

Chapter 8

Political Geography



Political Geography: Key Issues

1. Where Are States Distributed?
2. Why Are Nation-States Difficult to Create?
3. Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?
4. Where Do States Face Threats?

Key Issue 1: Where Are States Distributed?

1.1 Introducing Political Geography

1.2 Challenges in Defining States

Introducing Political Geography

- *State* is a synonym for *country*: political unit with control over internal and external affairs
- Estimating number of sovereign states complicated:
 - North and South Korea
 - China and Taiwan
 - Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands
 - Sahrawi Republic (Western Sahara)

States of the World

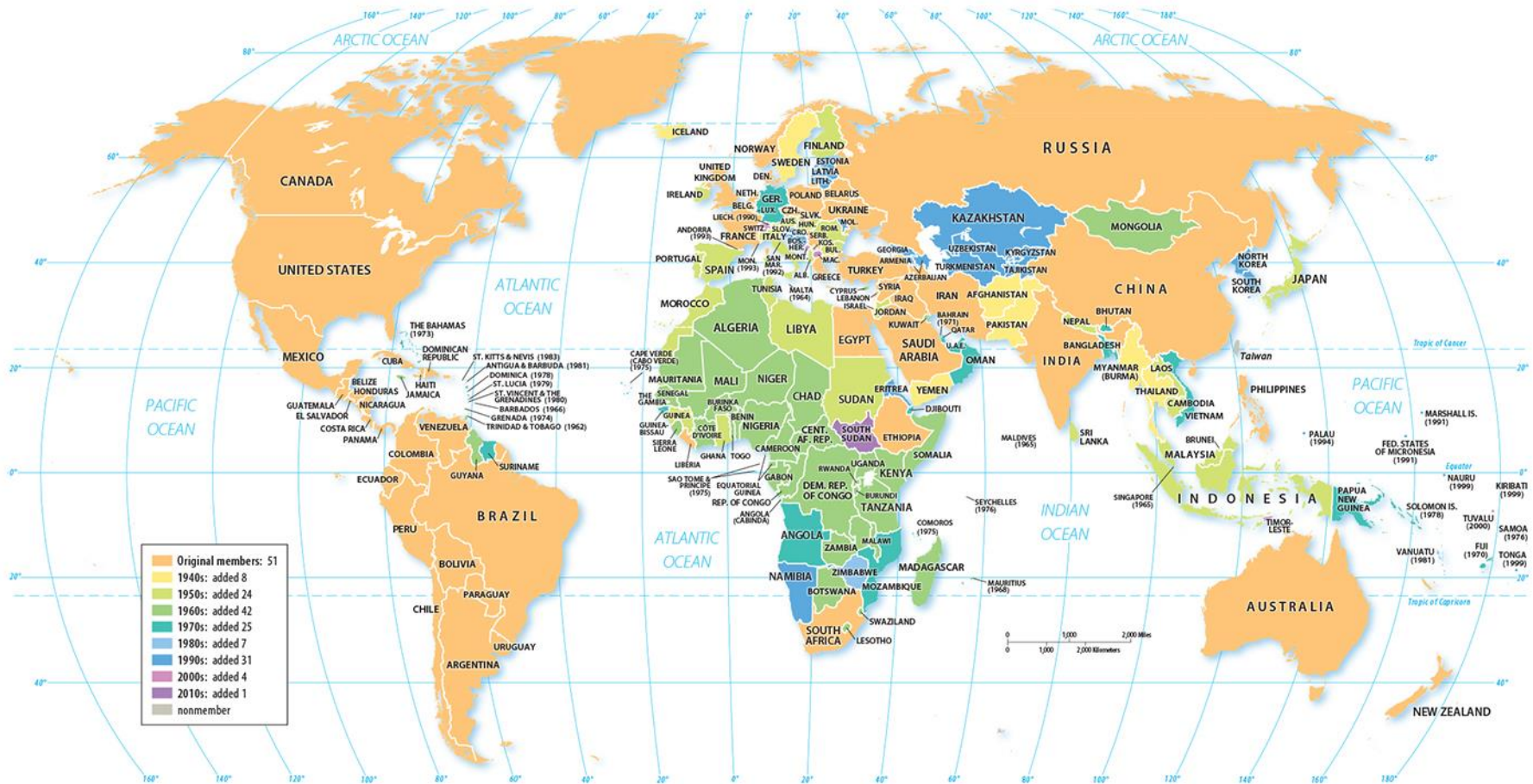


Figure 8-1: Colors indicate date of United Nations membership; nearly every state is a member of the UN.

Disputed Territory



Figure 8-4: The Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands are claimed by both China and Japan.

Western Sahara

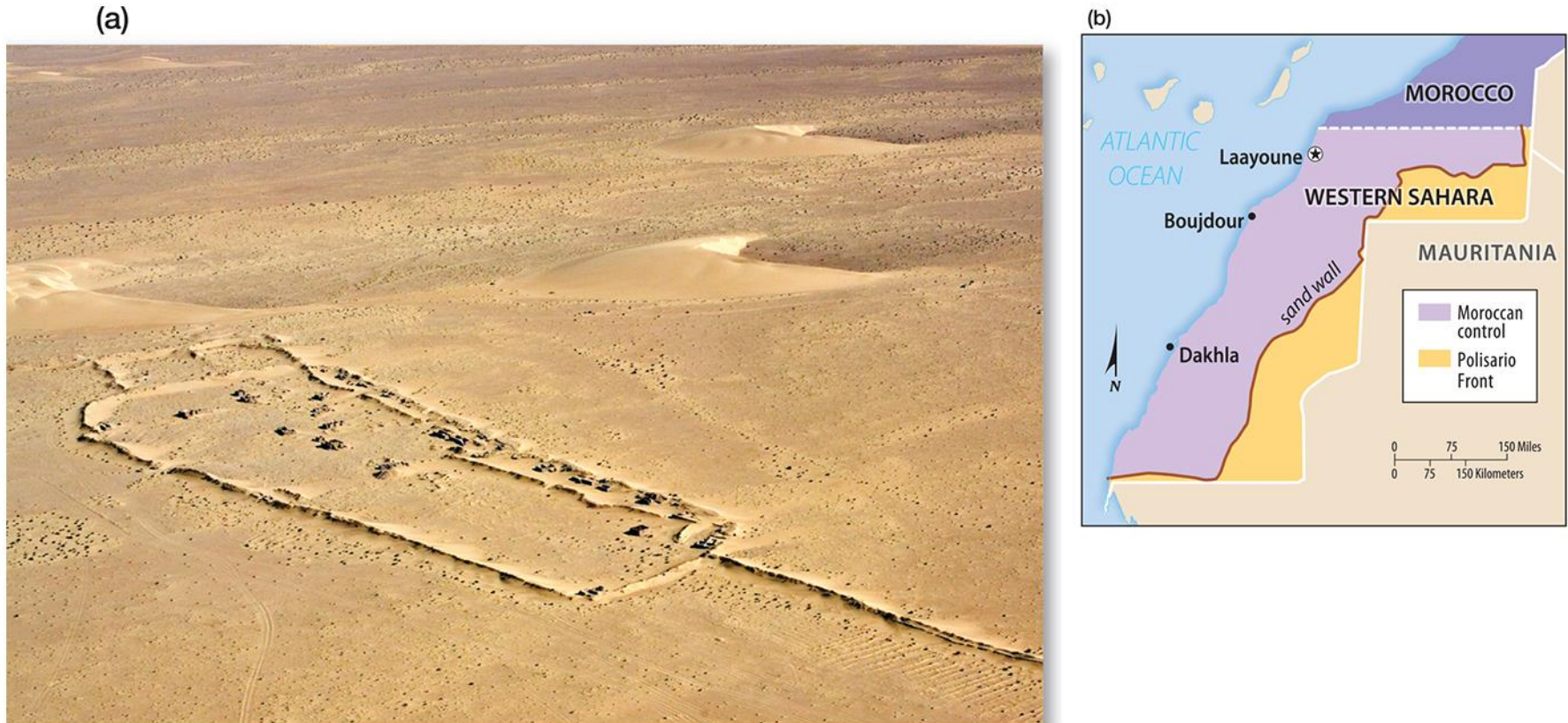


Figure 8-6: Western Sahara is claimed by Morocco, which controls most of the territory. The Polisario Front controls the far eastern portion, behind a sand berm built by the Moroccan government.

Key Issue 2: Why Are Nation-States Difficult to Create?

2.1 Development of States

2.2 Nation-States and Multinational States

2.3 Russia: The Largest Multiethnic State

2.4 Nation-States in the Former Soviet Union

2.5 Colonies

What is a Nation- State?

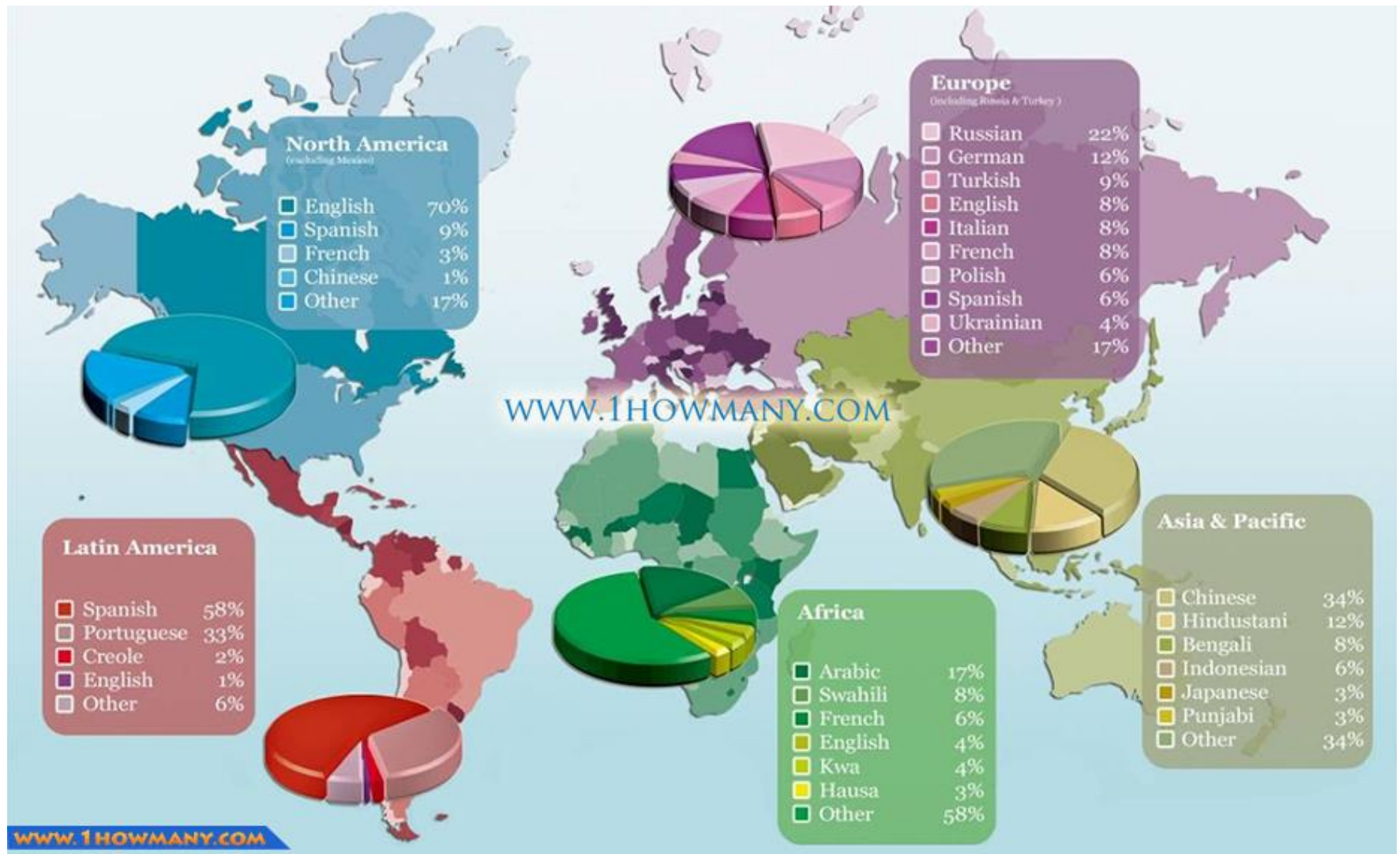
- State?
 - An area organized into a political unit and ruled by an established government that has control over its internal and foreign affairs.
- Nation?
 - Large group of people who share a common language, culture, ethnicity, descent, or history
- Nation- state?
 - A state whose citizens or subjects are homogeneous in factors such as language or common descent.
 - A state that also corresponds to being occupied by a particular ethnicity
- Is it possible to have a nation- state? Is it likely?

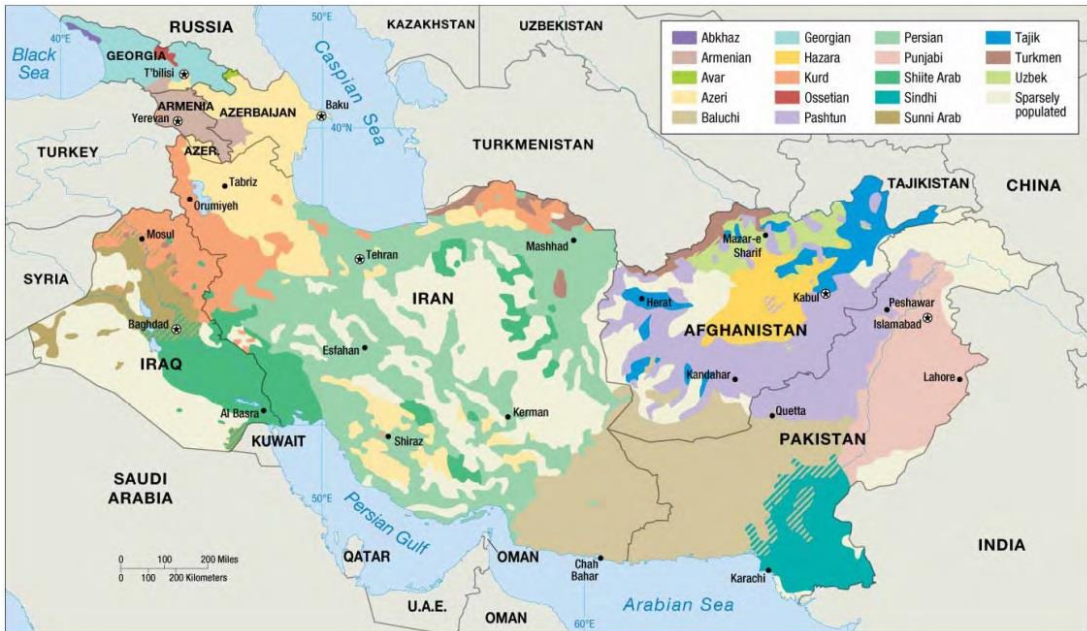
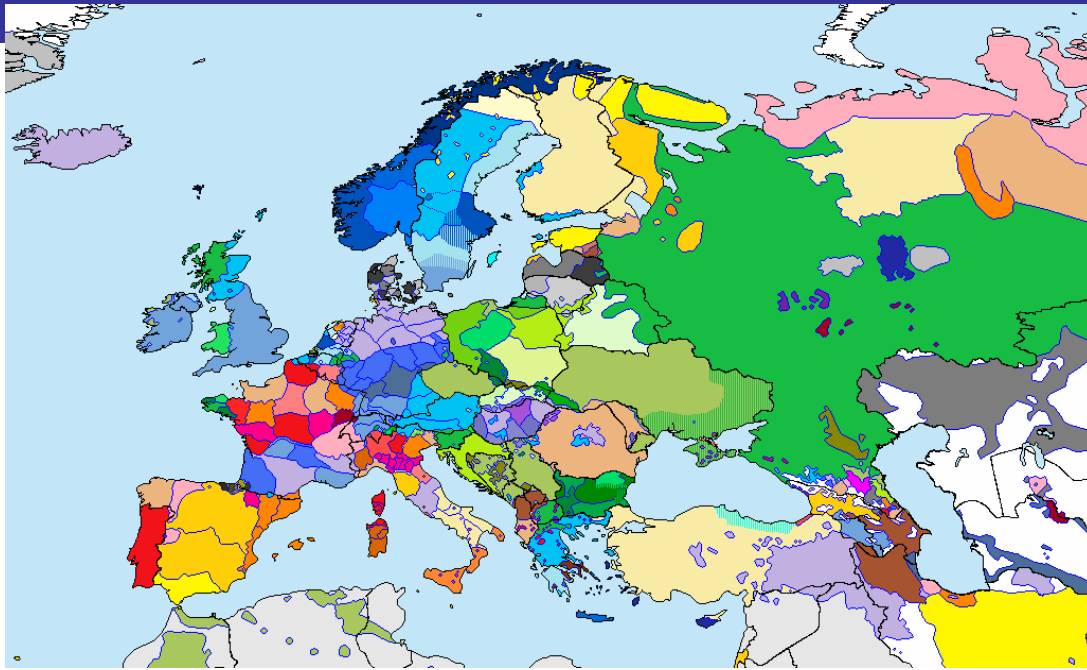
Finding the Geographic Unicorn

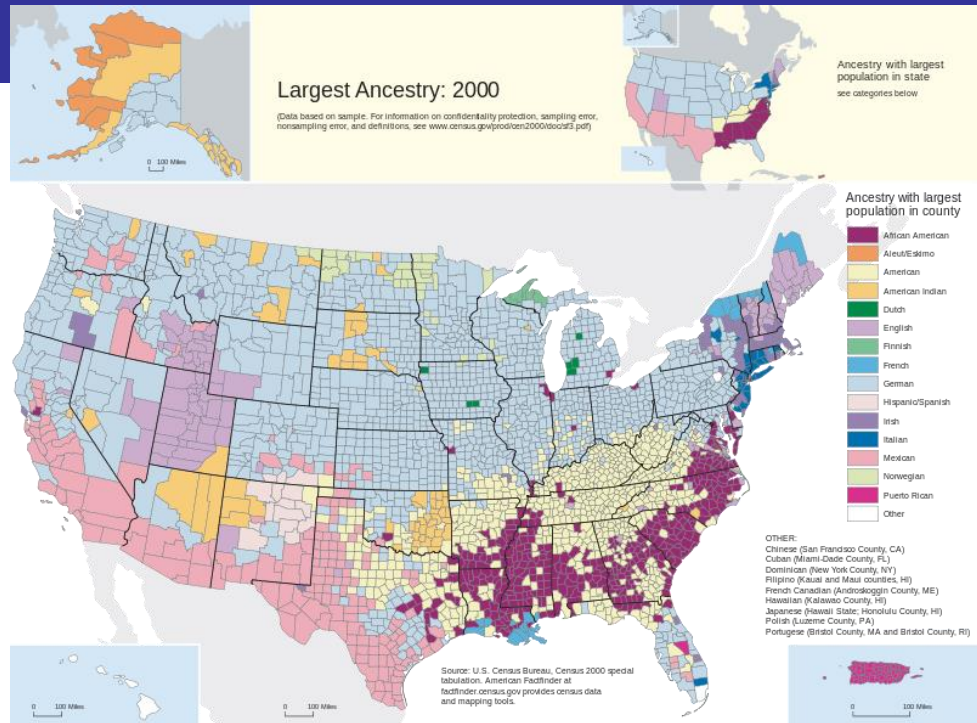


Can Nation-States Really Exist?

