

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

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Political Area/Region

-Politically organized area/region

Components of Political Area/region

- *Territory*
- *Population*
- *Natural Resource*
- *Government*
- *Control Power*
- *International Recognition*

Region

- *The region is an area whose physical conditions are homogeneous.*

Classification of Political Area/Region

- *Independent*
- *Subjugated*

Independent

- State
 - Dominion
 - Confederation
 - Satellite
 - Buffer State
 - Disputed

STATE

- A politically organized territory
- Administered by a sovereign government
- Recognized by a significant portion of the international community.

A state must also contain:

- a **permanent resident population**
- an **organized economy**

State



- An independent political unit holding sovereignty over a territory (Canada)
- Casually referred to as "country"
- United States of America: 51 theoretically independent units that chose to join together in 1 'State'

Geographic Characteristics of States

- Size - important for resources, power, governance, communication
 - Russian Federation- 17,075,000 km² Nauru - 20 km²
- Shape - for governance/transport
- Location - Absolute & Relative

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.

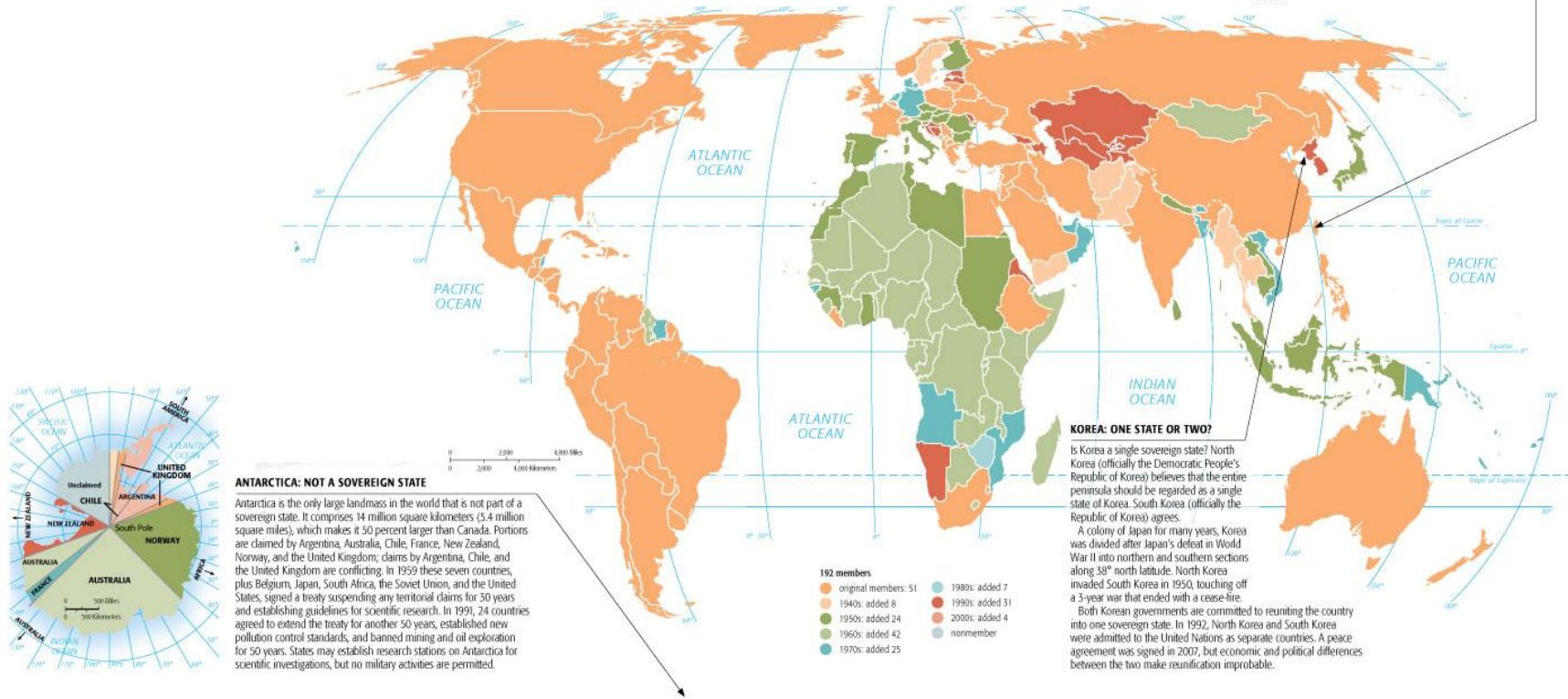
The question of who constituted the legitimate government of China plagued U.S. officials during the 1950s and 1960s. The United States had supported the Nationalists during the civil war, so many Americans opposed acknowledging that China was firmly under the control of the Communists. Consequently, 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.

