**Political Summary GA Unit 3**

**Introduction:**

The term politics often conjures images of red-tape and bureaucrats working without a goal in site. However, in AP Human Geography political geography is the discussion of who has the power and how that power is used to divide land on the Earth's surface. Unlike historical events long buried in the past, politics and geography have an ongoing and often tumultuous relationship. Understanding where the boundaries were in the past and where they are now can help us predict where those divides might be in the future.

 **Essential Questions:**

* How is space on the Earth's surface divided?
* Why do boundaries exist?
* How are governments formed?
* What are the defining characteristics of government systems?
* Why are there conflicts created by political-territorial arrangements?
* How do spatial interactions impact countries and governments?

# Lesson 1: Introduction to Political Geography

* **Political Geography** studies the people and systems used to control space and populations
	+ Politics – People who hold the power in government
	+ Territoriality – Creating ownership of space on the Earth's surface
* **Basic Units of Territory**
	+ When we discuss a country of the world, we are actually discussing a **state**. A **state** (or country) is a political unit with a government, defined territory and a population
		- **Sovereignty** – the power and ability for a country to rule itself
			* Antarctica is the only large landmass without an official state (several countries claim influence, but Antarctica is not part of any one state - this land is an example of a **global common**)
	+ States are separated from one another by a **boundary**
		- Can include **natural** and **cultural** boundaries
		- Very often become areas of conflict
	+ Largest states (in geographic size): Russia, China, Canada, US, Brazil, Australia
	+ **Microstates**: Monaco, Bahrain, Grenada, Singapore
	+ **Landlocked** countries can have the most difficulty with boundaries because of having to get to ports and coasts
* Problem States
	+ o Korea (North & South)
		- Split because of WWII – US (S) and USSR (N)
		- The countries have been trying to reconcile, but the nuclear weapons of North Korea have created issues
	+ China and Taiwan
		- Split because of civil war (Communist vs. Nationalist)
* Sahrawi Arab Republic and Morocco
* Sahrawi Republic (in Northern African) gained their independence from Spain in 1976
* Morocco and Mauritania took the land for themselves, even after Mauritania left – Morocco remained
* Israel and Palestine
	+ The country of Israel was delineated within land claimed by Palestinians
	+ The differing religious systems have added to the conflicts

* Sudan and South Sudan
	+ Sudan split into two countries (Sudan and South Sudan) due to ongoing ethnic and religious conflicts
	+ Sudan is Islam and South Sudan is Christian and Animist

 *History of States*

* + The earliest roots of states can be traced to the **River Valley Civilizations** (these locations are also the origins for permanent farming and the basis for urbanization)
	+ **Mesopotamia** (Fertile Crescent) – 3200 bc
		- Between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
		- Farming as early as 6000 bc
		- Connected the land between Israel and Persian Gulf
		- Lived in city-state – town and surrounding countryside
	+ Nile River Valley – 3100 bc
		- Empire building begins
	+ Indus River Valley – 3000 bc
		- City builders
	+ Huang He River Valley – 2200 bc
		- Farming as early as 6000 bc

* Ancient Empires
	+ Persians - built the largest empire stratching from North Africa through Europe adn to India
	+ Rome - one of the most powerful empires in history, stretching from Europe to the Middle East
		- After the fall in the 5th century various ruling families claimed pieces of land - these would eventually create the boundaries for countries (much later in history)
	+ Medieval states - after the fall of Rome, noble families traded their loyalty and service to the royal families in exchange for land
		- The system used to protect, farm and trade on these lands was known as **feudalism**

 *Colonialism and Imperialism*

* + Exploration and colonialism started during the 1400s
		- Mostly Britain & France
		- **Colony** - area tied to a different sovereign nation with the goals of economic and territorial gain
		- **Imperialism** - establishing control over an area that is already politically organized
			* England and the United States are examples of countries accused of imperialism (and those that colonized)
			* It is important to remember that cultural imperialism can occur without military or government involvement (simply ideas and practices)
			* Colonialism was originally driven by the concepts of "God, Gold & Glory" and then the benefits of **mercantilism** became the driving force
				+ Countries wanted to control as much of the wealth of the world as possible, so they did this at the expense of their rivals as well as their own colonies (raw materials from colonies)
			* The earliest European colonies (not territories) were in the Americas, then Africa and Asia
			* WWII was the starting point for the independence of most Asian and African colonies (**decolonization**)
				+ Colonies still exist - Puerto Rico, French Polynesia, Guam, etc.
				+ Although colonies are rare, **neocolonialism** is not rare - this model holds that although one country no longer officially controls the other, there is still economic and cultural control
	+ Political Economies
		- Different countries have chosen varying economic systems
		- **Capitalism** is a free-market economy with private ownership and driven by the principles of supply and demand
		- **Communism** is the system that believes in shared ownership of all assets and property in order to avoid exploration of the working class
		- **Socialism** holds that government has the responsibility of redistribution of wealth by shared ownership of the means of production, while allowing for private property and profits

