

GLOSSARY

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Absolute direction: Directions such as north, east, south, west, northwest, southeast, etc. Compass bearings are also included. One can travel in virtually any of these directions from any spot on Earth with the exception of traveling north from the North Pole or south from the South Pole.

Absolute distance: Any established distance that is unchanging. For instance, a centimeter, a meter, and a kilometer are all the same length regardless of one's location on Earth.

Absolute location: A specific location that is frequently measured using a grid system. Examples include latitude and longitude coordinates, street intersections, and the location of seats in a classroom.

Accretion: The addition of land to a State or other area by natural processes such as the gradual shift in the bed of a river or the creation of land from alluvial deposition or volcanic activity.

Acid precipitation: The process whereby atmospheric pollutants and water vapor mix to form slightly acidic precipitation. Continuing occurrence in northeastern North America, Europe, Russia, and elsewhere has killed entire forests as well as fish and other aquatic organisms in lakes.

Acquisition of rights: One State's granting of the use of territory by another State without title or **sovereignty** actually changing hands. Such transfers of rights take the form of leases and servitudes. Hong Kong provided an excellent example during its period as a British crown colony.

Administration (of boundaries): The final phase of **boundary making** in which countries sharing a common border establish regular procedures for maintaining boundary markers, settling local disputes, regulating the use of water and waterways in the border area, and conducting other administrative tasks.

Affirmative gerrymandering: A type of **gerrymandering** designed to enhance the ability of minority groups to elect representatives who will best serve their interests.

African Union (AU): Formerly the Organization of African Unity (OAU), this is the premier supranational organization for all of Africa. It was patterned after the European Union and given greater powers than those of the OAU. Its charter allows for intervention in the affairs of member States to resolve conflicts and prevent genocide and gross human rights violations. It is also working toward greater economic integration with plans to introduce a common currency for all of Africa.

Allocational boundary dispute: A boundary dispute that involves conflicting claims to the natural resources of a border region.

Andean Community: Originally the Andean Group, it is a supranational organization composed of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. It has created a **customs union** and is working toward a **common market** among its members.

Annexation: Extension of a State's law to territory and inhabitants in an attempt to legitimize acquisition of the territory. At the local scale, it is a technique often used by cities and towns in the United States and other countries in which a municipality extends its borders to encompass neighboring unincorporated areas.

Antecedent boundary: A boundary that is determined prior to intensive settlement of an area; prior to development of a distinct cultural landscape.

Apartheid: Literally apartness. The Afrikaans term for South Africa's pre-1994 policies of racial separation, a system that produced highly segregated socio-economic patterns.

Arab League: The League of Arab States, commonly known as the Arab League, is the primary supranational body for countries whose populations contain an Arab majority or a significant Arab minority. The Palestinian Authority is also a member.

Arbitration: A formal, expensive, and time-consuming method of third-party participation in dispute resolution. The parties to the dispute agree in advance whether the findings will be binding or merely advisory, select one or more arbitrators, and agree to a set of principles and rules of law that apply to the case. The arbitrator(s) take testimony, study it, and render a decision.

Archipelagic State: A State that is composed of one or more archipelagos, perhaps including other islands, with baselines not exceeding 100 nautical miles and a specified ratio of land to water territory within the baselines. Examples include Fiji and the Philippines. The special requirements effectively disqualify other countries such as Japan from this category.

Archipelagic waters The internal waters of an **archipelagic State**.

Archipelago: A group of islands, parts of islands, interconnecting waters, and other natural features that are typically viewed as forming a single geographic feature.

Articles of Confederation: A 1781 agreement whereby representatives of the people of the original 13 American colonies initially sought to establish the United States of America as a **confederation**.

ASEAN: The Association of Southeast Asian Nations. This is the primary supranational body in Southeast Asia working toward closer economic integration.

Assimilation: A process of incorporating one body into a larger one. This represented a pillar of French colonial policy whereby the French colonial authorities sought to imprint French language and culture upon the peoples of their colonies.

Astropolitics: The **geopolitics** of the cosmos.

Asymmetric conflict: Conflict that features an imbalance of power between combatant groups. In such cases, the weaker side may opt for **guerrilla warfare** and/or **terrorism** rather than risk defeat by engaging superior forces in **conventional warfare**.

Autarky: A national policy of economic self-sufficiency and nonreliance on imports or foreign aid.

Balkanization: The fragmentation of a region into smaller, often hostile political units. The term was coined by German sociologists in the 1920s in reference to conflicts such as the Balkan Wars that preceded World War I.

Bantustan: Originally created by the *apartheid*-era government of South Africa, these quasi-independent territorial divisions were designed to concentrate various tribal peoples in economically undesirable territories. As such, they served as administrative tools for subjugation and were not recognized by the international community. They were reincorporated into South Africa in 1994.

Bilateral negotiations: Negotiations that occur between two States without the involvement of other parties.

Bilingual: People or societies that commonly use two languages in their daily affairs.

Bipolar world: The world as it appeared during the Cold War in which power was balanced between the capitalist West led by the United States and the communist East led by the former Soviet Union.

Boundary: A linear feature marking the edges of territory between separate States, regions, civil divisions, or other places; a border.

Boundary making: The process of **definition, delimitation, demarcation, and administration** of boundaries.

Boycott: A form of economic sanction that prohibits some or all imports from a country, group of countries, or region. Its counterpart is an **embargo**. Boycotts can also be applied at the local level as in the case of consumers boycotting the products of an unpopular company.

Buffer State: A State that separates ideological and/or political adversaries. For example, Afghanistan served as a buffer State separating British-controlled India and Tsarist Russia (later Soviet Union) for much of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Buffer zone: A set of countries that collectively serve as interrelated **buffer States**. Ukraine, Belarus, and Finland provide a buffer zone between Russia and NATO, although the entry of the three Baltic States into NATO creates a substantial gap.