KOREA: ONE STATE OR TWO?

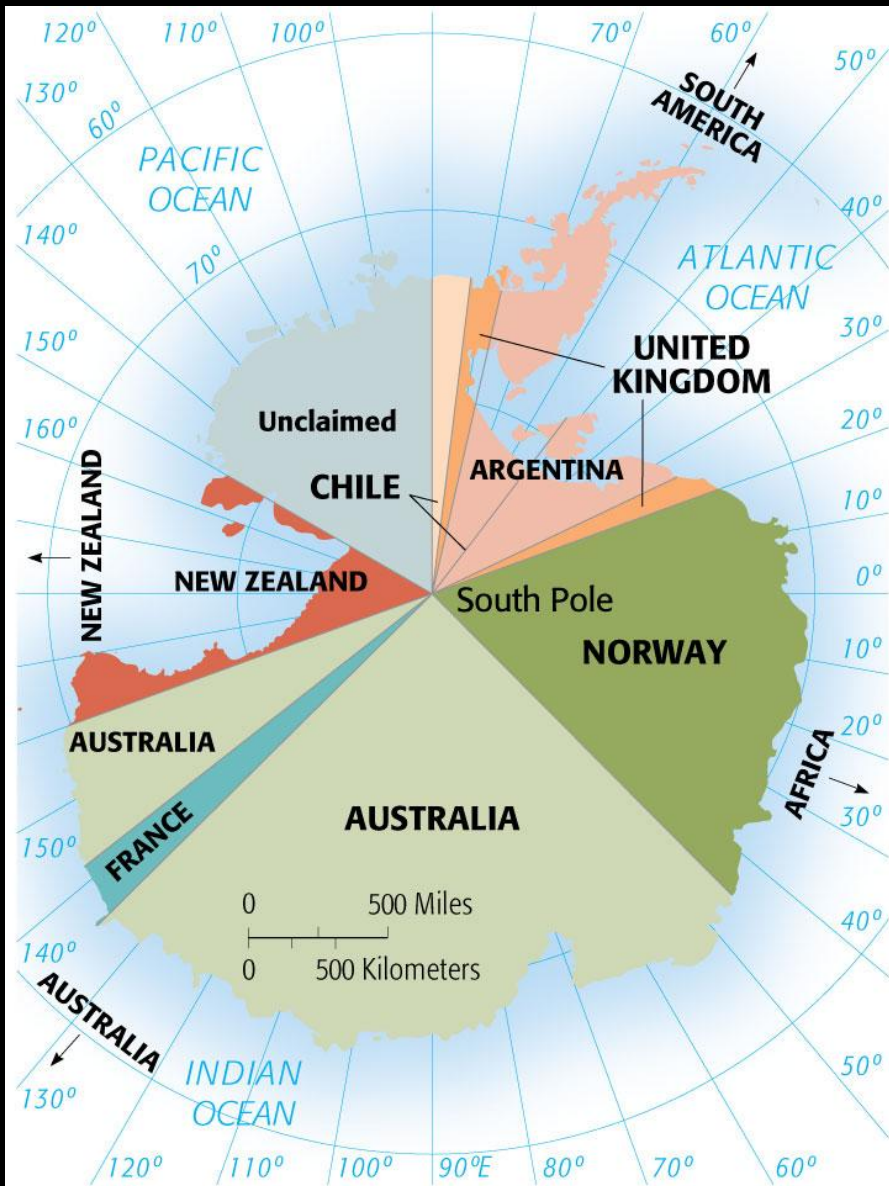
Is Korea a single sovereign state? North Korea (officially the Democratic People's Republic of Korea) believes that the entire peninsula should be regarded as a single state of Korea. South Korea (officially the Republic of Korea) agrees.

