APHG CHAPTER 8: POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY
KQ3: HOW ARE BOUNDARIES ESTABLISHED, AND WHY DO BOUNDARY DISPUTES OCCUR? (7 SLIDES)
KQ3: How are boundaries established, and why do boundary disputes occur?

- Definition of a ‘boundary’
  - Vertical plane that cuts through the subsoil and the airspace above, divided one state territory from another
    - Therefore, we aren’t just talking about the signs we see that separate states; we are talking about airspace, water, minerals, resources, etc.
Boundary – a vertical plane that cuts through the rocks below and the airspace above, dividing one state territory from another.
Boundaries often divide resources, such as oil between Kuwait and Iraq.
KQ3: How are boundaries established, and why do boundary disputes occur?

Established a boundary includes four steps:

1) States define the boundary through a legal document (by listing actual points in the landscape or by using latitude & longitude).

2) Cartographers delimit the boundary by drawing it on a map.

3) States can demarcate it—marking the boundary (pillars, fences, walls, etc).

4) States must administrate it—determine how it will be maintained, how goods & people will cross it.
KQ3: How are boundaries established, and why do boundary disputes occur?

- **TYPES OF BOUNDARIES**
  - **GEOMETRIC**
    - Using latitude/longitude lines, township/range lines
  - **PHYSICAL-POLITICAL**
    - Follow an agreed-upon feature in the geographic landscape (river, crest of a mountain range, sea, etc)

- With so many different boundaries, it leads to a situation where there are states with many different shapes
KQ3: How are boundaries established, and why do boundary disputes occur?

- Another way to classify boundaries depends on how they were evolved
  - Antecedent: existed before human cultures developed (example: a river)
  - Subsequent: settlement happens, then a boundary is drawn (example: U.S./Can. Border)
  - Superimposed: forcibly put on a landscape by outsiders (example: Israel border)
  - Relict: no longer functions, but used to (example: Berlin Wall)
KQ3: How are boundaries established, and why do boundary disputes occur?

- FIVE SHAPES OF COUNTRIES
  - 1) COMPACT: Borders are equidistant from the center
  - 2) ELONGATED: At least twice as long in one direction as another
  - 3) FRAGMENTED: Pieces not attached to the mainland
  - 4) PERFORATED: Has an entire state within its state boundaries
  - 5) PRORUPTED: Has a protusion sticking out from the base

  - EACH SHAPE CREATES ADVANTAGES & DISADVANTAGES
KQ3: How are boundaries established, and why do boundary disputes occur?

- **COMPACT**: Easy to travel, communicate, mobilize

- **ELONGATED**: Location determines ease or lack of ease; lack of unity can be a problem

- **FRAGMENTED**: hard to attack, hard to control/communicate, more of a widespread presence

- **PERFORATED**: state in the middle can be swallowed up and influenced; state on the outside could also be affected

- **PRORUPTED**: similar problems for elongated states
KQ3: How are boundaries established, and why do boundary disputes occur?

- Many types of boundary disputes can occur
  - DEFINITIONAL: dispute over the legal agreement
  - LOCATIONAL: interpretation of the boundary is disputed
  - OPERATIONAL: involve neighbors who disagree over the way their border should function
  - ALLOCATIONAL: involves the resources in, near or below the boundary
KQ4: HOW DO GEOPOLITICS AND CRITICAL GEOPOLITICS HELP US UNDERSTAND THE WORLD? (10 SLIDES)
KQ4: How do geopolitics and critical geopolitics help us understand the world?

- Definition of geopolitics
  - Interplay among geography, power, politics and international relations

- Two different ways of looking at it
  - 1) Trying to explain why certain states are powerful and how to become powerful (called the “German school”)
  - 2) Trying to explain why states interact globally the way they do (called the “British/American school”)
KQ4: How do geopolitics and critical geopolitics help us understand the world?

- The German school of geopolitics
  - Devised by 19th century German scholars
  - Based on the concept that a state is a living thing that wants to grow, expand, etc
    - Somewhat justified actions of the Nazis

- The British/American school of geopolitics
  - Most prominent scholar was Sir Halford Mackinder
  - His writings and beliefs eventually became known as the “Heartland Theory”
KQ4: How do geopolitics and critical geopolitics help us understand the world?

- **HEARTLAND THEORY**
  - If you rule Eastern Europe, you command the heartland (looked at it this way because Eastern Europe is in a pivotal area---close to Asia, Western Europe, Middle East, etc.)
  - If you rule the heartland, you therefore command Eurasia
  - If you rule Eurasia, you command the world
    - This theory became big BEFORE American political power emerged
KQ4: How do geopolitics and critical geopolitics help us understand the world?

