Unit 4 Political Organization of Space

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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 <u>land</u>.

- **Power:** geographic control over people, land, and resources.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE (4.B.4)

By the end of this section, you will *be able to* **compare and contrast forms of governance.**

a. Students will know that forms of governance include unitary states (centralized government) and federal states.

b. Students will know that power of the subdivisions of states vary according to the form of governance (e.g., the United States and Switzerland as federal states, France as a unitary state).

c. Students will know that state morphology (e.g., compact, elongated, perforated, fragmented, prorupted states) has economic, political, and social implications.

DIFFERENT FORMS OF GOVERNANCE

Federal and Unitary States

- Countries are governed on more than one level but different forms of governance determines how much power each level receives.

- There are two main political spatial organizations: federal and unitary

- Both administer day-to-day operations, are sovereign, and the national government is the final authority.

- However, there are some major differences between the two.

DIFFERENT FORMS OF GOVERNANCE

FEDERAL VS. UNITARY STATES

Trait	Federal	Unitary
Authority of the Government	Shared between the central government and provincial, state, and local governments	Held primarily by the central government with very little power given to local governments
Hierarchy of Power	Multiple levels of power; power diffused throughout the hierarchy	No hierarchy of sovereign powers
Type of Country Where Commonly Used	Multiple ethnic groups with significant minorities	Few cultural differences and small minorities

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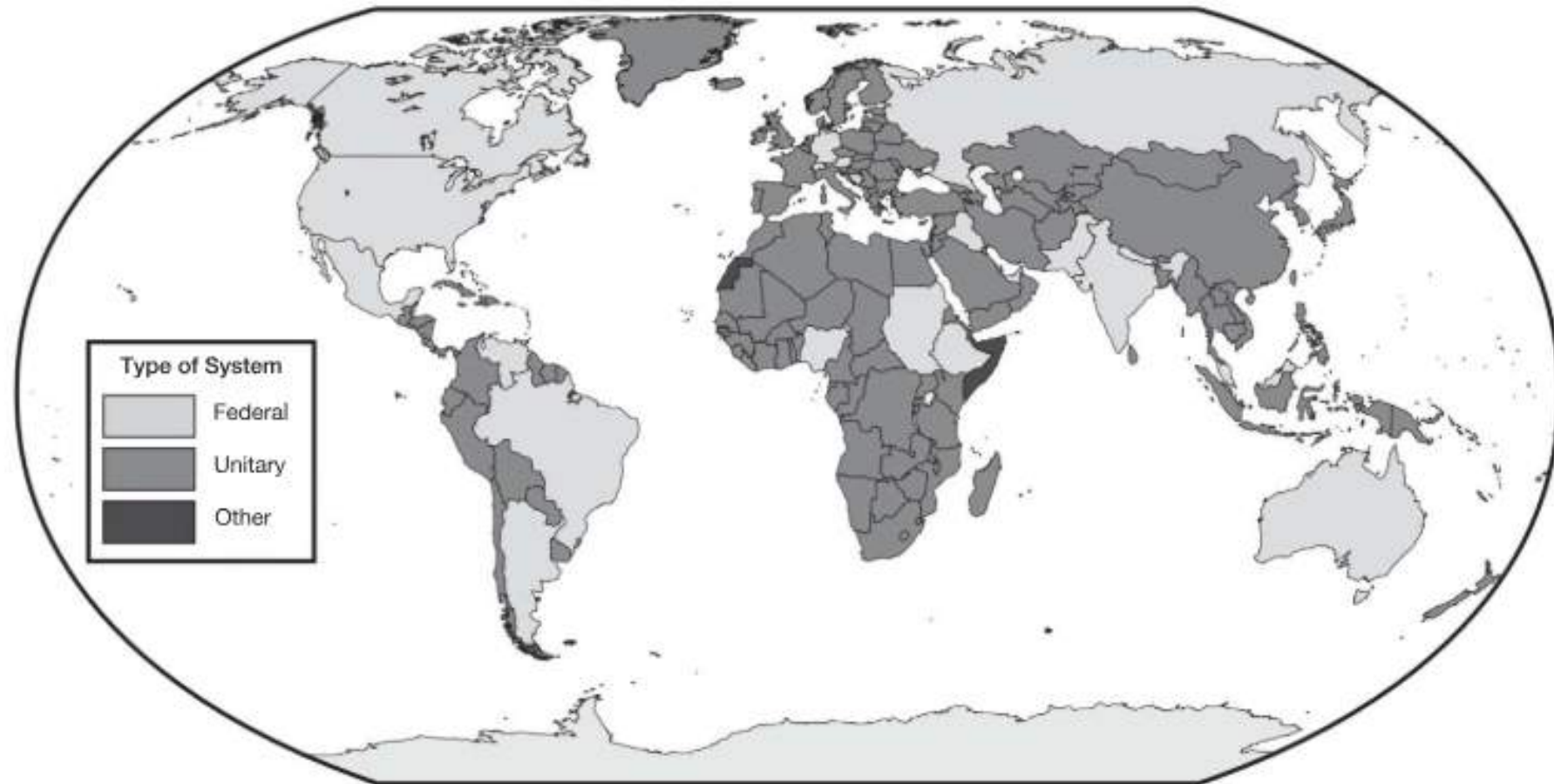
DIFFERENT FORMS OF GOVERNANCE

