

Unit 4

Political Organization of Space



By: Carli Terrell (Orlando, Florida)

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Palmer, David. *AMSCO Advanced Placement Human Geography*. Perfection Learning, 2019.



UNIT 4 – POLITICAL ORGANIZATION OF SPACE

CH 10: TERRITORY, POWER, AND BOUNDARIES

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING (4.B)

By the end of this section, you will *understand* that **spatial political patterns reflect ideas of territoriality and power at a variety of scales.**

- **Territoriality:** connection of people, culture, and their economic system to the land.
- **Power:** geographic control over people, land, and resources.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE (4.B.2)

By the end of this section, you will *be able to* evaluate the nature and function of international and internal boundaries.

Students will know that

- a. Boundaries are defined, delimited, demarcated, and administered
- b. International boundaries establish the limits of sovereignty and can be the source of disputes
- c. Boundaries can influence identity and promote or prevent international or internal interactions and exchanges
- d. The Law of the Sea has enabled states to extend their boundaries offshore, which sometimes results in conflicts
- e. Voting districts, redistricting, and gerrymandering influence the results of elections at various scales

INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

- In theory, boundaries exist to add clarity
 - Political entities begin and end
 - What territories belong to which states
- In reality, sometimes people disagree *where* the boundaries should be, and these uncertain boundaries have been a frequent cause of violence and war.
- Crossing boundaries implies that some rules, expectations, or behaviors will change – these rules are called *laws*.
- Examples of informal boundaries include spheres of influence and neighborhoods controlled by street gangs

INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

- **Categories of Boundaries**

- Defined – established by a legal document (ex: treaty) and could range from a country to a single plot of real estate.
- Delimited – line drawn on a map to show the limits of space.
- Demarcated – physical objects placed on the landscape (ex: a sign or fences and walls)
- Simply, borders are first established, then placed on a map, and then placed on the earth.

INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

- **Categories of Boundaries**

- Natural boundary – physical features that separate entities
- Note that the Missouri River separates Iowa and Nebraska and the Himalayas separates India from China



INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

- **Categories of Boundaries**

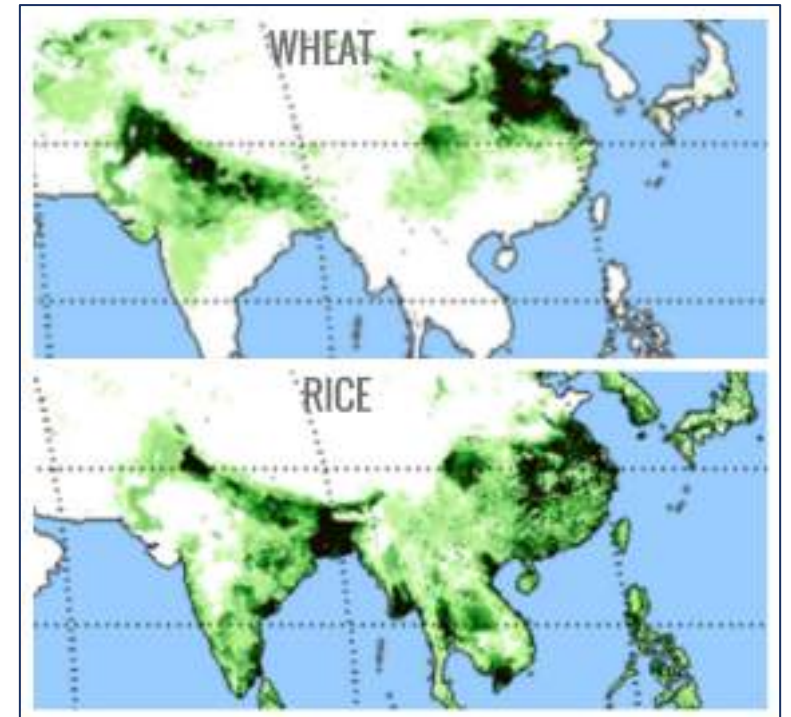
- Geometric boundary – straight line drawn by people that does not follow any physical feature closely
- Examples: large scale - division of Libya and Egypt; local scale – division of two suburbs of a city



INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

- **Categories of Boundaries**

- Cultural boundary – based on human traits or behavior and often exists in the midst of a gradual change over space.
- Example: historically, China cuisine was divided with wheat-based cuisine in the north and rice-based in the south but no line was ever drawn.



