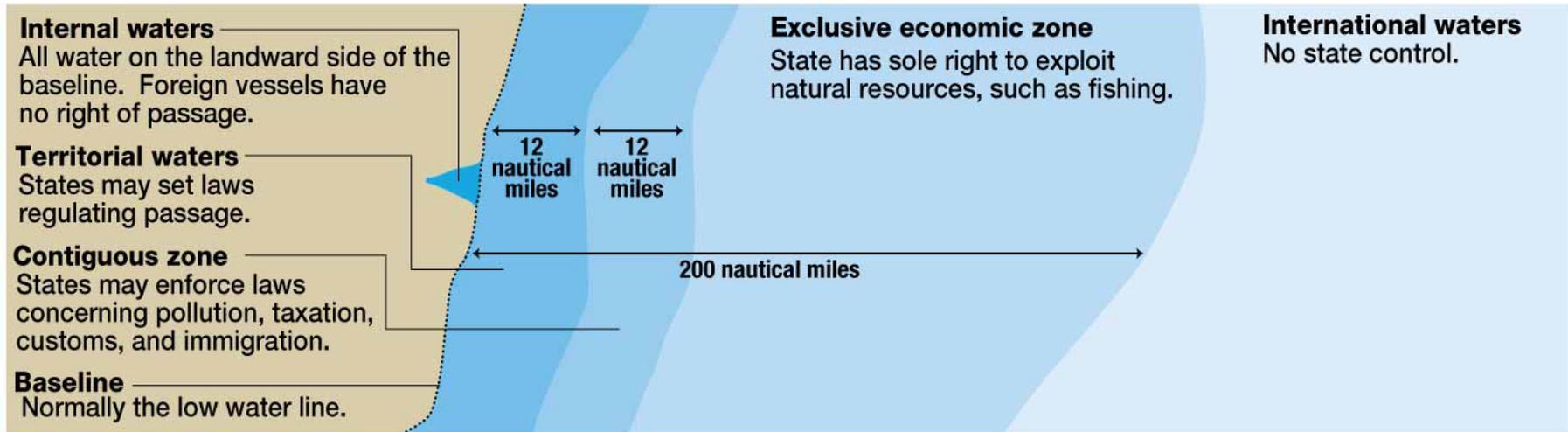
- **Types of Boundaries**
  2. **Mountain Boundary**
    - Effectively divide two states, if the mountains are difficult to cross.
    - Useful boundaries because of their permanent quality and tendency to be sparsely populated.
  3. **Water Boundary**
    - Examples include rivers, lakes, and oceans.
    - Less permanent overall than mountain boundaries because of tendencies of water levels to change in bodies of water and river channels to move over time.

# Desert Boundary – Mali and Mauritania



The unmarked border runs through the Sahara Desert

# The Law of the Sea



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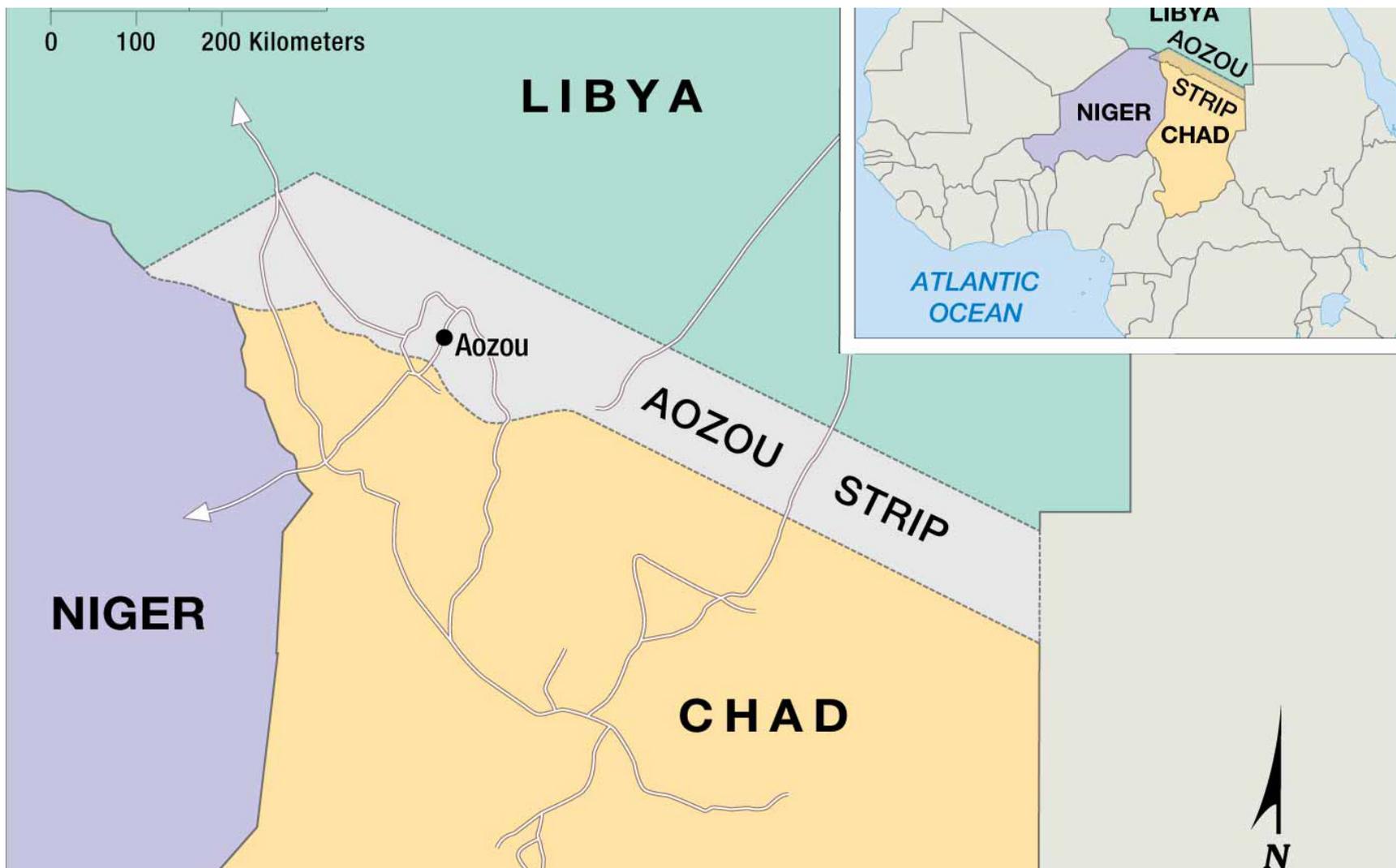
States that have ocean boundaries are able to claim vast areas of the ocean for defense and for control of fishing areas.

