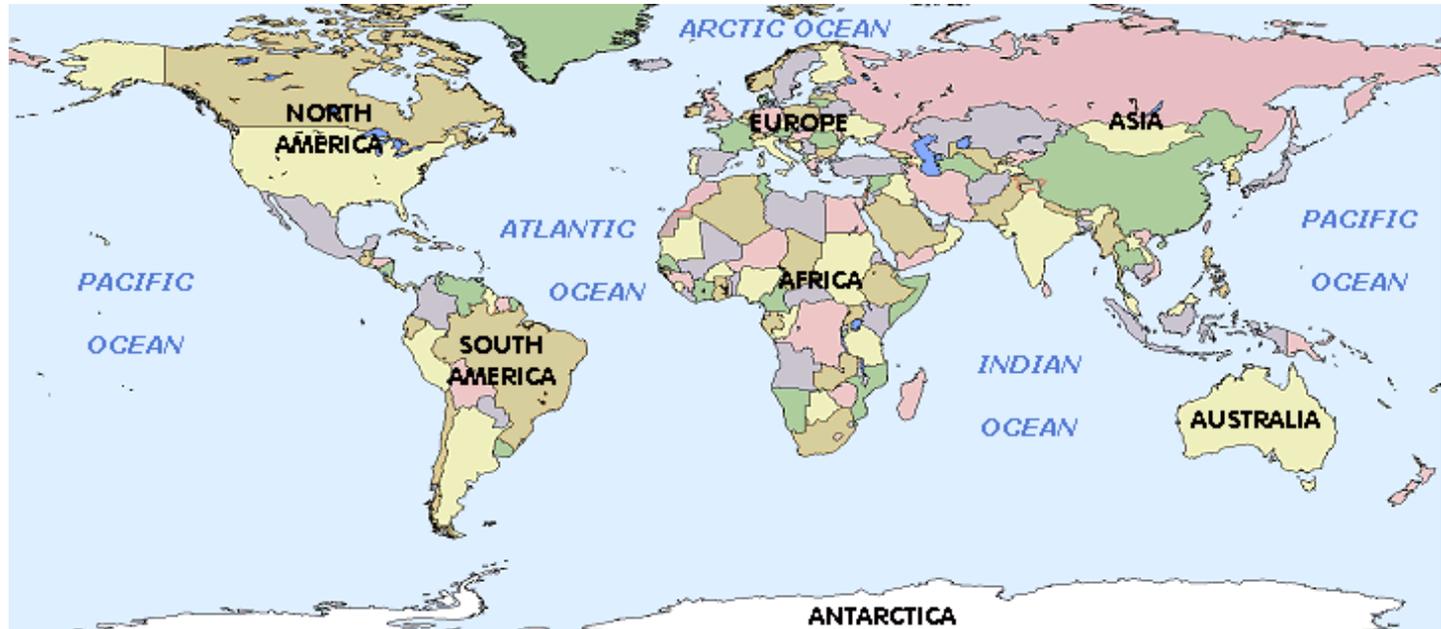


Chapter 8

Political Geography

Nations of the World



- Today human geographers emphasize a thematic approach, concerned with the location of activities in the world, the reasons for particular spatial distributions, and the significance of the arrangements.
- Political geographers study how people have organized Earth's land surface into countries and alliances, reasons underlying the observed arrangements, and the conflicts that result from the organization.

Political Geography

- Key Issues
 1. Where are states located?
 2. Why do boundaries between states cause problems?
 3. Why do states cooperate with each other?
 4. Why has terrorism increased?

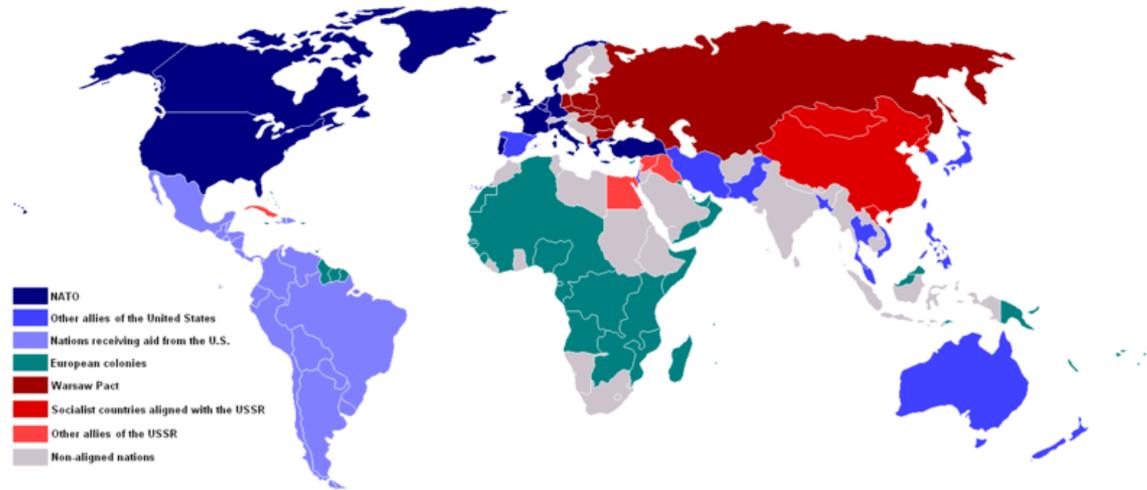


Into The New Millennium

- With the end of the Cold War in the 1990s, the global political landscape changed fundamentally.
- Geographic concepts help us to understand this changing political organization of Earth's surface.
- We can also use geographic methods to examine the causes of political change.
- Boundary lines are not painted on Earth, but they might as well be, for these national divisions are very real.
- To many, national boundaries are more meaningful than natural features.



End of the Cold War



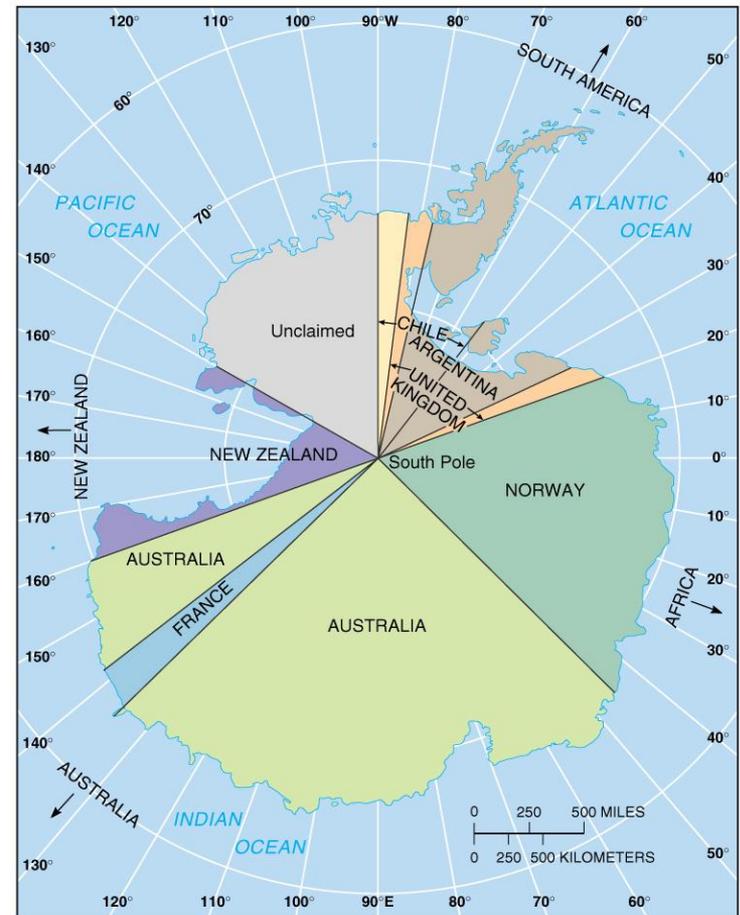
- In the post—Cold War era, the familiar division of the world into countries or states is crumbling.
- Between the mid-1940s and the late 1980s two superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union—essentially “ruled” the world.
- But the United States is less dominant in the political landscape of the twenty-first century, and the Soviet Union no longer exists.
- Today globalization means more connections among states.
- Power is exercised through connections among states created primarily for economic cooperation.