Percentages of Languages Spoken







Can Nation-States Really Exist?

- If nation- states truly exist...
 - What would be their characteristics?
 - Self determination- self governing states
 - Ethnically homogenous
 - What types of states would they most likely be?
 - Small
 - Isolated
 - Little immigration
 - Conflict and tension free?
 - Vulnerable or strong?
 - What regions of the world would we most likely see them? Why?
 - Europe
 - The Pacific
 - Africa

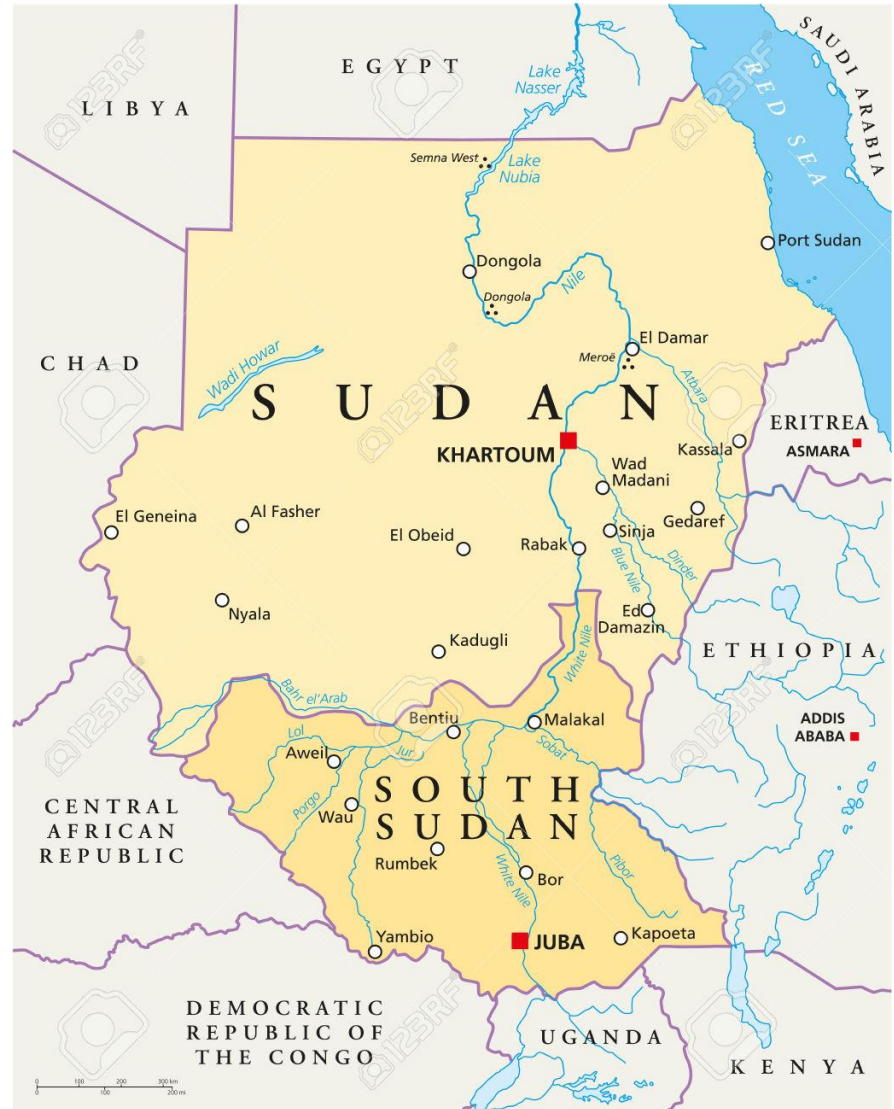
Ethnicity in Africa

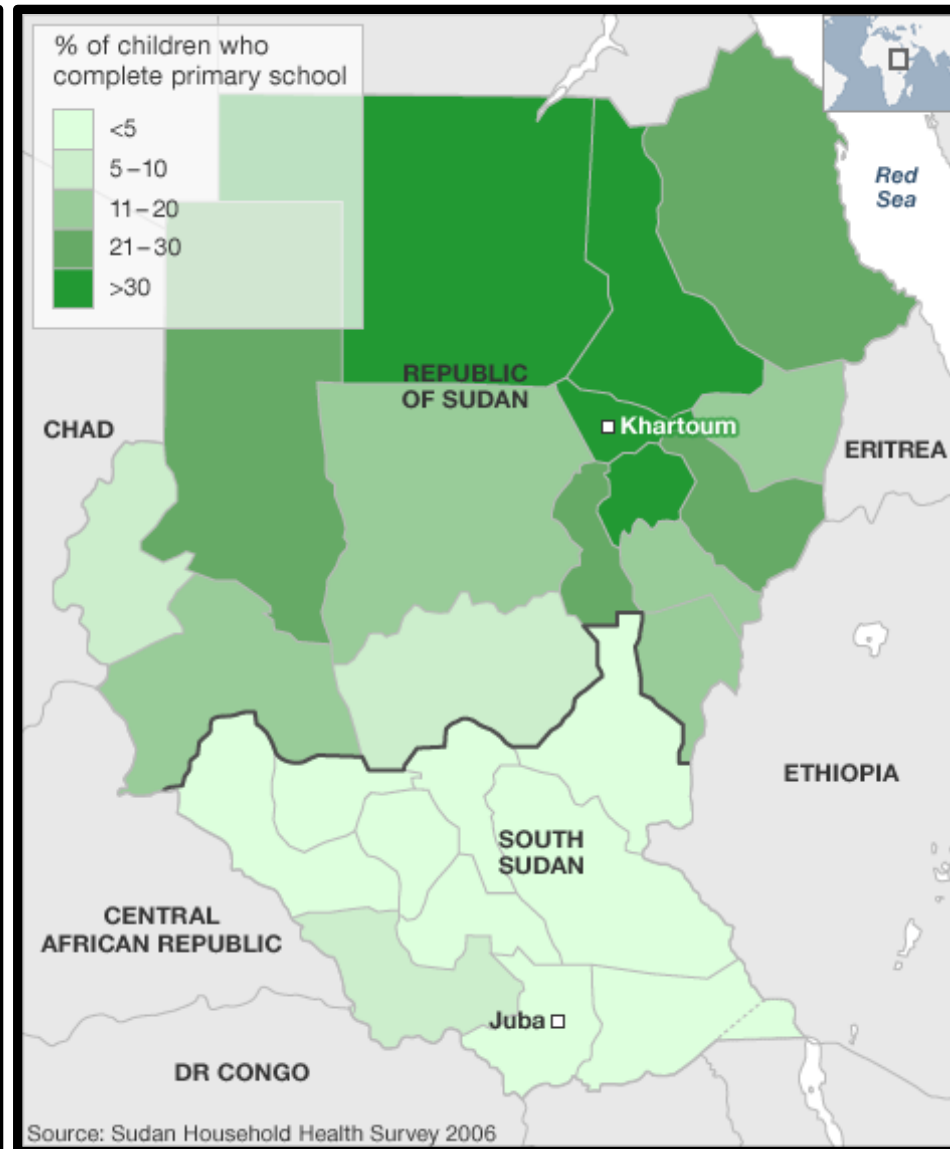
- What would Africa look like if we divided it by Ethnicity?

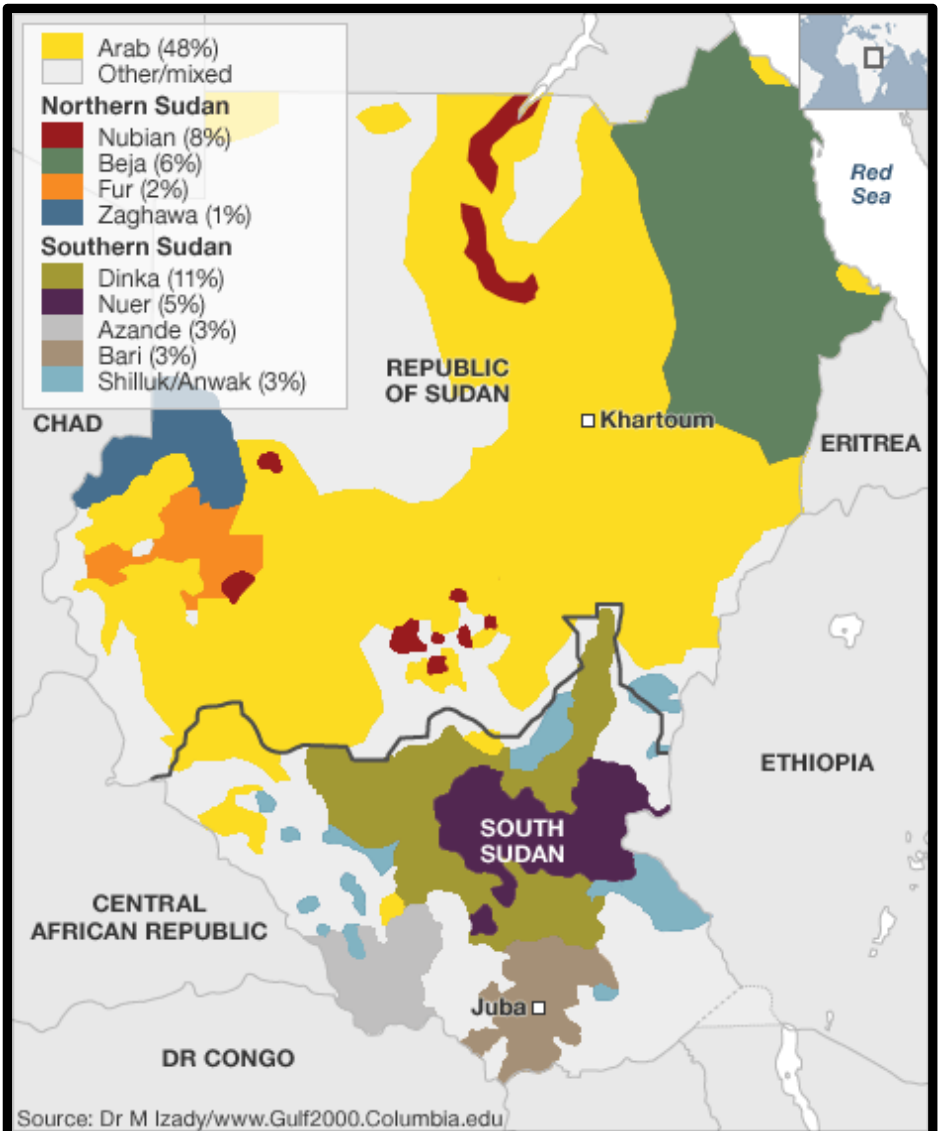


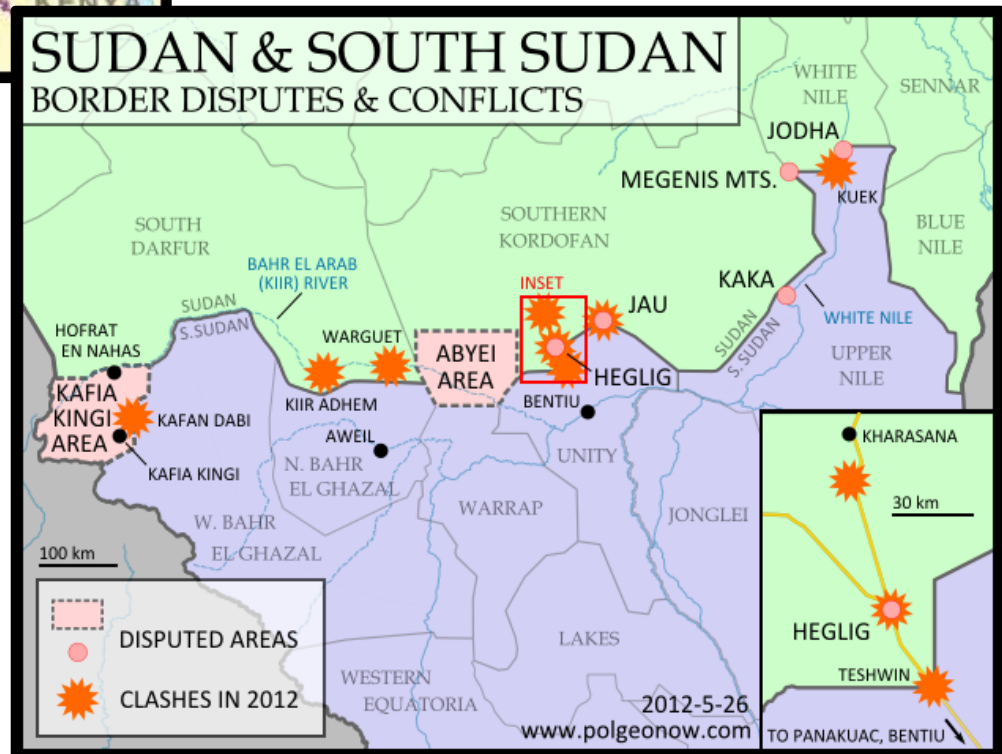
Creation of South Sudan

- Newest state in the world.
- Established July 9, 2011
- Result of the end to civil war over ethnic cleansing led by the northern government









South Sudan conflict

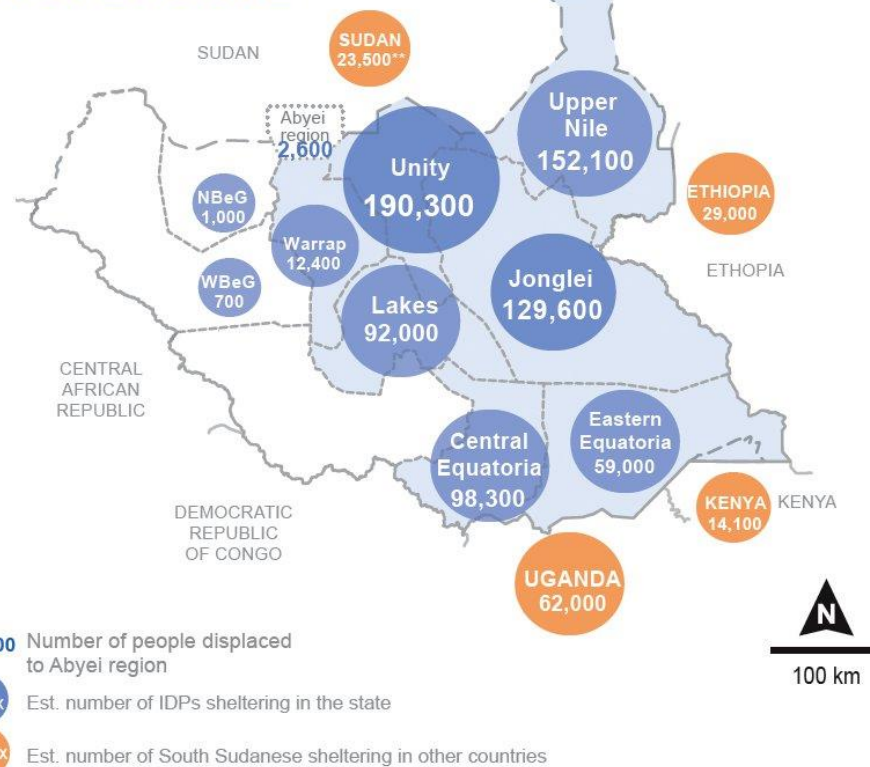
States affected by violence

81,000* Internally Displaced People

*Estimated, total likely to be higher



IDPs PER STATE



Development of States

Nation-state: ethnicity with sovereign territory

- Ancient states: Fertile Crescent city-states
- Medieval states: European realms
- Twentieth-century Europe: boundaries matched to ethnicities

Fertile Crescent



Figure 8-7: This region was home to some of the earliest known city-states.