The Law of the Sea Treaty is the international agreement that resulted from the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN Conference on the Sea, which took place between 1973 and 1982, and signed by 158 countries

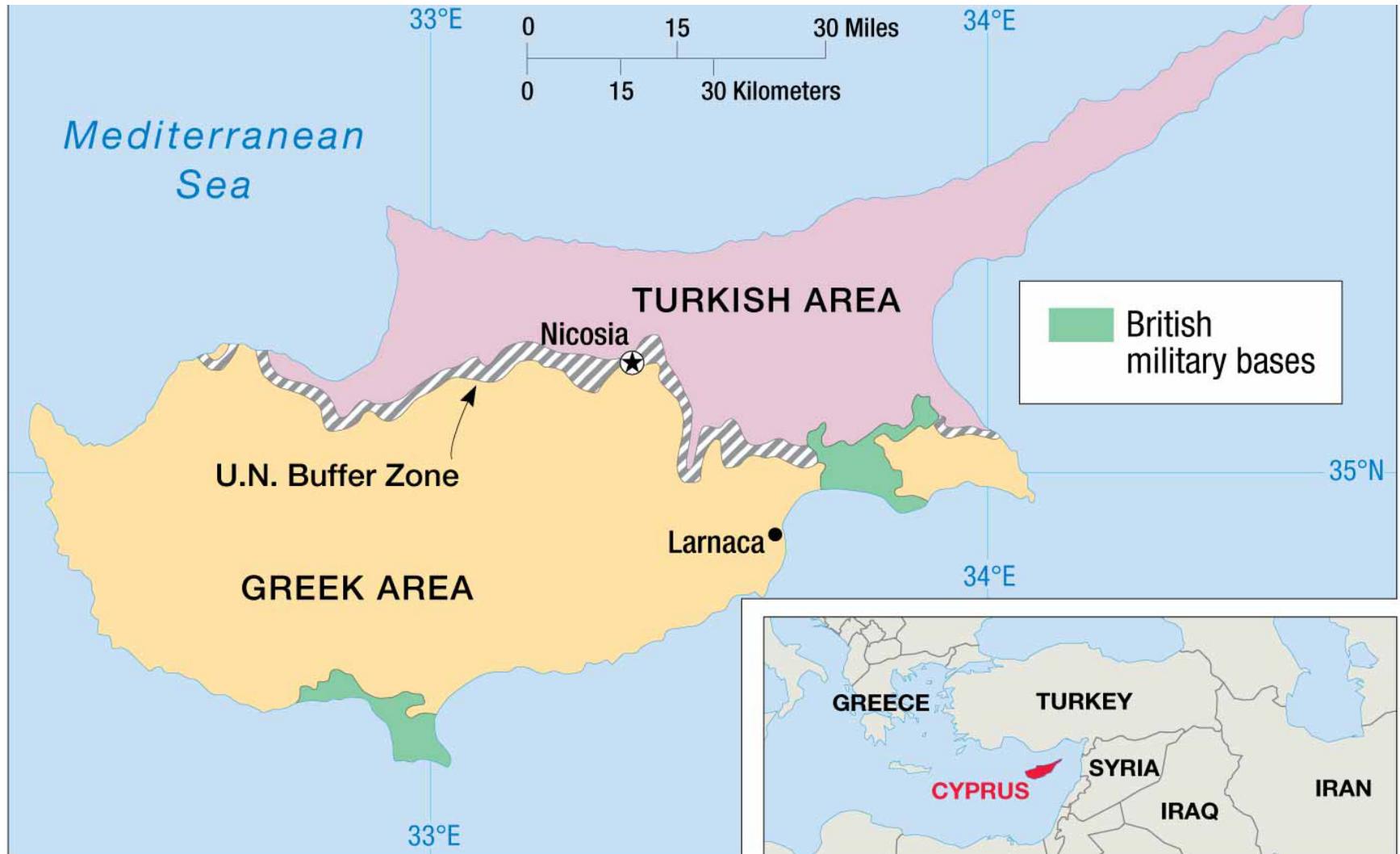
# Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?

- Types of Boundaries
  - Cultural Boundaries
    - Geometric Boundaries
      - Straight lines drawn on a map.
      - E.G. 2,100-kilometer (1,300-mile) straight line along 49° north latitude that separates the U.S. and Canada.
        - » Boundary established in 1846 by a treaty between U.S. and Great Britain.
    - Ethnic Boundaries
      - Boundary coincides with differences in ethnicity, especially language and religion.
      - Language differences influenced the demarcation of boundaries in England, France, Portugal, and Spain before the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Europe.

# Geometric Boundary – Chad and Libya



# Ethnic Boundary – Greek and Turkish Cyprus



# Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?

- Shapes of States
  - Controls the length of its boundaries with other states.
    - Affects the potential for communication and conflict with neighbors.
  - Shape is part of a country's unique identity.
  - Shape also influences the ease or difficulty of internal administration and can affect social unity.

# Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?

- Shapes of States

- Countries have one of five basic shapes

1. Compact States: Efficient

- Distance from center of state to any boundary does not vary significantly.

- » Ideal theoretical example would be circle-shaped with the capital in the center.

2. Elongated States: Potential Isolation

- Long and narrow shape.

- May suffer from poor internal communications.

- Example: Chile

- » 4,000 km. (2,500 mi.) long north and south

- » Rarely exceeds 150 km. (90 mi.) wide east and west.

# Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?

- Shapes of States

- Countries have one of five basic shapes

- 3. Prorupted States: Access or Disruption

- Otherwise compact state with a large projecting extension.

- Prorptions created for two principal reasons.

- 1. Provide a state with access to a resource, such as water.

- 2. Separate two states that other would share a boundary.

- 4. Perforated States: South Africa

- A state that completely surrounds another one.

- Encompassed state is dependent on the surrounding state for interactions beyond its boundary.

- » E.G. Vatican City surrounded by Italy

# Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?

- Shapes of States

- Countries have one of five basic shapes

- 5. Fragmented States: Problematic

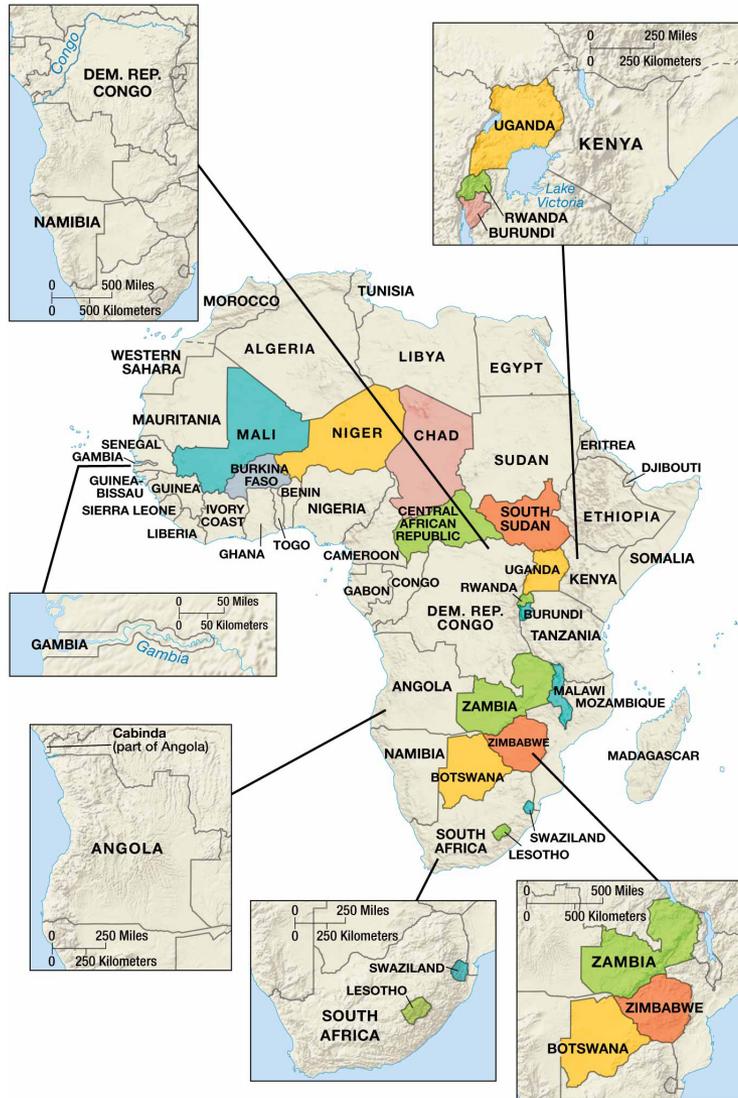
- A state that includes several discontinuous pieces of territory.

- Two kinds of fragmented states

- 1. Fragmented states separated by water

- 2. Fragmented states separated by an intervening state.

# Shapes of States in Southern Africa



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Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda are **compact states**.

Malawi and Mozambique are **elongated states**.

Namibia and the Democratic Republic of Congo are **prorupted states**.

Angola and Tanzania are **fragmented states**.

Lesotho is a **landlocked state**.

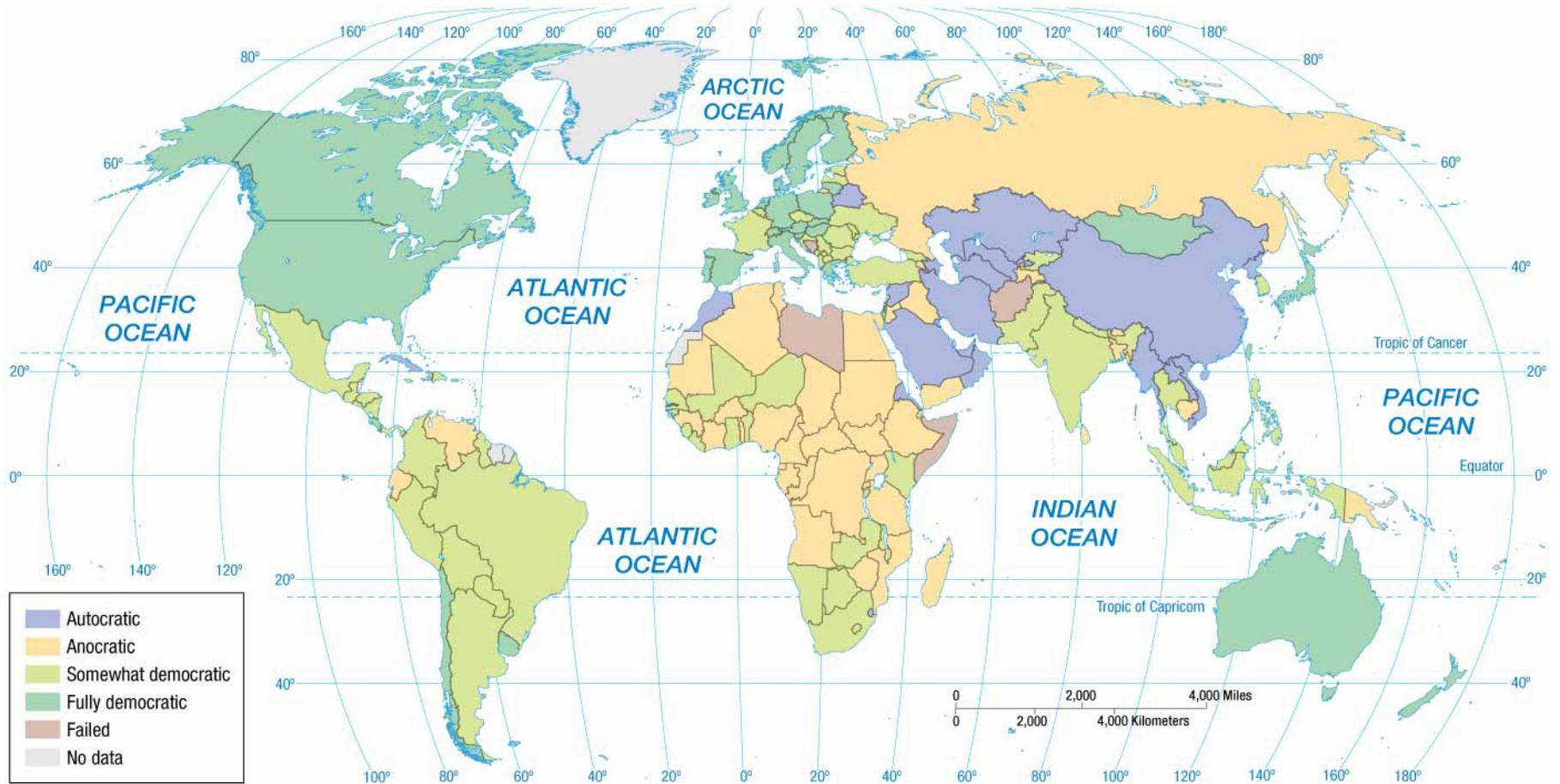
# Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?