Key Issue 1: Defining States and Development of the State Concept

- Problems of defining states
 - *Korea: one state or two?*
 - *China and Taiwan: one state or two?*
 - *Western Sahara*
 - *Varying sizes of states*
- Development of the state concept
 - *Ancient and medieval states*
 - *Colonies*

Antarctica: National Claims

- Antarctica is the only large landmass on Earth's surface that is not part of a state.
- Several states claim portions of Antarctica.
- The United States, Russia, and a number of other states do not recognize the claims of any country to Antarctica.
- The Treaty of Antarctica, signed in 1959 and renewed in 1991, provides a legal framework for managing Antarctica.



Copyright © 2005 Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc.

Fig. 8-2: Antarctica is the only large landmass that is not part of a state, but several countries claim portions of it.

Korea: One State or Two?

- A colony of Japan for many years, Korea was divided into two occupation zones by the United States and former Soviet Union after they defeated Japan in World War II.
- Both Korean governments are committed to reuniting the country into one sovereign state.
- Meanwhile, in 1992, North Korea and South Korea were admitted to the United Nations as separate countries.



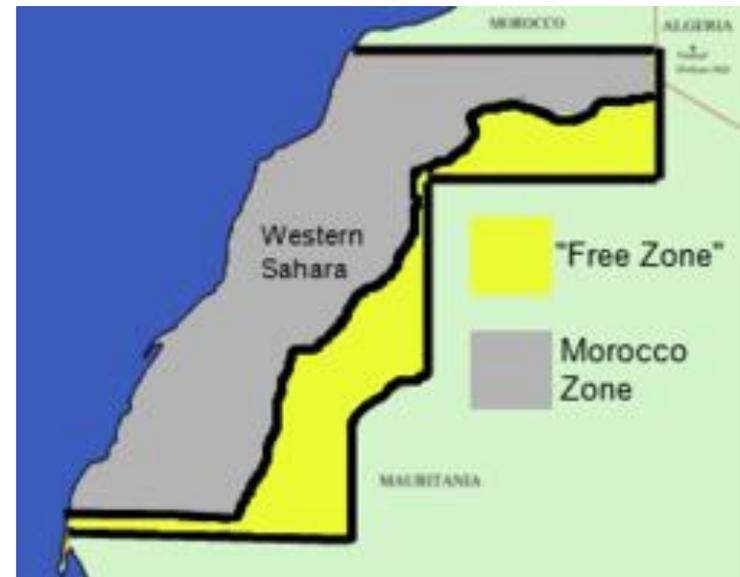
China and Taiwan: One State or Two?

- According to China's government officials, Taiwan is not a separate sovereign state but is a part of China.
- Until 1999 the government of Taiwan agreed.
- This confusing situation arose from a civil war.
- After losing, nationalist leaders in 1949 fled to the island of Taiwan, 200 kilometers (120 miles) off the Chinese coast (and) proclaimed that they were still the legitimate rulers of the entire country of China.
- Most other governments in the world consider China and Taiwan as two separate and sovereign states.
- Taiwan's president announced in 1999 that Taiwan would also regard itself as a sovereign independent state.



Western Sahara (Sahrawi Republic)

- The Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic is considered by most African countries as a sovereign state.
- Morocco, however, controls the territory, which it calls Western Sahara.
- The United Nations is sponsoring a referendum for the residents of Western Sahara to decide whether they want independence or want to continue to be part of Morocco.



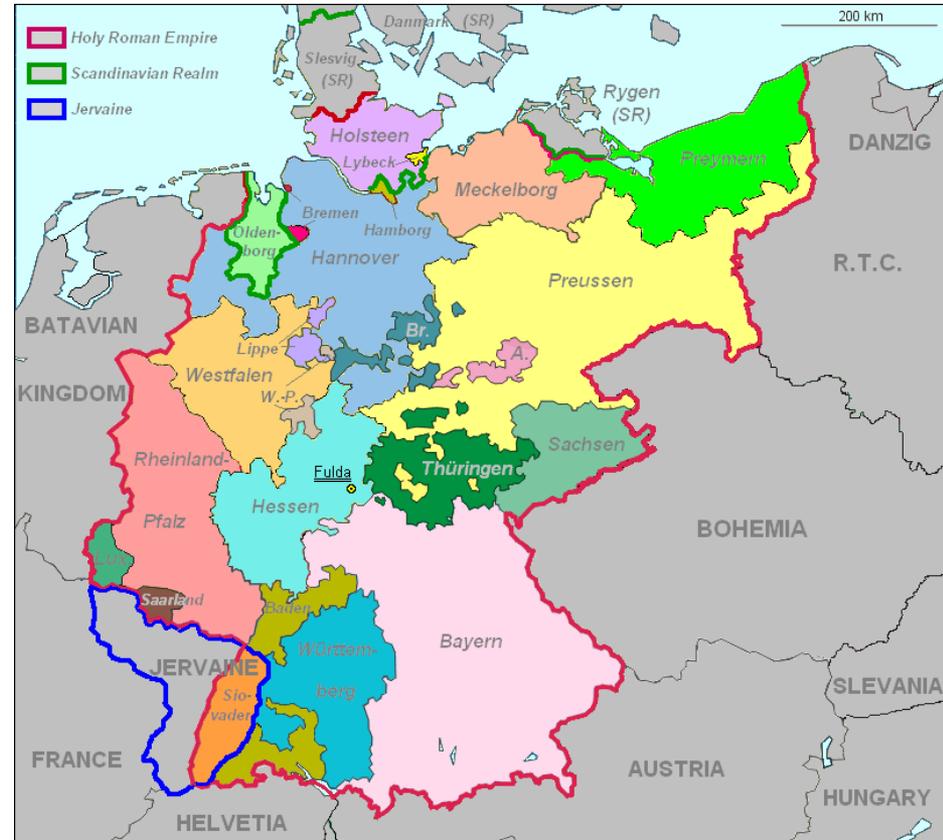
Varying Size of States

- The land area occupied by the states of the world varies considerably.
- The largest state is Russia, which encompasses 17.1 million square kilometers (6.6 million square miles), or 11 percent of the world's entire land area.
- (Five) other states with more than 5 million square kilometers (2 million square miles) include China, Canada, United States, Brazil, and Australia.
- At the other extreme are about two dozen microstates, which are states with very small land areas.
- The smallest microstate in the United Nations—Monaco—encompasses only 1.5 square kilometers (0.6 square miles).
- Many of these are islands, which explains both their small size and sovereignty.