Roman Empire



Figure 8-8: The Roman Empire represented a unified political body over many disparate ethnicities.

Europe, 1300

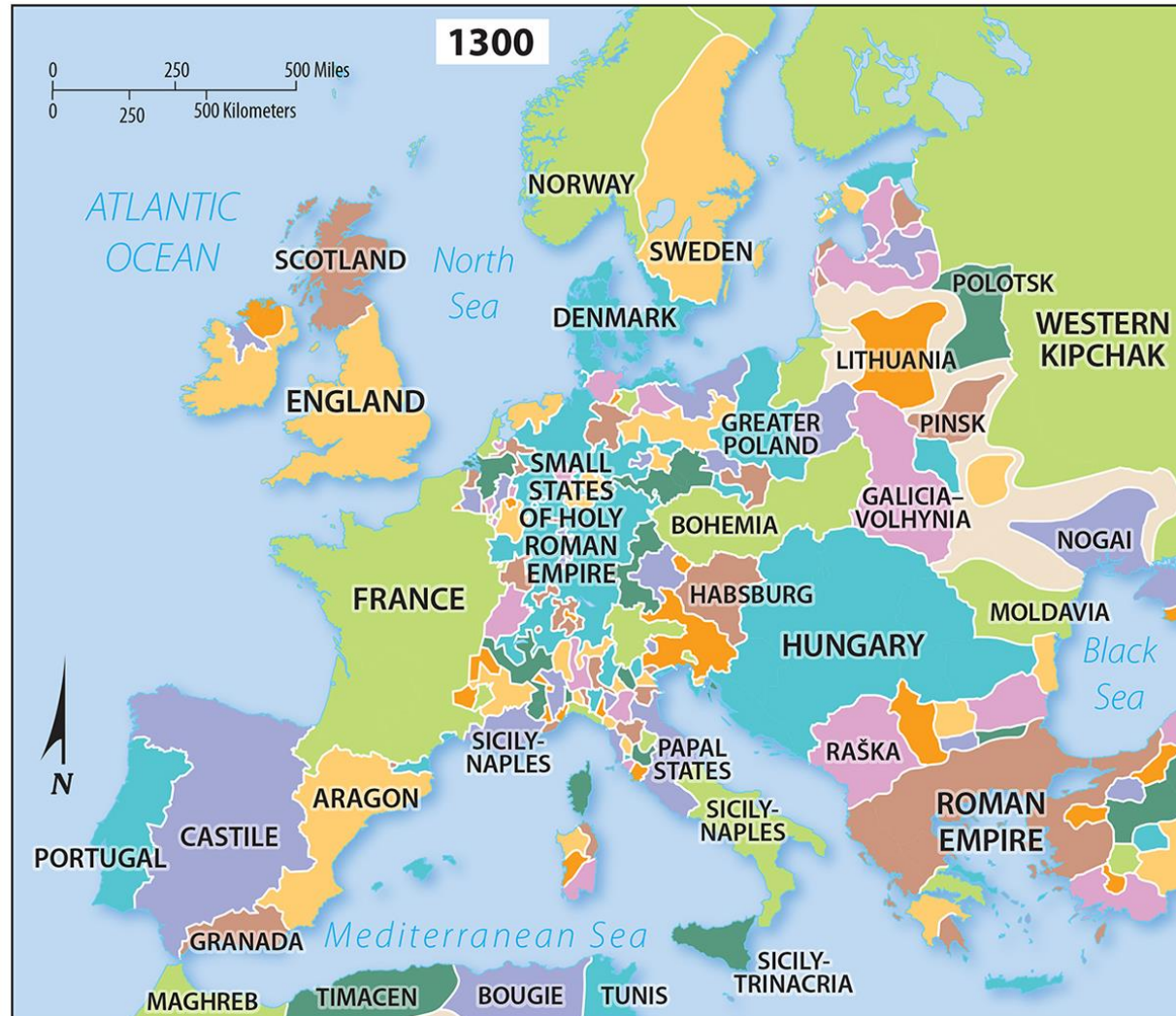


Figure 8-9: After the fall of the Roman Empire, Europe had many small political units.

Europe, 1800



Figure 8-10: Smaller political units became part of larger empires by 1800.

Europe, 1924

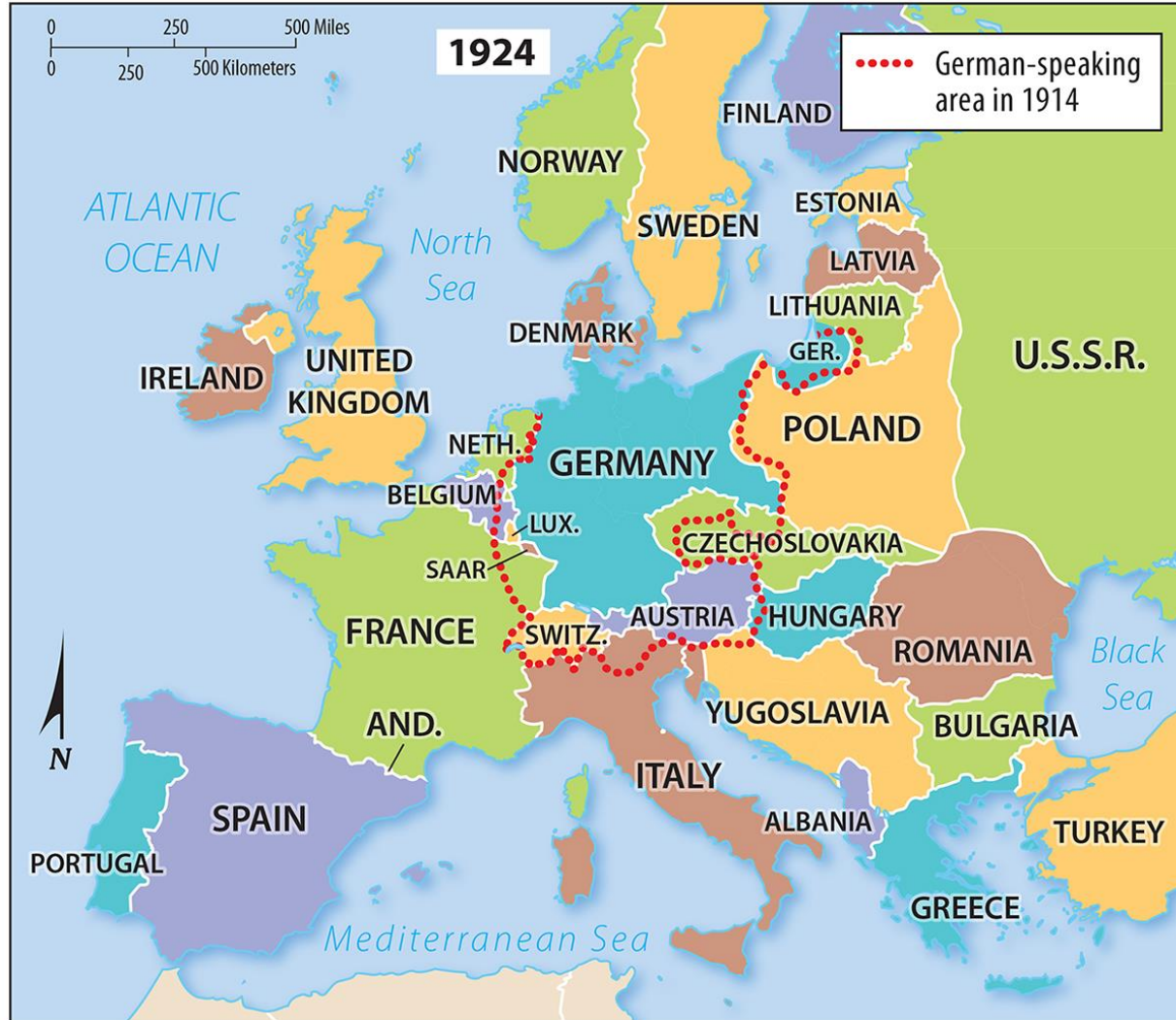


Figure 8-11: After World War I, the victors redrew boundaries on the basis of language.

Nation-States and Multinational States

- Self-determination: right for an ethnicity to govern itself
- Multiethnic state: more than one ethnicity, shared nationality
- Multinational state: more than one ethnicity with histories of self-determination

Ethnic Diversity

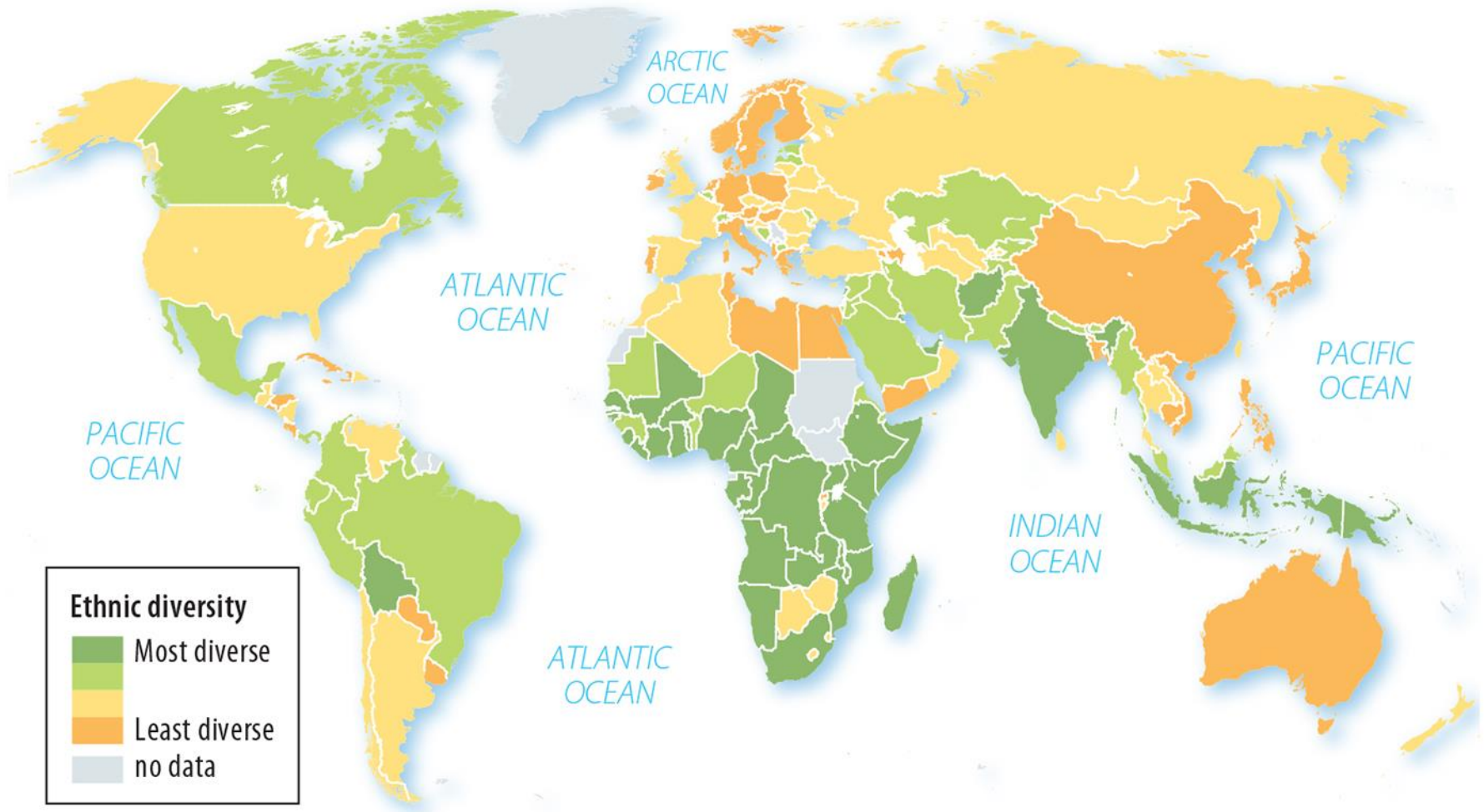


Figure 8-12: Ethnic diversity by state varies throughout the world, with Africa having the most ethnically diverse states.

Europe, 1980



Figure 8-13: Multinational states like Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia eventually divided, and a largely German population divided between East and West Germany was reunited.

Soviet Union



Figure 8-17: The former Soviet Union was a multinational state with 15 republics that are now independent states.

Ethnicities in Russia



Figure 8-18: The majority population is ethnically Russian, but there are diverse groups along Russia's borders and in its center; some have histories of self-determination.

Ethnicities in Ukraine



Figure 8-19: Ukraine's eastern region is home to more ethnic Russians. Crimea was occupied by Russian forces in 2014.

Ethnicities in the Caucasus



Figure 8-21: The Caucasus region's three nation-states of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan also have non-majority ethnic populations that seek independence or changes to borders.

Ethnicities in Central Asia



Figure 8-22: The five states of Central Asia that were once part of the Soviet Union have experienced varying levels of conflict without correlation to ethnic diversity.

Key Issue 3: Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?

3.1 Cultural Boundaries

3.2 Geometric Boundaries

3.3 Physical Boundaries

3.4 Shapes of States

3.5 Governing States

3.6 Electoral Geography

3.7 Geography of Gerrymandering

Religious Cultural Boundary: Ireland

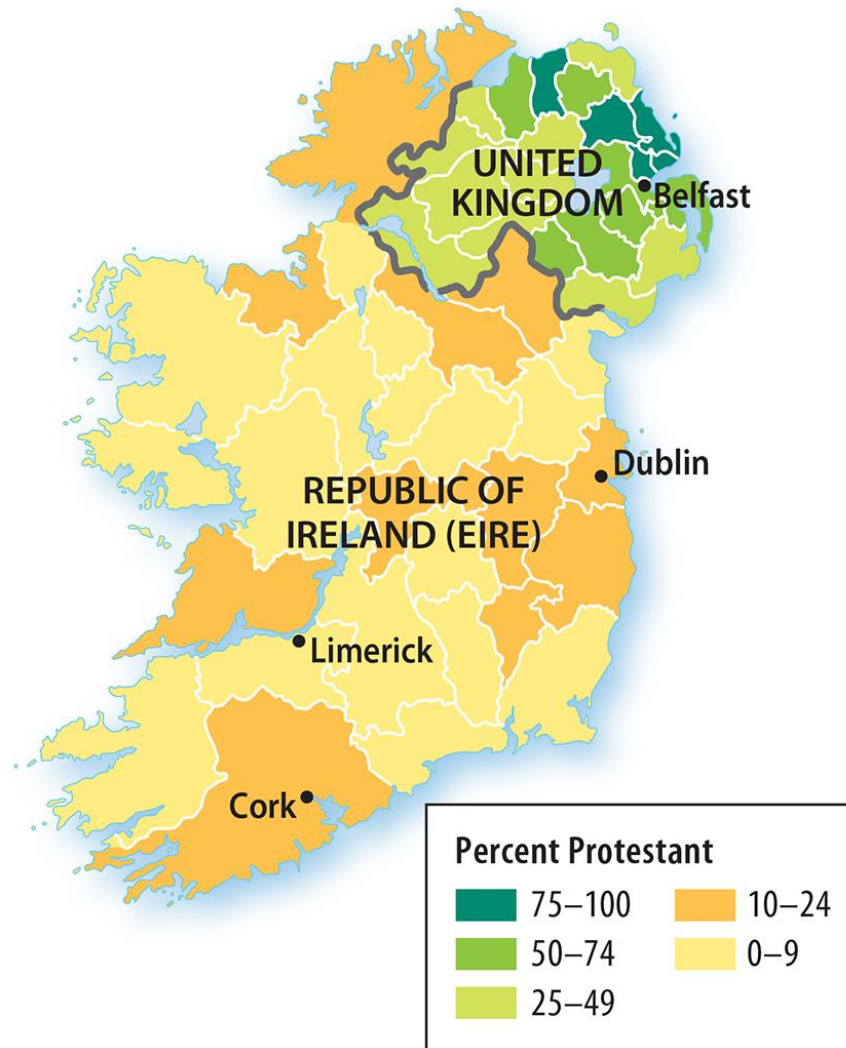


Figure 8-26: The island of Ireland is divided between the Catholic-majority Republic of Eire and the Protestant-majority Northern Ireland, part of the United Kingdom.

Ethnic Cultural Boundary: Cyprus



Figure 8-27: Cyprus is divided between Greek and Turkish nationalities that face difficulty in creating a unified state.