Cabotage: Coastwise maritime trade that may or may not be reserved for national flag carriers.

CACM: The Central American Common Market; a supranational organization composed of Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Costa Rica. It was supposed to facilitate economic and political integration among its members. A combination of economic competition and political disputes, however, has left the organization moribund. (See **SICA**).

Centralization: A process of concentrating increasing power in a central authority.

Centrifugal forces: Those forces that act to divide a country's people into rival groups based on religious, ethnolinguistic, ideological, or other differences.

Centripetal forces: Those forces that act to unite a country's people into a single nation based on religious, ethnolinguistic, ideological, or other similarities.

Chokepoint: A narrow international waterway through which ships must pass to travel between larger water bodies. They may be natural such as the Strait of Malacca and the Bab al-Mandeb or artificial such as the Panama and Suez Canals. The Cape of Good Hope is also viewed as a chokepoint between Africa and the stormy seas of the Southern Ocean.

City-State: A State centered on a single important city with or without an immediate **hinterland**. Singapore is one of the best contemporary examples.

Clan: A sub-tribal group formed by families with close ancestral linkages.

Cohort: Population subgroups for a given region, country, civil division, or other unit that are based on age and sex. Examples include females aged 20-24 and males aged 25-29.

Colombo Plan: This Asian supranational organization functions as a review agency to coordinate bilateral and multilateral aid programs between donors and recipients.

Colonialism: A process involving the settlement from a mother country whereby the culture and organization of the parent society are transferred to the colonies. The degree of settlement may vary significantly. Although colonialism is best suited for empty or sparsely-populated lands, history abounds with examples of more powerful countries colonizing foreign lands with substantial indigenous populations.

COMESA: The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. This is a supranational organization devoted to building closer economic integration among 20 States in eastern and southern Africa.

Common market: A **customs union** plus the free movement within the group of capital and labor as well as goods.

Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS): This supranational organization is composed of former Soviet republics. It is the result of an attempt by the dying Soviet Union to preserve something of the former USSR. Its primary emphases are security and economic integration.

Compact: A formal agreement or covenant. For instance, the Pacific Ocean Resources Compact facilitates cooperation among U.S. states of the Pacific Northwest as well as British Columbia in efforts to preserve valuable marine resources.

Compact State: A State that possesses roughly circular, oval, or rectangular territory in which distance from the geometric center to any point on the boundary exhibits little variance. Examples include Cambodia, Poland, and Zimbabwe.

Comparative advantage: An economic concept suggesting that the people of a country or region benefit if they engage in economic activities that they can perform more efficiently than their neighbors and acquire through trade other goods and services that are more costly for them to produce on their own.

Conciliation: A method of third-party intervention in which States' designated intermediaries consider positions of the disputants and offer a compromise solution to the problem.

Condominium: A territory that is jointly administered by two or more States. An example is Sudan which was jointly administered by Britain and Egypt until it achieved independence in 1956.

Confederation: A political alliance or **league**. Unlike a federation, the constituent members of the confederation possess greater political power than the central authority. Canada is still a confederation, although it functions as a federation in many aspects.

Conflict resolution: The process whereby international governmental and non-governmental actors pursue peaceful solutions to conflicts (pacific settlement of disputes) among States and nations.

Conquest: The seizure of territory by military force.

Consequent boundary: A **subsequent boundary** that is created to accommodate a region's cultural diversity.

Continental shelf: The portion of continental landmasses lying in relatively shallow water (normally less than 660 feet) between the coastline and the continental slope. The continental slope marks the point where the seafloor plunges to the much greater depths of the mid-oceanic (abyssal) plains.

Contiguous zone: A zone extending 24 nautical miles from the baseline used to establish the territorial sea. In the zone beyond the territorial sea (12-24nm), States may exercise jurisdiction in customs, fiscal, health, and immigration matters, but do not have the same rights as in the territorial sea.

Convention: A multilateral treaty among three or more States or other entities.

Conventional warfare: Armed conflict between States and/or nations in which combatants appear in organized military units that are often outfitted with standard uniforms, weapons, and equipment. It typically involves major combat operations that overtly seize control of territory, inhabitants, and resources.

Core area: The nucleus of a State or other political unit; its central, essential, enduring heart. These areas may be ancient or relatively new, but they generally support a large share of a State's

population, may be focused on a particular city, and contain important agricultural, industrial, political, social, transportation, and other systems.

Council of Europe: This is a supranational organization composed of virtually all of the countries of Europe. It is primarily a consultative body.

County: A common civil division in various parts of the world. It is a second-order civil division in the United States.

Critical geopolitics: The view that **geopolitics** should take a broader perspective than that provided by orthodox geopolitics, taking into account alternative viewpoints reflecting the complexity of geopolitical interactions throughout the world.

Cultural-political boundary: A cultural boundary; a boundary that is delineated based on the pattern of settlements of different cultural groups.

Cultural imperialism: A form of **imperialism** that seeks to influence peoples' behavior rather than establish direct military control. French efforts at assimilation of colonial peoples and communist propaganda during the twentieth century are two examples.

Cultural pluralism: Refers to the manner in which two or more population groups, each practicing its own culture, may live adjacent to one another without mixing inside a single State.

Customs union: A **free trade area** plus a common external tariff. Members trade freely among themselves and also form a single unit for trading with nonmembers. Customs duties are commonly pooled and used either for common purposes or apportioned among the members.

Decentralization: The process whereby States or other political entities devolve more power to lower order civil divisions.

Decolonization: The process whereby previously colonized territories obtain independence from imperial rule.

Definition (of boundaries): The first stage in **boundary making** in which parties agree on a written description of the boundary that refers to various physical and/or cultural features.

Definitional boundary dispute: A boundary dispute that arises when parties disagree over interpretation of the language used to define the boundary.