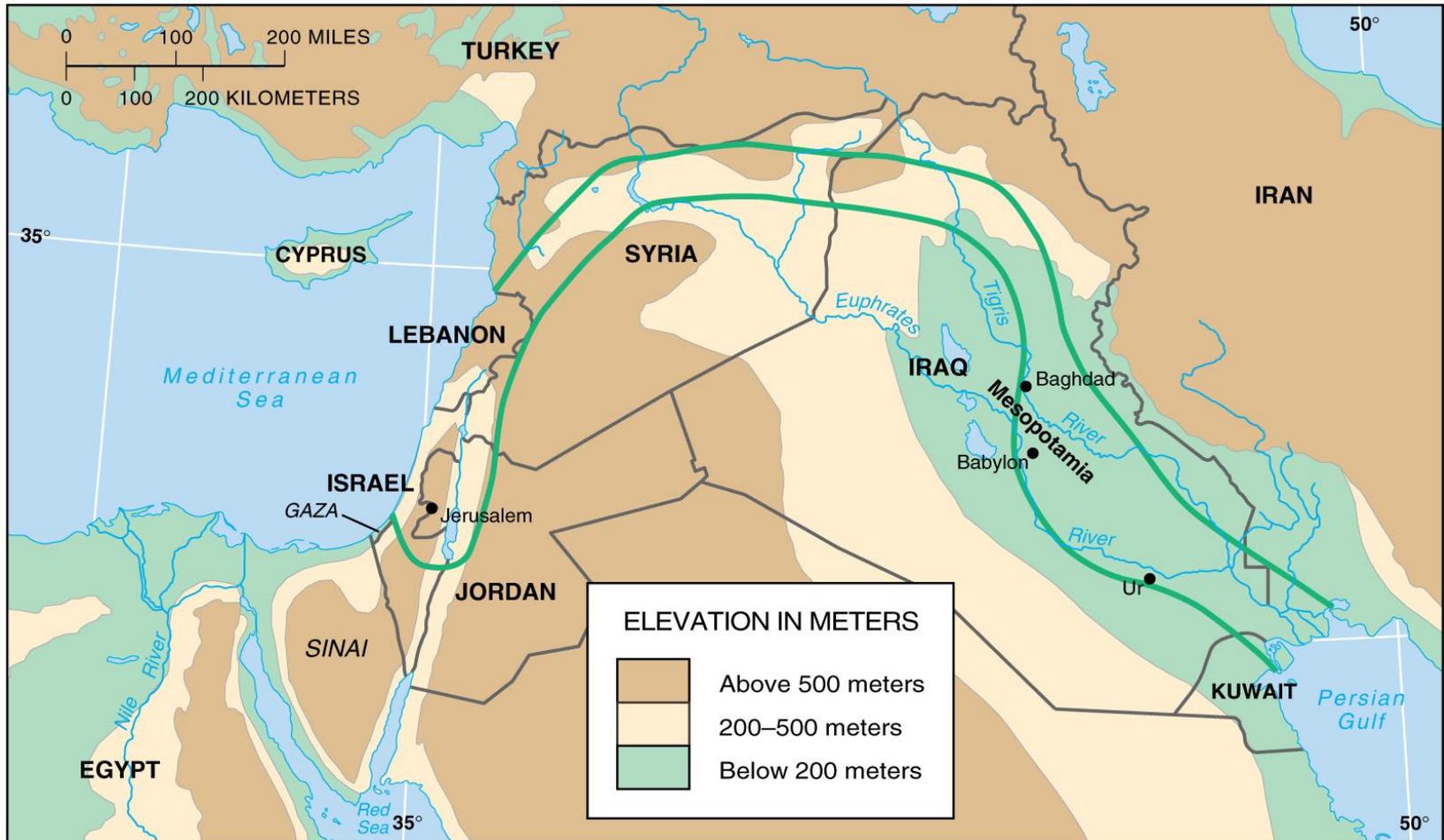


Development of the State Concept

- The concept of dividing the world into a collection of independent states is recent.
- Prior to the 1800s, Earth's surface was organized in other ways, such as city-states, empires, and tribes.
- Much of Earth's surface consisted of unorganized territory.



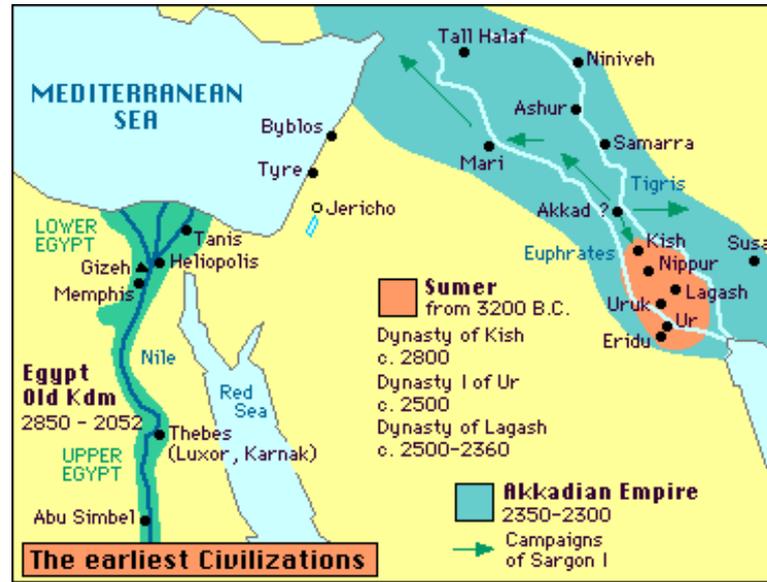
The Fertile Crescent



Copyright © 2005 Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc.