- A theory was created after the Heartland Theory which was termed the “Rimland Theory”
  - Nicholas Spykman theorized that the Heartland controls the land; but the Rimland controls the sea
    - Rimland is on the outer parts of the Heartland
  - Also theorized that it was critical for rimland places to forge alliances with either themselves or heartland members for protection
Mackinder’s Heartland Theory:

“Who rules East Europe commands the Heartland
Who rules the Heartland commands the Eurasia (the World Island”)
Who rules the World Island commands the world”
KQ4: How do geopolitics and critical geopolitics help us understand the world?

- Geopolitics has evolved into “critical geopolitics”
  - Definition: intellectuals will construct ideas about places and these ideas will influence their political behaviors & policies

- Concept of politics and geopolitics has really changed in last 50 years
  - Was an “us” vs. “them” environment during Cold War
  - Today, if anything is “them”, it’s not the Soviet Union---it’s the concept of terrorism
KQ4: How do geopolitics and critical geopolitics help us understand the world?

- During the Cold War, therefore, there was a bipolar “World Order”---two major powers

- After WWII, the USA, USSR and UK were looked at as the major powers
  - Could have led to these situations instead
    - US & USSR allied(UK as the enemy)
    - UK & USSR allied(with us as the enemy)
    - UK, USA & USSR all allied together
    - UK, USA & USSR all enemies with each other
    - UK & USA as allies; USSR as the enemy(this is what happened)

- Eventually, the lack of military might & population made the UK a lesser power than the other two
KQ4: How do geopolitics and critical geopolitics help us understand the world?

- Cold War terms
  - CONTAINMENT: U.S. policy was to contain the spread of communism, not necessarily stop it
  - DOMINO THEORY: belief that if one country fell to communism, its neighbors would eventually fall

- Results of the Cold War
  - NATO creation/Warsaw Pact creation
  - Korean War
  - Vietnam War
  - Emergence of communism in eastern Europe
KQ4: How do geopolitics and critical geopolitics help us understand the world?

- Downfall of the Soviet Union totally changed the world order
- Since 1991, a sense of “unilateralism” has emerged
  - U.S. is the major power---most allies follow our lead
  - Some countries have animosity towards us because we act unilaterally instead of cooperatively sometimes
- Every time period of unilateral power in world history eventually ended
  - Resulted in the emergence of a new power
  - Big question---if and when that happens, who will it be?
KQ4: How do geopolitics and critical geopolitics help us understand the world?

- The other big possible change is the fact that one single state might not be a unilateral power...or even a bipolar power.

- As the emergence of organizations such as the EU develop, there could be groups or clusters of countries that emerge as group powers.

  - The next key question talks about these organizations’ roles.
KQ5: WHAT ARE SUPRANATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF THE STATE? (6 SLIDES)
KQ5: What are supranational organizations, and what is the future of the state?

- Definition of “supranational organization”
  - Entity composed of three or more states that create an association and form an administrative structure for mutual benefit and in pursuit of shared goals

- 20th century witnessed the establishment of numerous supranational organizations (politically, economically, culturally, and militarily)

- Today there are over 60 supranational organizations; many of which have smaller organizations within them
KQ5: What are supranational organizations, and what is the future of the state?

- Began with the League of Nations
  - Created after WWI with mission to prevent another global war from happening (had 63 members...we never joined due to isolationist beliefs---even though Woodrow Wilson proposed it; many countries dropped out prior to WWII---Germany was one

- United Nations was created after WWII (has 191 members today)
  - Organization has benefitted humanity greatly
KQ5: What are supranational organizations, and what is the future of the state?

- Some things the U.N. does

  - General Assembly & Security Council deals with renegade actions; looks to sanction & punish these countries

  - Other U.N. agencies & actions have helped mankind
    - World Health Organization
    - Food & Agriculture Organization
    - UNESCO---UN Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization
    - Creation of a Universal Declaration of Human Rights
    - Sends peacekeepers to areas of conflict
KQ5: What are supranational organizations, and what is the future of the state?

- There are dozens of regional supranational organizations
  - The Benelux agreement (Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg)
  - NATO/Warsaw Pact (NATO is still around)
  - EU
  - NAFTA
  - MERCOSUR
  - AU (African Union)
  - ASEAN (Southeast Asian economic alliance)
  - OPEC
European Alliances, 1960 & 2007

Fig. 8-12: NATO and the European Union have expanded and accepted new members as the Warsaw Pact and COMECON have disintegrated.
The impacts that supranational organizations have on states can be small... or incredibly big.

- It all depends on how much authority is given from the state to the organization.
- By joining such an organization, a state is willing to give up some of its influence.
- EXAMPLES FOR DISCUSSION
  - Did the U.S. give up economic power by joining NAFTA?
  - Did Germany give us political power by joining the EU?
KQ5: What are supranational organizations, and what is the future of the state?

What does this mean for the future?

- The number and size of supranational organizations could greatly lessen the influence of individual states
  - 20 years ago, no European country had as much economic influence as the USA
    - Today, some view the EU has being a bigger economic power than us
  - Could even lead to political merging of states
- On the flip side, states may determine they want to regain their independence/sovereignty that they’ve somewhat lost...could lead to the downfall organizations