 Lesson 2: Ethnicity Within and Across Boundaries

* Ethnicity
	+ **Ethnicity** is identification based on common traits and a common hearth
		- Many times this is tied to a common hearth, but if this is the specific indicator, then it is **nationality**
	+ **Race** is identification based on common physical characteristics and a biological ancestor
		- Racism is believing a group is inferior
	+ Conflicts between races/ethnicities have led to ethnic cleaning and genocide
		- **Ethnic cleansing** is an attempt to solidify the homogeneousness and power of your own group
		- **Genocide** is the attempt to kill off an entire group (race or ethnicity)
	+ **Ethnocentrism** can also play a role, when one group is confident of their own superiority to other ethnic groups
* Ethnic Distribution in the United States
	+ The US census includes five races (White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander)
		- The only ethnicity refereed to only the US Census is Hispanic
			* Hispanic is the largest ethnic group in the US, followed by African-American
* African-American Migration
	+ Millions of Africans were forced to the New World via the Triangular Trade (slavery)
		- Most slaves in the US were sent to the southeastern states
	+ Following the Civil War and the enactment of the 13th Amendment, many African-Americans hoped to live peacefully in the South
		- After years of Jim Crow laws and rulings such as Plessy vs. Ferguson ("separate but equal" many African American citizens migrated to Northern cities into areas of shared ethnicity and low socio-economic status **(ghettos)**
	+ Upon arrival in the North, many African Americans faced ongoing discrimination and attempted to leave ghettos, only to encounter "white flight" in the surrounding neighborhoods
	+ In the last fifty years there has been an increase in African Americans moving to the South for the lower cost of living and improved economic opportunities
* As migration continued from all over the world (the regions of Europe, Asia and Latin America) ethnic enclaves continued to form in urban areas
	+ In the United States the percentage of Hispanic, African American and Asian population is higher in all urban areas compared to the rest of the US
		- When people stay with other similar people/groups, this will form **ethnic neighborhoods (ethnic enclaves)** within urban areas
* *America is not the only nation with a history of segregation*
* South Africa upheld the policy of **apartheid** (political, economic and social discrimination of black South Africans) until 1991
* **State** is a political boundary (i.e. a country)
* **Nation** is identity with the culture of and legal attachment to the place
	+ **Nation-state** is formed when the territory and ethnicity match up
		- There are not any "perfect" nation-states left in the world - locations such as Japan and Iceland have a large majority of a single ethnic group
	+ **Nationalism** is the loyalty to one's country
	+ There are **stateless nations** in the world (groups that do not have their own sovereign state)
		- Kurds in Iraq and Iran
		- Basque in France and Spain
		- Zulu in South Africa
	+ **Self-determinism** is the right of a country or ethnicity to determine their own political status – it is necessary to have sovereignty in order to have self-determinism
	+ **Separatist** **movements** occur when an ethnic group moves for their own state
* Issues within a country can either bring people together (**centripetal forces**) or pull them apart (**centrifugal forces**)
	+ **Centripetal forces** include nationalism, a shared religion, a strong military, strong economy
	+ **Centrifugal forces** include multi-nationalism, physical landforms, multiple religions
* **Multi-ethnic** (or **multi-national**) states have groups that see themselves as different from each other, but all live within one country
	+ These can be successful (Canada, UK, US) or can lead to open conflicts
		- Domestically and internationally there have been numerous conflicts based on ethnicity
			* Yugoslavia
			* Rwanda
			* Sudan
			* Somalia
			* South Asia (India-Pakistan-Bangladesh)
			* Sri Lanka
			* Lebanon
			* India
			* Congo
* When a group of people are different from those that they are surrounded by, they are known as an enclave (i.e. Kurds in Iraq)
* If the group is separated from another location where there is a large population of their ethnicity, it is known as an exclave (i.e. large Muslim population in Dearborn, MI)

# Lesson 3: Boundaries and State Shapes

 Shapes of States – **Territorial Morphology**

* + **Compact States** – smaller size with all boundaries roughly the same distance from the center
		- Rwanda, Poland
	+ **Prorupted States** – Compact with a projecting area, which may provide access to a resource or cut off other areas from each other
		- Afghanistan
	+ **Elongated States** – a long narrow shape, which can lead to internal problems because of distance and communication
		- Chile
	+ **Fragmented States** – a country that is separated into pieces (by another state or water)
		- Indonesia, US, Russia
		- If one of the locations is separated by another group of a different ethnicity or nationality, it is known as an **exclave** (i.e. Alaska)
	+ **Perforated States** – a state with a sovereign state completely within its borders
		- South Africa and Vatican