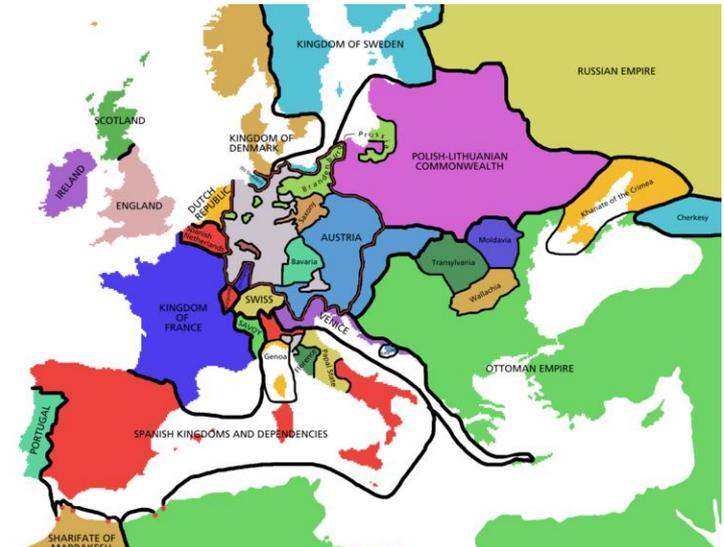
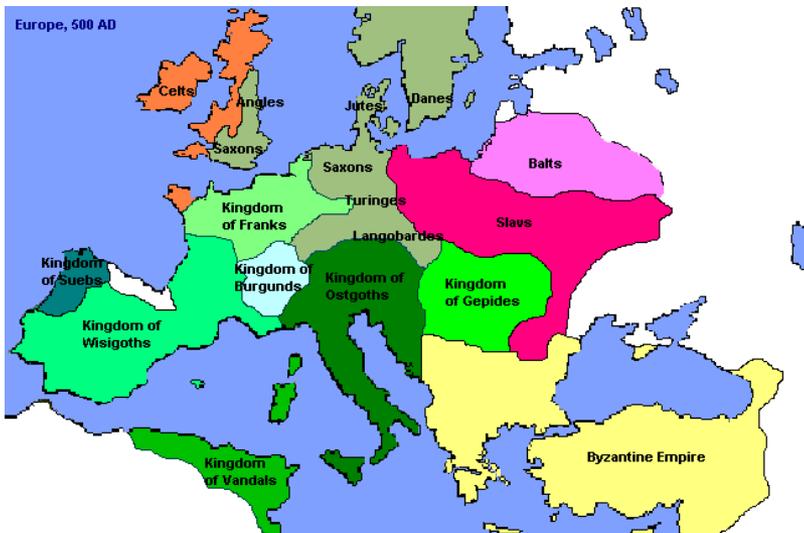
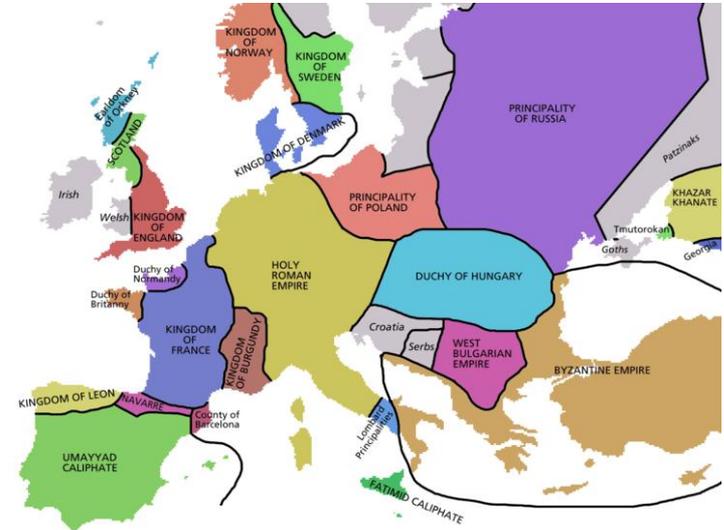
Fig. 8-3: The Fertile Crescent was the site of early city-states and a succession of ancient empires.

Earliest Civilizations

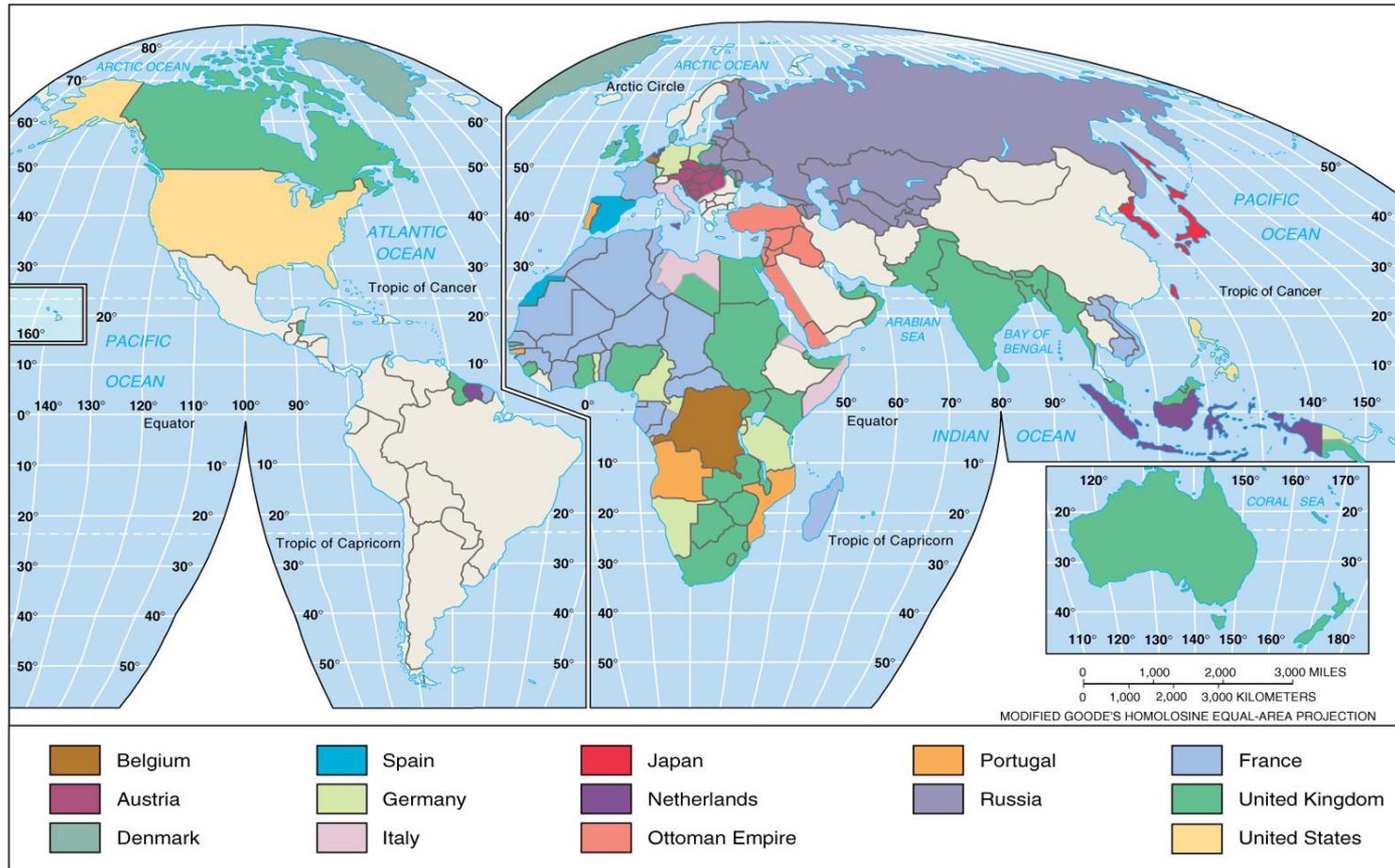


- The first states to evolve in Mesopotamia were known as city-states.
- A city-state is a sovereign state that comprises a town and the surrounding countryside.
- Periodically, one city or tribe in Mesopotamia would gain military dominance over the others and form an empire.
- Meanwhile, the state of Egypt emerged as a separate empire at the western end of the Fertile Crescent (in a) long, narrow region along the banks of the Nile River.
- Egypt's empire lasted from approximately 3000 B.C. until the fourth century B.C.