Local Powers Vary by Government Type

- In both federal and unitary, the local divisions have some degree of power.

- Large landmass countries tend to be federal states – United States, Canada, Russia, etc.

- Smaller landmass countries tend to be unitary states – Japan, Egypt, Spain, etc.

- Of course, there are many exceptions – China (large but unitary), Belgium (small but federal – reflects the cultural differences between the Walloon and Flemish citizens)

DIFFERENT FORMS OF GOVERNANCE

FEDERAL AND UNITARY STATE SYSTEMS

Type of System
- Federal
- Unitary
- Other

DIFFERENT FORMS OF GOVERNANCE

Local Powers Vary by Government Type

- Federal governments are able to overcome many of the complications involved with governing a multicultural population by allowing local governments to manage either own affairs.
  - Example: provinces in northern Nigeria have enacted sharia (Islamic law) to accommodate their growing Muslim population.
- Unitary states have strong centralized governments who hold most of the power and local governments are just extensions of it.
  - Can be undemocratic (China, Saudi Arabia) or fairly democratic (France, Indonesia).

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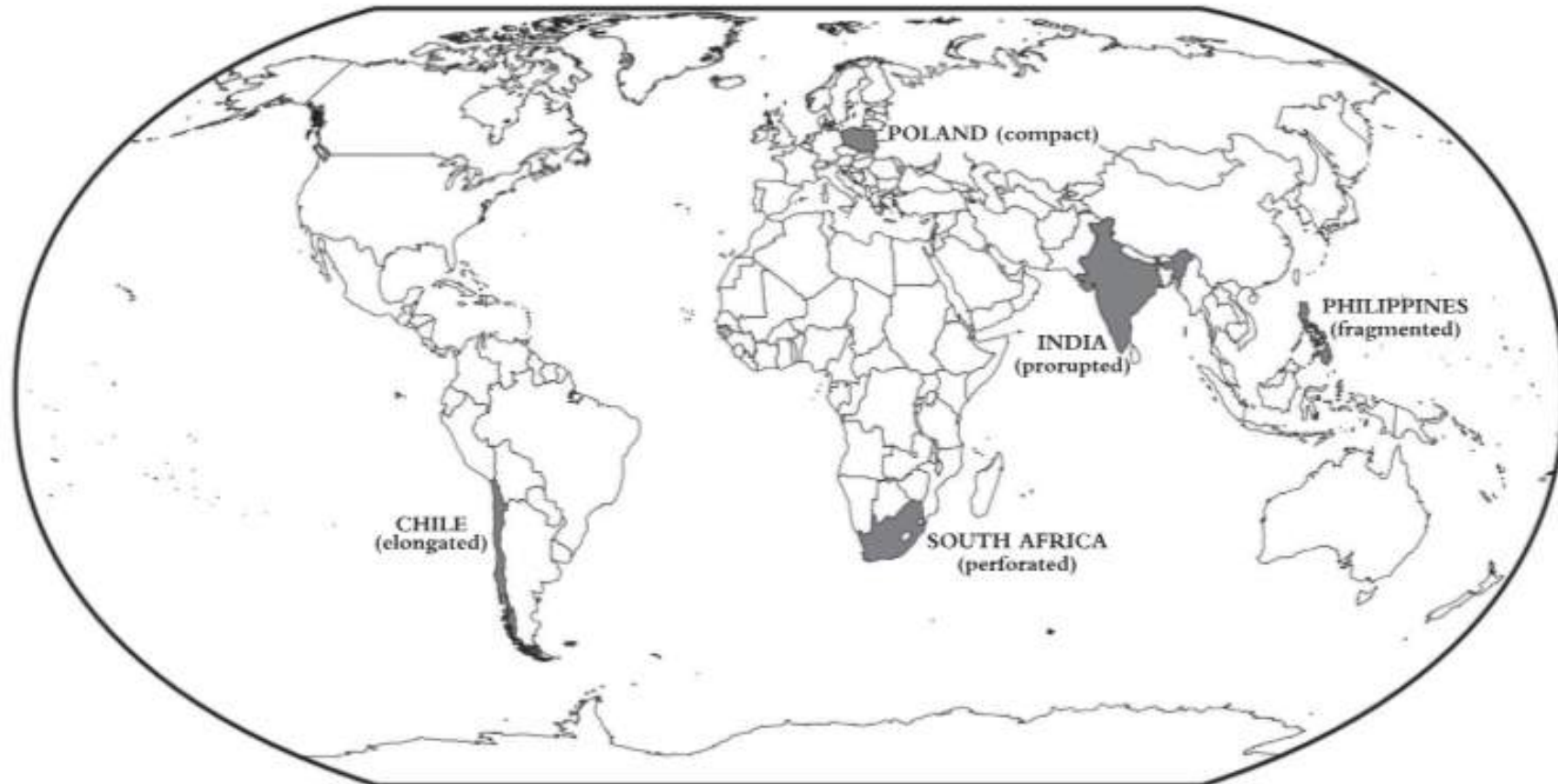
DIFFERENT FORMS OF GOVERNANCE

The Effects of State Morphology

- **Morphology** refers to the state's shape and can influence how people in the state interact.