Geometric Boundary: North Africa

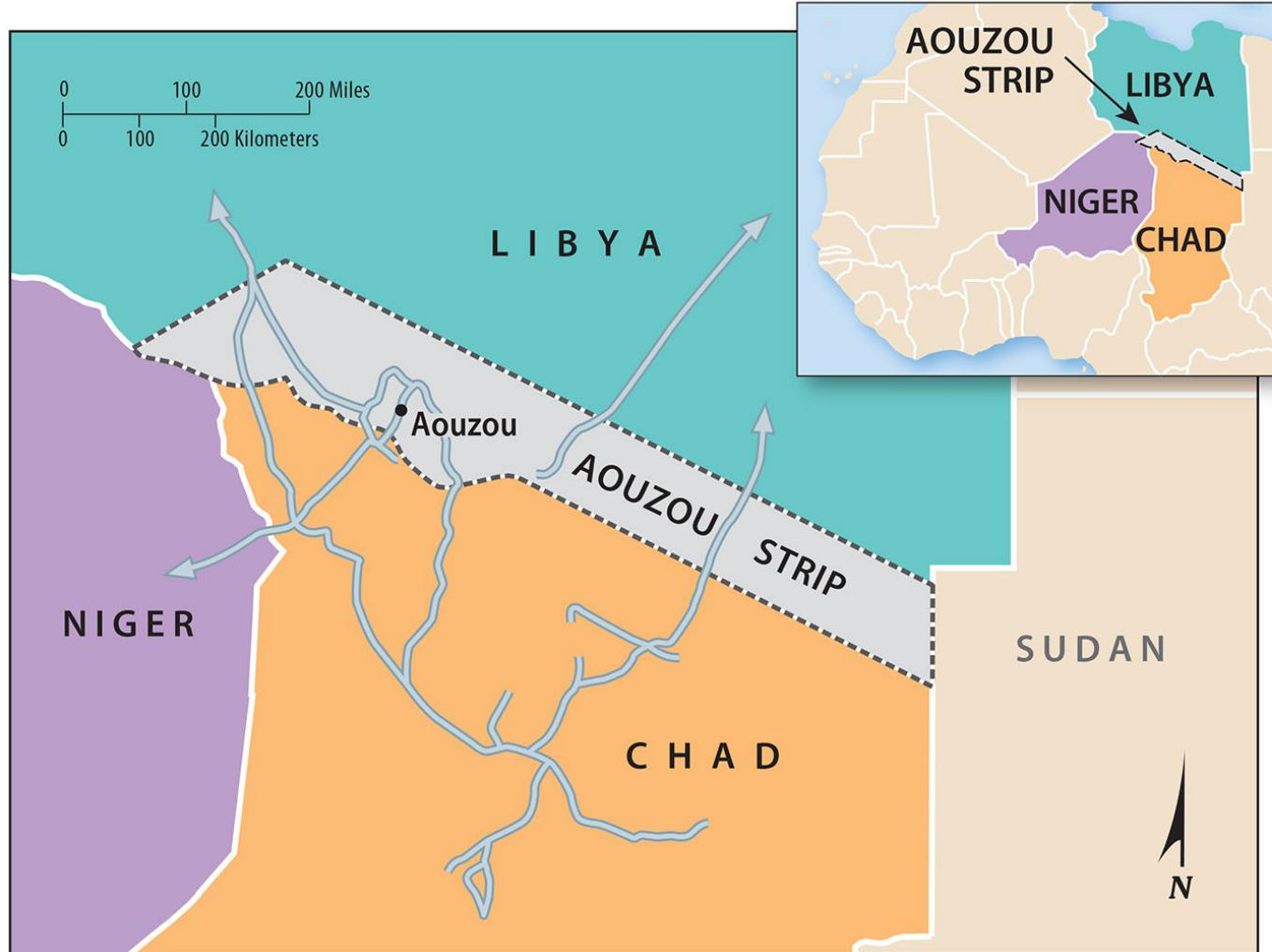


Figure 8-30: The Aouzou Strip is a once-disputed geometric boundary between Libya and Chad.

Geometric Boundary: South Pole

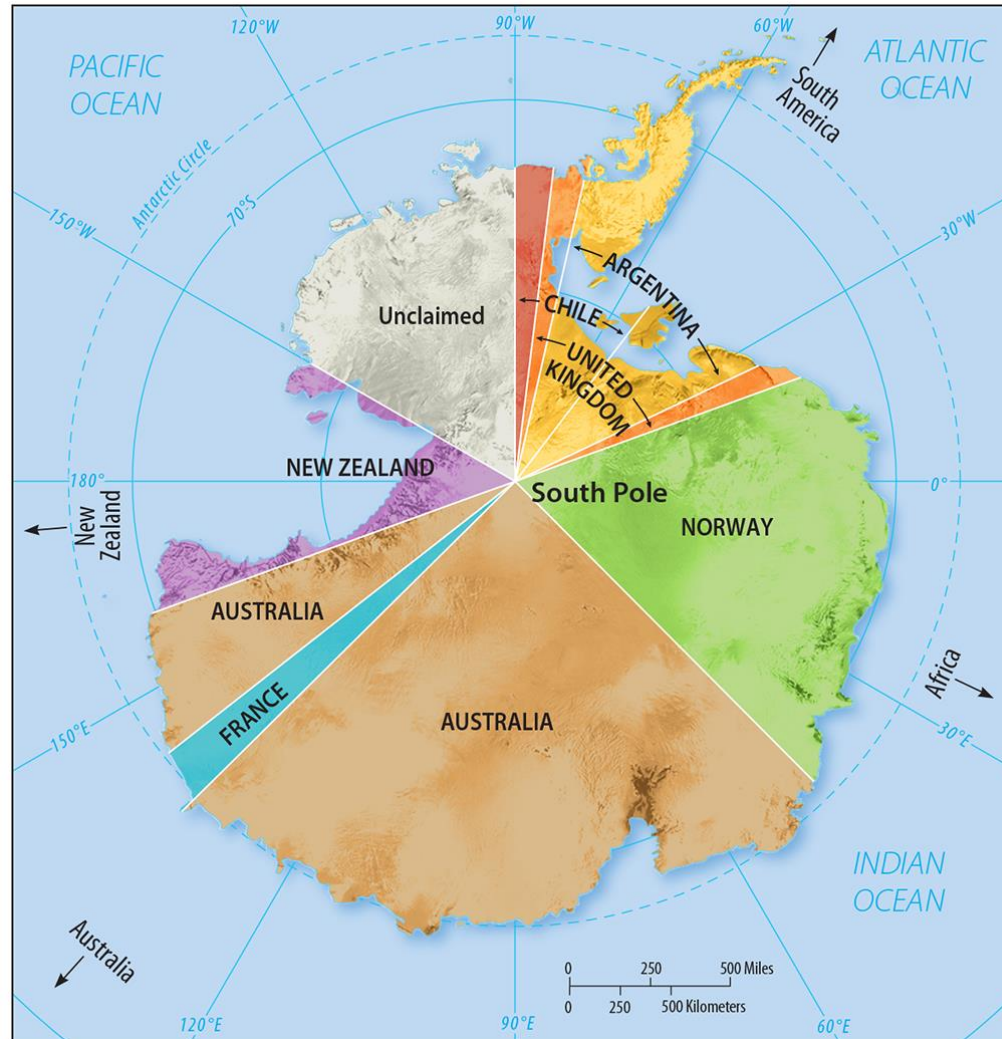


Figure 8-31: Signatories to the Antarctic Treaty do not recognize claims to Antarctica.

Physical Boundaries: Desert



Figure 8-33: The border between Bolivia and Chile is a largely uninhabited desert.

Physical Boundaries: Mountain



Figure 8-34: The Andes Mountains are the border between Argentina and Chile.

Physical Boundaries: Water



Figure 8-35: Lake Victoria is a water boundary between Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania.

Physical Boundaries: Law of the Sea

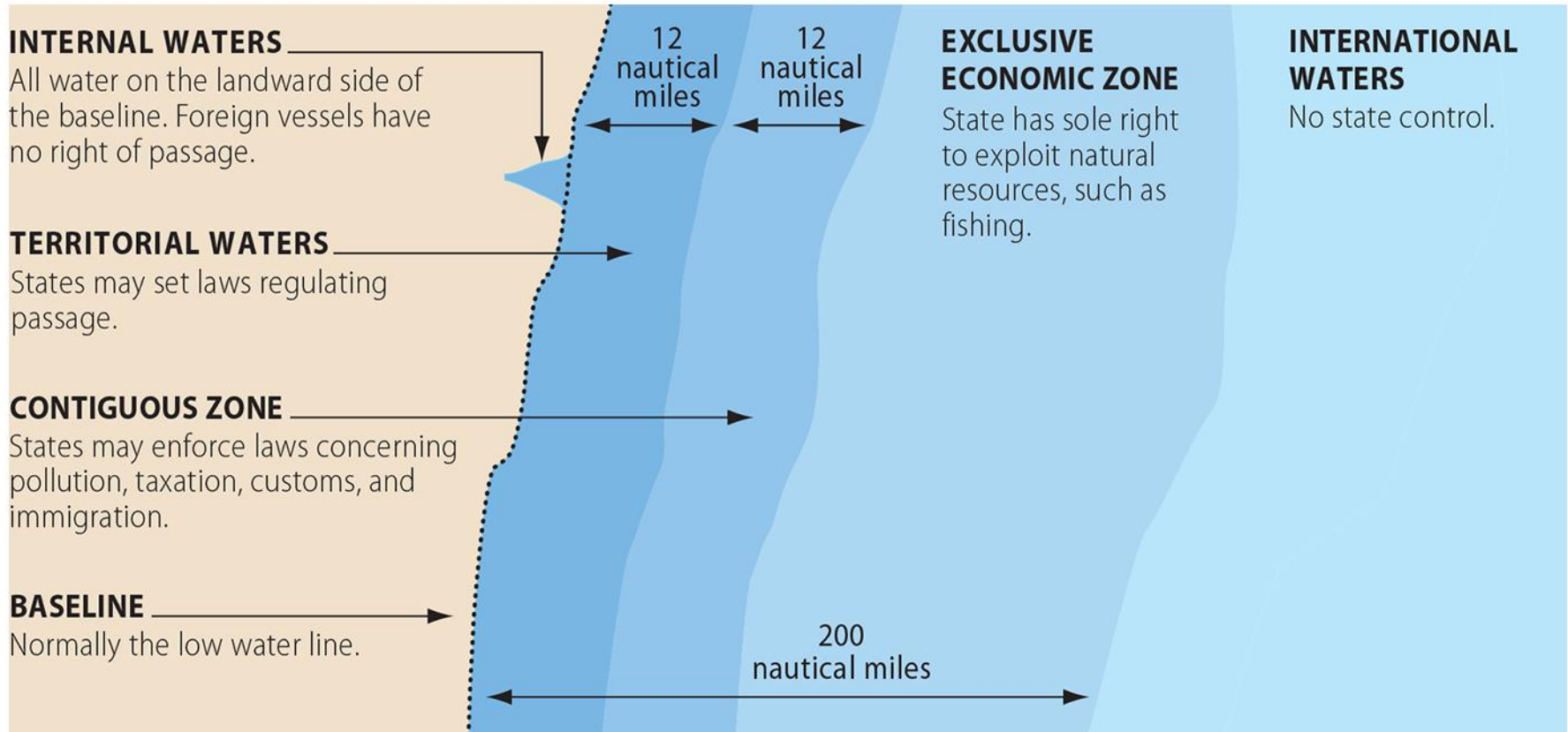


Figure 8-36: The Law of the Sea guarantees countries different levels of control over the waters near their shores.

Shapes of States

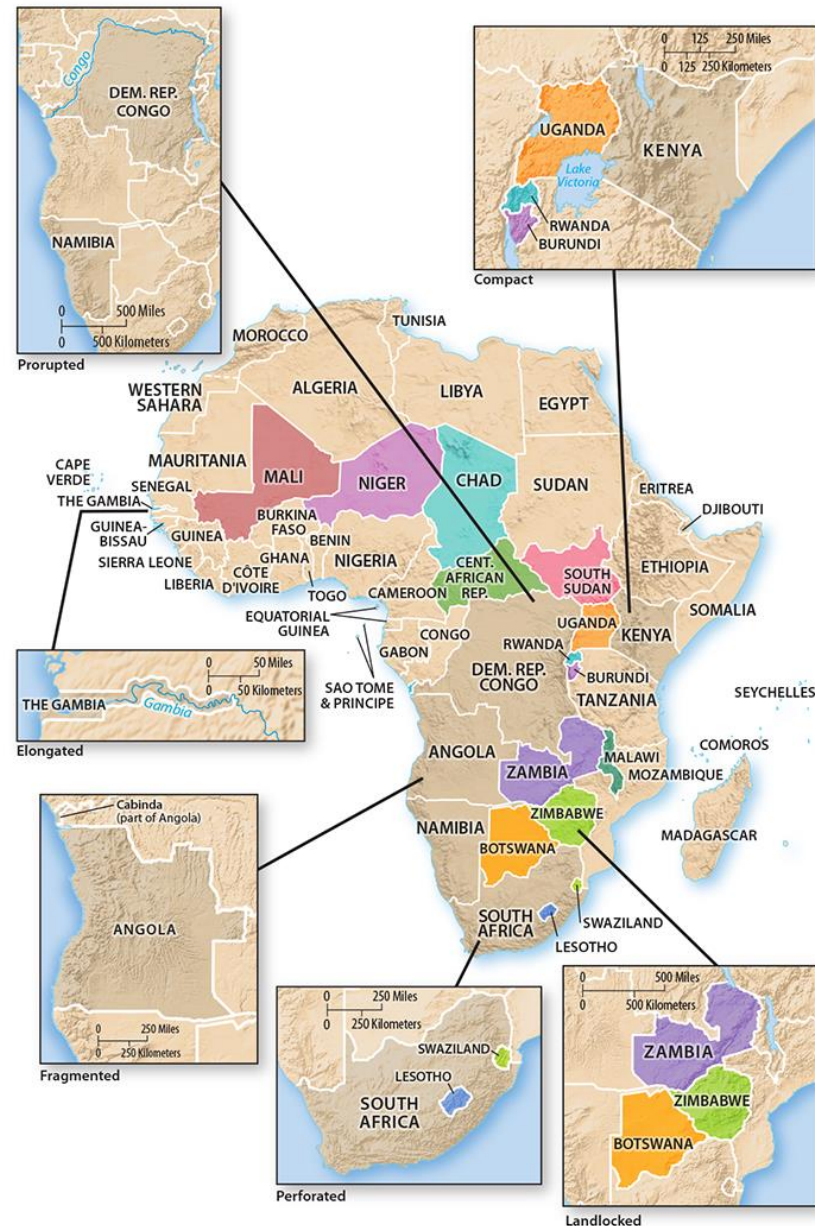
- Compact: efficient
- Elongated: isolation
- Prorupted: access or disruption
- Perforated: South Africa
- Fragmented: by water or another state, problematic

Shapes of States: Examples from Africa

Figure 8-37: All five shapes are represented by different countries in Africa.

Counterclockwise from top right: Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi are compact. Democratic Republic of Congo and Namibia have prorptions. The Gambia is elongated. Angola is fragmented (by the DRC). South Africa is perforated by Lesotho.

Countries in bright color are landlocked with no ocean boundaries.



Landlocked States in Africa



Figure 8-38: Rail is the most cost-effective way to transport goods to and from landlocked states, but not all states have good access to oceanic trade.

Governing States

Regime types:

- Democracy: citizens elect leaders
- Autocracy: interest of ruler(s) dominant
- Anocracy: somewhere between democracy and autocracy

Government organization:

- Unitary state: strong central government
- Federal state: strong local/regional governments

Comparing Democracy and Autocracy

TABLE 8-1 Comparing Democracy And Autocracy

Element	Democracy	Autocracy
Selection of leaders	Institutions and procedures through which citizens can express effective preferences about alternative policies and leaders.	Leaders are selected according to clearly defined (often hereditary) rules of succession from within the established political elite.
Citizen participation	Institutionalized constraints on the exercise of power by the executive.	Citizens' participation is sharply restricted or suppressed.
Checks and balances	Guarantee of civil liberties to all citizens in their daily lives and in acts of political participation.	Leaders exercise power with no meaningful checks from legislative, judicial, or civil society institutions.