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INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

- **Limited Sovereignty and International Boundary Disputes**
 - Classifications of Boundaries
 - Antecedent
 - Subsequent
 - Relic (sometimes relict)
 - Superimposed
 - Militarized
 - Open

INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

- **Limited Sovereignty and International Boundary Disputes**
 - Antecedent boundary
 - *Ante* means “before”
 - Definition: drawn *before* a large population was present
 - Example: Canada/USA at the 49th parallel – remember *parallels* are the lines of latitude



INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

- **Limited Sovereignty and International Boundary**

Disputes

- Subsequent (or Ethnographic) boundary
 - *Subsequi* is Latin meaning “follow closely after”
 - Definition: accommodates religious, ethnic, linguistic, or economic differences.
 - Example: Northern Ireland (part of the United Kingdom) and the Republic of Ireland



INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

- **Limited Sovereignty and International Boundary Disputes**
 - Relic boundary
 - Relic comes from Latin and means “something left behind”
 - Definition: no longer exists but evidence still exists on the landscape
 - Example: East and West Germany are united but the boundary can still be felt

INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

- **Limited Sovereignty and International Boundary Disputes**

- Superimposed boundary

- *Superimposed* means “to put upon, place over, place above”
- Definition: boundary drawn by outside powers
- Example: boundaries drawn over Africa after the Berlin Conference



INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

- **Limited Sovereignty and International Boundary Disputes**

- Militarized boundary

- Definition: boundary that is heavily guarded and discourages crossing and movement
- Example: boundary between North Korea and South Korea



INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

- **Limited Sovereignty and International Boundary Disputes**

- Open boundary

- Definition: boundary where crossing is unimpeded (not blocked)
- Example: countries in Europe that signed the Schengen Agreement

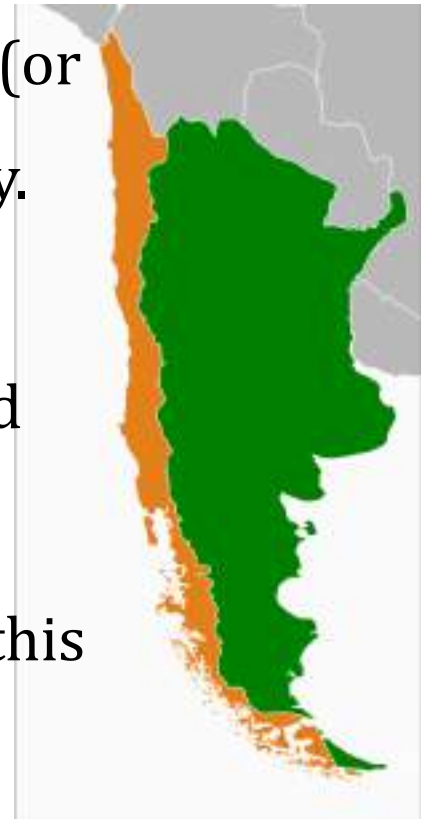


INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

- **Limited Sovereignty and International Boundary Disputes**
 - As the number of states has increased, so have boundary disputes
 - There are four main disputes
 - Definitional
 - Locational
 - Operational
 - Allocational

INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

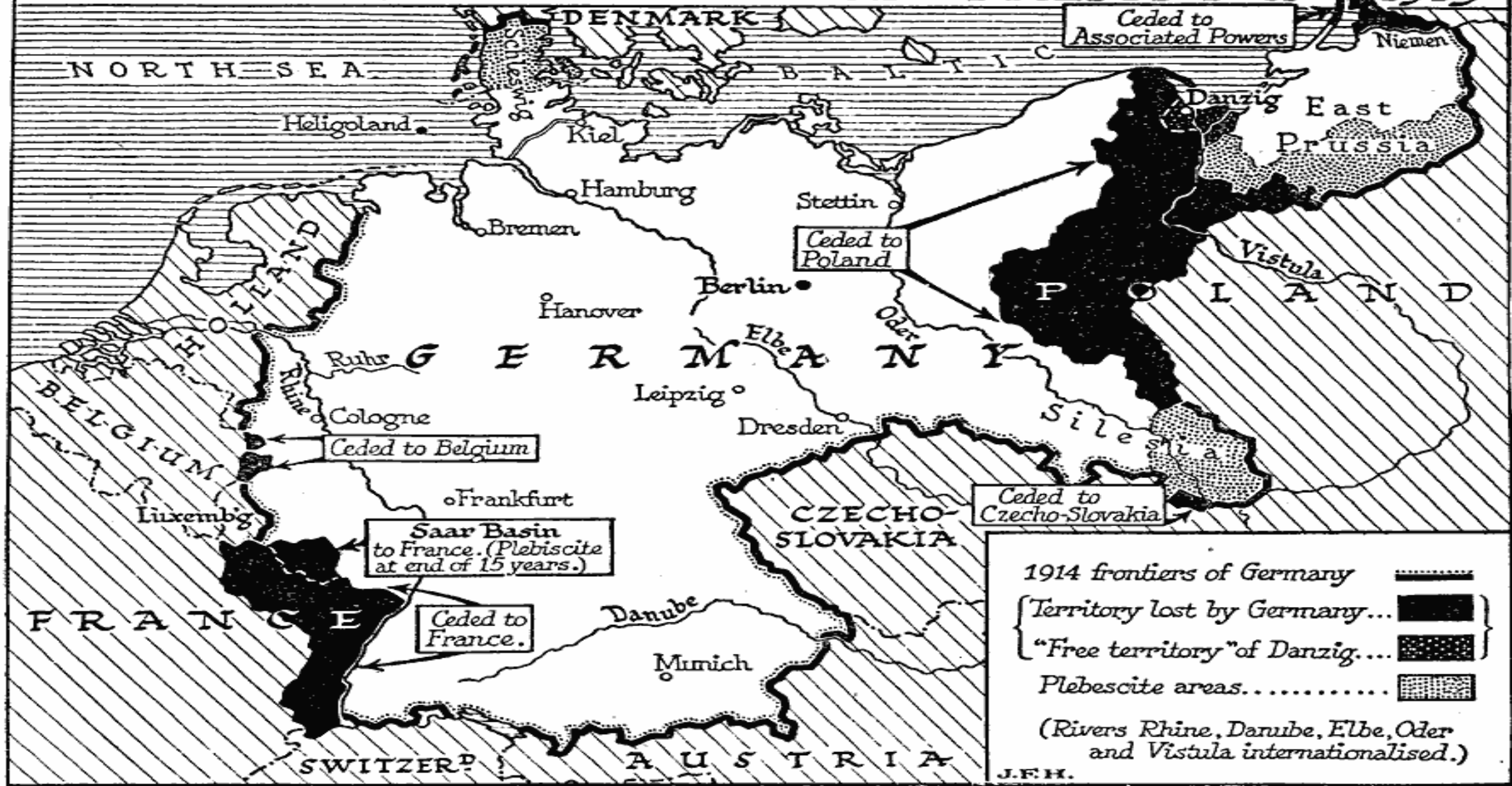
- **Limited Sovereignty and International Boundary Disputes**
 - Definitional: two or more parties disagree on how to **interpret** (or define) the legal documents or maps that identify the boundary.
 - Often occur with *antecedent* boundaries
 - Example: boundary between Chile and Argentina – the elevated crests of the Andes mountains serve as the boundary but since the southern land was neither settled nor accurately mapped, this territory lies in dispute.



INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

- **Limited Sovereignty and International Boundary Disputes**
 - Locational: disputes that center on where a boundary *should* be.
 - Example: post-World War I boundary between Germany and Poland was set by treaty but the Germans disputed the location. Many ethnic Germans found themselves on the Polish side of the border.
 - This led to **irredentism** – when one country seeks to annex territory in another because it has ties to part of the population that lives there.