 *Boundaries*

* + Boundaries have replaced frontiers in most locations
		- **Frontiers** were areas between states without direct control
			* Exist now in Antarctica and on the Arabian Peninsula (nomads roam between Saudi Arabia/Qatar and UAE/Oman/Yemen)
	+ Boundaries are established in this order:
		- **Definition** – negotiated and decided
		- **Delimitation** – drawn on a map
		- **Demarcation** – create with a visible separation
		- **Administration** – enforced
* Types of Boundaries – Physical
	+ Physical Boundaries can be **antecedent boundaries,** meaning they were there long before political boundaries existed
		- Mountains – good for obvious boundaries and difficulty crossing, but a straight line divide can be impossible
		- Deserts – good because hard to cross and not that desirable
		- Water – common, but can create a problem with the exact line (most countries insist on the line being out at sea, not on their shoreline)
* Types of Boundaries – Maritime
	+ Maritime Boundaries dictate the ownership of oceans and waterways off the coasts
	+ The UN created the **Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**
		- Each country has the right 12-nautical miles of territorial sea off the coast - no other countries can enter this zone without permission
		- Countries also have 200-nautical miles of **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) -** the country will have the right to profit from this area (fishing, drilling, etc.) but other countries can use the water to travel
		- Anything beyond the 200 miles is part of the **high seas** - this water does not belong to any one country and is not held to the laws of any one country, but rather is subject to international admiralty law
			* If the distance between two countries is less than 24 miles this creates a **choke point** - the countries will establish **median lines** halfway between both countries waterways
* Types of Boundaries – Cultural
* **Geometric Boundaries** – a straight line drawn in an agreed upon location using the lines of longitude or latitude
* Religious Boundaries - Often coincide with state boundaries, but it is not usually the reason for the location of the official boundary (boundaries pushing religions together can lead to conflicts)
	+ India/Pakistan (Hindu and Muslim) and Ireland/Northern Ireland (Catholic and Protestant)
* Language Boundaries – An important criterion, considered strongly in dividing land after WWI and WWII

 Boundary Disputes

* + Countries have to deal with opposing points of views:
		- **Definitional boundary** dispute over the wording of a boundary agreement in a treaty
		- **Locational boundary** dispute over the actual point (or interpretation) of the boundary
		- **Operational boundary** dispute over the way a boundary will be regulated
		- **Allocational boundary** dispute over the resources under a boundary

* Nation issues with Boundaries
	+ **Superimposed boundaries** are placed over existing boundaries by a more powerful group or country – these can follow earlier boundaries or create a totally new one
	+ When boundaries are no longer politically accurate, but still exist these are known as **relic boundaries** (i.e. the Great Wall of China)
	+ Antecedent boundaries (natural and not man-made) existed before governments created subsequent boundaries (with negotiation)

 **Balkanization** can occur when the borders of a country can no longer hold and the country is divided into smaller political units

* + This process is named after the division of the former Yugoslavia on the Balkan Peninsula – from one multi-national country to six countries

# Lesson 4: Political Theories and State Cooperation

 Geography in Politics

 There are two main approaches to government:

* + **Unitary state** - central government holds all power
		- Better in a nation-state setting with one main ethnicity
	+ **Federal state** - central power allocates some power to smaller units within the state
		- Some states have decided to ease tensions within their boundaries by using **devolution** to transfer power from a central government to regional governments - this can provide smaller ethnicities with the ability to rule themselves locally
* **Democratization** is occurring in regions all around the world through a number of government structures - it is believed that increasing democracies will increase human rights and economic development

 *US electoral government*

* + The US has a federal government with a representative democracy
		- The power within the country is given to the people within their federal, state or local district
		- The district lines within regions and areas are redrawn every 10 years - this **reapportionment** or redistricting occurs to allow for shifts in population to change the number of votes or size of a voting district
			* This can lead to political parties redrawing to help themselves, **gerrymandering** (illegal in the US)

### Political Development Theories

* **Geopolitical** theorists have created three different models to explain the development of world powers over the last 200 years:
	+ **Organic Theory** - this theory states that a country must continue or grow and expand or risk weakening and losing power
		- This theory was proposed by **Friedrick Ratzel** and was used by the Nazi leaders to explain the need for the Nazis to invade and expand into surrounding countries
			* This theory has been reputed and is no longer supported
		- During WWII and other time periods, countries have claimed land from other countries because people of the same culture live in that region - this is known as **irredentism**
			* For example, Palestinian claims to land within Israel
* As powerful nations grew over the last 200 years, geographer and political scientists crafted theories about the balance of power on the world stage
	+ **Heartland theory** – this theory states that whichever powers or nations control the Eurasian landmass (prime agricultural land) will have the path towards world domination (Sir Halford Mackinder)
	+ **Rimland theory** – this theory states that whichever powers or nations control the waterways and islands around Eurasia will have the path towards world domination (Nicholas Spykman)
		- The concept of world domination includes military, social, economic and cultural powers