Europe 1AD to 1650AD



Colonial Possessions, 1914

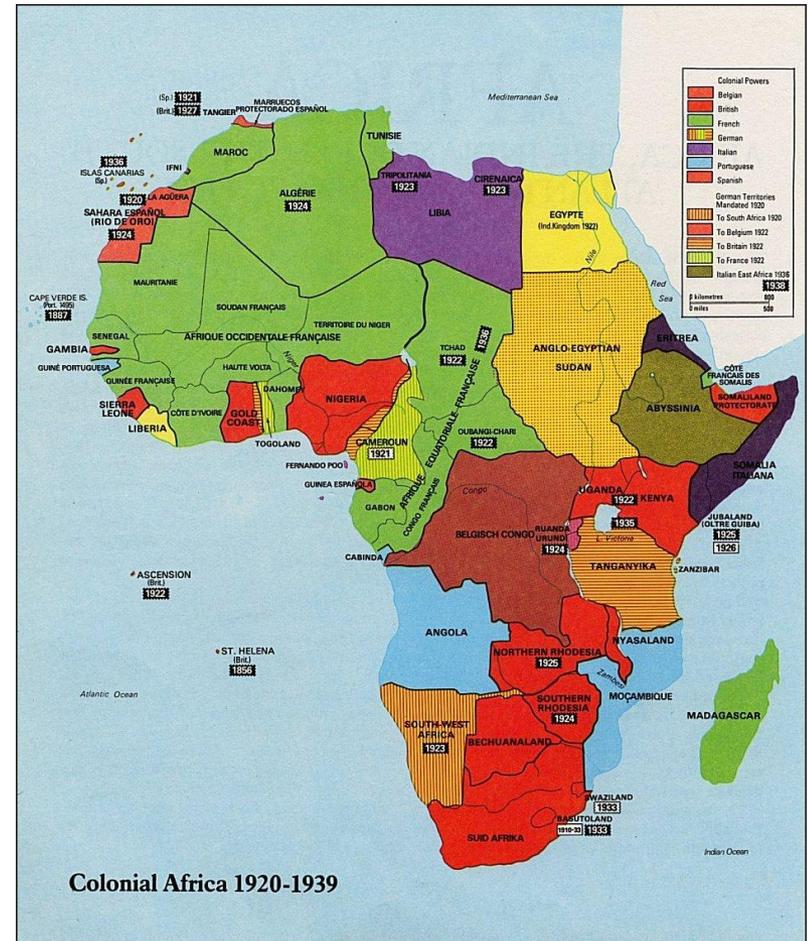


Copyright © 2005 Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc.

Fig. 8-4: By the outbreak of World War I, European states held colonies throughout the world, especially throughout Africa and in much of Asia.

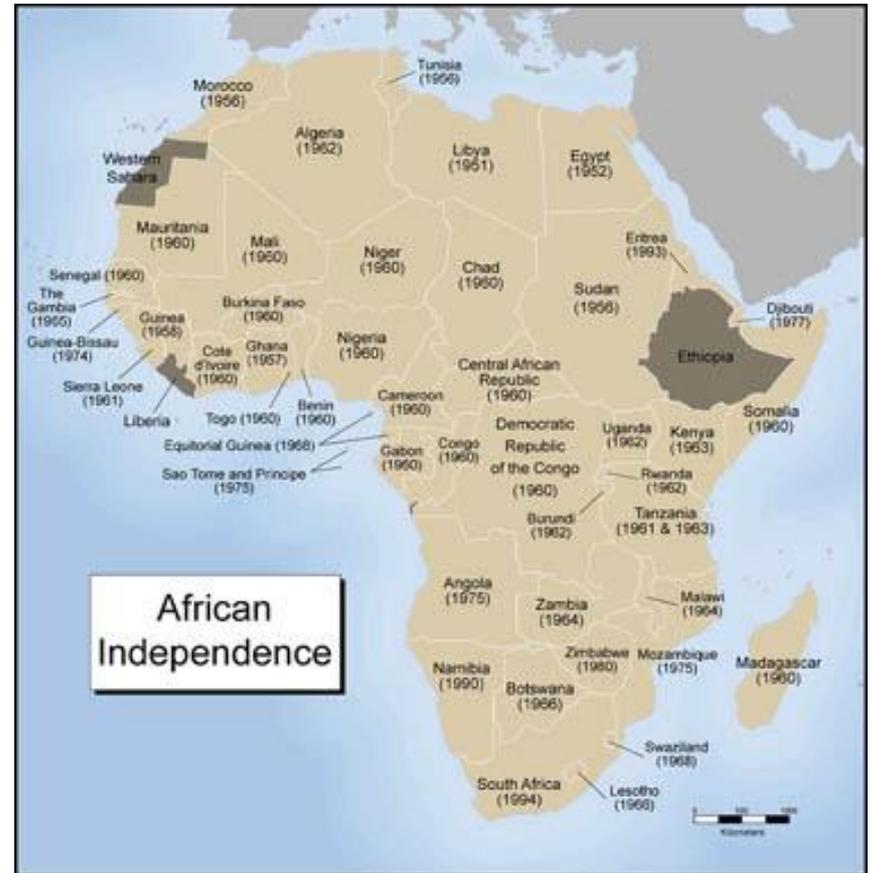
European Empires

- The United Kingdom assembled by far the largest colonial empire, (with) colonies on every continent.
- France had the second-largest overseas territory, although its colonies were concentrated in West Africa and Southeast Asia.
- Both the British and the French also took control of a large number of strategic islands.
- Portugal, Spain, Germany, Italy, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Belgium all established colonies outside Europe, but they controlled less territory than the British and French.
- Germany tried to compete with Britain and France by obtaining African colonies that would interfere with communications in the rival European holdings.