Deforestation: The clearing and destruction of forests, especially tropical rainforests, to make way for expanding settlement frontiers and the exploitation of new economic opportunities.

Delimitation (of boundaries): The drawing of boundaries on official maps or aerial and satellite images.

Demarcation (of boundaries): The physical marking of boundaries through the use of markers, pillars, fences, walls, and other devices.

Demographic transition: A four-stage process whereby a society changes from one in which birth rates and death rates are high, to high birth rates and declining death rates, to declining birth rates and low death rates, and finally to low birth rates and low death rates. Population growth accelerates when the birth rate is much higher than the death rate.

Desertification: The process of desert expansion into neighboring steppes as a result of human degradation of fragile semiarid environments.

Devolution: A process in which a region receives greater autonomy from the central government. It may be initiated by the central government as a means toward decentralization or demanded by a region's inhabitants desiring local rule. Such processes may be peaceful or accompanied by violence.

Diaspora: A forced scattering or dispersion of a people. For instance, the Romans forced the Jews into a diaspora following a failed uprising in the first century C. E.

Distance: The degree of spatial separation between places. It may be absolute such as an inch or a mile, or it may be relative such as travel time or perceptual distance.

Divided capital: A capital city that shares typical functions with other cities in the State. Examples include La Paz and Sucre in Bolivia; and Bloemfontein, Cape Town, and Pretoria in South Africa.

Dominance behavior: The tendency for dominant cultural groups to settle in the most desirable regions, thus creating identifiable spatial patterns across States and regions.

Domino theory: A theory promoted during the Cold War suggesting that the fall of any State to communist forces would automatically lead to pressure and the eventual fall of neighboring countries. Although widely discredited, the concept remains a source of discussion, most recently regarding the potential for Islamic extremism to bring about the fall of governments in the Islamic world.

Ecology: The study of the mutual relations between organisms and their environment.

Economic imperialism: A variety of **imperialism** that does not rely on military conquest. Instead, it seeks to closely tie a country to an imperial State through a variety of economic means.

Economic union: Complete economic integration that goes beyond a **common market**. Members share common economic and banking policies, use a common currency, and establish common systems for banking, insurance, taxes, corporate regulations, and so on.

ECOWAS: The Economic Community of West African States. This is the primary supranational organization for economic integration in West Africa.

Ecumene: Derived from the Greek word *oikoumene* meaning the inhabited world, it is used to refer to the habitable portions of the Earth's surface where permanent human settlements have arisen. States consider their ecumene to be the portion of their territory that contributes to its economic viability and where the government functions effectively.

Edge city: A satellite city typically found near the periphery of a large metropolitan area. Often beginning as suburban communities, they serve as magnets for businesses seeking to escape the high cost of operating in the metropolitan area.

Electoral geography: A subfield of political geography that studies the spatial patterns of voting and representation.

Elongated State: A State whose territory is much longer than its average width, often six times as long. Chile is the best example.

Embargo: A form of economic sanction that prohibits some or all imports from a country, group of countries, or region. Its counterpart is a **boycott**.

Empire: A political entity that groups many regions or peoples under one supreme ruling group.

Enclave: All or a portion of one State that is effectively surrounded by another State. Lesotho is an example of an independent country that is an enclave within South Africa. Enclaves that are part of another State are also **exclaves**. For example, there are exclaves of Tajikistan that represent enclaves within Kyrgyzstan.

Entrepôt: A place, usually a port city, where goods are imported, stored, and transshipped; a break-of-bulk point.

Environmental determinism: The widely refuted concept that one or another element of the physical environment determines the type and level of civilization a society can attain.

Ethnic cleansing: A term used in the former Yugoslavia whereby dominant ethnic groups “cleansed” their communities of minorities by expulsion or genocide. The policy was most pronounced in Serb-dominated regions.

Ethnic nationalism: A form of **nationalism** whereby people feel a sense of oneness based on ethnicity, frequently due to a common language.

European Communities (EC): The forerunner of the European Union. It was established in 1967 with the merger of the European Coal and Steel Community, European Economic Community, and Euratom (the European Atomic Energy Community).

European Free Trade Association (EFTA): This is the supranational organization that was established in 1960 as an alternative to the European Economic Community. Many of its former members are now part of the EU.

European Union (EU): This is one of the world's most advanced supranational organizations. It is composed of 25 European States that share common economic interests and are slowly moving toward greater political cooperation. Four additional States, including Turkey, are candidates for future membership.

Exclave: A bounded (non-island) portion of territory that is part of a larger State but is non-contiguous (physically separated). Examples include Cabinda (Angola), Kaliningrad (Russia), and Ocussi (Timor-Leste). If such territory is surrounded by another State, then it is an **enclave** within that State.

Exclusive economic zone: A zone extending seaward from the territorial sea to a maximum distance of 200 nautical miles from a coastal State's baselines. In this zone, the coastal State enjoys sovereign rights to the living and non-living resources of the sea-bed, subsoil, and superjacent waters.

Extraterritoriality: The concept suggesting that property of one State that lies within the boundaries of another actually forms an extension of the first State. In modern times, the idea is associated with embassies and consulates as well as international law applying to diplomatic personnel. Embassies and consulates can therefore be viewed as micro-scale examples of **enclaves** and **exclaves**. During the latter stages of the colonial era, the major imperial powers went so far as to exercise civil and criminal jurisdiction in dominated countries such as China and Morocco.

Federal State: A State that utilizes a central government to represent the common interests of all its civil divisions, but which allows those civil divisions substantial freedom to manage their local affairs.

Feudalism: A pre-capitalist system of rule in which a hierarchy of ruling classes distributed land to subordinates in return for various rents and services. Local peasants remained tied to the land and worked as serfs under the direction of the lords.