Regime Type, 2014

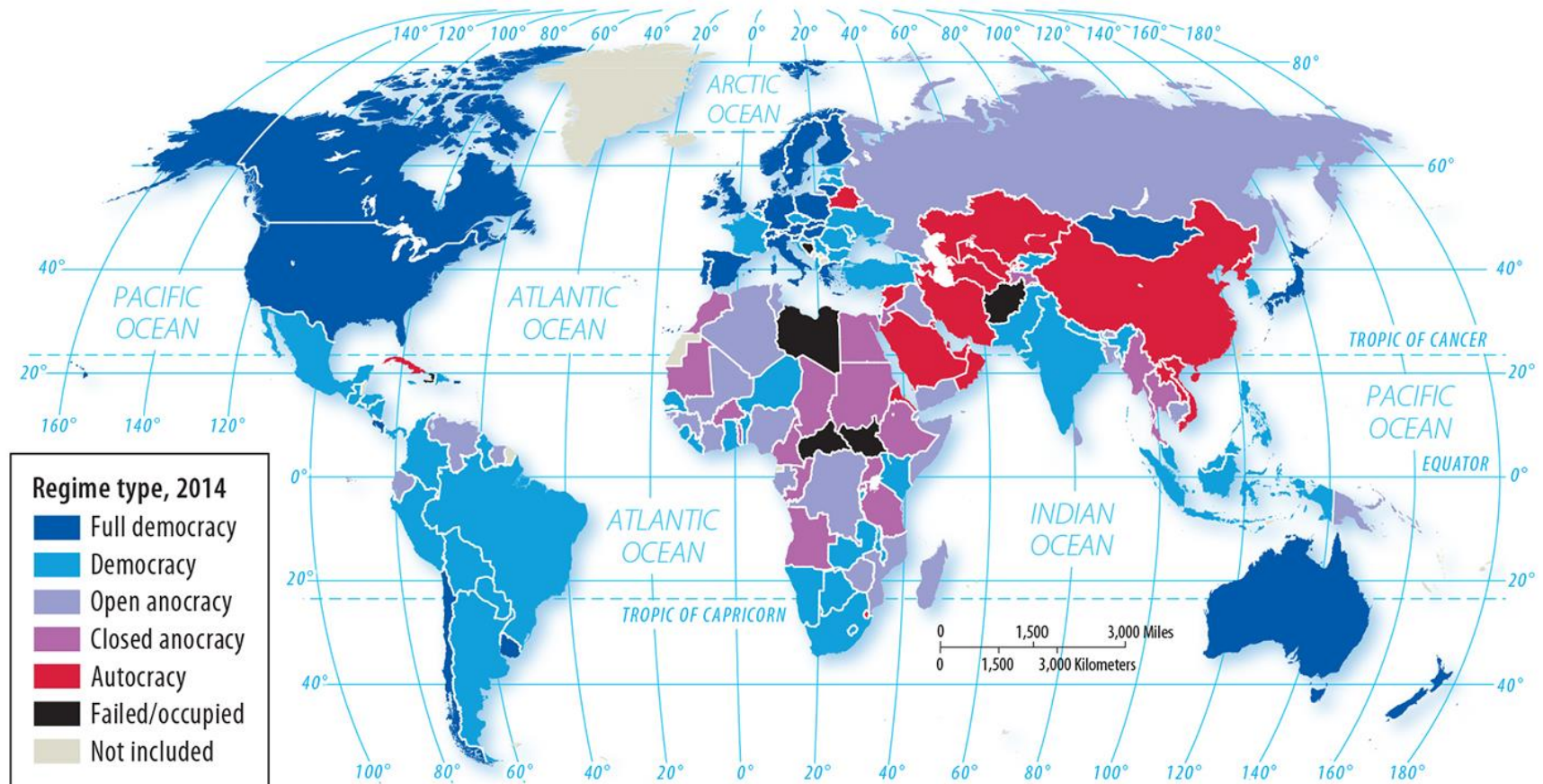


Figure 8-39: Governance regimes vary between full democracies and autocracies. A few countries are considered “failed states” because they effectively have no government.

Trend Toward Democracy

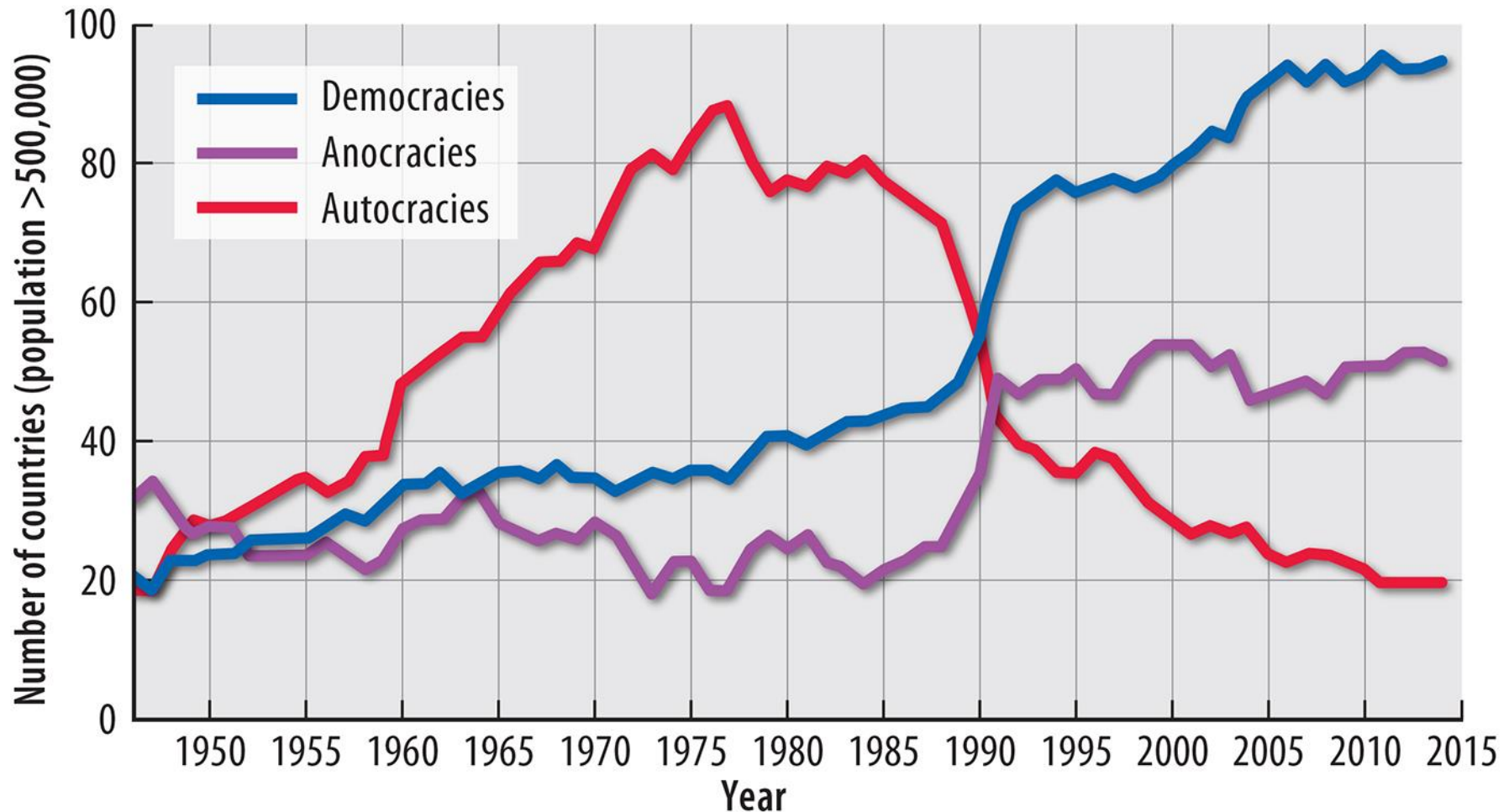


Figure 8-40: Governments have become more democratic and less autocratic, especially since the 1980s.

Lines and Politics

- Politicians in democratic governments can use lines as weapons of control
 - Just like superimposed boundaries at the national level dictated by colonial powers
- Lines of legislative districts must be redrawn every 10 years to truly represent population
 - 435 U.S. districts for the House of Representatives based on population
- Gerrymandering
 - Redrawing boundaries for the purpose of benefiting the political party in power
 - In the U.S. current politicians are given the power to draw the lines

Wasted Vote Gerrymandering

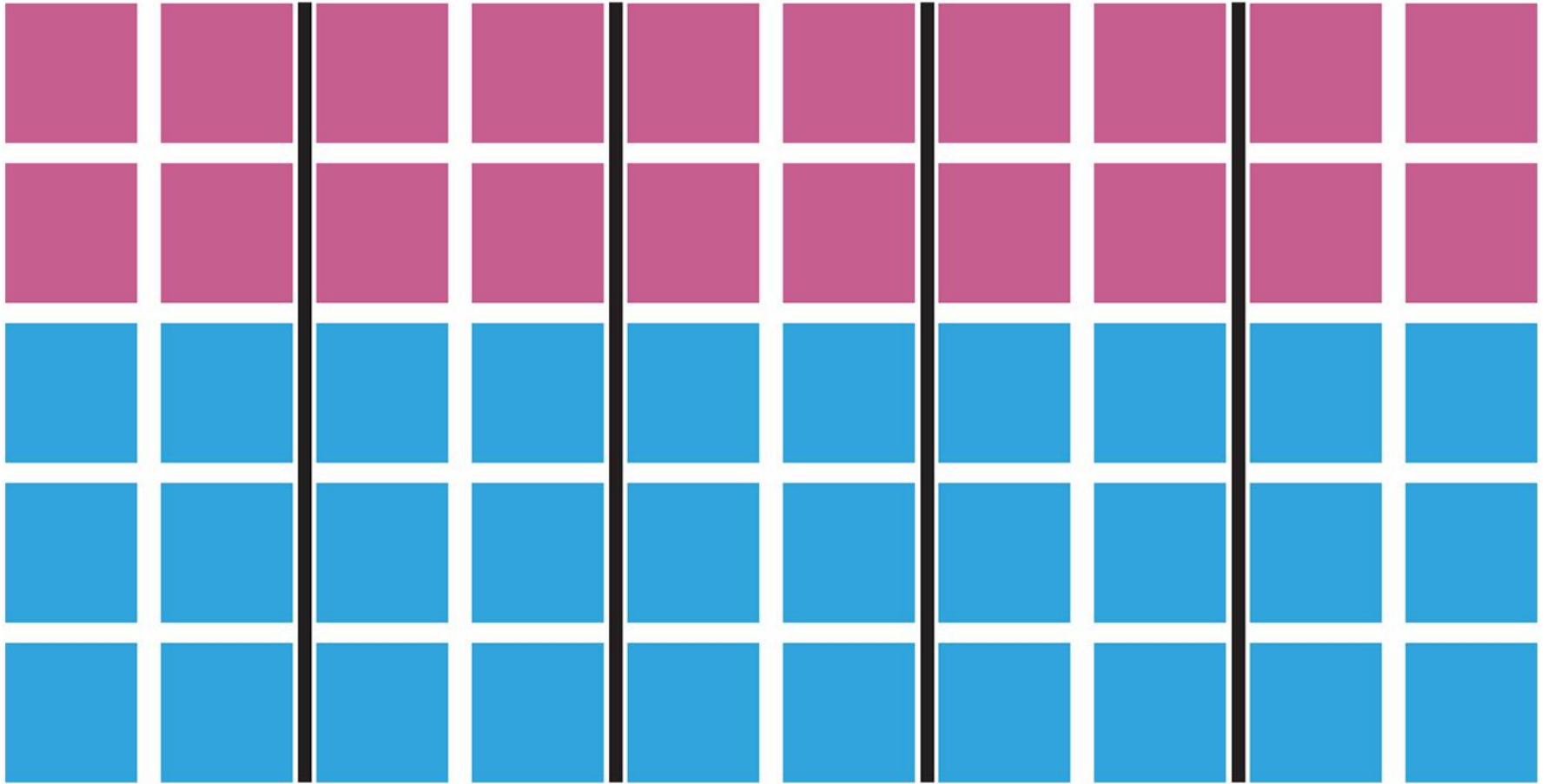


Figure 8-42: All 5 districts have a slight majority of Blue Party voters (6 to 4 in each).

Excess Vote Gerrymandering

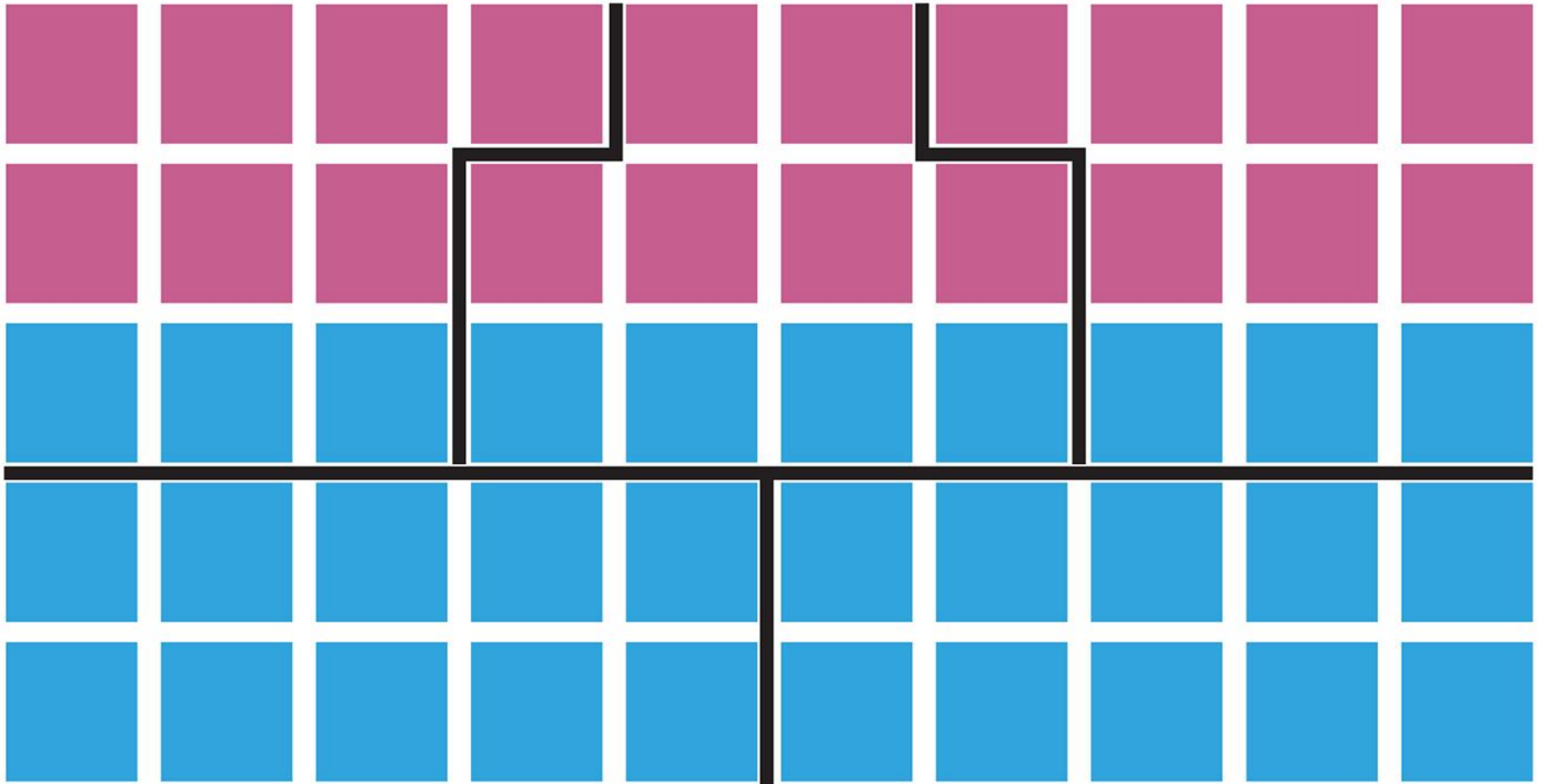


Figure 8-43: Even though the Red Party has fewer total voters, concentrating Blue Party voters into two districts gives the Red Party a majority in 3 of 5 districts.

Stacked Vote Gerrymandering

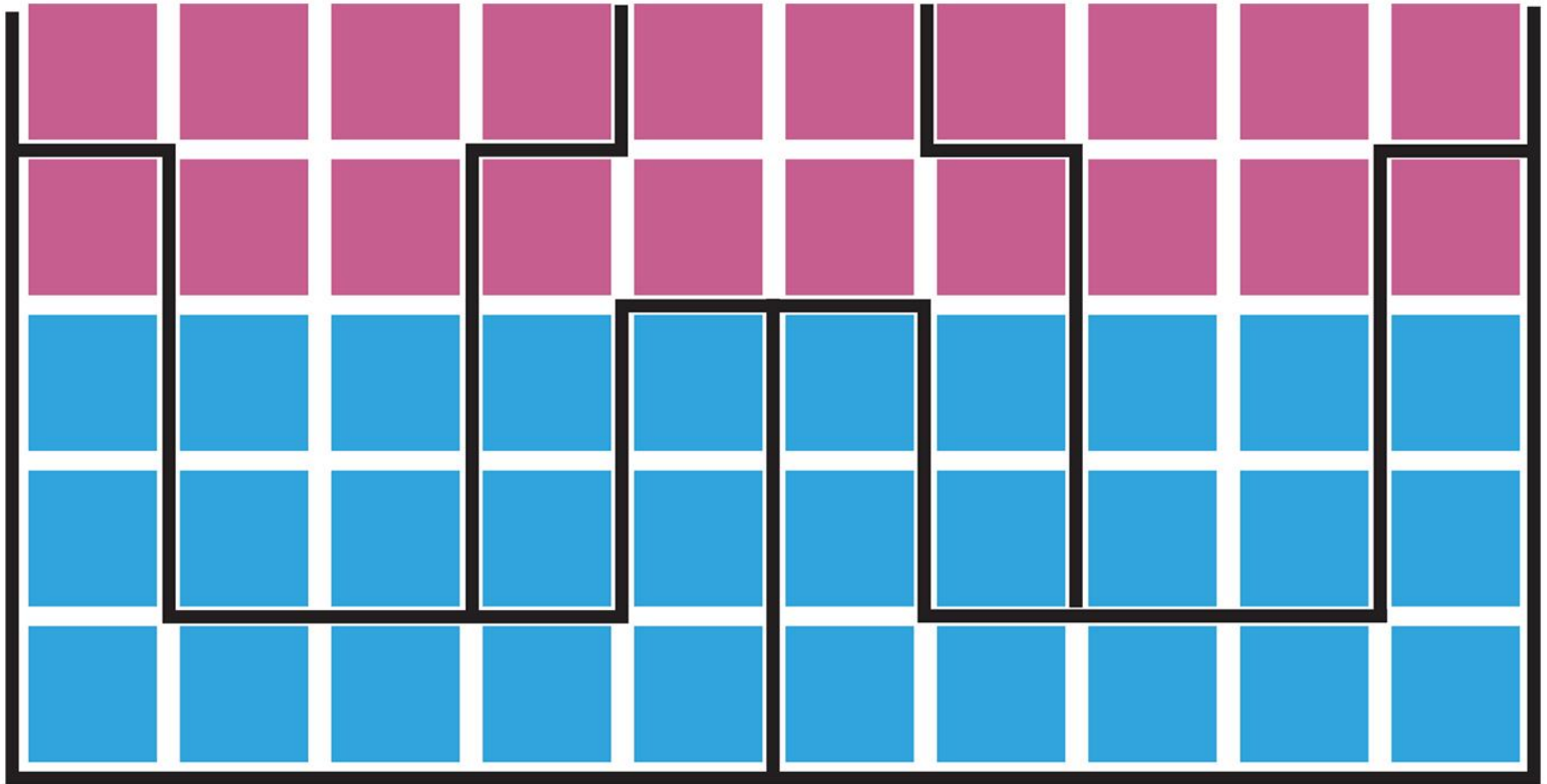


Figure 8-44: Boundaries can be drawn to connect distant groups of voters, in this case giving the Red Party a majority in 3 of 5 districts despite being smaller in number than the Blue Party.