### International Affairs

* **International Organizations** - alliances of two or more countries without giving up any autonomy

* **Supranational Organizations** - alliance of two or more states that are willing to give up some degree of sovereignty to benefit the shared goals of the group

 United Nations

* + Following WWII the nations of the world came together to prevent a third world war and created the **United Nations**
		- Membership is now at 193 countries
			* There are four nations that are recognized by the UN, but do not participate in voting or are stateless nations: Vatican City, Palestine, Kosovo and Taiwan
	+ Once WWII was over, the only two remaining superpowers were the US and USSR - this made the **balance of power** reliant upon alliances
		- These countries fought for control during the **Cold War**
			* This included supporting other forces in wars in Vietnam and Korea
			* Closest to a direct war was the **Cuban Missile Crisis**
			* The US used **containment** to stop the spread of communism out of Eastern Europe and East Asia (with the exception of Cuba) – the fear was that if Southeast Asian countries began to fall they would become communist one after another (**domino theory**)
				+ USSR put in governments in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan and claimed the nations of Eastern Europe as Soviet **satellite states**(states controlled by a more powerful country)
				+ US helped allies take control in the Dominican Republic, Grenada and Panama as well as helping throughout the Americas
		- During the Cold War the world was separated by the **East-West divide** (with communism in the East and capitalism in the west)
		- In current times the divide is more economic in nature, with the **North-South divide** (with more economically and technologically powerful countries located in the northern hemisphere)

 Organization of the United Nations

* + The UN is divided into five main bodies (with the main offices located in NYC)
	+ The **Security Council** has the most power and decides how to react to diplomatic, political and military disputes
		- Has 15 members – ten rotate every two years and represent different regions of the world
		- 5 permanent members can veto any decision
		- USA, Great Britain, France, Soviet Union and China
	+ **General Assembly** is the policy making body and each nation has one vote

### Alliances

* Military Alliances
	+ The US headed the military alliance of **NATO** with Canada and Western European Members
		- North Atlantic Treaty Organization
	+ The USSR headed the **Warsaw Pact** with Eastern European (communist) nations
		- Also formed the **COMECON** to promote alliances among communist nations worldwide
	+ Both groups were trying to keep the other from spreading (feared the **domino effect**)
	+ The USSR wanted to build a buffer zone (two or more countries between conflicting states) between themselves and the West
		- **Buffer state** is just one state between enemies
		- Sometimes these zones turn into **shatterbelts** which are fought over by the two enemies
	+ At the end of the Cold War (1991) the Warsaw Pact was disbanded and NATO opened its membership to its old enemies

 **Terrorism** is the use of violence to intimidate or coerce desired actions - terrorism targets military and civilizations alike

* + Domestic terrorism - i.e. Timothy McVeigh (federal building in Oklahoma City)
	+ International terrorism – i.e. al-Qaeda, ISIS
	+ There state (government) sanctioned terrorism and countries such as Iraq, Iran, Libya and Afghanistan have bene accused of supporting or hiding terrorists
* Modern Alliances
	+ The Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) works towards ending conflicts in Europe
	+ The Organization of American States (OAS) works towards links among members
	+ The Organization of African Unity (OAU) works to end colonialism and expand self-determinism in Africa
	+ The Commonwealth of Nations seeks cooperation between former members of the British Empire
	+ The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) are former Soviet territories seeking to aid each other
	+ The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to support the growth and development of SE Asian countries
* Economic Alliances – European Union
	+ Since the last world war international power has shifted from solely military powers to include economic power as well
		- The **European Union** (EU) promotes development through economic cooperation with the 28 member states (built from the Benelux)
		- Establishing free trade protocols (reduced taxes and tariffs), open borders, and the euro (single official currency of 19 countries)
	+ Members were originally simply western and wealthy (France, UK, etc) and there have been some repercussions for letting in weaker Eastern European nations
	+ One of the strongest nations is Germany, who switched to an economic focus after losing both world wars
	+ In 2017 the UK voted to leave the EU (the UK never adopted the euro as its official currency)

 Economic Alliances - **NAFTA**

* + The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) promotes economic cooperation between the US, Canada and Mexico
* Economic Alliances - **OPEC**
	+ The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is an intergovernmental organization
		- There are 12 member countries and together they control over 40% of the world's oil supply - this allows the group to set prices internationally