A colony of Japan for many years, Korea was divided after Japan's defeat in World War II into northern and southern sections along 38° north latitude. North Korea invaded South Korea in 1950, touching off a 3-year war that ended with a cease-fire.

Both Korean governments are committed to reuniting the country into one sovereign state. In 1992, North Korea and South Korea were admitted to the United Nations as separate countries. A peace agreement was signed in 2007, but economic and political differences between the two make reunification improbable.



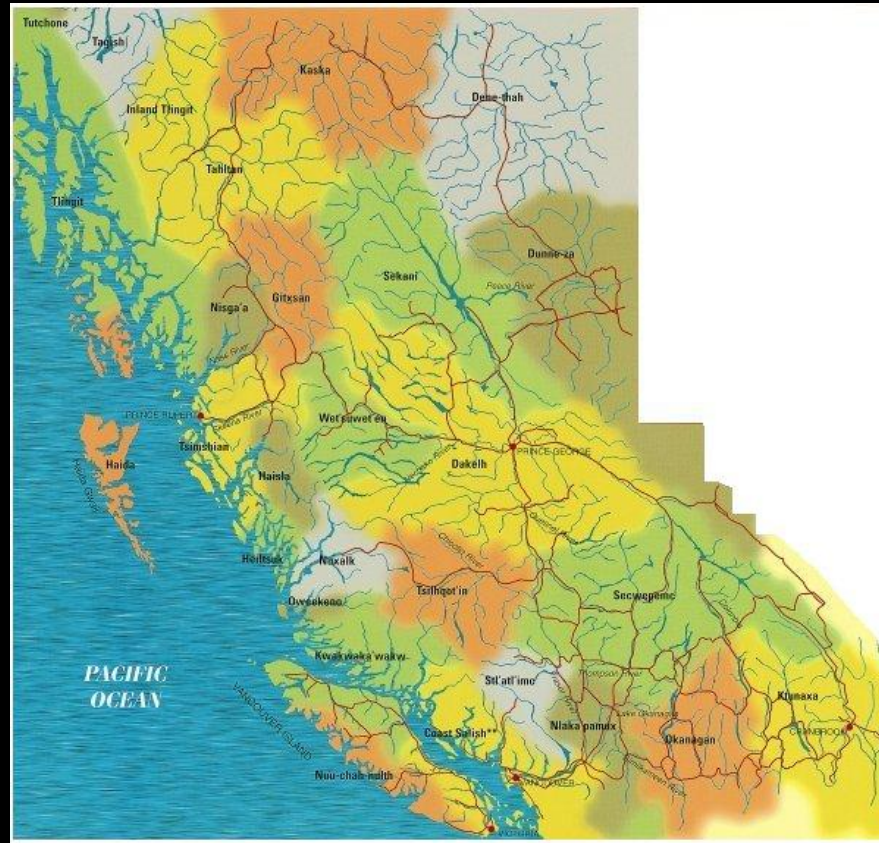
The UN has increased from 51 members in 1945 to 195 in 2014



Antarctica *National Claims*

Antarctica is the only large mass that is not part of a state, but several countries claim portions of it.