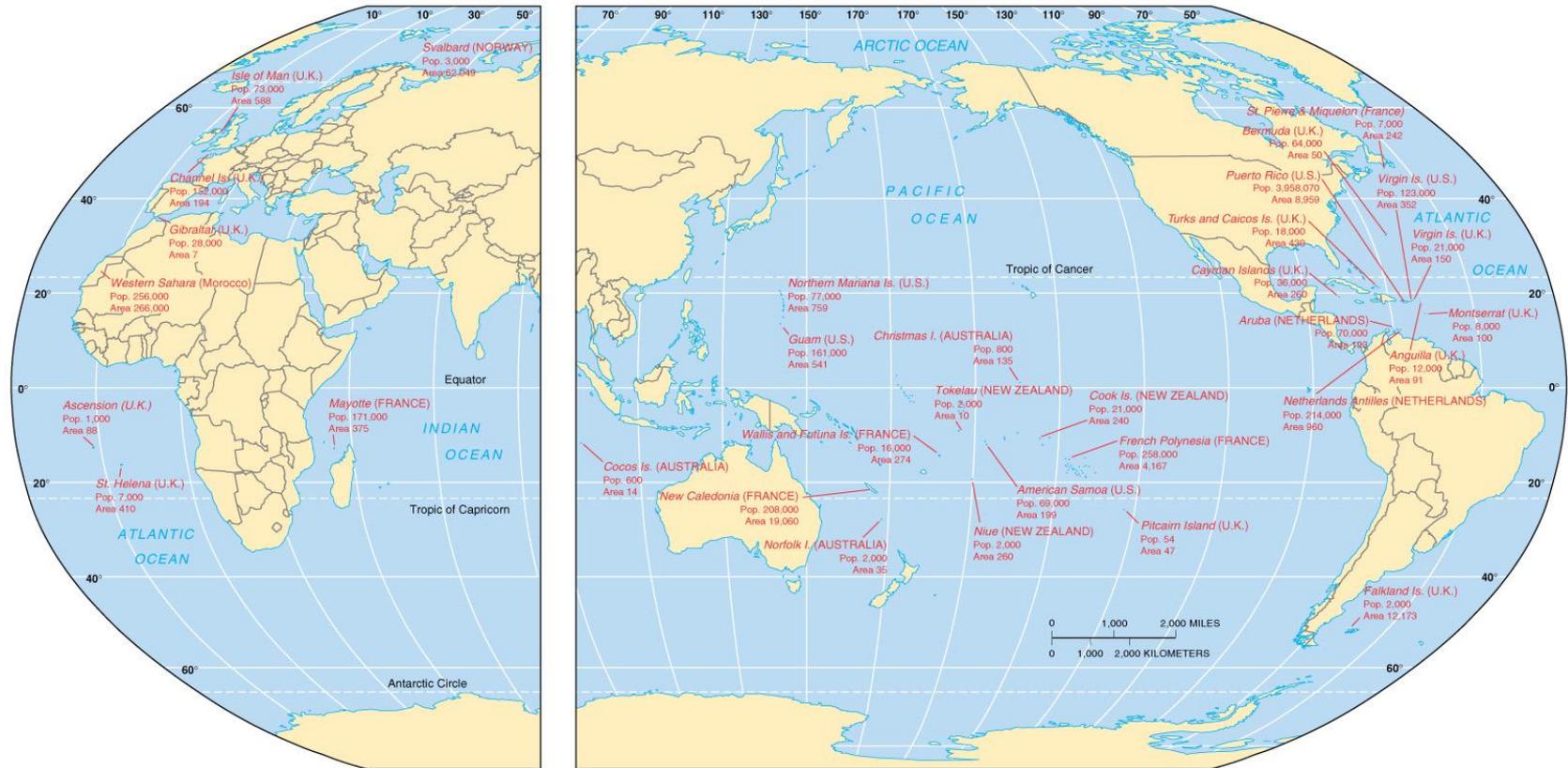


Colonial Practices

- The colonial practices of European states varied.
- France attempted to assimilate its colonies into French culture.
- The British created different government structures and policies for various territories of their empire.
- This decentralized approach helped to protect the diverse cultures.
- Most African and Asian colonies became independent after World War II.



Colonial Possessions, 2003

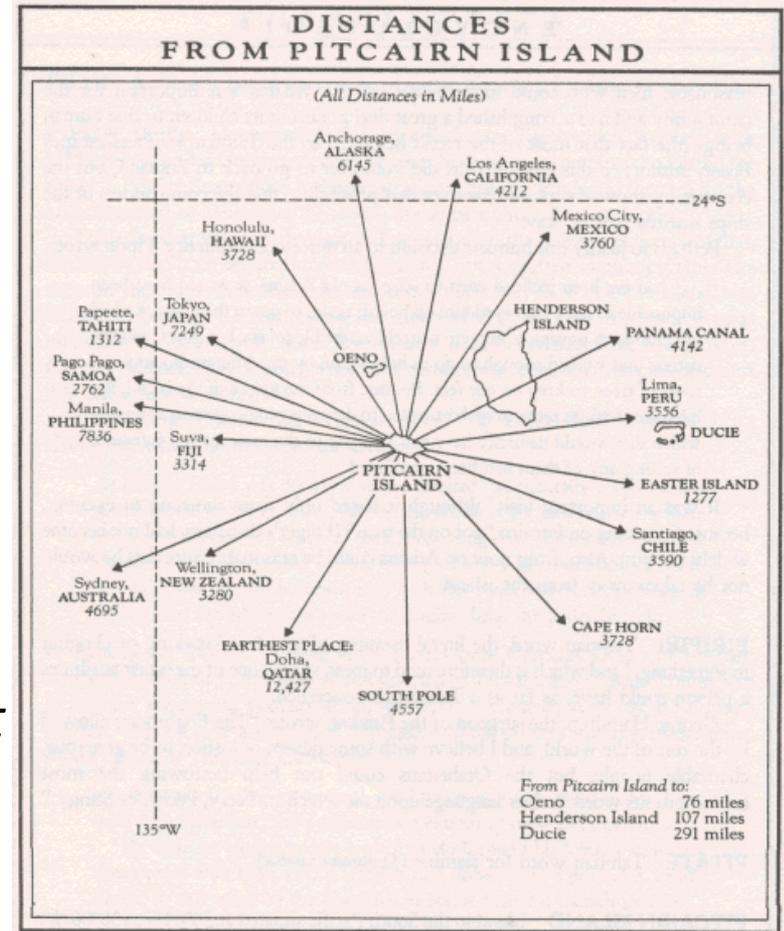


Copyright © 2005 Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc.

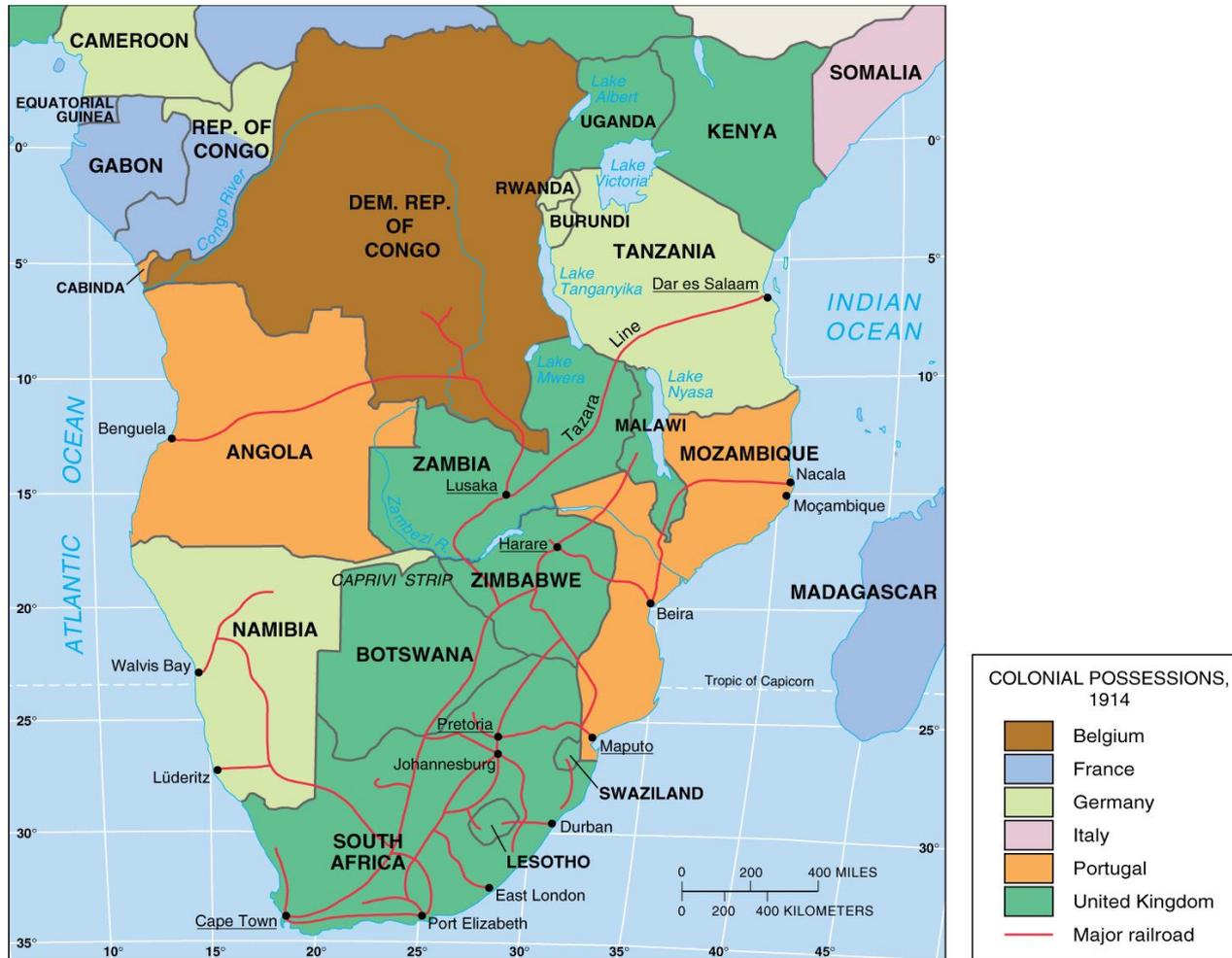
Fig. 8-5: Most of the remaining colonies are small islands in the Pacific or Caribbean.