- **Governing States**

- National governments can be classified as democratic, autocratic, or anocratic.

- A *democracy* is a country in which citizens elect leaders and can run for office.
    - An *autocracy* is a country that is run according to the interests of the ruler rather than the people.
    - An *anocracy* is a country that is not fully democratic or fully autocratic, but rather a mix of the two.

# Regime Type



# Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?

- **Governing States**

- **National Scale: Regime Types**

- Democracies and autocracies differ in three essential elements:

1. **Selection of Leaders**

- » Democracies have institutions and procedures through which citizens can express effective preferences about alternative policies and leaders.
- » Autocracies have leaders who are selected according to clearly defined (usually hereditary) rules of succession from within the political elite.

2. **Citizen Participation**

- » Democracies have institutionalized constraints on the exercise of power by the executive.
- » Autocracies have citizens' participation restricted or suppressed.

# Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?

- **Governing States**

- **National Scale: Regime Types**

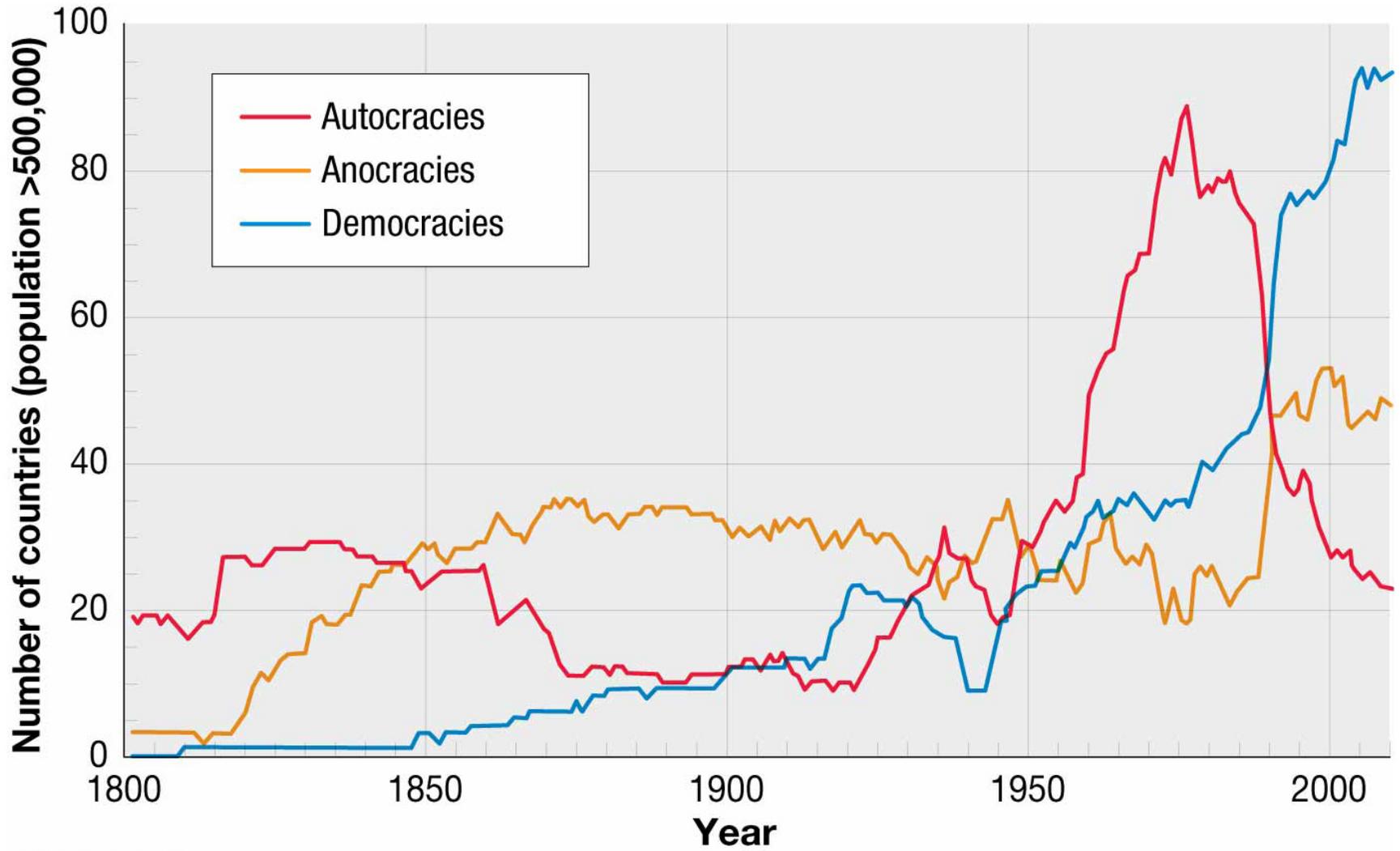
- Democracies and autocracies differ in three essential elements cont'd:

- 3. Checks and Balances:

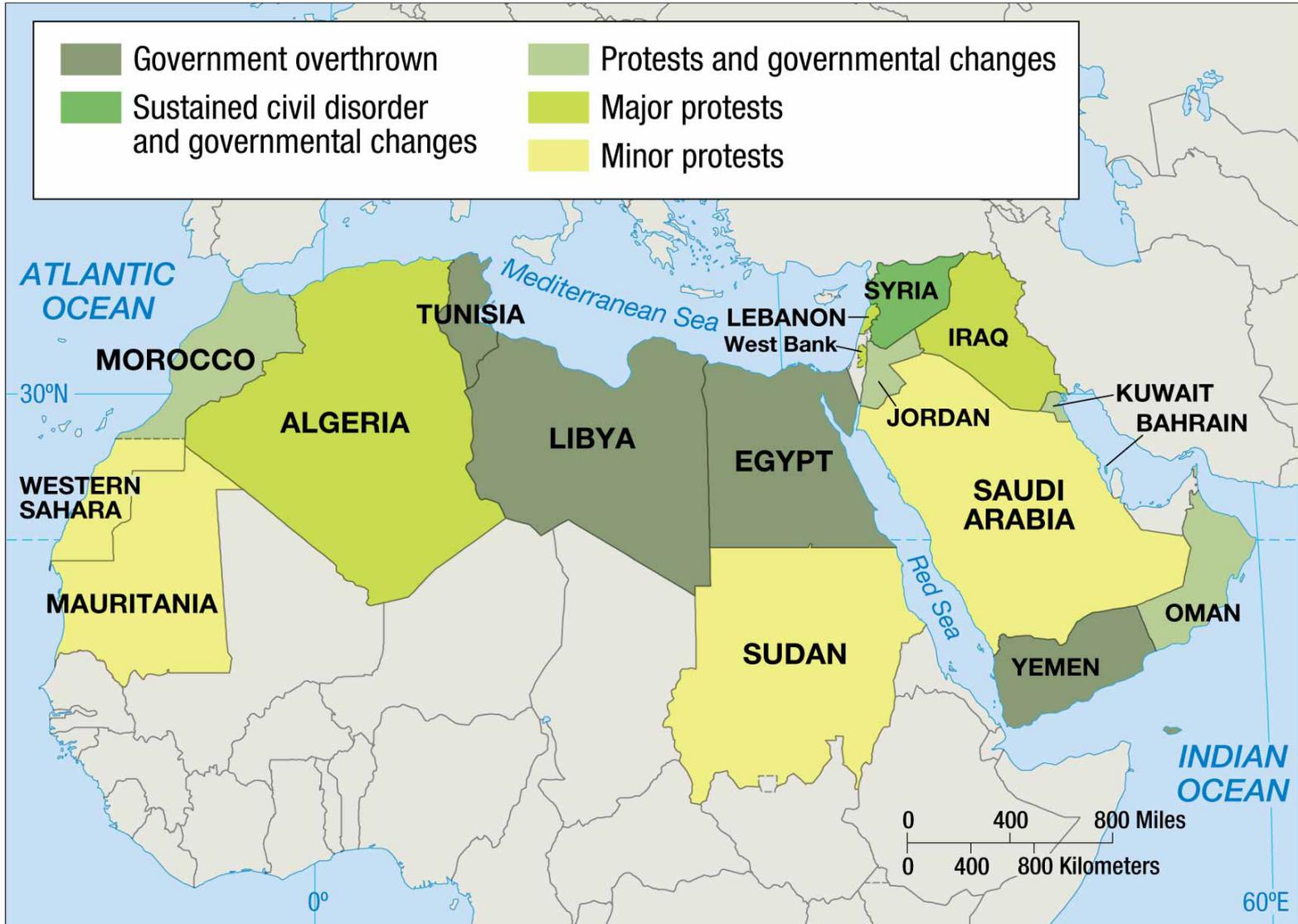
- » Democracies guarantee civil liberties to all citizens.
        - » Autocracies have leaders who exercise power with no meaningful checks from legislative, judicial, or civil society institutions.

- In general, the world has become more democratic since the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

# The Trend Toward Democracy



# Arab Spring



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# Unitary and Federal States

- Approaches to the organization of government
  - Unitary State
    - Most power is placed in the central government:
      - Japan
  - Federal State
    - Allocates power to units of local government
      - The United States
  - Confederation
    - A union of states for common action – usually defense, currency, or foreign affairs
      - The EU or Switzerland