GERMANY after the PEACE TREATY of 1919



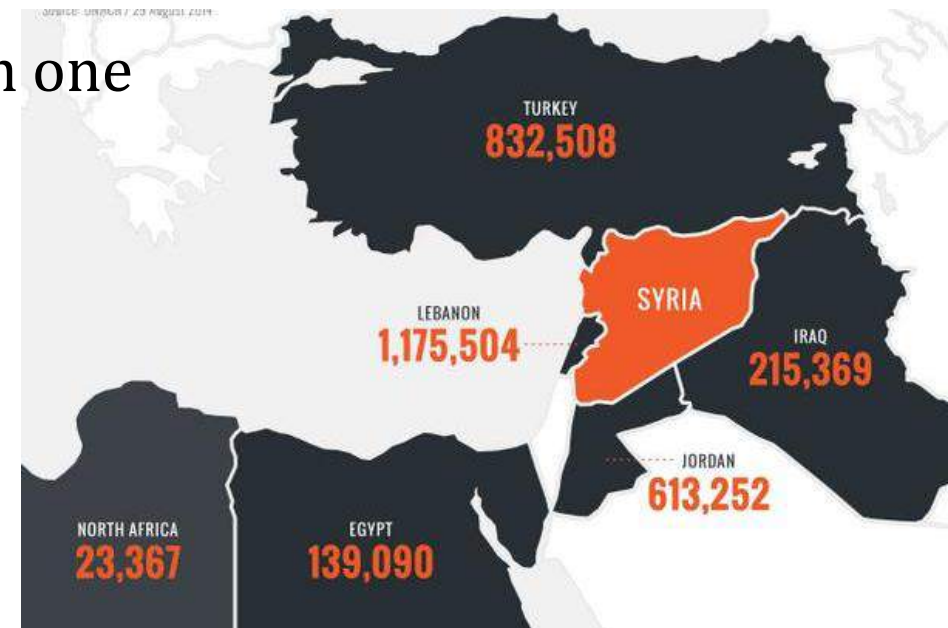
INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

- **Limited Sovereignty and International Boundary Disputes**

- Operational: disputes how a boundary functions (or *operates*)
- Example: as refugees fled the civil war in Syria in 2011,

then perspective of European boundaries shifted.

- Responsibility for helping shifted from one country to another
- Barriers to keep refugees out



INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

- **Limited Sovereignty and International Boundary Disputes**
 - Allocational: when a boundary separates natural resources that may be used by both countries.
 - Natural resource boundaries are vertical planes that extend up into the sky and down into the earth
 - Example: in 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait for drilling too many wells and using oblique boreholes, thus breaking the vertical plane and extracting oil on the Iraqi side of the boundary.

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IRAQ INVADES KUWAIT, 1990



LEARNING OBJECTIVE (4.B.2)

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- d. The Law of the Sea has enabled states to extend their boundaries offshore, which sometimes results in conflicts
- e. Voting districts, redistricting, and gerrymandering influence the results of elections at various scales

INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

- **Boundaries Influence Identity, Interaction, and Exchange**
 - Boundaries can influence a state's identity, interaction with neighboring countries and the international community as a whole, and the exchange of resources, goods and services, and people.
 - These can have positive or negative results.

INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

- **Boundaries Influence Identity, Interaction, and Exchange**
 - Identity – stir strong feelings in nationalism and extending across the boundaries may question a country's reason for existence
 - Interaction – following the end of WWII, agreements among the EU states made most of the continent borderless and peaceful. Goods and people could flow freely and people seemed less likely to settle disputes with violence.

INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

- **Boundaries Influence Identity, Interaction, and Exchange**
 - Interaction – In contrast, the Korean peninsula became sharply divided; after the Korean War in 1953, a temporary military boundary called the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and has since blocked the flow of trade and people.
 - Since the early 1960s, South Korea has flourished into a democratic country while North Korea remains impoverished and isolated under an authoritarian government.

