
Unit 4

Political Organization of Space



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This PPT has been created using the information from the *AMSCO Human Geography: Preparing for the Advanced Placement Examination* book.
Palmer, David. *AMSCO Advanced Placement Human Geography*. Perfection Learning, 2019.



UNIT 4 – POLITICAL ORGANIZATION OF SPACE

CH 9: THE SHAPE OF THE POLITICAL MAP

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING (4.A)

By the end of this section, you will *understand* that **the contemporary political map has been shaped by events of the past.**

LEARNING OBJECTIVE (4.A.2)

By the end of this section, you will *be able to* **explain the evolution of the contemporary political map.**

- a. The concept of the modern nation-state began in Europe.
- b. Colonialism and imperialism led to the spread of nationalism and influenced contemporary political boundaries.

EVOLUTION OF THE CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP

- Today's world map includes nations without states, nations in multiple states, and states containing multiple nations.
- This reflects the evolution of politics, economics, and warfare over the last roughly 600 years.

EVOLUTION OF THE CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP

Modern Nation-State Concept

- Most European history – no relation between language and state
- Those who paid allegiance to the King of France in the 1500s did not speak French – they spoke a regional language.
- Those speaking Italian in the 1600s were not assumed to be part of the same state.
- The idea of the nation state started to take hold by the 1700s in France and England but the map did not reflect this desire.

EVOLUTION OF THE CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP

Modern Nation-State Concept

- Tiny states and a few multi-ethnic empires (Russian, Ottoman, etc.)
- 1800s saw an explosion of **nationalism** in Europe
- Some rebelled against being part of an empire that was controlled by another culture and others wanted to consolidate into unified countries (Italy and Germany).



EVOLUTION OF THE CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP

Forces Unifying and Breaking Apart Countries

- **Nationalism:** a nation's desire to create and maintain a state of its own
- **Centripetal force:** unifies people
 - Shared religion
 - External threats
 - Common language
- **Centrifugal force:** breaks states apart or keeps them from forming
 - Religion/language – Belgium
 - Northern Dutch Protestants speak Flemish
 - Southern Roman Catholics speak French

LEARNING OBJECTIVE (4.A.2.B)

By the end of this section, you will *be able to* **explain the evolution of the contemporary political map.**

- a. The concept of the modern nation-state began in Europe.
- b. Colonialism and imperialism led to the spread of nationalism and influenced contemporary political boundaries.

EVOLUTION OF THE CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP

Imperialism and Colonialism

- Similar concepts but not the same
- **Imperialism**
 - Broader concept
 - Includes many ways of influencing another country or group of people, by direct conquest, by economic control, or by cultural dominance.
- **Colonialism**
 - Type of imperialism
 - People move into and settle on the land of another country

EVOLUTION OF THE CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP

Imperialism and Colonialism

EARLY COLONIALISM

- Spain and Portugal
- Then France and Britain
- Focused on the Americas
- Gold, God, and Glory
- Religious influence, economic wealth, and political power
- *Terra Nullius* led to the dispossession of indigenous people

LATER COLONIALISM

- 19th Century
- Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, and Germany
- Focus: Africa and Asia
- Berlin Conference