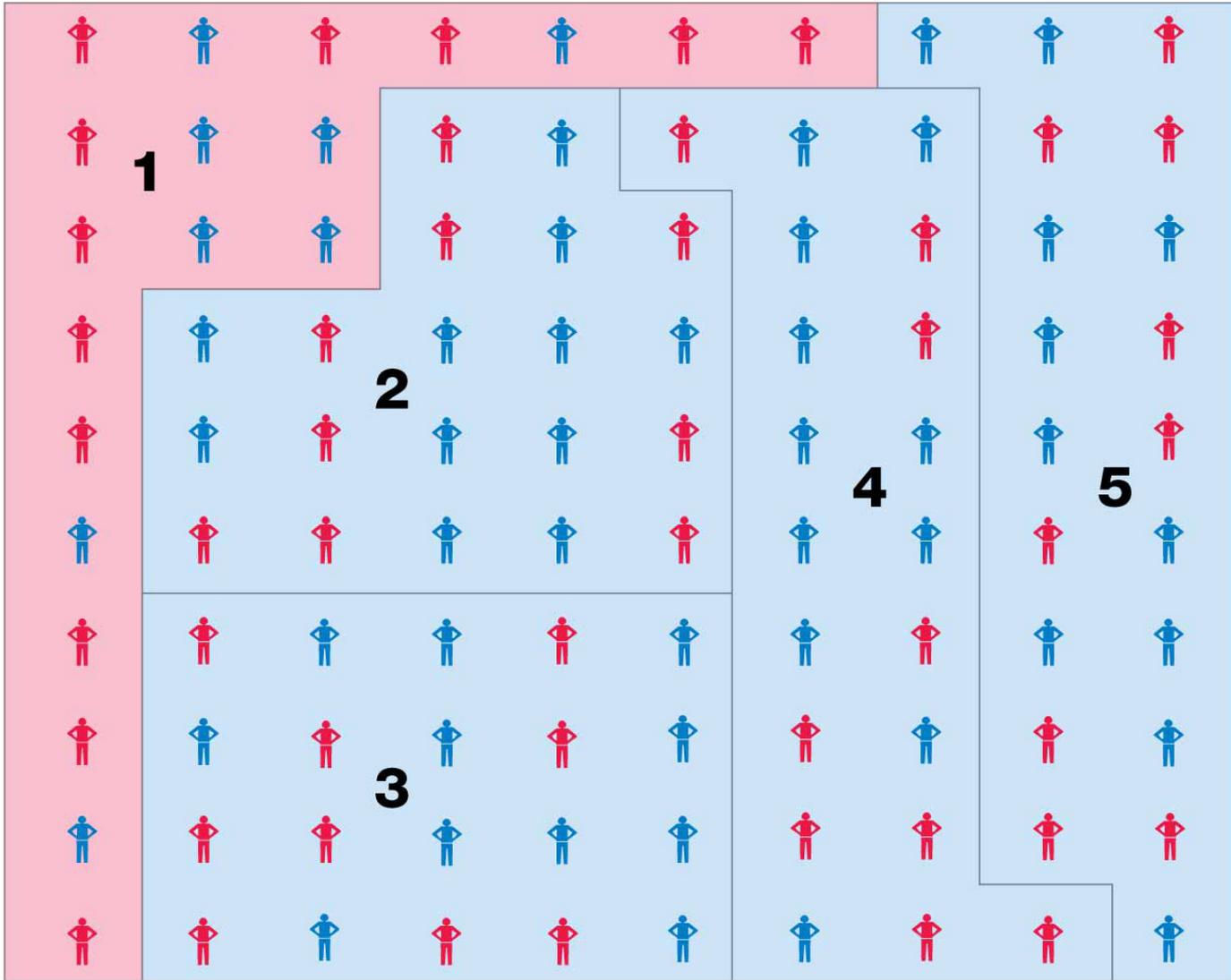
# Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?

- Electoral Geography
  - Boundaries separating legislative districts within the U.S. and other countries are redrawn periodically to ensure each has about the same population.
    - 435 districts of the U.S. House of Representatives are redrawn every 10 years, following the Census Bureau's release of the official population figures.
  - Process of redrawing legislative boundaries for the purpose of benefiting the party in power is called *gerrymandering*.

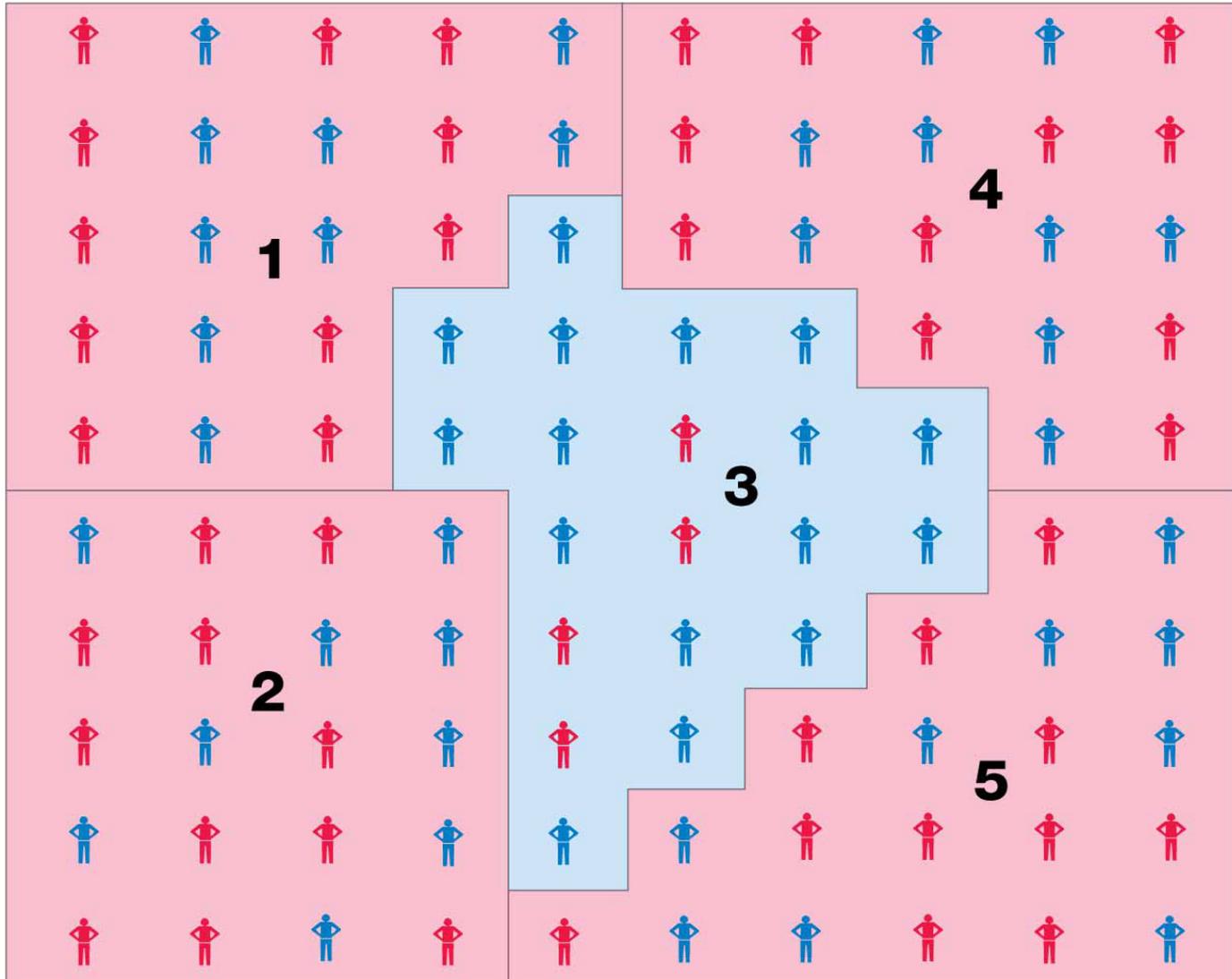
# Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?