NORTH KOREA

SOUTH KOREA

DMZ

Demilitarized Zone

Han Estuary

Han River

Seoul



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INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

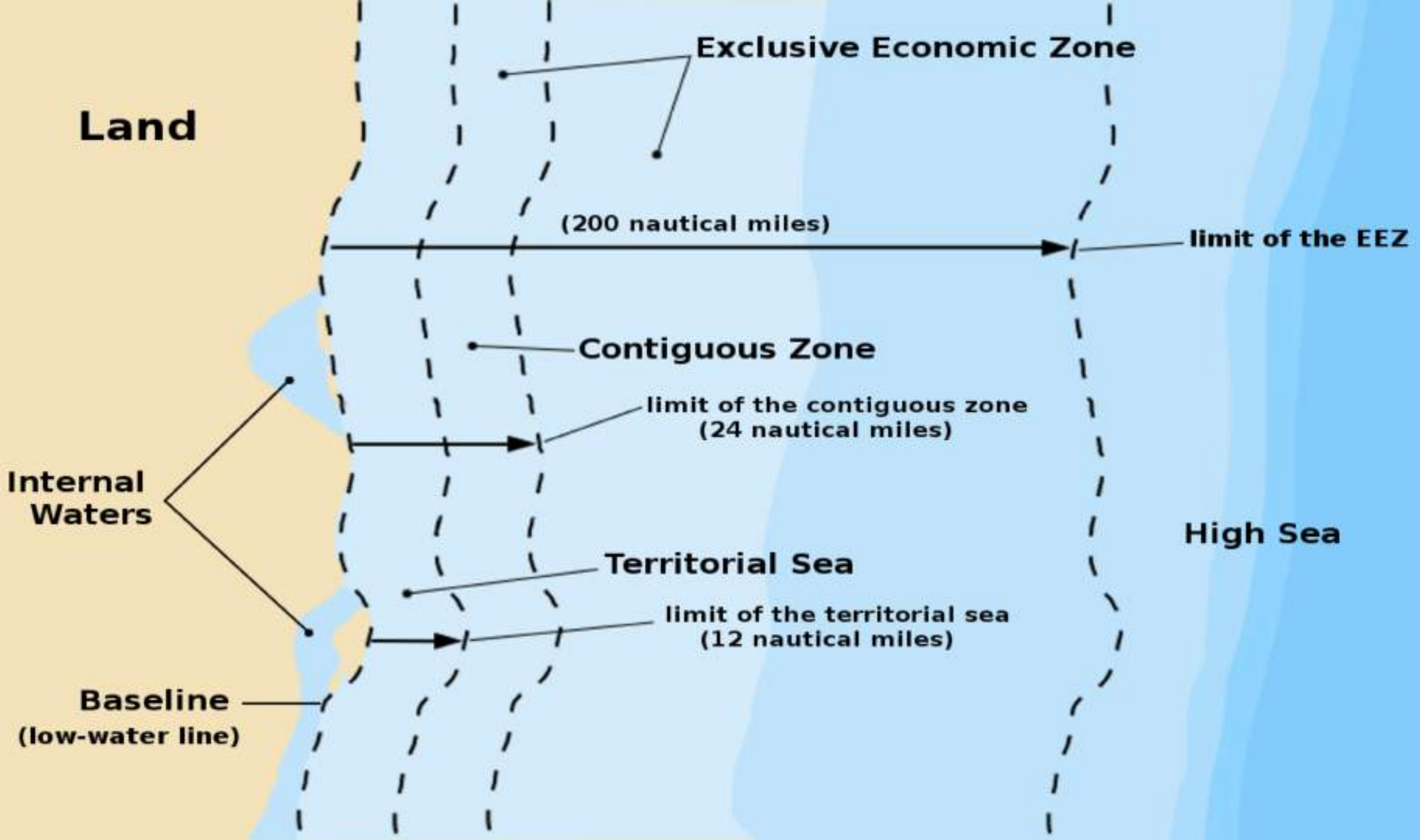
- **The Law of the Sea**
 - How far horizontally should a country's influence spread?
 - Only recently have the water boundaries been systematically addressed.
 - 1973-1982: **United Nations Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)** was signed by over 150 countries.

INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

- **The Law of the Sea**

- Four Zones

- Territorial Sea – 12 nautical miles of sovereignty; commercial vessels may pass but non-commercial vessels may be challenged.
- Contiguous Zone – Coastal states have limited sovereignty up to 24 nautical miles (enforce laws on customs, immigration, and sanitation).
- Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) – coastal states can explore, extract minerals, and manage up to 200 nautical miles.
- High Seas – Water beyond the EEZ is open to all states



INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

- **The Law of the Sea**
 - What if two coastal states share a waterway and are less than 24 nautical miles apart? The distance between the two coasts are divided in half.
 - States that have islands have been granted vast areas of space.



South China Sea: Chinese claims and disputed islands



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INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

- **Voting Districts, Redistricting, and Gerrymandering**
 - Internal borders are important as well and citizens vote for leaders to govern on their behalf.
 - At the national, state/provincial, and local levels, these elected officials represent citizens, known as the **electorate**, and are designated to defined districts with distinct boundaries.

INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

- **Voting Districts, Redistricting, and Gerrymandering**
 - **US Census:** a count of the population conducted every ten years to ensure the districts have close to the same number of people.
 - As a result of the census, the government determines each state's number of representatives through **reapportionment**, to reflect the state's population.
 - Then the district boundaries are redrawn to contain roughly the same number of people in a process called **redistricting**.
 - US House Representatives = 435 seats

INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

- **Voting Districts, Redistricting, and Gerrymandering**
 - Sometimes, politicians maneuver this process by **gerrymandering**, the drawing of boundaries for political districts by the part or group in power to extend or cement their advantage.
 - Named after Massachusetts Governor Elbridge Gerry and has been used on a variety of scales.

Modern Gerrymanders

These newly drawn congressional districts are among the most contorted in the nation. In some places, their appendages are not much wider than a highway.