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Iowa's Congressional Districts

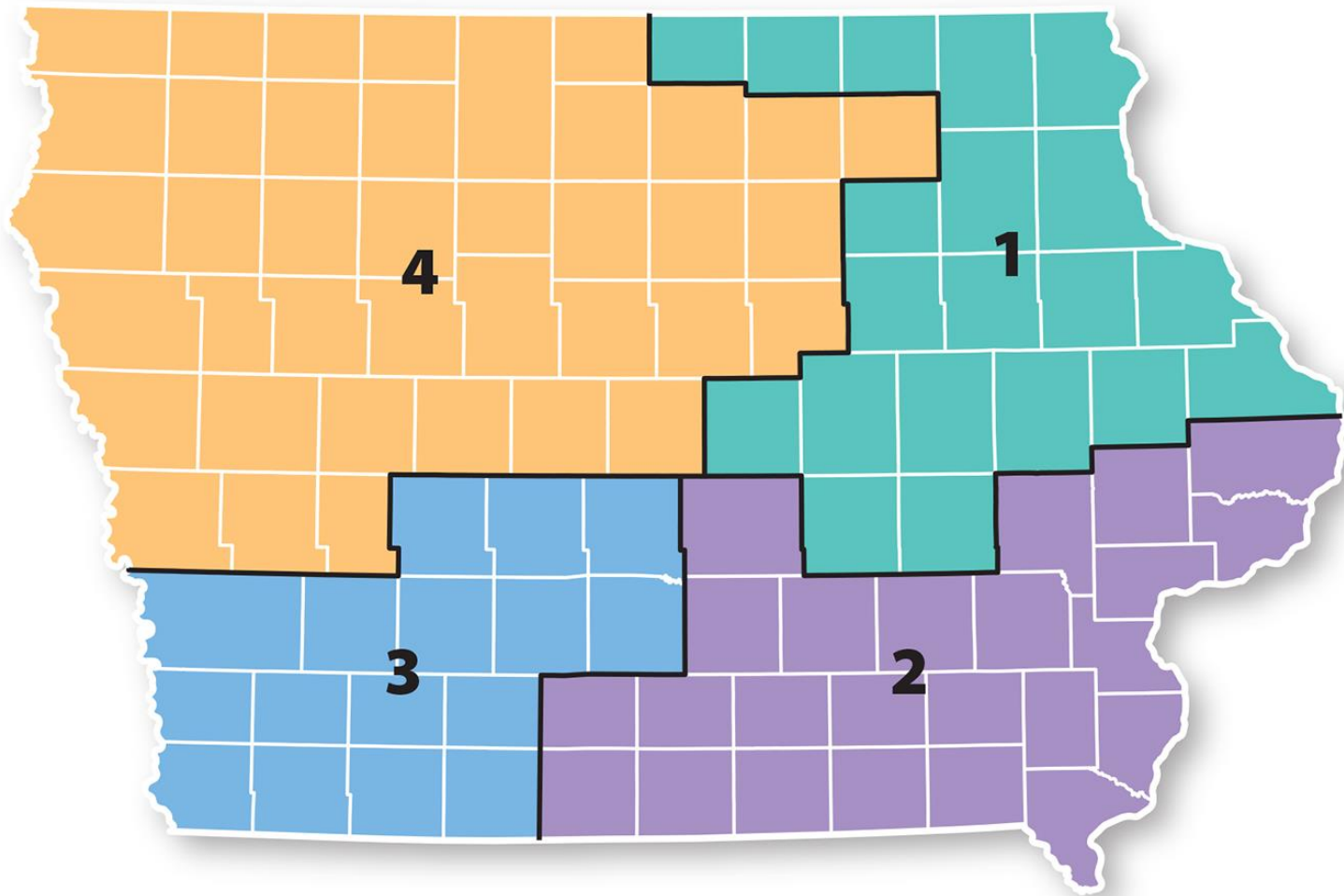


Figure 8-46: Iowa's district boundaries are set by a nonpartisan commission following county boundaries.

Geography of Gerrymandering

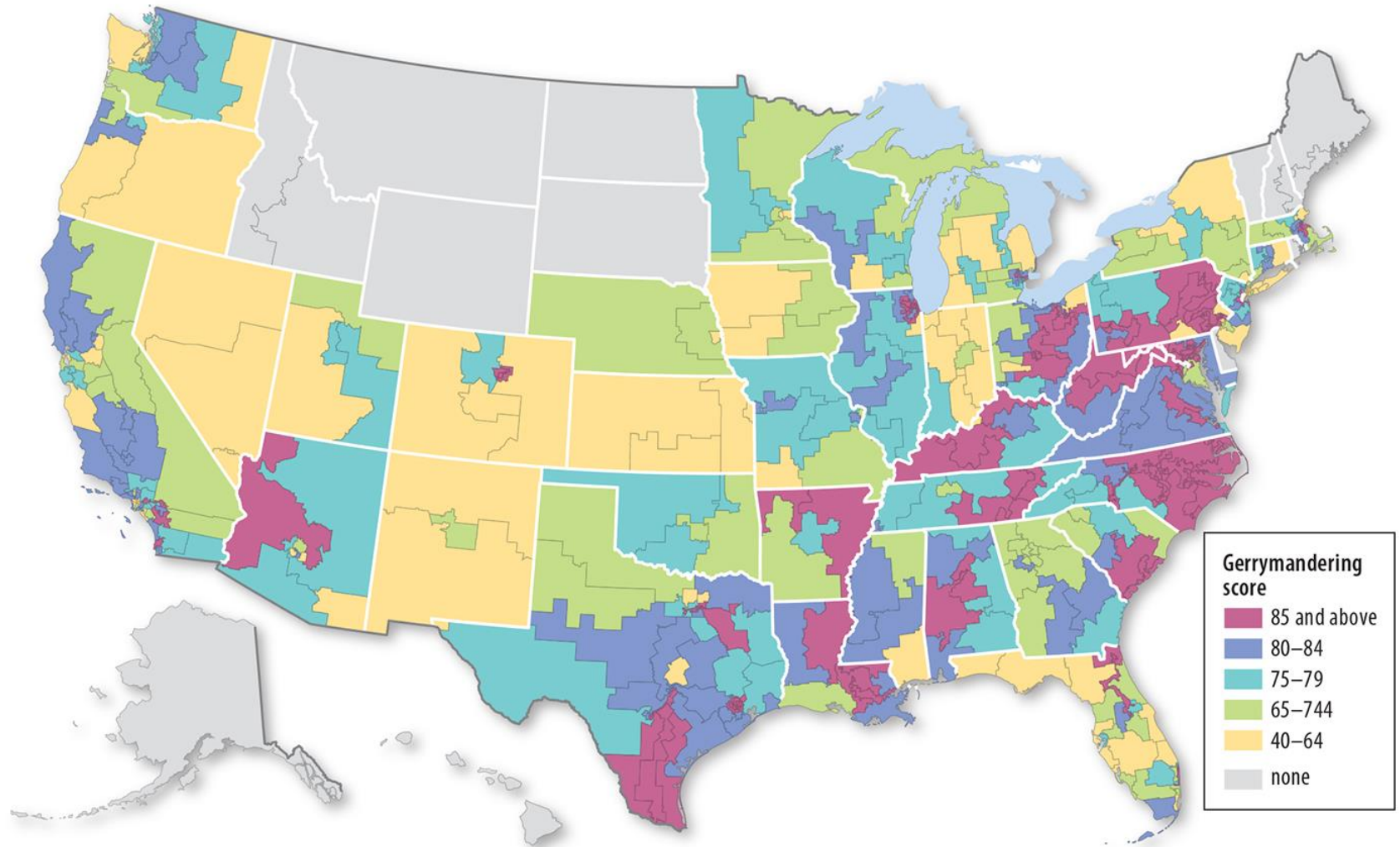


Figure 8-48: The Washington Post estimated the amount of gerrymandering in a district's shape; more compact districts have lower scores.

Geography of Gerrymandering

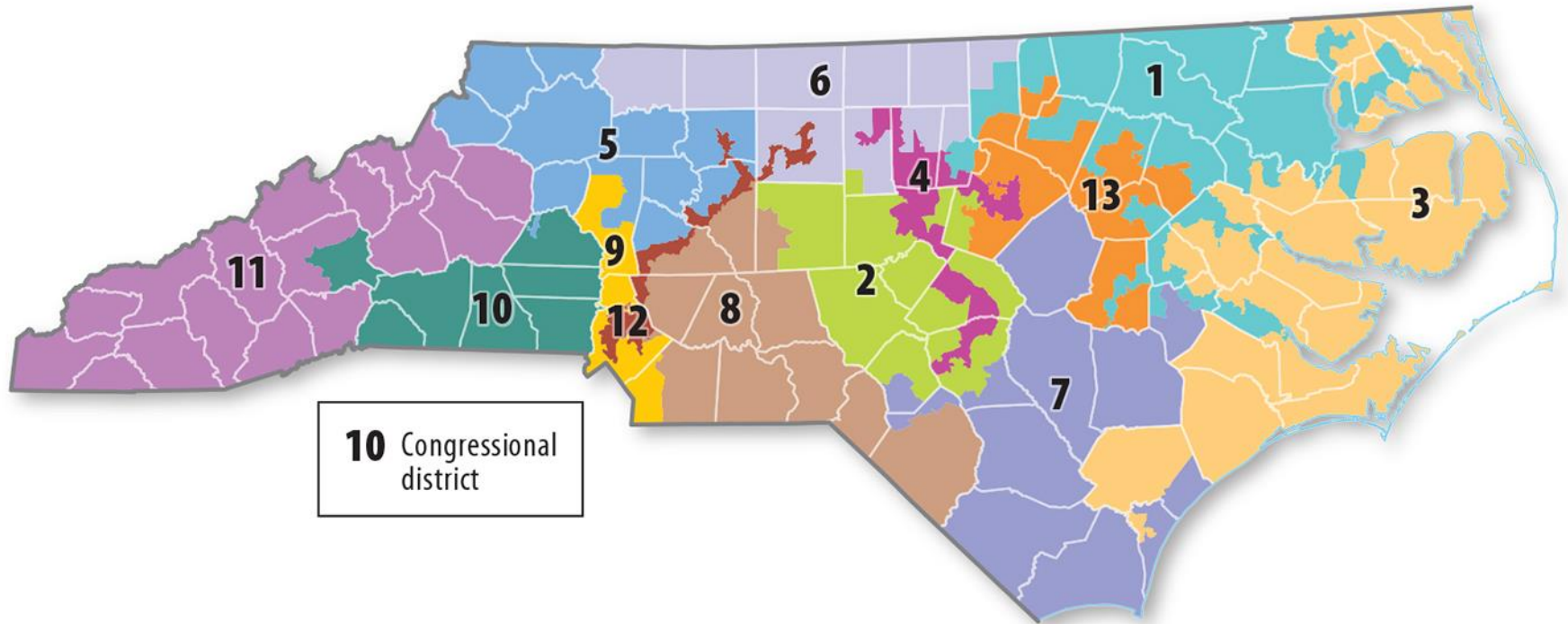


Figure 8-49: North Carolina has many congressional districts with oddly shaped boundaries.

Key Issue 4: Where Do States Face Threats?

4.1 Global Cooperation and Competition

4.2 Competition and Cooperation in Europe

4.3 Terrorist Attacks Against the United States

4.4 Terrorist Organizations

4.5 State Support for Terrorism

Global Cooperation and Competition

United Nations

- Important forum of global cooperation
- Membership has grown dramatically
- Forum for United States and Soviet Union to negotiate during Cold War

Growth in UN Membership

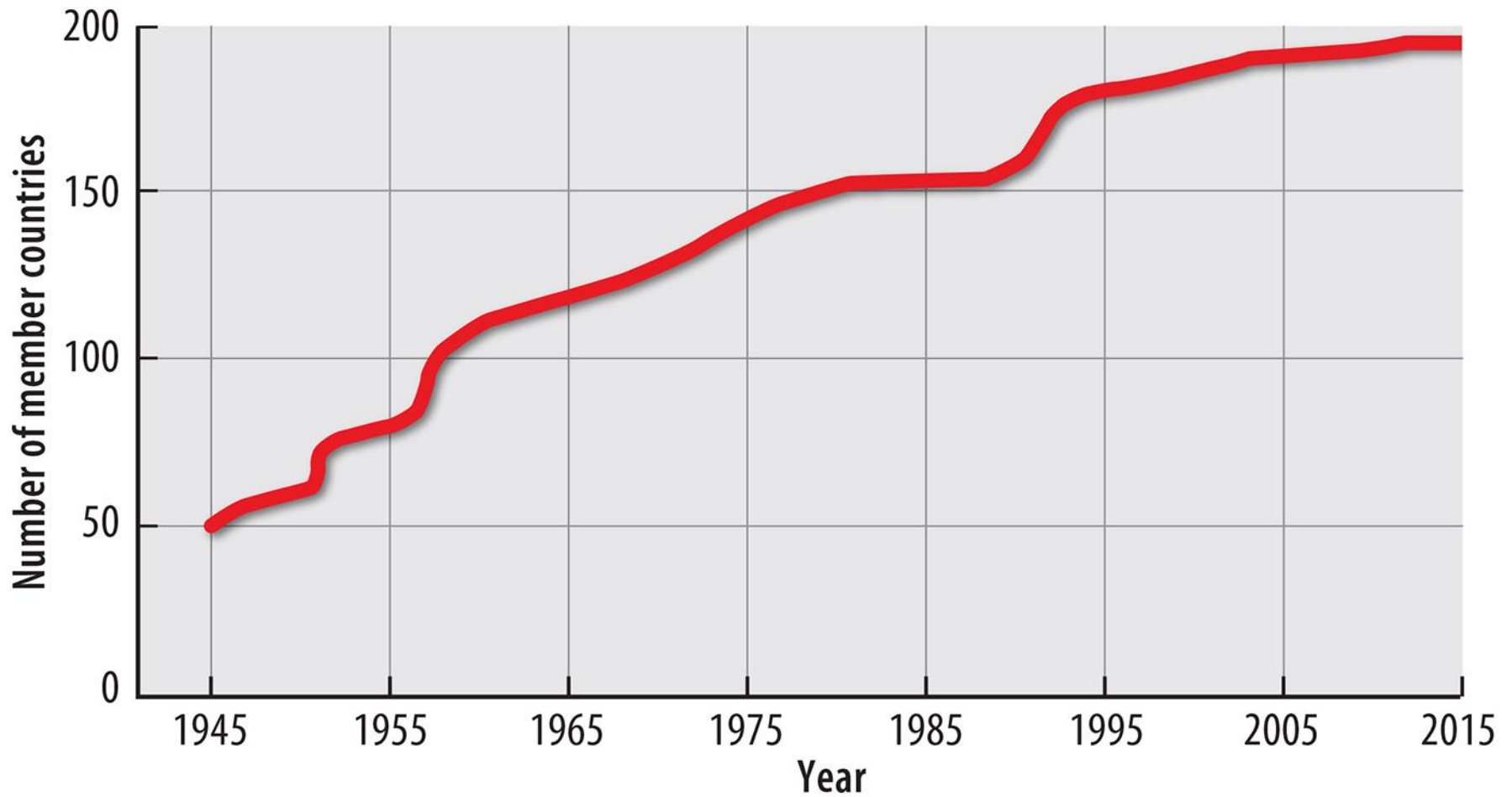


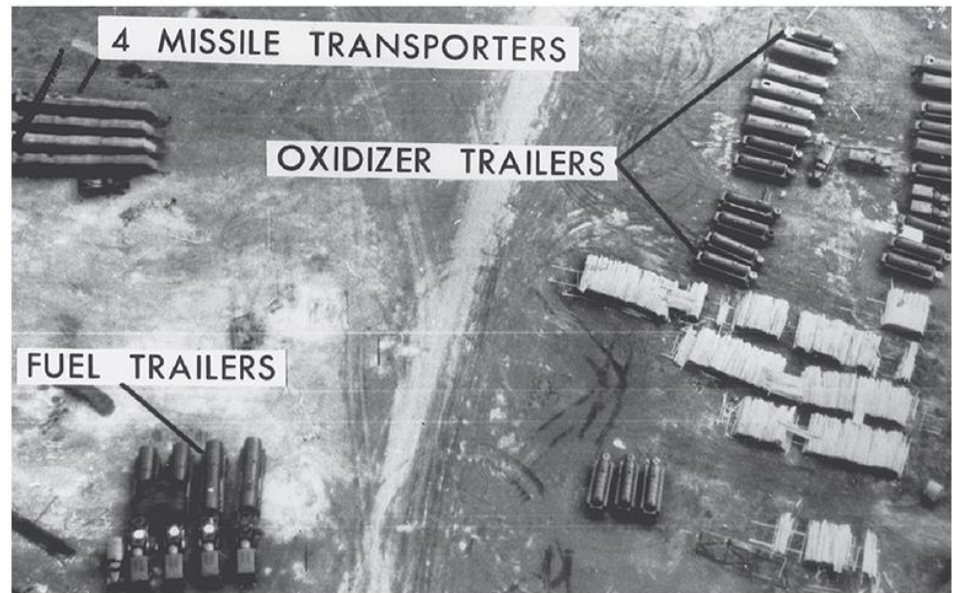
Figure 8-51: The UN reached 193 members in 2011.