Boundaries and Boundary Problems of States

- Shapes of states
 - *Five basic shapes*
 - *Landlocked states*
- Types of boundaries
 - *Physical boundaries*
 - *Cultural boundaries*
- Boundaries inside states
 - *Unitary and federal states*
 - *Trend toward federal government*
 - *Electoral geography*



African States



Copyright © 2005 Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc.

Fig. 8-6: Southern, central, and eastern Africa include states that are compact, elongated, prorupted, fragmented, and perforated.

Compact States: Efficient

- In a compact state, the distance from the center to any boundary does not vary significantly.
- Compactness is a beneficial characteristic for most smaller states, because good communications can be more easily established to all regions.



Prorupted States: Access or Disruption

- An otherwise compact state with a large projecting extension is a prorupted state.
- Prorptions are created for two principal reasons.
- First, a prorruption can provide a state with access to a resource, such as water.
- Prorptions can also separate two states that otherwise would share a boundary.



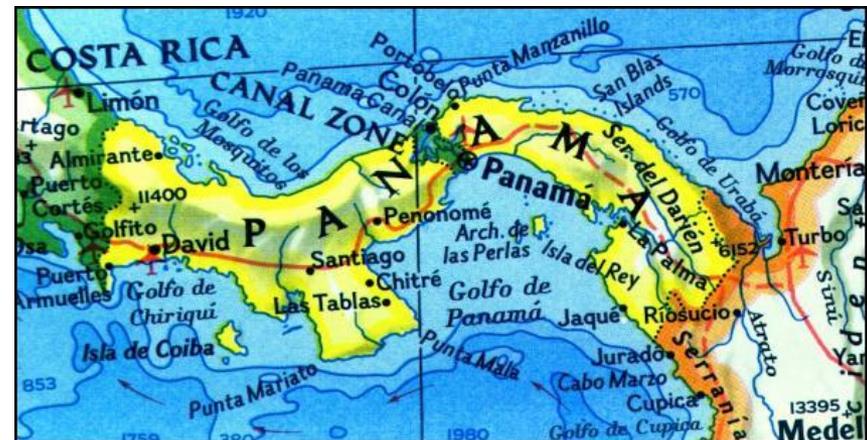
Elongated States: Potential Isolation

- There are a handful of elongated states, or states with a long and narrow shape.
- The best example is Chile.
- A less extreme example of an elongated state is Italy.
- Elongated states may suffer from poor internal communications.

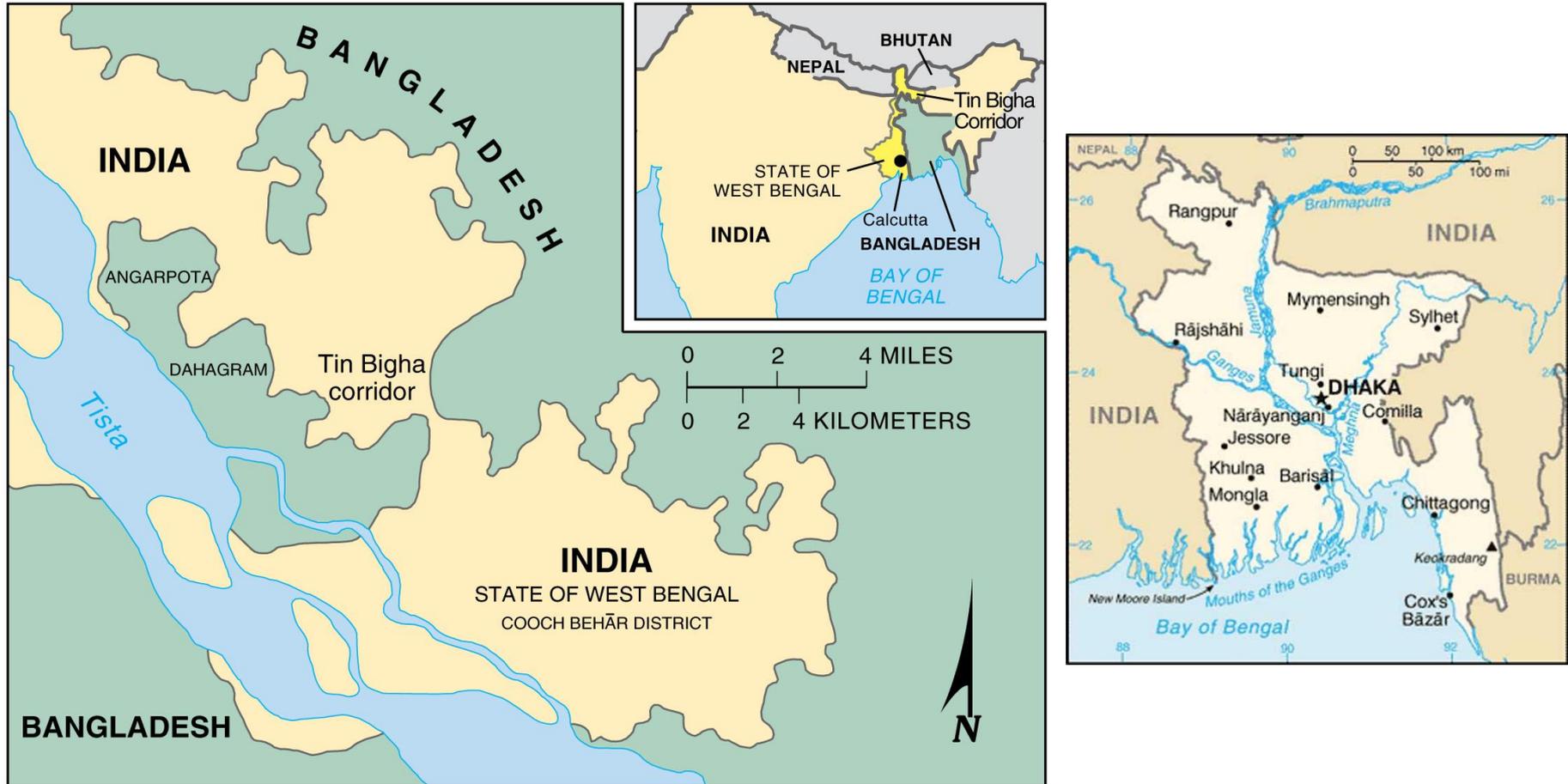


Fragmented States: Problematic

- A fragmented state includes several discontinuous pieces of territory.
- There are two kinds of fragmented states: those with areas separated by water, and those separated by an intervening state.
- A difficult type of fragmentation occurs if the two pieces of territory are separated by another state.
- Picture the difficulty of communicating between Alaska and the lower 48 states if Canada were not a friendly neighbor.
- For most of the twentieth century, Panama was an example of a fragmented state divided in two parts by the Canal, built in 1914 by the United States.