Florida 14th



Illinois 4th



Illinois 7th



Maryland 2nd



Maryland 3rd



North Carolina 1st



North Carolina 12th



Ohio 9th



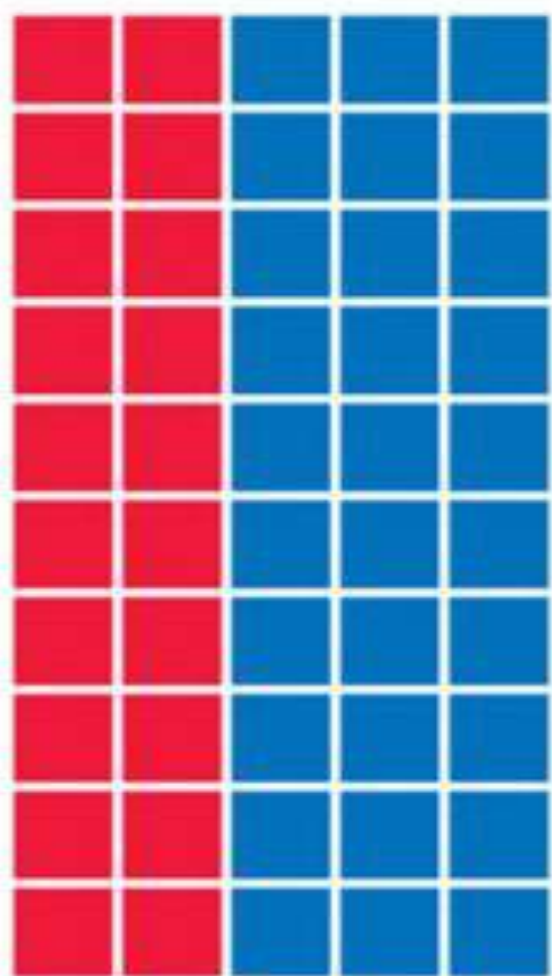
Pennsylvania 7th



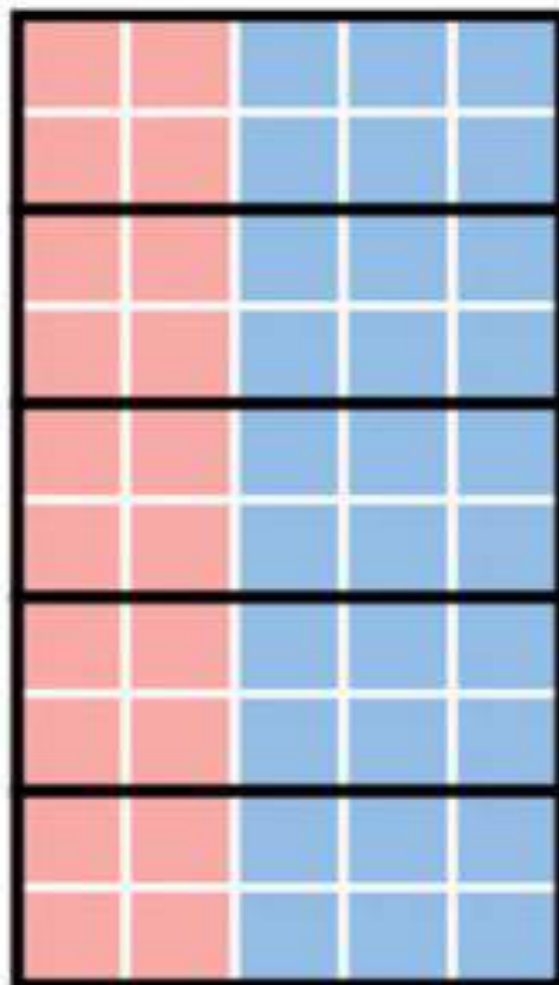
Texas 35th



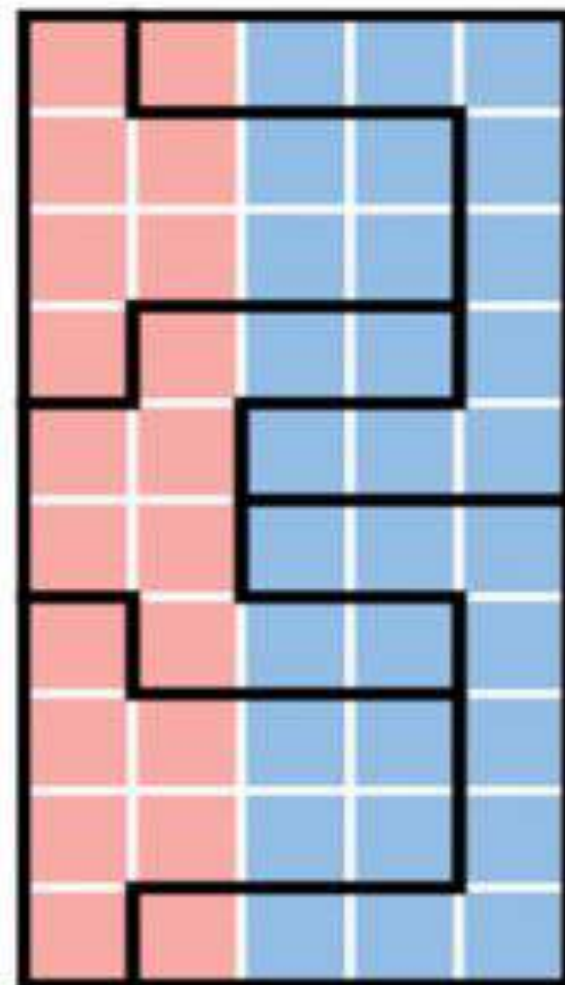
HOW TO STEAL AN ELECTION



50 PRECINCTS
60% BLUE
40% RED



5 DISTRICTS
5 BLUE
0 RED
BLUE WINS



5 DISTRICTS
3 RED
2 BLUE
RED WINS

TYPES OF GERRYMANDERING

Type	Definition
Cracking	Dispersing a group into several districts to prevent a majority
Packing	Combining like-minded voters into one district to prevent them from affecting elections in other districts
Stacking	Diluting a minority populated district with majority populations
Hijacking	Redrawing two districts in order to force two elected representatives of the same party to run against each other
Kidnapping	Moving an area where an elected representative has support to an area where he or she does not have support