Cuban Missile Crisis

Figure 8-53: At the United Nations, the United States presented aerial photographic evidence of the Soviet Union threatening the balance of power. (a) Soviet ships unloading and (b) staging missiles in Cuba, threatening the United States.



(a)



(b)

Competition and Cooperation in Europe

Cold War Military Alliances:

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- Warsaw Pact

Cold War Economic Alliances:

- European Union (EU)
- Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON)

NATO and EU expanded after Cold War.

NATO and Warsaw Pact, 1949–1991



Figure 8-54: NATO and the Warsaw Pact represented the balance of power between the United States and the Soviet Union.

NATO Post–Cold War

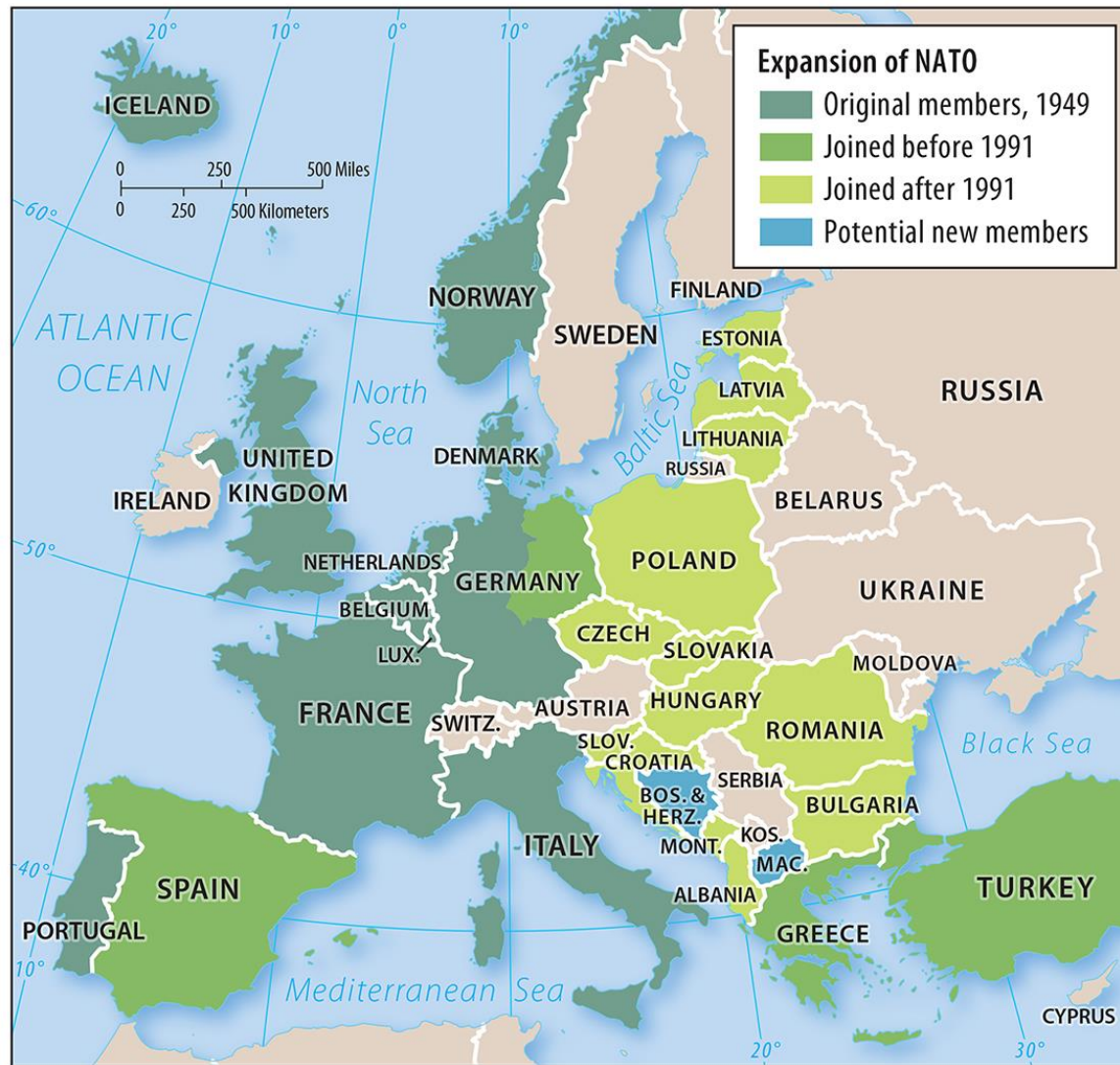


Figure 8-55: NATO has expanded to most Warsaw Pact countries.

European Union

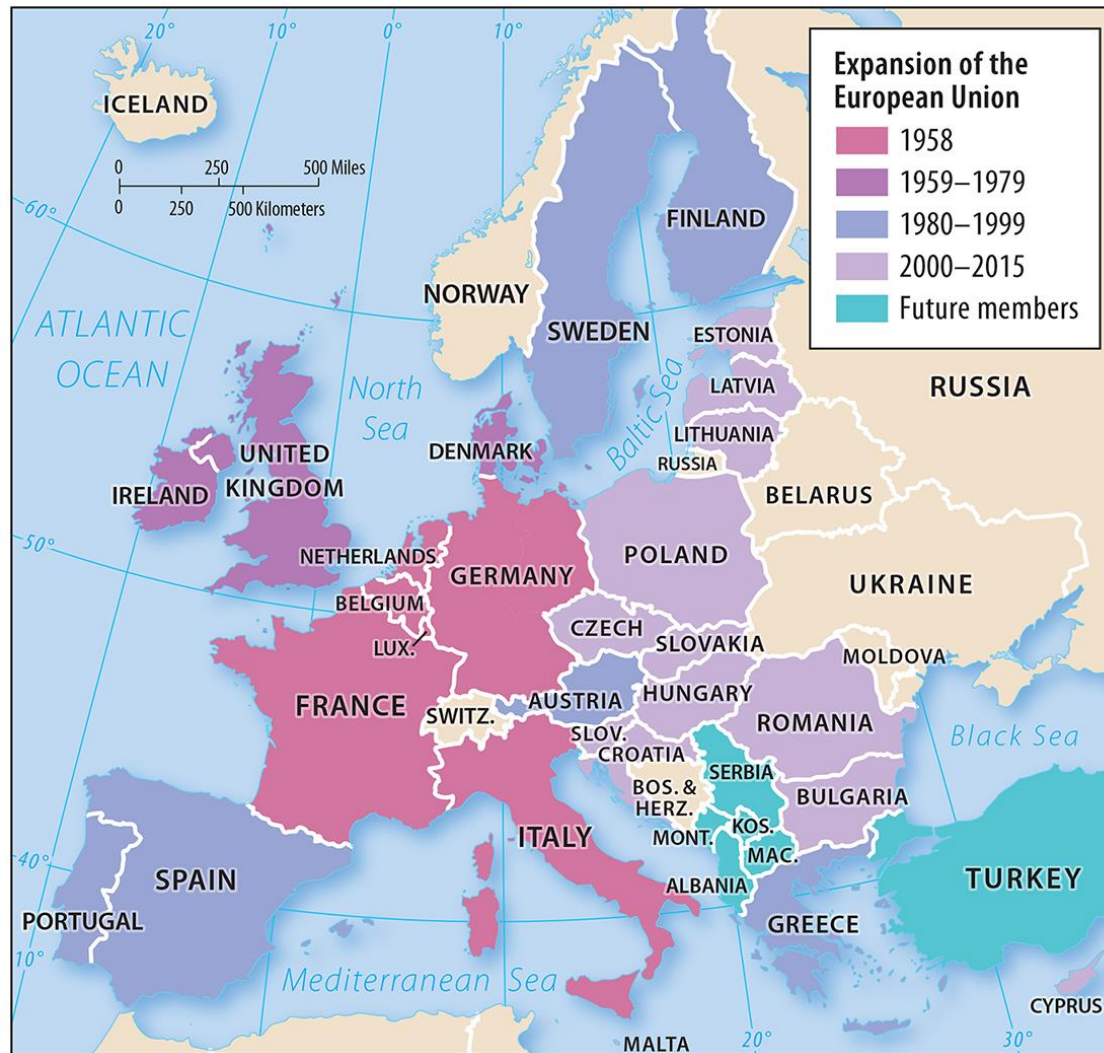


Figure 8-56: The European Union has most recently expanded to the east.

Competition Among States

- British and American School by Halford Mackinder
 - Heartland Theory
 - World- island (heartland) holds over 50% of the world's resources
- Who rules East Europe commands the Heartland;*
Who rules the Heartland commands the World-Island;
Who rules the World-Island controls the world.



Competition Among States

- Classic example of Geopolitics in action
 - The Cold War and Communism (era of two superpowers)

United States and its allies

- NATO
- Containment of communism

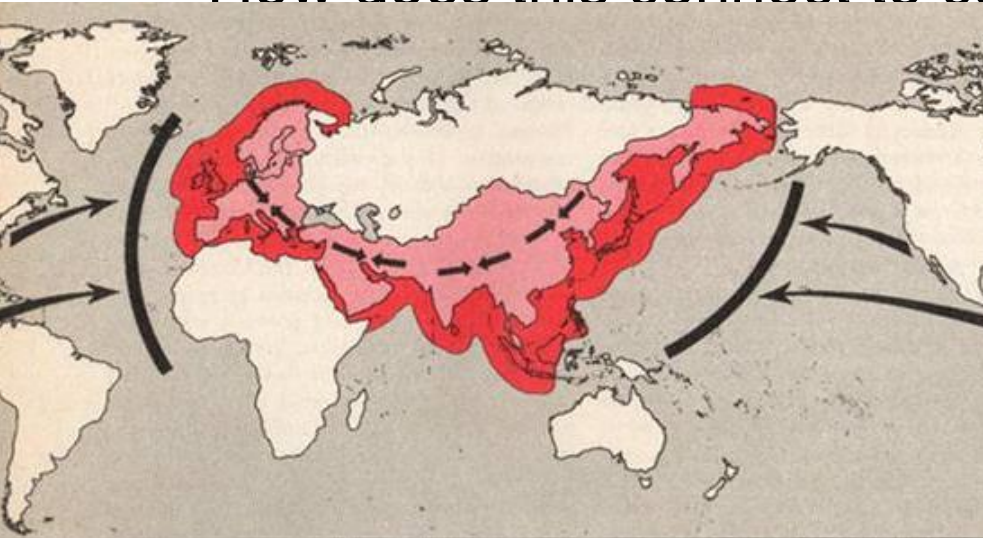
Soviet Union and its allies

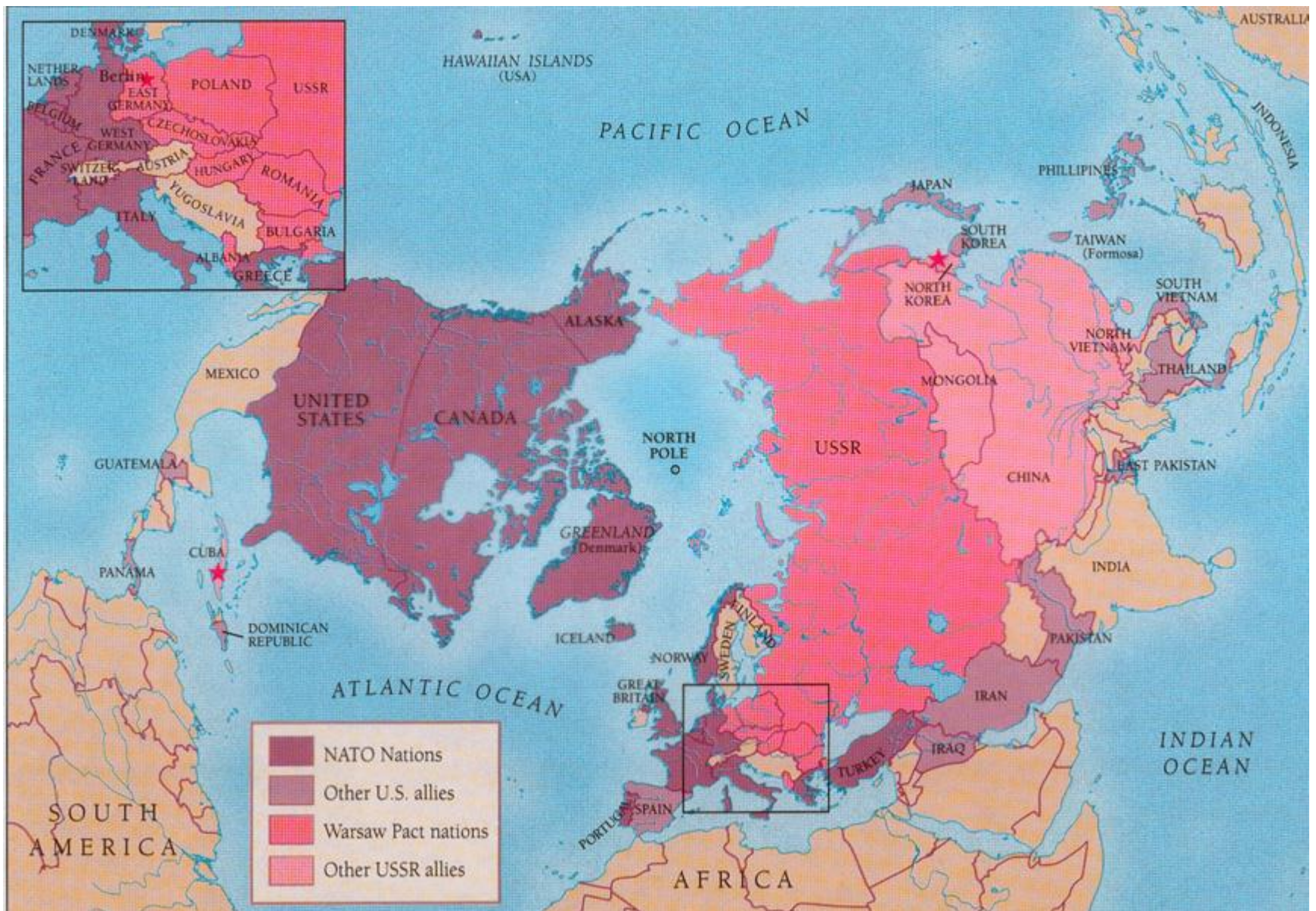
- Warsaw Pact
- Spread of communism



Competition Among States

- Rimland Theory by Nicholas Spykman
 - Must control the Heartland...but how? We can't invade Russia.
 - Containment is the only answer
 - Must control the Rimland
 - How does this connect to conflict today



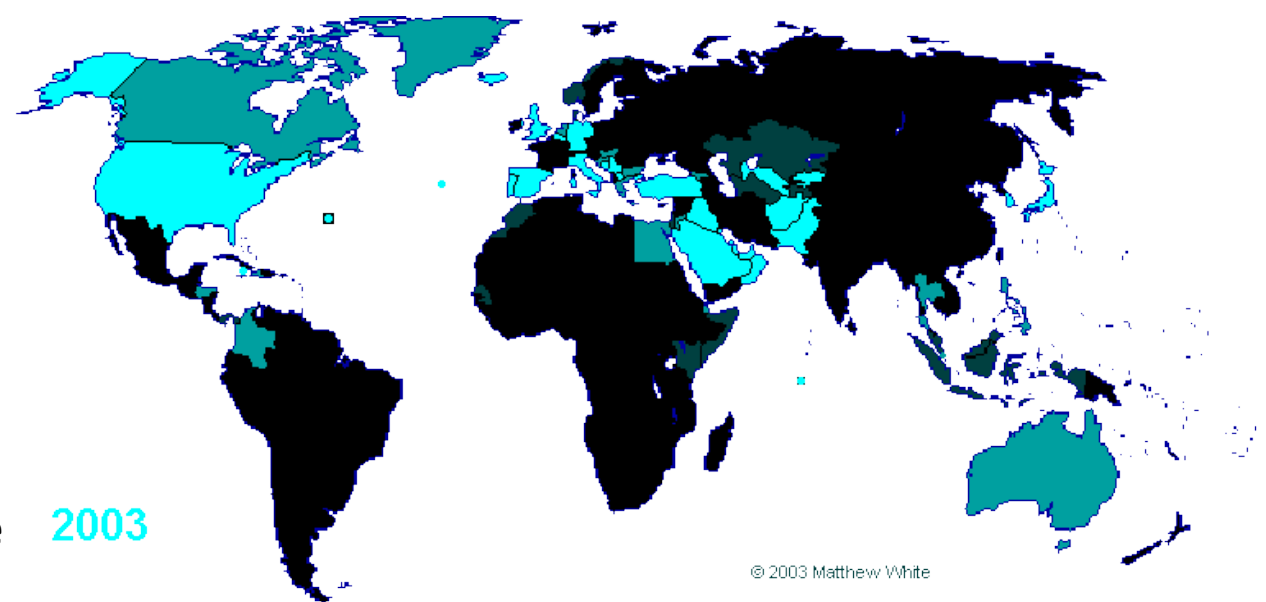


Competition Among States

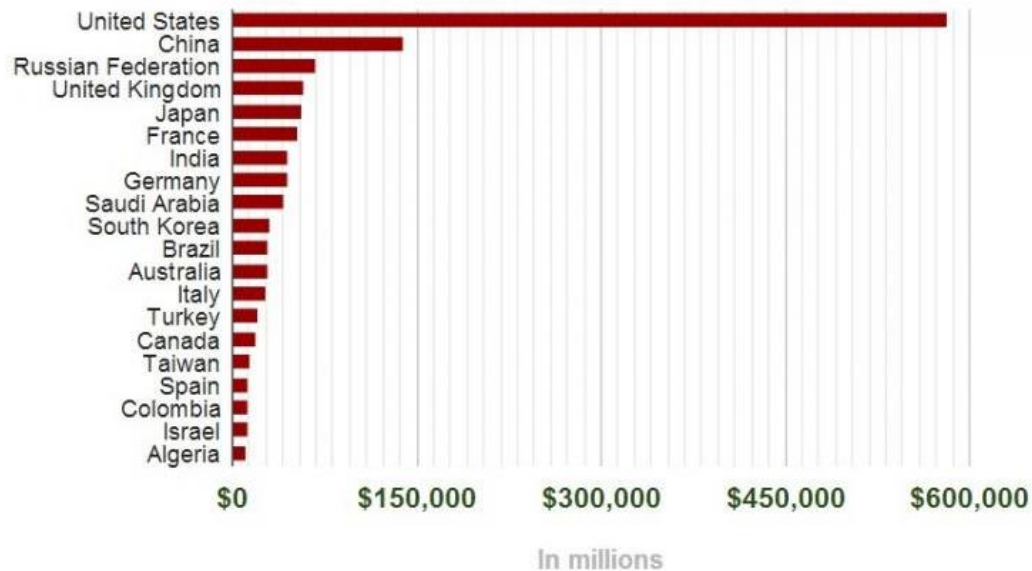
- Domino Theory
 - If you let one fall to Communism...they all will.