Nation

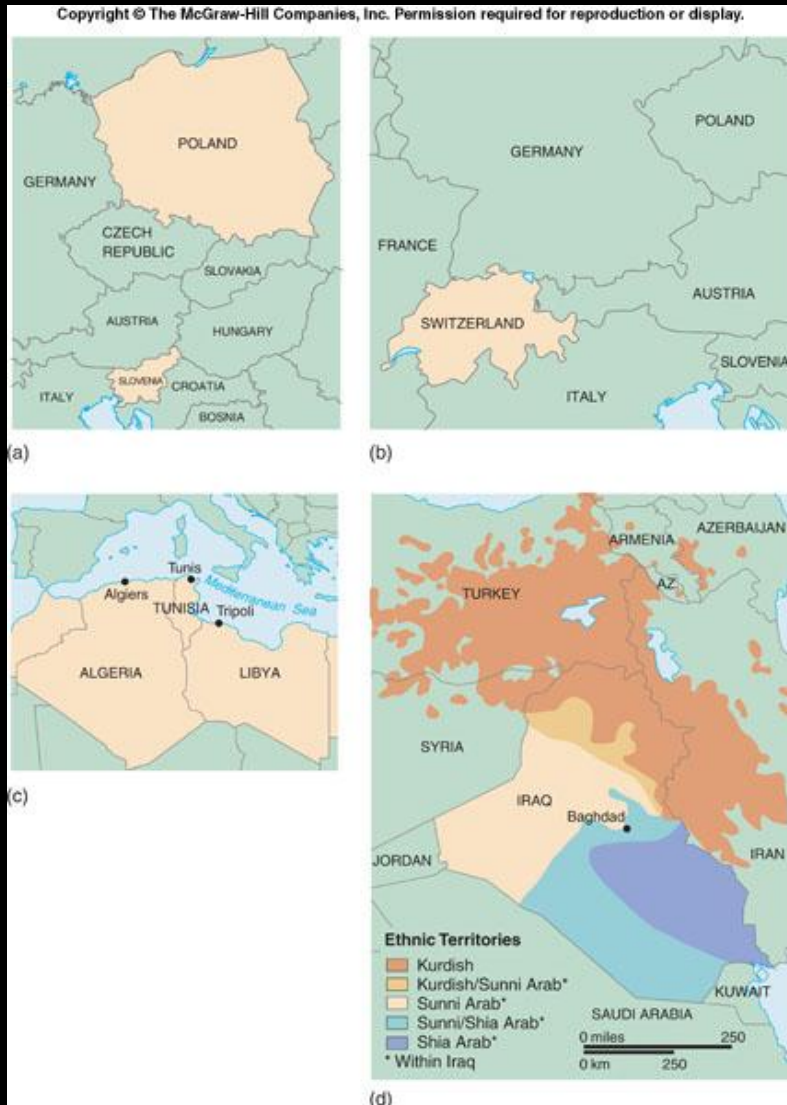


- Geographers' definition: community of people with common ancestry, culture and territory
- Does not imply an independent political unit
- e.g. Quebec; Acadians in Eastern Canada; "First Nations" throughout Canada

Nation-States

- A country whose population possesses a substantial degree of cultural homogeneity and unity.
- State whose territory coincides with the area occupied by a single nation
- E.g. Iceland – all residents of the state are members of a single Icelandic nation
- vs. Canada – several different nations within the boundaries of the Canadian state

