

Political Geography

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Political Geography?

Political geography has been defined in three ways:

- Some people have defined it as a study of relationships between man's political activity and physical environment.*
- Some people have stated that it is the study of political areas*
- Some people defined it as a study of the areal differentiation of political phenomenon on the surface of the earth.*

Political Geography?

According to ancient Greeks:

Political geography is the study of relationship of state to physical conditions.

According to A.E. Moodie:

The major objective of political geography is to analyse interstate relationships and internal adaptations to environmental conditions.

Political Geography?

According to H.W. Weigert:

The aim of political geography is to determine how political organizations are influenced by and adjusted to physiographical conditions and how these factors affect international relations.

According to S.V .Valkenburg:

Political geography is concerned with the geography of political units.

Political Geography?

According to Percy and Alexander:

Political geography consists of the "description and analysis of politically organized area".

According to Hartshorne:

Political geography is the study of variation of political phenomena from place to place in interconnection with variations in other features of the earth as the home of man.

Importance

- *Academic*
- *Applied*

United Nations Members

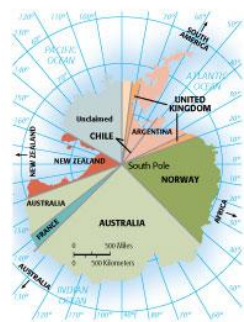
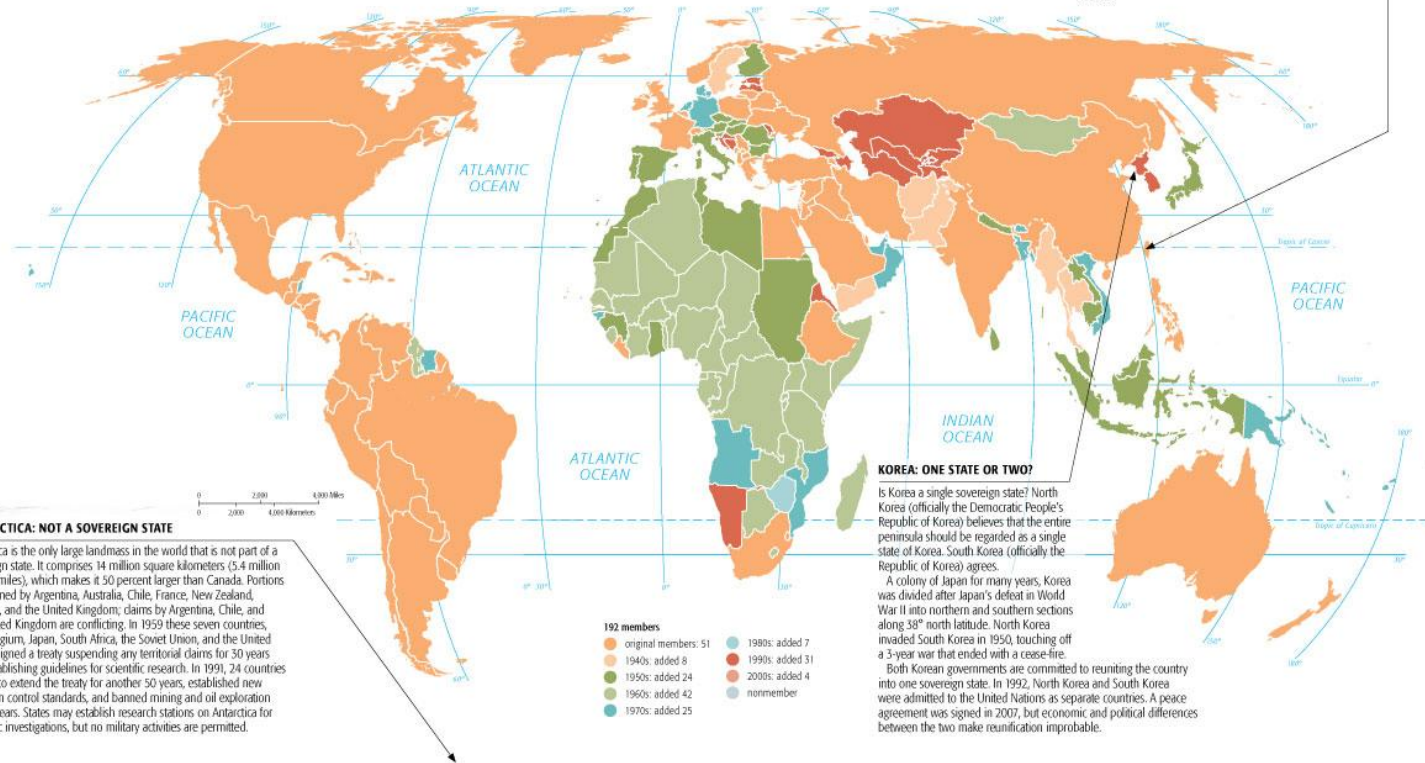
TAIWAN: A SOVEREIGN STATE?