Distribution of American Forces in the Unipolar World



Top 20 Defense Budgets, 2013



SOURCE: IHS Jane's Aerospace, Defence & Security

Competition Among States

- What is terrorism?
 - **Definition 1**: Systematic use of violence by a group in order to intimidate a population or coerce a government into giving in to its demands
 - **Definition 2**: Calculated use of violent acts against civilians and symbolic targets to intimidate or coerce a civilian population or affect the conduct of government
 - **Definition 3**: Violence used to extreme measures that is claimed as holy wars.
- Why terrorism occurs?
 - History of hatred toward a group...(minority).
 - Occurs because of resistance to power, loss of rights, cultural or social differences

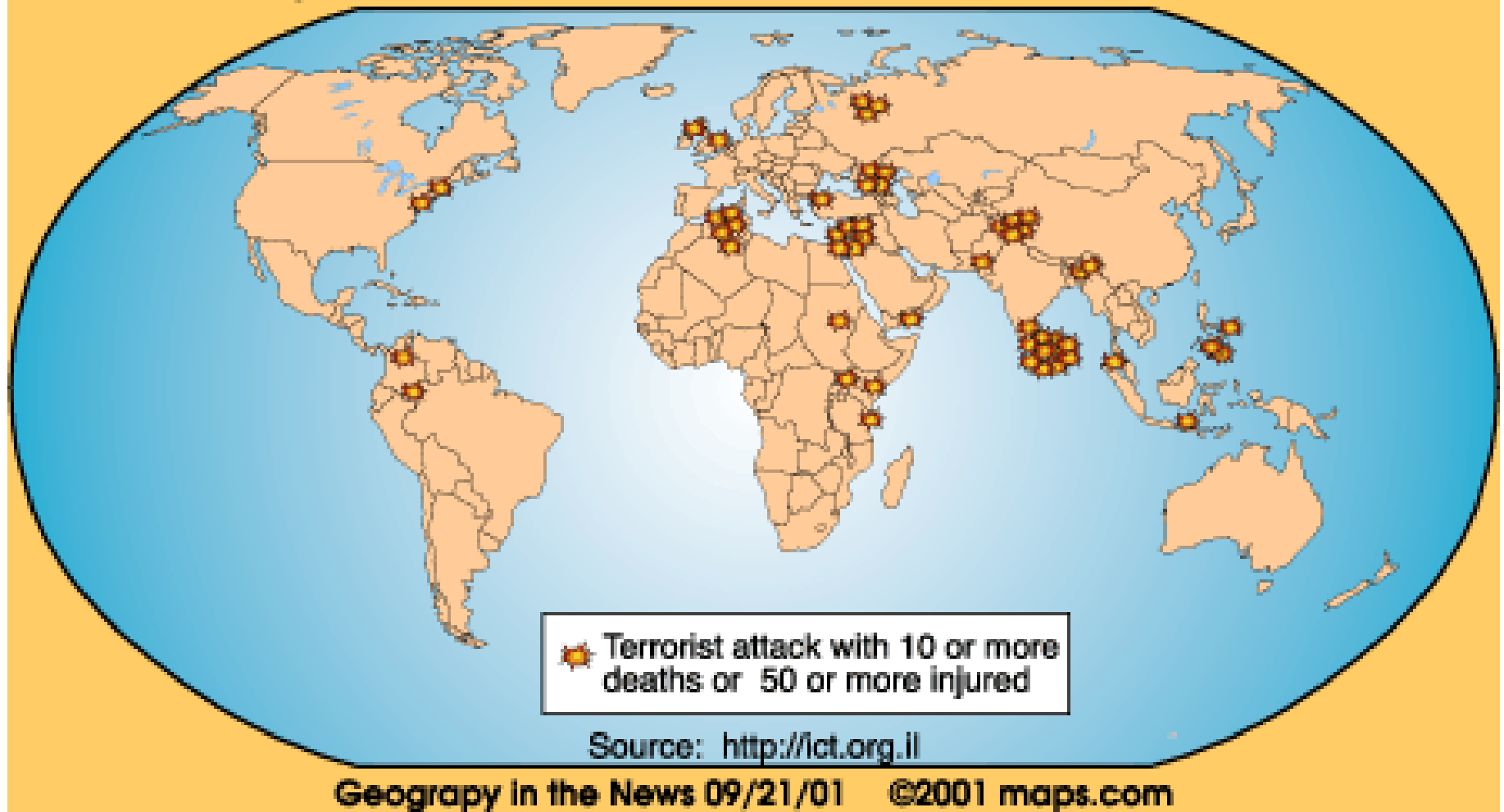
Competition Among States

- Types of Terrorism
 - International (attacks by groups outside the state)
 - Lockerbie, Scotland Pan Am 103 by Libyan nationals
 - USS Cole Bombing by Al-Qaeda
 - Madrid Train by Al-Qaeda
 - London Bombings by Al-Qaeda
 - 9/11 Attacks by Al- Qaeda
 - Domestic (attacks by groups inside the state)
 - Oklahoma City- Timothy McVeigh
 - Abduction of Canadian Officials by Quebec Liberation Front
 - Tokyo Subway by Aum Shinrikyo
 - Palestinian bombings in Israel

Competition Among States

- Types of Terrorism
 - State Sponsored (attacks organized, funded, and/or planned by the government of a state)
 - Stalin's purges
 - Taliban brutality in Afghanistan
 - Pol Pot in Cambodia
 - Saddam Hussein Genocide of Kurds
 - Soviets in Chechnya
 - Subnational (groups with no connection to a government)
 - Al- Qaeda
 - Shining Path Rebels
 - Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO)
 - ISIS
 - Quebec Liberation Front

Major World Terrorist Attacks Since Jan. 1, 1998



Competition Among States

- The purpose of terrorism lies not just in the violent act itself. It is in producing terror. It sets out to inflame, to divide, to produce consequences which they then use to justify further terror. - Tony Blair

International Terrorist Attacks

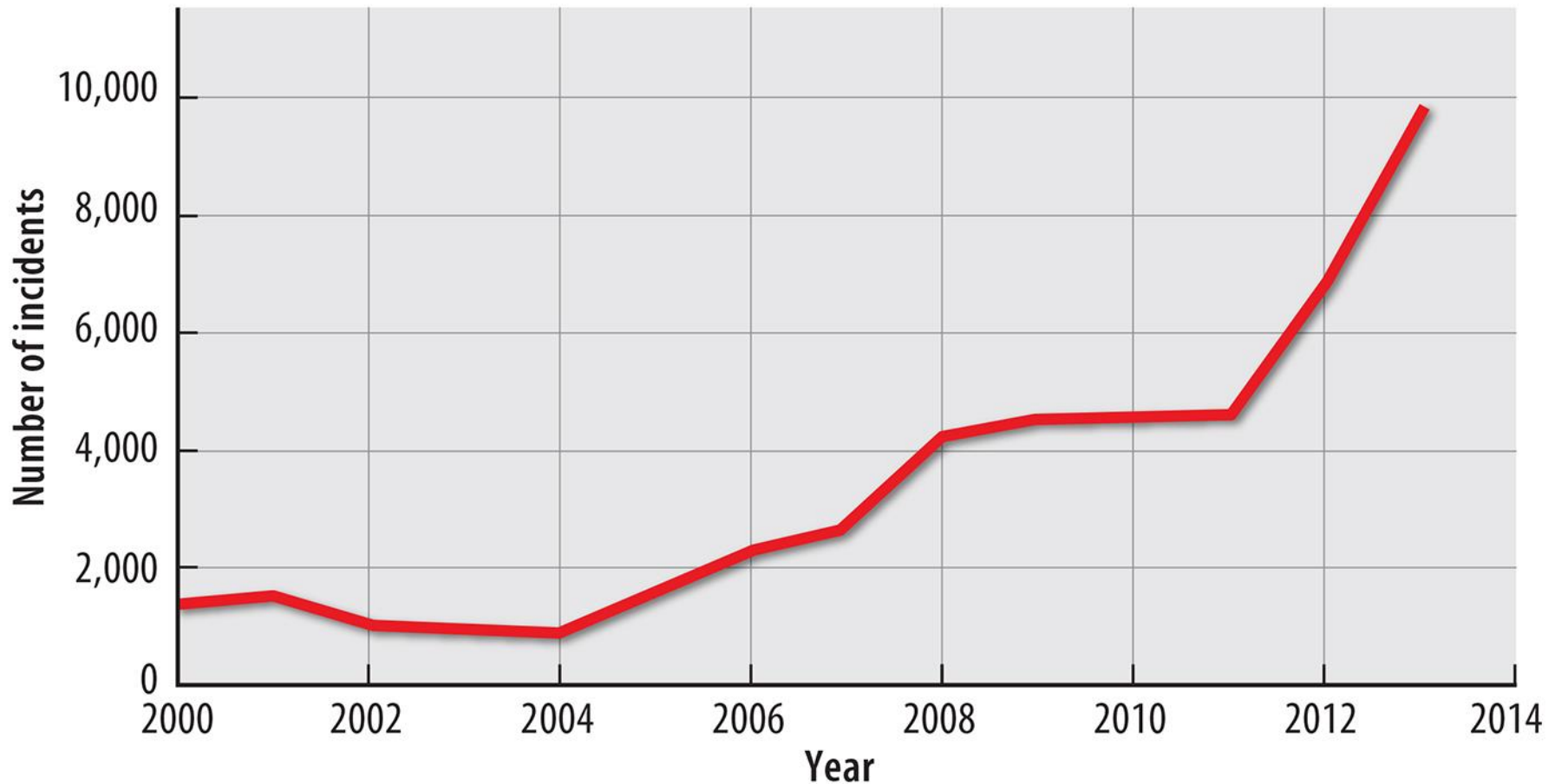


Figure 8-57: The number of terrorist attacks has increased in the last decade, especially in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nigeria, and Syria.

Deaths from International Terrorism

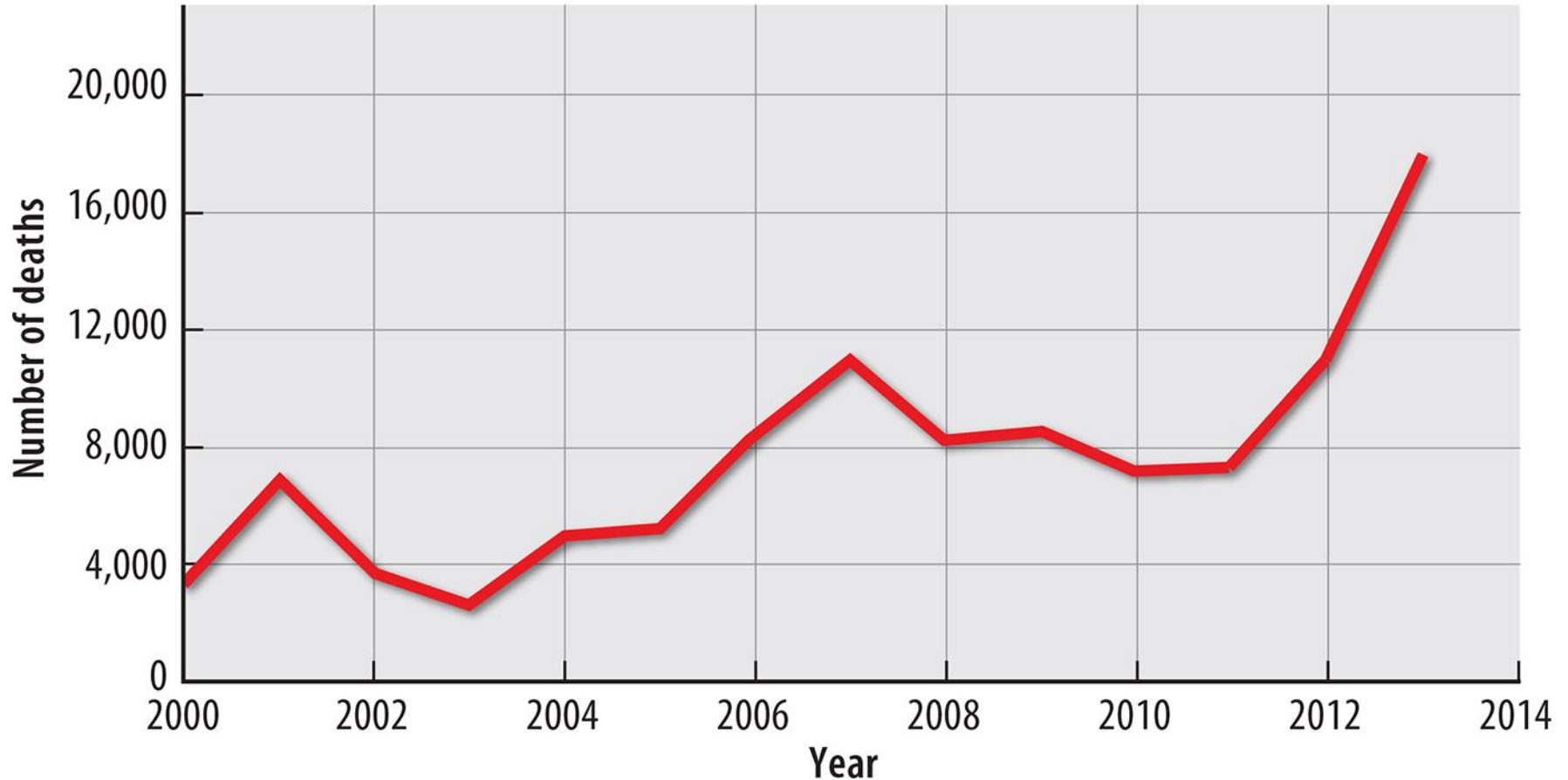


Figure 8-58: The number of deaths from terrorist attacks has also increased in the last decade, especially in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nigeria, and Syria.

September 11, 2001, Terrorism



(a)



(b)

Figure 8-60: The attacks of September 11, 2001, were the most dramatic and deadly attacks on Americans.

4.4 Terrorist Organizations

Al-Qaeda

- Founded by Osama bin Laden
- Several attacks against U.S., including 9/11

Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL)

- Branched from Al-Qaeda
- Controls territory in Iraq and Syria

Boko Haram

- Northern Nigeria
- Allied with Islamic State

Al-Qaeda in Yemen



Figure 8-61: A branch of Al-Qaeda controls parts of Yemen in a complex civil war there.

Islamic State



Figure 8-64: The Islamic State controls much of eastern Syria and portions of western Iraq.

State Support for Terrorism

States may support terrorism:

- Sanctuary for terrorists: Pakistan
- Supplying terrorists: Iraq and Iran
- Sponsoring terror attacks: Libya

Osama bin Laden's Compound



Figure 8-65: Osama bin Laden lived in this compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan for many years, only 6 km (4 mi) from the Pakistan Military Academy.

Iran's Nuclear Facilities



Figure 8-67: Iran has insisted on its right to develop nuclear power, but several countries including the United States are concerned the program includes building nuclear weapons.