- Example: a state with a highly populated central region and outlying areas far from its center, then those far away may face the following issues:

    - Difficulty receiving goods and services

    - May feel underrepresented in the government

    - May feel isolated from family or ethnic groups

    - May demand strong local control leading to internal conflict

DIFFERENT FORMS OF GOVERNANCE

EXAMPLES OF STATE MORPHOLOGY

DIFFERENT FORMS OF GOVERNANCE

TYPES OF STATE MORPHOLOGY		
Morphology Type	**Characteristics**	**Examples**
Compact State	• Distance from center does not significantly vary • Efficient in trade, travel, and communication from the center	• Poland • Romania • Zimbabwe
Elongated State	• Potential isolation at the periphery • Difficult communication and travel • Challenging to govern and defend	• Chile • Malawi • Norway
Prorupted State	• Compact area with an extension • Limited access • Proruption may cause disruption	• India • Thailand • Democratic Republic of Congo

DIFFERENT FORMS OF GOVERNANCE

TYPES OF STATE MORPHOLOGY		
Morphology Type	**Characteristics**	**Examples**
Perforated State	• State that completely surrounds another state • Surrounded state dependent on perforated state for travel and trade	• South Africa • Italy
Fragmented State	• Scattered (islands) from the core • Problems with trade, communication, travel, and distribution of power	• Philippines • Indonesia • United States