

CHAPTER 17: THE CHANGING GLOBAL POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- I. Introduction
 - A. Discussion on the *new world order*
- II. Forces of devolution
 - A. The counterforce to supranationalism
 1. Today, many states are afflicted by internal centrifugal forces
 2. No New World Order can be established as long as destabilizing forces exist
 3. Even some the world's oldest states are subject to devolution
 4. Time has failed to submerge regionalism in the United Kingdom
 - a) Rising tide of separatism in Scotland and Wales
 - b) Underscores the cultural forces at work in many states
 - B. Ethnonational forces
 1. Ethnicity is often based on cultural commonalities
 2. Peoples sharing a strong sense of ethnicity feel they are part of a group
 3. **Ethnonationalism** can be a fundamental force promoting devolution
 4. Canada—the French speaking province of Canada
 5. Devolutionary forces exist in Europe (Figure 17-1)
 - a) Spain—greater autonomy desired by Basques and province of Catalonia
 - b) Belgium—Flanders and Wallonia
 - c) Czechoslovakia—peacefully divided into the Czech Republic and Slovakia
 - d) Discussion on the break-up of Yugoslavia (Figure 17-2)
 6. Devolution elsewhere
 - a) Sudan—Muslim north and non-Muslim south
 - b) Sri Lanka
 7. Ethnonational differences are weakening the fabric in many states today
 - C. Economic forces
 1. Catalonia
 2. Discussion of Italy, France, Corsica, and Brazil
 - D. Spatial Influences
 1. Devolutionary events occur on the margins of states (Figure 17-1)
 2. Many islands are also subject to devolutionary forces
 3. Discussion of devolutionary forces in the United States
 4. **Gateway states**—political entities situated in border zones between geopolitical power cores
- III. The devolution of the Soviet Union (Figure 17-3)
 - A. One of the world's former two superpowers
 1. Caused by the explosion of centrifugal forces in an already weakened country
 2. End of Soviet domination in Eastern Europe and fall of the Berlin Wall
 3. Devolutionary forces grew rapidly as the republics declared their independence (Figure 17-3)
 4. Each of the new 15 republics faced centrifugal forces from within
 5. Old animosities between ethnic groups surged to the surface
 - B. The Changing Russian periphery
 1. Presence of about 25 million Russians in former Soviet Republics along Russia's rim
 - a) New Russian government called this former Soviet sphere the Russian **Near Abroad**
 - b) Implied the right to intervene
 - c) New experienced Soviet rulers were appointed in key positions to protect interest of remaining Russians in the republics
 - d) Ethnic problems arose with the Islamic populations
 2. Discussion of ethnic problems
 - C. Devolution of Russia
 1. Internal "republics" demanded more autonomy, more control over their own resources and

- facilities, and some wanted more territory
 - 2. Russian Parliament recognized five additional “republics”
 - 3. Cultural forces gave rise to an anti-Russian rebellion in Chechnya
 - 4. The vastness of the country makes it hard to control faraway republics
 - 5. The new Russia is a federal state
- IV. The state in the new world order
- A. The complexity in today’s world
 - 1. Growing power of regions, provinces, States, and other internal entities
 - 2. Powerful provinces and their thriving urban cores engage in their own foreign commercial policies
 - 3. Economic activities are being conducted on a global basis, making national boundaries less important
 - 4. After an attack, a country does not always know exactly who the enemy is
 - a) Terrorist attacks can come from many states
 - b) Example of Afghanistan and the Taliban
 - 5. The state still remains fundamental
 - a) Maintain the armed forces and use them in the national interest
 - b) Continue to be the units we use to divide up the world
 - 6. Majority of supranational alliances bind together states within geographic realms, not among them
 - B. Forces of change
 - 1. **Globalization**
 - a) Most commonly seen as an economic phenomenon
 - b) Financial and trade links now tie together peoples in distant places
 - c) Multinational corporations have assumed major roles in human affairs
 - d) Difficult for states to control economic relations
 - e) State’s position being eroded by globalization of social and cultural relations
 - 2. Notions of democracy
 - a) Definition and practice may vary
 - b) Democracy has taken significant strides forward over the past decade
 - c) Representative government has made little progress in the North African-Southwest Asian realm
 - d) Anti-democratic practices can be found even in long-established democracies
 - 3. The growing influence of religion
 - a) A global phenomenon
 - b) When the move to religion is associated with fundamentalist ideas, the results can be explosive
 - 4. Effects of **religious fundamentalism**
 - a) Jews settling in Israeli-occupied territories fueled regional territorial conflicts
 - b) An upsurge of Shiite fundamentalism led by an exiled ayatollah in Iran
 - c) Problems in Algeria, Sudan, and Malaysia are discussed
 - 5. Some see the world in bipolar religious terms—including terrorists
 - C. A New World Order
 - 1. Factors affecting the forming of a New World Order
 - a) Most supranational unions remain weak and do not require member states to give up much sovereignty
 - b) Antiquated boundary framework
 - c) The flow of weapons and diffusion of nuclear arms
 - d) Diffusion of nuclear arms technology is discussed
 - 2. The foregoing underscores the risks should a New World Order come about by any means other than consensus
 - D. Looking Ahead box: Geopolitics in the Twenty-First Century