First-order civil division: The highest level of civil division short of the State. Examples include the state in the United States and the province in Canada.

Forward capital: An introduced capital that is created by a State to spur economic development in relatively underdeveloped regions or to assert political control in a contested region. Examples include Brasília and Islamabad.

Fragmented State: A State that is composed of two or more non-contiguous segments. Segments may be islands such as the Philippines, a mix of islands and mainland territory such as Malaysia, or separate portions of mainland territory such as Angola and Cabinda. In the last case, the smaller segment also qualifies as an **exclave**.

Free city: A special class of international territory in which a separate regime is established for a disputed city and its hinterland, creating city-states that lack sovereignty. An example is Tangier which was jointly ruled by Britain and France for three decades prior to its return to Morocco in 1956.

Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA): This supranational arrangement seeks to eliminate all trade barriers among all the countries in the Americas from Point Barrow to Tierra del Fuego. Cuba is the only potential member that is, for the time being, excluded from the agreement. The schedule calls for the FTAA to become official in December 2005, but it is not certain that this deadline will be met.

Free trade area: An economic arrangement in which two or more countries agree to eliminate tariffs and other barriers to trade between or among them so that goods flow freely across their mutual boundaries.

Frontier: A politicogeographical area lying beyond the integrated region of the political unit and into which expansion can take place. An example is Brazil's vast Amazonian region which has only been partially integrated into the **ecumene**.

Fundamentalist: One who subscribes to a traditional or literal interpretation of religious texts, sometimes, but not always, promoting it as part of religion-based political activism.

Gateway region: A concept developed by Saul Cohen that certain transitional zones offer a geopolitical mechanism for restoring balance between continental and maritime powers. The principal example is Eastern Europe.

GATT: The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade; a post-World War II network of rules and over 200 bilateral trade agreements. It was the forerunner of the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**.

Genetic boundary types: Classification of boundaries based on *when* they were established in relation to the region's settlement history.

Geometric boundary: A boundary that is formed by one or more straight lines and/or arcs.

Geopolitics: The study of States in the context of global spatial phenomena and the attempt to understand both the bases of State power and the nature of States' interactions with one another.

Geopolitik: A distorted version of **geopolitics** created during the interwar period and used to justify Nazi expansionism based on the quest for *lebensraum*.

Geostationary orbit: A geosynchronous orbit that allows a satellite to remain constantly above a particular point along the equator. Satellites must remain at an altitude of approximately 35,787 kilometers to maintain such an orbit.

Geostrategy: A geopolitical approach that focuses on global patterns of State development rather than linkages between individual States. Many of its proponents served in the military and were interested in geopolitical issues such as sea power, air defense networks, and the balance of power between Cold War adversaries.

Geosynchronous: An orbit in which a satellite completes a revolution about the planet in exactly the same period as the Earth rotates on its axis.

Gerrymandering: The delimitation of electoral district boundaries that produce unique, convoluted shapes designed to favor a particular political party or group.

Global warming: A general warming trend around the world that is believed to be the result of human impacts rather than natural climatic fluctuations.

Good offices: The simplest form of third-party participation provided by a State assisting with conflict resolution. The State expedites bilateral negotiations by performing such services for the disputants as providing a neutral site for the negotiations; supplying interpreters, office space, secretarial services, and the like; transmitting messages between the parties; doing basic research and providing factual information to the parties; and working to maintain a relaxed atmosphere conducive to successful negotiations.

Greenhouse effect: A condition whereby carbon dioxide, methane, ozone, and other “greenhouse gases” in the atmosphere insulate the lower levels of the atmosphere, thus reducing the amount of thermal energy that radiates into outer space. Without it, Earth would have an average temperature below freezing. Excessive amounts, however, contribute to global warming.

Group of Three: Also known as the G-3, it is a supranational organization composed of Colombia, Venezuela, and México that formed a free trade zone and is working to abolish internal tariffs.

Group of 77: Named for the original 75 developing countries (plus two that joined later) that were instrumental in establishing **UNCTAD** in 1964. It now has 134 members and lobbies for improved economic conditions in the developing world.

Guerrilla warfare: A method of waging war in which small, irregular units rely on mobility and surprise to conduct hit-and-run attacks against often numerically superior adversaries. They typically suffer from shortages of weapons and supplies, and often lack uniforms or opt for civilian clothing which allows them to hide within the general population.

Hague Court of Arbitration: Officially known as the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the Court was established in 1899 as part of the Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes. It

provided the first mechanism for the peaceful resolution of disputes between States and remains one of the most important international judicial bodies.

Headlink: The focal region, often the capital, from which development progresses in a linear fashion, like links in a chain. The headlink is the primary link in the development chain.

Heartland: The Eurasian core area that Halford Mackinder cited as a pivot area where a large land-based power could emerge that was protected from rival maritime powers. Whoever controlled the Heartland would eventually control the world.

High seas: All of the Earth's waters that are not classified as **internal waters, territorial seas, contiguous zones, exclusive economic zones, or archipelagic waters.**

Hinterland: A region or market area, composed of smaller towns and rural areas, surrounding an urban center or core area.

Hydraulic civilization: A civilization based on irrigation agriculture that arose along the banks of a river due to the presence of reliable water resources and fertile soils. Examples include ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia.

Iconography: The promotion of national images as part of the process of nation building.

Imperialism: The rule, in varying degrees, by one country over indigenous peoples of other lands with attempts to transform their ideas, institutions, and goods.

Indigenous: Native or belonging to a particular region.

Indigenous people: People who are descended from the original inhabitants of a region, although the term is generally not used to refer to a dominant ethnic group within a particular State even if they are the original inhabitants.

Indirect rule: The principal colonial policy of the British. It relied on treaties with local ruling elites who governed in the name of the British crown.

Innocent passage: The freedom of foreign vessels, including warships, to pass through the territorial waters of another country while in transit provided that no threat is made to the peace, good order, or security of the State controlling those waters.