- Electoral Geography
  - Gerrymandering takes three forms:
    1. *Wasted vote* spreads opposition supporters across many districts but in the minority.
    2. *Excess vote* concentrates opposition supported into a few districts.
    3. *Stacked vote* links distant areas of like-minded voters through oddly shaped boundaries.
  - U.S. Supreme Court ruled gerrymandering illegal in 1985 but did not require dismantling of existing oddly shaped districts.

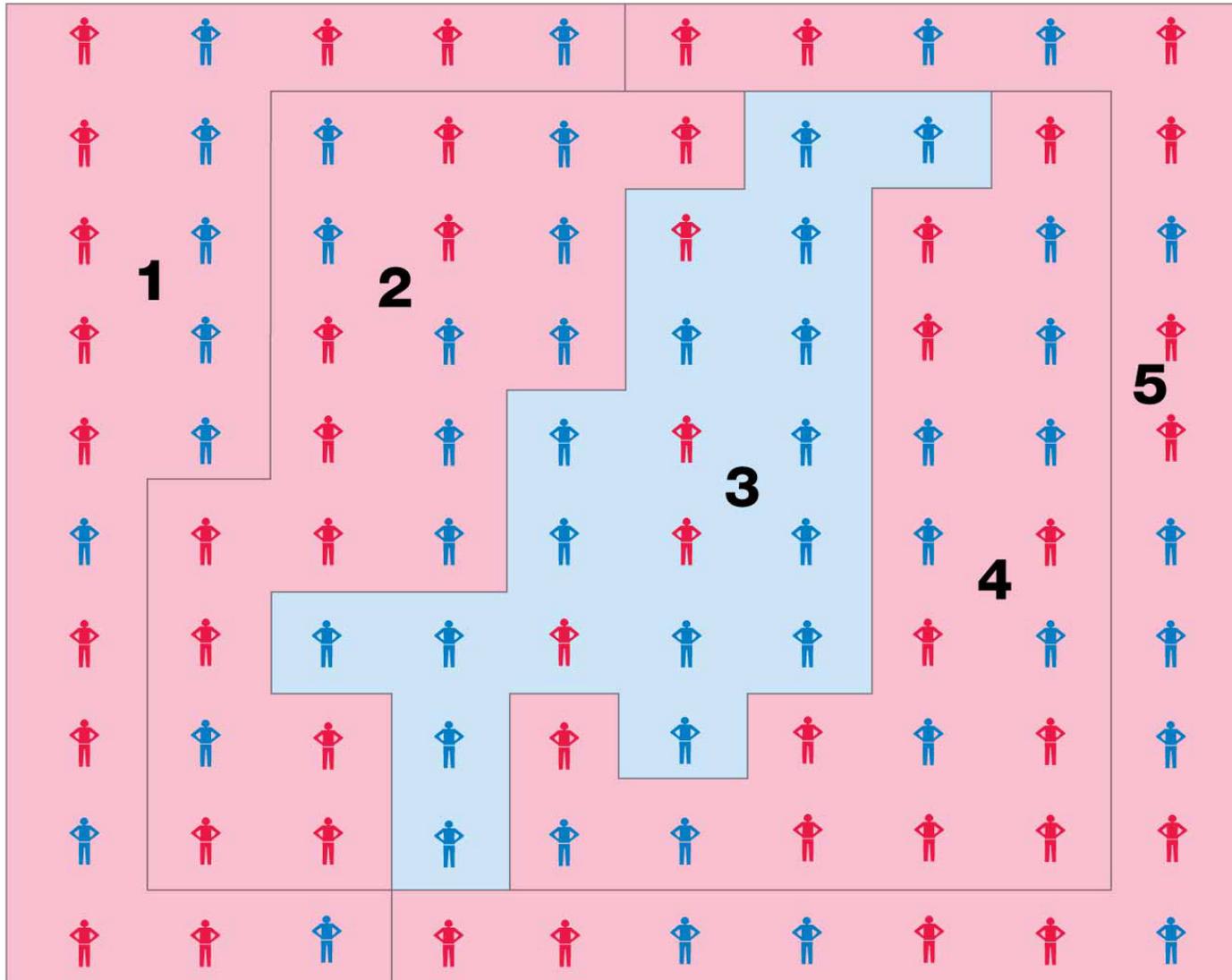
# Wasted Vote Gerry Mandering



# Excess Vote Gerry Mandering



# Stacked Vote Gerry Mandering



## Chapter 08

### Key Issue 4:

Why Do States Cooperate and Compete  
with Each Other?

# Why Do States Cooperate and Compete with Each Other?

- Cold War Competition and Alliances
  - Division of world into military alliances resulted from the emergence of two superpowers- U.S. and Soviet Union.
  - Military Cooperation in Europe
    - NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)
      - 16 democratic states, including the U.S., Canada, and 14 other European states.
    - Warsaw Pact
      - Military agreement among Communist Eastern European countries to defend each other in case of attack.