India: The Tin Bigha Corridor



Copyright © 2005 Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc.

Fig. 8-7: The Tin Bigha corridor fragmented two sections of the country of Bangladesh. When it was leased to Bangladesh, a section of India was fragmented.

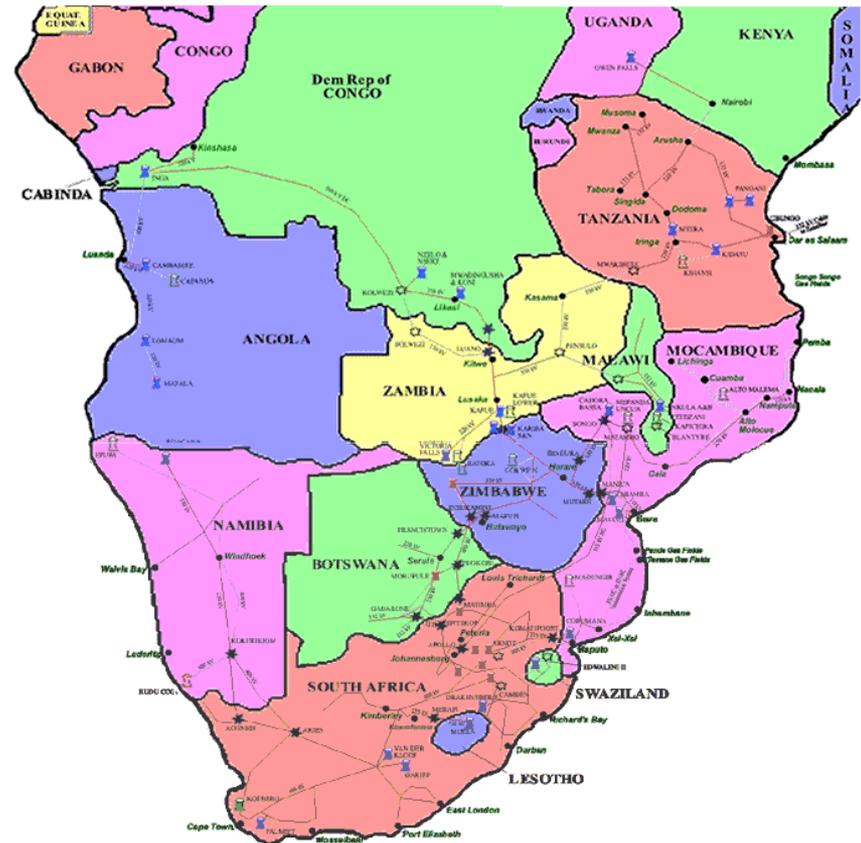
Perforated States: South Africa

- A state that completely surrounds another one is a perforated state.
- The one good example of a perforated state is South Africa, which completely surrounds the state of Lesotho.



Landlocked States

- Lesotho is unique in being completely surrounded by only one state, but it shares an important feature with several other states in southern Africa, as well as in other regions: It is landlocked.
- The prevalence of landlocked states in Africa is a remnant of the colonial era, when Britain and France controlled extensive regions.
- Direct access to an ocean is critical to states because it facilitates international trade.
- To send and receive goods by sea, a landlocked state must arrange to use another country's seaport.



Frontiers in the Arabian Peninsula



Copyright © 2005 Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc.

Fig. 8-8: Several states in the Arabian Peninsula are separated by frontiers rather than precise boundaries.

Boundaries are of two types: physical and cultural

- Neither type of boundary is better or more “natural,” and many boundaries are a combination of both types.
- Important physical features on Earth’s surface can make good boundaries because they are easily seen, both on a map and on the ground.
- Three types of physical elements serve as boundaries between states:
 - mountains,
 - deserts,
 - and water.

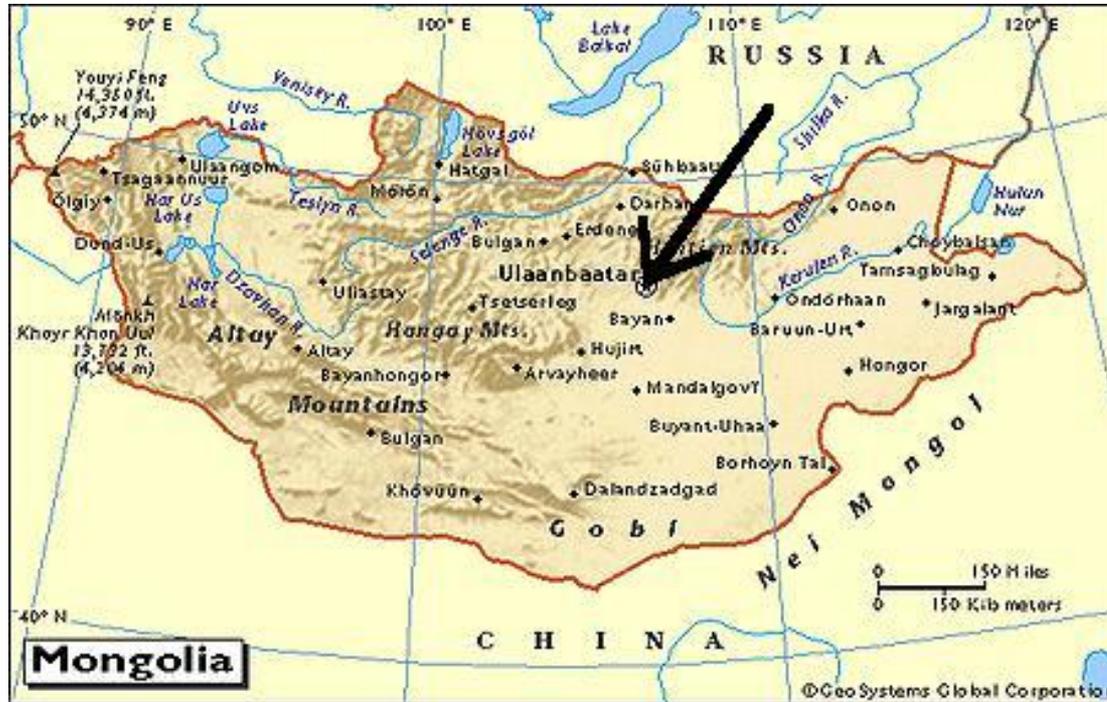


Mountain Boundaries

- Mountains can be effective boundaries if they are difficult to cross (and) because they are rather permanent and usually are sparsely inhabited.
- Mountains do not always provide for the amicable separation of neighbors.
- Argentina and Chile agreed to be divided by the crest of the Andes Mountains but could not decide on the precise location of the crest.



Desert Boundaries



- Like mountains, deserts are hard to cross and sparsely inhabited.
- Desert boundaries are common in Africa and Asia.