Insurgency: A spatial process involving a deliberate, often lengthy, campaign of violence directed by dissident elements of society with the aim of installing new leadership, achieving regional autonomy or independence, modifying controversial policies, or bringing about other changes to a State's political system.

Insurrection: A process whereby dissident elements of society stage a spontaneous uprising aimed at enacting changes within a State's political system. (See **insurgency**).

Integration and disintegration: A continuing process whereby States grow, integrating new territories in the process, and decline as rival States or regions weaken or destroy the dominant State, thus causing its disintegration. The process may continue indefinitely in cases where States witness repeated periods of growth and decline.

Internally displaced person (IDP): A term used by the **United Nations** to describe people who are displaced by conflict or environmental problems, but have not crossed an international border. They are essentially refugees in their own country.

Internal waters: Any bodies of fresh or salt water lying between the shore and the baseline used to begin measurement of a State's **territorial sea**. There is generally no right of **innocent passage** in a country's internal waters.

International law: A complex network of principles, treaties, judicial decisions, customs, practices, and writings of experts that are binding on States in their mutual relations.

International river: A river that traverses or borders two or more countries.

Internationalized river: A river that, by treaty or other formal arrangements, has been opened to navigation by vessels of States in addition to those of the riparian countries. Such rivers may be international rivers or rivers lying entirely within a single country.

Introduced capital: A capital city that is a relatively recent creation; one that has been introduced as a replacement for an older, historical capital. Brasília and Tokyo are two examples.

Irredentism: The desire of a people to incorporate within their State all areas that have ever been part of the State and/or any areas that have become home to people of their nation. It also appears in the actions of governments and peoples who demonstrate concern for the welfare of their ethnic kin in neighboring countries.

Islamism: Islamic political activism. Islamists believe that governments in predominantly Muslim countries should draw their inspiration from Islamic values, especially the *Shari'a* (Islamic law).

Island: A naturally formed area of land, surrounded by water, which is above water at high tide.

Jihad: An Arabic term that literally means “holy struggle.” According to Islamic teachings, the “greater *jihad*” is the task of becoming and remaining a devout Muslim who adheres to Islamic customs. The “lesser *jihad*” involves warfare against the enemies of Islam.

Judicial proceedings: Formal adversary proceedings before a permanent court following established rules. This is typically the last resort for parties willing to pursue third-party participation as a means to settle a dispute.

Laissez-faire: The concept that government intervention in or regulation of commerce should be kept to a minimum. It literally means “let do.”

Land-locked developing country: A **land-locked State** that is also designated as a developing country by the **United Nations**.

Land-locked State: A State that is entirely surrounded by the land territory of another country or countries and possesses no coastal territory of its own.

Land tenure: The system of land control, management, and/or ownership.

Latifundia: A large, privately-owned estate that was traditionally worked by slaves or hired workers in a quasi-feudal system that primarily benefited the landowning family or corporation.

League: An association or alliance of States or other political entities for common defense, commerce, or other purposes.

League of Nations: a supranational organization established after World War I. Although it failed to preserve peace, it did a lot of very important work and provided a point of departure for establishment of the **United Nations**.

Lebensraum: A German term meaning “living space,” the alleged need for which was cited by Nazi Germany as a reason for its campaign of conquest during World War II.

Lingua franca: A language that is used for trade or general communication by people who speak other languages at home.

Locational boundary dispute: A boundary dispute that arises due to disagreement over the **delimitation** or **demarcation** of a boundary.

Lunar space: The region of outer space extending from Earth (or terran) space to encompass the moon’s orbital path.

Maghreb: Literally “place of the sunset” or “western place” in Arabic, it is the northwest region of Africa encompassing Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and western Libya. It also offers an Arab example of **relative direction**.

Mandate: A system established by the League of Nations whereby major powers, notably France and Great Britain, assumed responsibility for administration of colonies and other territories that were previously ruled by powers defeated during World War I. They were divided into three categories based on their readiness for eventual independence. Following World War II, the **United Nations** established a system of trusteeships to replace the mandates.

Map projection: A technique for providing two-dimensional representation on a map of the Earth's three-dimensional, spherical surface.

Map scale: The relationship between distance on a map and distance in the real world between places depicted on the map. A large-scale map shows greater detail, but less area, than a small-scale map which shows larger areas in less detail.

Map symbol: Any graphic device used to represent natural or artificial features on a map.

Mediation: A form of third-party participation in which the mediator studies the case in some detail, participates actively in negotiations, and offers a formal proposal for solution of the problem.

Mental map: A cognitive map based on one's perceptions of a place.

Mercantilism: An economic system that dominated the commerce of most European countries and their colonies during the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries. Key elements of the policy included the acquisition of large quantities of gold and silver as well as maintaining a "favorable balance of trade."

Mercosur: Southern common market; a supranational organization in the *Cono Sur* (Southern Cone) of South America that has established a **customs union** and is working toward a **common market** among its four full members (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay) and its two associate members (Bolivia and Chile).

Metropolitan statistical district (MSD): An urban area in the United States that serves as an integrated economic and social unit with a recognized large population nucleus. County boundaries are often used, thus enclosing rural regions as well.

Microstates: The smallest independent States in the world. They typically possess less than 1,000 square miles. Examples include Liechtenstein, Malta, Nauru, and San Marino.

Military imperialism: The extension of political and military control by an imperial State over a territory. If the territory is inhabited, the indigenous peoples will be subjugated and ruled by the imperial State.

Ministates: Very small States that are larger than **microstates**. They generally have less than 10,000 square miles of territory. Examples include Brunei and Luxembourg.

Most-favored-nation: A clause in a trade treaty committing each party to granting to the other whatever tariff and other trade concessions had been granted or would be granted in the future to any third country. After World War II, it became the foundation for the entire **GATT** system.