Is the island of Taiwan a sovereign state? According to China's government officials, Taiwan is not a separate sovereign state but is a part of China. Until recently, the government of Taiwan agreed.

The confusing situation arose from a civil war between the Nationalists and the Communists in China during the late 1940s. After losing, Nationalist leaders in 1949 fled to the island of Taiwan, 200 kilometers (120 miles) off the Chinese coast. The Nationalists proclaimed that they were still the legitimate rulers of the entire country of China. Until some future occasion when they could defeat the Communists and recapture all of China, the Nationalists argued, at least they could continue to govern one island of the country.

Most other governments in the world consider Mainland China (officially the People's Republic of China) and the island of Taiwan (officially the Republic of China) as two separate and sovereign states. In recent years, the president and political party in power have also announced their desire to make Taiwan a sovereign independent state. But the government of China views this position as a dangerous departure from the long-standing arrangement between the two entities.

The question of who constituted the legitimate government of China plagued U.S. officials during the 1950s and 1960s. The United States had supported the Nationalists during the civil war, so many Americans opposed acknowledging that China was firmly under the control of the Communists. Consequently, the United States continued to regard the Nationalists as the official government of China until 1971, when U.S. policy finally changed, and the United Nations voted to transfer China's seat from the Nationalists to the Communists. Taiwan is now the most populous state not in the United Nations.



The UN has increased from 51 members in 1945 to 192 in 2009.

Scope

- *How and why states are organized into regional groupings, both formally (e.g. the European Union) and informally (e.g. the Third World)*
- *The relationship between states and former colonies, and how these are propagated over time, for example through neo-colonialism*
- *The relationship between a government and its people*
- *The relationships between states including international trades and treaties*
- *The functions, demarcations and policing of boundaries*
- *How imagined geographies have political implications*
- *The influence of political power on geographical space*
- *The study of election results (electoral geography)*

Major Approaches

- *Historical Approach*
- *Morphological Approach*
- *Functional Approach*
- *Power Analysis Approach*

Methodology

- *Observation*
- *Experiment*
- *Mathematical Evaluation*
- *Verification*
- *Mapping*
- *Model Building*

Historical Growth

- *Hippocrates*
- *Herodotus*
- *Plato*
- *Aristotle*
- *Immanuel Kant*
- *Karl Ritter*
- *Arnold Guyot*
- *Alfred Thayer Mahan*
- *William Petty*
- *Friedrich Ratzel*
- *Rudolf Kjellen*

Historical Growth

- *Halford John Mackinder*
- *James Fairgreive*
- *Karl Haushofer*
- *Nicholas John Spykman*
- *Alexander de Seversky*
- *Sir John Slessor*
- *I. Wallerstein*
- *G. Modelski*

"You can befool some of the people for all the time; all the people for some of the time; not all the people for all the time"

Abraham Lincoln

***"Who rules East Europe commands the Heartland;
Who rules the Heartland commands the World Island;
Who rules the World Island commands the World ."***

Halford John Mackinder

"Who controls the rimland rules Eurasia;

Who rules Eurasia controls the destinies of the World."

Nicholas John Spykman

"We might say that one generation builds, the next consolidates, and third loses control."

G. Modelski

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Thank You