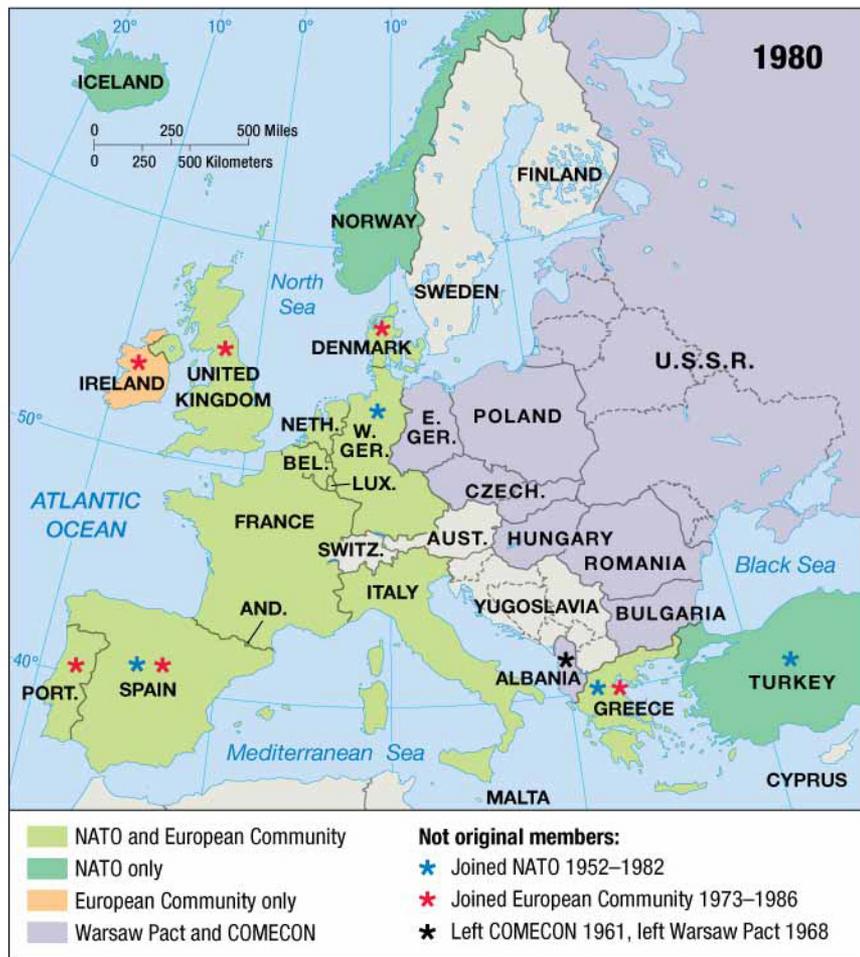
# Why Do States Cooperate and Compete with Each Other?

- Cold War Competition and Alliances
  - NATO and Warsaw Pact were designed to maintain a bipolar balance of power in Europe.
    - NATO's Objective: prevent the spread of communism by the Soviet Union.
    - Warsaw Pact Objective: Provide the Soviet Union a buffer of allied states between it and Germany to discourage a third German invasion of the Soviet Union in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
      - Disbanded once Europe was no longer dominated by military confrontation between two blocs.

# Why Do States Cooperate and Compete with Each Other?

- **Economic Alliances in Europe**
  - **European Union (EU)**
    - Formed: 1958
    - Members: Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, & West Germany
    - Purpose: Heal Western Europe's scars from WWII
  - **Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON)**
    - Formed: 1949
    - Members: 7 Eastern European Communist states from the Warsaw Pact plus Cuba, Mongolia, and Vietnam.
    - Purpose: Promote trade and sharing of natural resources

# Europe Military and Economic Alliances



# Why Do States Cooperate and Compete with Each Other?

- Economic Alliances in Europe

- The EU in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

- Expanded to 12 countries during the 1980s; expanded to 27 in the 2000s.
    - Main task of the EU is to promote development within member states through economic and political cooperation.
      - Eurozone
        - » Most dramatic step toward integrating Europe's nation-states into a regional organization.
        - » European Central Bank given responsibility of setting interest rates and minimizing inflation throughout the Eurozone.
        - » Common currency established- euro

# Why Do States Cooperate and Compete with Each Other?

- Terrorism by Individuals and Organizations
  - *Terrorism* is the systematic use of violence by a group in order to intimidate a population or coerce a government into granting its demands.
    - Distinctive characteristics of terrorists include:
      - Trying to achieve their objectives through organized acts of terror. e.g. bombing, kidnapping, hijacking, taking of hostages, and assassination.
      - Viewing violence as a means of bringing widespread publicity to their cause.
      - Believing in a cause so strongly they attack despite knowing they will probably die in the act.
    - Differs from other acts of political violence
      - Attacks aimed at ordinary people rather than military or political leaders.

# Why Do States Cooperate and Compete with Each Other?

- Terrorism by Individuals and Organizations
  - State Support for Terrorism
    - Several Middle Eastern states have supported for terrorism in recent years, at three increasing levels of involvement.
      - Providing sanctuary for terrorists wanted by other countries
        - » Afghanistan and probably Pakistan have provided sanctuary for al-Qaeda terrorists.
      - Supplying weapons, money, and intelligence to terrorists
      - Planning attacks using terrorists

# State-sponsored terrorism: Pan Am 103



Libya authorized the bombing of Pan Am 103, which blew up over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988, killing all 259 aboard and 11 on the ground.

# Why Do States Cooperate and Compete with Each Other?

- Terrorism by Individuals and Organizations
  - Supplying Terrorists
    - Iraq and Iran accused of providing material and financial support for terrorists.
      - Extent of involvement is controversial.
    - Iraq
      - U.S. asserted that Saddam Hussein had close links with al-Qaeda
    - Iran
      - U.S. Accusations
        - » Harboring al-Qaeda members
        - » Trying to gain influence in Iraq
        - » U.S. and other countries feared Iran's development of a nuclear program was intended to develop weapons.

# Summary

- Earth's land area is divided into nearly 200 states.
- It is impossible to find a perfect match between the boundaries of a state and the area inhabited by a single ethnicity.
- States are separated by boundaries, which are either physical or cultural.
- Competition among states has been replaced in some regions by economic alliances, especially in Europe.