Multilingual: People or societies that commonly use three or more languages in their daily affairs.

Multinational State: A State that is home to multiple nationalities. In some cases, such as Indonesia, the number of nationalities or ethnic groups may number in the hundreds.

Municipality: The smallest general-purpose administrative unit in the United States and in many other countries.

Narcoterrorism: The use of terrorist tactics by criminal groups to eliminate or intimidate rival gangs, military and police forces, government officials, and others who might interfere with narcotics trafficking.

NAFTA: The North American Free Trade Agreement. This is an agreement among México, the United States, and Canada to eliminate tariffs among members by 2009 and to take other measures toward economic integration.

Nation: A group of people with a shared sense of cultural identity, typically based on language, religion, ethnicity, and/or historical associations.

Nationalism: A politico-territorial ideology based on collective feelings of belonging to a particular nation. It may be used to encourage pursuit of a nation-state in which the national territory is coterminous with that of the State, and national identity supersedes other forms of identity.

Nation building: The process of fostering **centripetal forces** among diverse cultural groups inhabiting a State. The drive for unity normally focuses on building a sense of civic nationalism as a substitute for ethnic and religious nationalism which often prevails in countries with **superimposed boundaries**.

Nation-State: A State that is overwhelmingly composed of people of one nation. The recognized boundaries of the nation are closely overlapped by the official boundaries of the State. Very few countries in the world meet this standard. Two good examples are Iceland and Japan.

NATO: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It is the premier military alliance among the developed countries of Europe and North America. It was formed during the early stages of the Cold War and is now assuming a greater role in military operations outside of Europe.

Natural resource: A naturally-occurring substance for which people have a need or use.

Nautical mile: A nautical mile is based on one minute of latitude which is 1/60 of one degree of arc on the Earth's surface. Because the Earth is an oblate spheroid whose arcs are not quite uniform, an international agreement set the distance at 6,076.12 feet or about 1.15 statute miles (1.852 kilometers).

Neocolonialism: The *de facto* continuation of colonial status for colonies that have received independence, but whose economic systems (and consequently their political policies as well) remain strongly influenced by the former ruling State. Thus, **economic imperialism** continues after independence has been achieved and the rich-poor gap is exacerbated rather than eliminated.

Ne imperialism: Imperialism that is waged by countries that are themselves recent victims of imperialism. Morocco, India, Viet Nam, and Indonesia are but a few practitioners of neoimperialism.

Neutral zone: Territories that serve as **buffer zones** between States instead of using distinct boundaries. In some cases, no State has sovereignty over the territory.

Non-aligned movement (NAM): Formed in 1955 by developing countries wishing to adopt a neutralist policy during the Cold War, it now serves as a forum for developing countries seeking to improve the North-South trade imbalance.

Non-governmental organization (NGO): National or transnational organizations that are primarily composed of private citizens who act in consultation with the **United Nations** and other national and supranational entities. Examples include private relief agencies, religious institutions, philanthropic foundations, environmental groups, and other organizations.

Occupation: The control of territory by a foreign military force. Occupation only exists in those portions of territory where authority has been established and can be exercised.

OECD: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. This supranational organization was established in 1961 as a continuation of the successful Marshall Plan of the post-World War II era. Its membership is primarily composed of the most developed countries. It seeks to expand world trade and serve as a conduit for development aid to the world's poorer countries.

OPEC: Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. This supranational organization acts as a cartel for oil-producing countries from around the world. Its power was greatest during the 1970s and 1980s. Since then, it has lost power due to internal disputes and rising production among non-OPEC countries.

Operational boundary dispute: A boundary dispute that arises due to a conflict about the administration of a boundary.

Orbit: A relatively stable path of a natural or artificial object around a larger celestial body in which the gravitational pull of the larger body and the centrifugal force of the object are in equilibrium.

Organic state theory: Friedrich Ratzel's theory of State formation and development that equated the State to a living organism that needed to expand through territorial growth or risk decay and death. Growth was typically measured in stages of youth, maturity, and old age, with possible rejuvenation.

Organization of American States (OAS): This is the foremost supranational organization for the Americas.

Partition: The separation of a country or territory into two or more separate entities, often as part of an effort to resolve conflict between competing nations.

Paternalism: The primary colonial policy of Belgium whereby colonial authorities retained decision-making power with little effort to prepare the colonial peoples for eventual self-rule.

Peace enforcement: The most dangerous of **peace operations**, designed to use military intervention to force an end to hostilities.

Peace operations: Encompasses three major operations: **peace enforcement**, **peacekeeping**, and **peacemaking**.

Peacekeeping: The deployment of military and/or civilian forces from one or more countries or a recognized intergovernmental organization (IGO) into a zone of conflict with the consent of the parties involved in the conflict. Such forces are typically deployed after a ceasefire has been arranged. The personnel monitor situations and serve as a buffer between opposing parties.

Peacemaking: The use of diplomatic activity, and perhaps military force, to persuade combatants to accept a ceasefire.

Perforated State: A State that entirely surrounds the territory of another State. The most prominent example is South Africa which is perforated by Lesotho.

Permanent capital: A capital city that has served as such for centuries, often spanning distinct historical periods. Examples include Athens, London, and Paris.

Personal space: An envelope of territory surrounding people which they perceive as an extension of themselves. Distances vary among cultures and in regard to space in front of, beside, and behind people.

Physiographic boundary: A boundary based on physical features such as mountains or rivers.

Pioneer boundary: A boundary that is drawn through essentially unoccupied territory.

Piracy: The act of boarding any vessel in international waters with the intent to commit theft or other crime and with the capability to use force in furtherance of the act.

Political system: A set of related political objects (parts) and their attributes (properties) that are arranged as the end product of the processes by which people organize themselves politically in their particular social and physical environments and in response to outside political systems (from Cohen and Rosenthal).

