

# CHAPTER 14: POLITICAL CULTURE AND THE EVOLVING STATE

## CHAPTER OUTLINE

- I. Introduction
- II. Political culture
  - A. Political cultures vary
    1. People adhere to political ideas just as they do a religion or language
    2. Many political systems are designed to keep religion and politics separate
    3. **Theocracies**—leaders deemed to be under divine guidance
  - B. Territoriality
    1. Human territoriality
    2. Key element of political culture
    3. Discussion of human feelings toward state territory
- III. State and nation
  - A. Terminology
    1. State and country are interchangeable
    2. Some countries have internal divisions called states
    3. A nation may be larger than a state
    4. *Nation* has historic, ethnic and often linguistic and religious connotations
    5. Many countries are states but not nations
  - B. Stateless nations
    1. Example of the Palestinian Arabs
    2. Example of the Kurds (Figure 14-2)
  - C. Rise of the modern state
    1. The European model
      - a) The Norman invasion of 1066 produced a whole new political order
      - b) On the European continent, the strength of some rulers produced national cohesiveness in more stable domains
      - c) Economic revival and so called Dark Ages were over
      - d) Treaties signed at the end of the Thirty Years' War contained fundamentals of statehood and nationhood
      - e) Western Europe's strong monarchies began to represent something more than authority
    2. Power and primacy—the **Renaissance**
      - a) Mercantilism
      - b) Religious wars
      - c) During the mid-seventeenth century, instability ruled, and strife occurred frequently
      - d) City-based merchants, not the nobility, gained wealth
      - e) As money and influence were concentrated in the cities, land as a measure of affluence began to lose its relevance
- IV. The nation-state
  - A. Became the world model
    1. Some became democratic, some autocratic, and some parliamentary democracies
    2. **Sovereignty** rests with the nation—the people
      - a) Emerged after the Thirty Years' War
      - b) Each nation should have its own sovereign territory
      - c) Some nations abolished their monarchy altogether

3. Europe controlled much of the world
    - a) Defined ground rules of emerging international state system
    - b) Japan remodeled itself during the mid-nineteenth century
  4. At the end of the colonial period, newly liberated peoples created “nation states” on the European model
- B. Are there real nation states?
1. Depends on how one defines nation
  2. Virtually all states are characterized by internal cultural diversity
  3. Even in culturally heterogeneous states the vast majority of people can share a strong sense of “national spirit”
  4. National spirit defined—emotional commitment to the state and what it stands for
    - a) Example of Switzerland
    - b) Different way of viewing the concept of nation
- V. Spatial characteristics of states
- A. Physical and cultural properties
1. States differ in as many ways as they are similar
  2. Vast differences in size and population
  3. The state is a complex system
  4. To succeed must foster a sense of legitimacy
  5. Spirit of nationhood is very fragile
  6. Boundaries often throw together peoples of diverse cultures or divide cultural affinities
  7. Today a large majority of states possess all four of the main feature of the European model
    - a) Clearly defined territory
    - b) Substantial population
    - c) Certain types of organizational structures
    - d) Some power
- VI. Territory
- A. No state can exist without it
1. **Territorial morphology**—size, shape, and relative location
  2. Different territorial characteristics can present opportunities and challenges
- B. Size
1. Large states have a greater chance of having a wide range of environments and resources
    - a) For the United States population and abundant resources have helped it emerge as a major global power
    - b) The former Soviet Union has obstacles because of resource and population distribution
  2. Very small states are referred to as *microstates*
- C. Shape (Figure 14-3)
1. Compact
  2. Fragmented
  3. Elongated
  4. Prorupt
  5. Perforated
- D. Relative location
1. Can have more effect and size of shape of a state
  2. Resource-rich location
  3. Relation to global mainstreams of activity
- E. Exclaves and enclaves—defined and described (Figure 14-4)

- F. Landlocked countries
  1. Face locational challenges
  2. Political instability of coastal neighbors can be a problem
  3. Examples given
- VII. Land boundaries
  - A. International boundaries
    1. A vertical plane cutting through the rocks below, and the airspace above (Figure 14-5)
    2. Arguments arise over coal, oil, and gas reserves that lie across boundaries
    3. Example of the oil dispute between Iraq and Kuwait (Figure 14-6)
    4. Disputes arise over airspace, and pollutants of one state crossing into another
  - B. The evolution of boundaries
    1. **Definition**
    2. **Delimitation**
    3. **Demarcation**
    4. Not all boundaries are demarcated
  - C. Types of boundaries
    1. **Geometric boundary**
    2. **Physical-political boundary** or **natural-political boundary**
    3. **Cultural-political boundary**
  - D. Origin-based classification
    1. Genetic boundary classification established by Richard Hartshorne
    2. Hartshorne reasoned that certain boundaries were defined before present-day human landscapes developed (Figure 14-7A–D)
      - a) **Antecedent boundary**
      - b) **Subsequent boundary**
      - c) **Superimposed boundary**
      - d) **Relic boundary**
  - E. Frontiers
    1. The terms "frontier" and "boundary" are not interchangeable
    2. A frontier is a zone of separation
    3. Used before boundaries separated countries
- VIII. Functions of boundaries
  - A. Introduction
    1. Walls used to keep people from moving across boundaries
    2. Today boundaries mark the limit of state jurisdiction
    3. Serve as state symbols of sovereignty and foster nationalism
  - B. Internal boundaries
    1. Needed for administrative purposes, and sometime accommodate cultural regionalism
    2. Examples: United States, Canada, India
    3. Some culturally divided countries have internal boundaries that do not show on a map
    4. The former Yugoslavia (Figure 14-8)
  - C. Boundary disputes
    1. Can take place for many different reasons
    2. Four principal forms of boundary disputes
      - a) Definitional
      - b) Locational
      - c) Operational
      - d) Allocational