Possibilism: The concept that many possibilities exist regarding human-environmental interactions and that people have a wide range of choices as to how to develop their cultural landscapes.

Power: The factors that enable one actor to manipulate another actor's behavior against its preferences.

Prescription: Acquisition of territory based on one country's occupation for many years, without objection, of land that was initially claimed by another State.

Primate city: A city that is disproportionately large, typically at least twice as large as the second-largest city in a country. It is often, although not necessarily, the national capital. It tends to attract people from throughout the country, thus offering a representative sample of all of the country's various cultural groups.

Probabilism: The belief that the environment influences, but does not determine, the manner in which societies evolve.

Propaganda map: A map that is designed for the purpose of promoting a State or other entity's objectives.

Prorupt State: Also known as a protruded State, this is a State that features an elongated portion of territory extending from the main body of territory. India is a good example, especially in regard to Jammu and Kashmir in the north and its states along its border with Myanmar. Thailand offers another excellent example.

Protectorate: A territory in which indigenous leaders have requested the intervention of an imperial State in an effort to prevent colonization by the same or another imperial country. In practice, however, some territories had protectorate status forced upon them.

Punjab: The “land of five rivers.” The core area of Pakistan which extends into neighboring India.

Raison d’être: Reason for existing.

Reapportionment: A process involving the reallocation of Congressional representation among the U.S. states to account for changing population size and distribution.

Rebellion: An effort by elements of society to overthrow an incumbent government with the objective of replacing the leadership while leaving the system of government unchanged.

Redistricting: A process in which individual states within the United States periodically redraw their various electoral districts to account for changes in population size and distribution.

Refugee: A term used by the **United Nations** to describe people who are displaced by persecution, conflict, or environmental problems and have been forced to flee across international boundaries.

Regional State: A unitary State in which autonomy has been granted to regions within them, generally regions of ethnic distinctiveness or remoteness from the core area. As such, these States tend to lie in the middle ground between unitary and federal States.

Relative deprivation: A concept suggesting that people are likely to engage in political violence against a government when their standard of living fails to meet their expectations.

Relative direction: One region typically named by people from another region based on the direction they would take to reach it. For instance, the people in the eastern United States gave the Midwest its name to distinguish it from the Far West. People in California, however, would travel east to reach the Midwest. Other examples include the Near East, Middle East, and Far East, based on European and North American perspectives.

Relative distance: Distance as measured by non-absolute criteria such as travel time or psychological factors. The construction of an interstate highway through an area of rugged terrain can drastically shorten relative distance even though there are only minor changes to the absolute distance.

Relative location: One place's location based on its distance and direction from another known location. For instance, Flint, Michigan is approximately 50 miles northwest of Detroit.

Relict boundary: A boundary that no longer exists, although it may still appear on the cultural landscape. Examples include Hadrian's Wall as well as the former boundaries between East and West Germany, North and South Viet Nam, and North and South Yemen.

Religious nationalism: A sense of **nationalism** based on a shared religion. One of the best examples is the rise of Jewish nationalism leading to the creation of the modern State of Israel.

Representative fraction: The numerical relationship between distance on a map and corresponding distance in the real world. This is normally expressed with 1 in the numerator such as 1:25,000, meaning that one inch on a map equals 25,000 inches on the ground.

Reprisal: The most severe of the three *modes of redress short of war* in which an aggrieved party resorts to a form of retaliation far in excess of the acts complained of.

Resource mobilization: The idea that civil unrest occurs when people have both the willingness and the ability to mobilize. Democratic societies typically see less political violence because peaceful protests are tolerated, while excessively repressive regimes stifle unrest at the first sign. Thus, revolutionary activity and other forms of political violence are expected to occur in those countries that are neither democratic enough to absorb protests, nor repressive enough to crush them altogether.

Retaliation: One of three *modes of redress short of war*, it typically involves actions such as recall of an ambassador, closure of an embassy, economic sanctions, or even a small-scale military operation.

Retorsion: The mildest of the three *modes of redress short of war*, it involves a response to acts that are unfriendly, but not illegal. Examples include the imposition of special tariffs, immigration restrictions, currency controls, and so on. The complainant typically responds in kind.

Returnee: A term used by the **United Nations** to designate a former refugee who has returned to his or her country of origin.

Revolution: A form of political violence in which dissident elements of society seek to overthrow an existing government and replace it with new leaders and a new system of government. It encompasses the process of revolutionary violence as well as the outcome, if successful, of revolutionary change.

Rimland: The maritime periphery of Eurasia that was vulnerable to both land and sea power. According to Nicholas Spykman, the country that controlled the rimland would also control the destiny of the world.

Riparian: Along the bank of a water body. A riparian State is one through or along which a river flows. For example, Israel is a riparian State along the Jordan River and Egypt is one of the riparian States of the Nile River. The term is also used as a synonym for the adjective *littoral* which indicates a State that abuts a lake or the sea.

River basin: The territory encompassing an entire drainage basin of a river system including the tributary rivers that join the main channel and the distributaries that often form deltas.

SAARC: The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. This is a supranational organization working toward closer economic integration in South Asia. So far, however, political strife between India and Pakistan has largely thwarted its progress.

SADC: The Southern African Development Community. This supranational organization is working toward closer economic integration among southern African countries. Its membership overlaps with that of COMESA which has produced conflicting objectives for some members.

Secession: The withdrawal of a people and their territory from a State to establish an independent State of their own.

Shari'a: Islamic law.

Shatter belt: A region caught between stronger, colliding, external cultural-political forces. Although it may serve as a **buffer zone**, it is under persistent stress leading to the creation, fragmentation, and demise of national boundaries and entities brought about by aggressive rivals. The classic example is the Balkans.

Shatter zone: see **shatter belt**.

SICA: The *Sistema de Integración Económica Centroamericana* (Central American Economic Integration System). A Central American supranational organization dedicated to pursuing greater economic and political unity among the six States of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. (See **CACM**).

Site and situation: A basic geographic concept related to the importance of location. Site refers to the internal physical and cultural attributes of a place. Situation refers to the external linkages that give a site its relative importance. An example is New Orleans which lies along the Mississippi River delta (site), giving it the role of gateway to the Mississippi River and its tributaries (situation).

Social Darwinism: The application of Darwinian ideas about the natural world to the analysis of human societies. The Organic State Theory is one of the classic examples from political geography.

Solar space: The region of outer space beyond lunar space that encompasses the remainder of the solar system.

Sovereignty: Supremacy of rule or authority within a State or other political entity.

Spacefaring: Refers to a capability to engage in manned or unmanned space travel.

Spatial perception: The manner in which people perceive their surroundings.

Special purpose district: Civil divisions within the United States that are created for various tasks such as to administer natural resources, provide energy, manage school districts and utilities, and numerous other functions.

State: A sovereign country with a permanent resident population, land territory, organized system of government, international recognition, economic system, and circulation system of transportation and communications. The term is also used for first-order civil divisions in the United States and several other countries.

State building: A constructive process that aims to create the institutions necessary for a State to be independent and self-governing.

Stateless nation: A nation that does not have a State of its own; also known as a non-state nation. Most nations of the world fall into this category. Contemporary examples include Kurds and Tibetans.

Strategic minerals: Minerals not widely available within a country that are regarded as essential to defense. They are typically subject to strict conservation and control during wartime.

Strait: A narrow passage between two larger bodies of water. Many straits are important to international navigation and are subject to special provisions whereby ships adhere to rules of *transit passage* rather than the more restrictive *innocent passage*. One of the best examples is the Strait of Malacca.

Subsequent boundary: A boundary that is established during the process of intensive settlement.

Superimposed boundary: A boundary that is established after intensive settlement has occurred, thus being imposed upon an existing cultural landscape.

Supranationalism: A venture involving three or more States working toward common goals in cultural, economic, military, political and/or other fields. The most prominent example is the **United Nations**.

Sustainable development: The goals of development programs that are designed to stimulate economic growth, promote social equity, and protect the environment.

System disequilibrium: A condition that can lead to political violence within a society due to rapid and perhaps unexpected changes. For instance, a newly-independent country that expands its educational system but cannot provide jobs for the new graduates may experience unrest due to the disequilibrium that ensues.

Terran space: The space above the Earth extending from the lowest range of low altitude orbits to just beyond the upper limits of high altitude orbits.

Territorial dispute: A dispute involving possession of an entire region. Islands are often the object of such disputes.

Territoriality: A strong emotional attachment to one's territory that develops among members of tribes, nations, and other peoples at varying geographic scales. It often fosters a determination to defend the territory against any outside encroachment. Although often compared to animal territoriality, many social scientists reject notions that it is a genetic trait.

Territorial sea: The zone of seawater immediately adjacent to a country's coast, held to be sovereign territory of the State, but within which all vessels must be granted the right of **innocent passage**. Most countries adhere to a 12-mile territorial sea drawn from the applicable baseline.

Terrorism: A form of warfare in which violence or the threat of violence is directed at multiple segments of societies, especially civilians, in pursuit of specific political objectives. It is also used by criminal groups to stifle opposition to illegal activities.

Theocracy: A relatively rare form of government in which religious elites occupy the ruling positions within a State and the legal system is based on religious rules and principles.

Third World: A term that originated with the non-aligned movement during the Cold War. It denoted those countries that were part of neither the first world of industrialized, capitalist countries of the West, nor the second world of communist countries. Since then, it has often been applied to all developing countries.

Time-space convergence: A process of decreasing relative distance between places brought on as travel time is reduced by improved transportation systems and decreasing costs.

Town: An incorporated urban area that is larger than a village, but smaller than a city.

Township: A subdivision of a county which, in the United States, is often divided into elements of 36 square miles each.

Transition zone: An area of spatial change where the peripheries of two adjacent realms or regions join; marked by a gradual shift (rather than a sharp break) in the characteristics that distinguish these neighboring geographic entities from one another.

Tribal people: See **Tribe**.

Tribe: A subgroup of people who share unifying cultural characteristics. From a hierarchical standpoint, a tribe falls above the family or clan, but below the level of the nation.

UNCTAD: The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Established in 1964, it is a UN body that provides a forum for developing countries to discuss and promote more favorable international trade arrangements.

Unitary State: A State that is dominated by a central government that retains a monopoly on political power. A unitary system is best suited for States with a high degree of internal homogeneity and cohesiveness.

United Nations: Established at the end of World War II, this is the world's principal supranational organization which addresses a multitude of issues concerning the international community.

Voluntary cession: The voluntary transfer of territory and its inhabitants from one country to another by agreement, with or without cash or other compensation. Although now rare, it was once quite common for sovereign States to transfer territory in this manner.

Warsaw Pact: This now defunct organization served as the primary military alliance for the Soviet Union and its East European satellites during the Cold War.

Weapons of mass destruction (WMD): WMD refers to nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC)

weapons that are capable of creating very large numbers of casualties, often far removed from the initial point of detonation or dispersal. Radiological weapons (dirty bombs) should also be included in this category.

World Trade Organization (WTO): This institution, which evolved out of **GATT**, has a permanent secretariat in Geneva. It was established to develop a permanent set of rules for facilitating free trade, conducting trade negotiations, resolving trade disputes, and enforcing trade regulations.

Xenophobia: Fear of foreigners or foreign influences.

Zone of peace: A region in which the neighboring countries agree to foster peaceful interaction and resist any efforts by countries from within or outside the region to resort to violence.