Definitional complexities

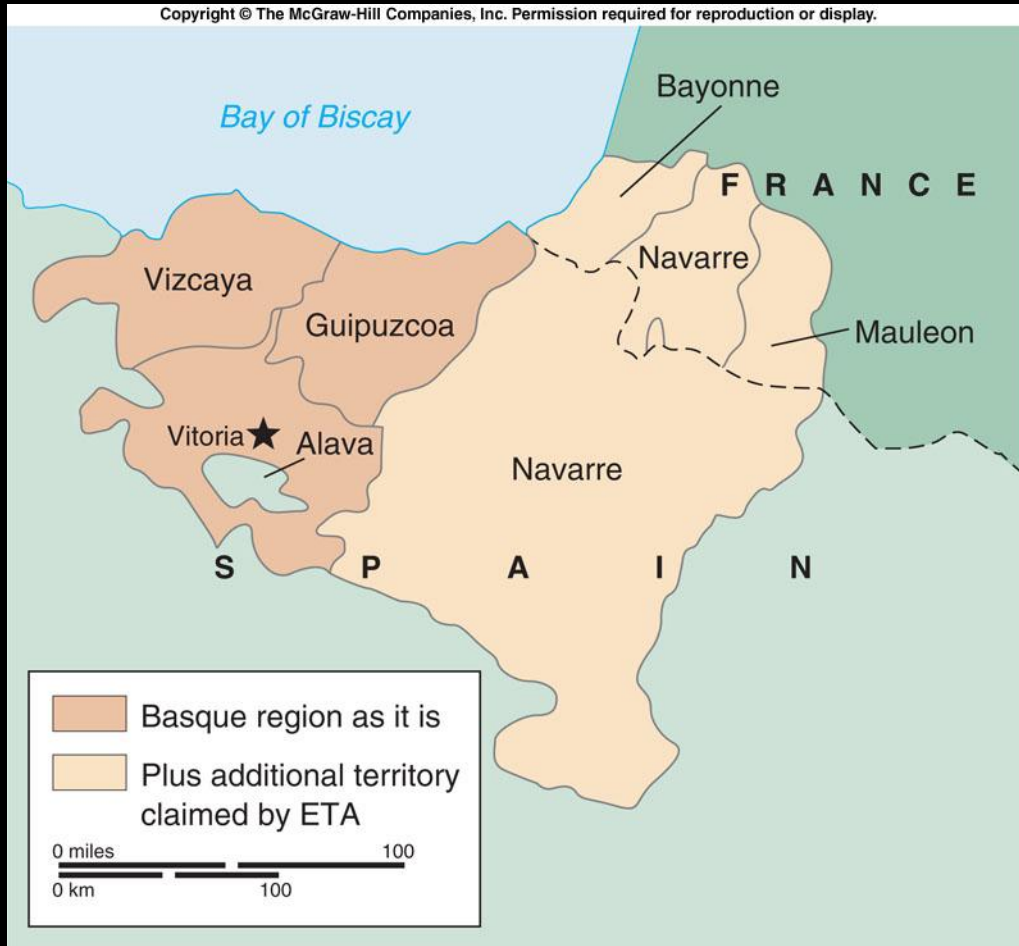


- Poland is essentially a nation-state
- Switzerland is a multi-national state
- The territory of the 'Arab nation' extends over several Arab states
- The Kurds are a stateless nation. Some Kurds are fighting for their own state, Kurdistan.

Multi-national States

- e.g. Canada – several nations within borders of Canadian state
- United Kingdom – Scots, English, Irish, Welsh are separate nations
- Former Yugoslavia
- India
- All Western Hemisphere states
- All African states

Stateless Nations



- ethnic groups (nations) occupying territory, but not belonging to a single state
- Basques in Spain and France – there is no Basque state
- Basque nationalist organizations want autonomy or independence for a Basque state

The Kurdish Nation

25-40 million people, depending on how it is defined

Area $\geq 190,000 \text{ km}^2$



- Opposition to Ottoman Empire in WW 1
- promised independence by UK & France (1920); but Turkey established control. acknowledged 1923
- Boundaries for political, not ethnographic reasons
- Kurds not recognized as a nation by Turkey, Iraq, Iran
- Kurds supported USA invasion of Iraq 2003

Area claimed by Kurdish nationalist groups;
Kurdistan nationalist flag

Dominion



Confederation



Satellite



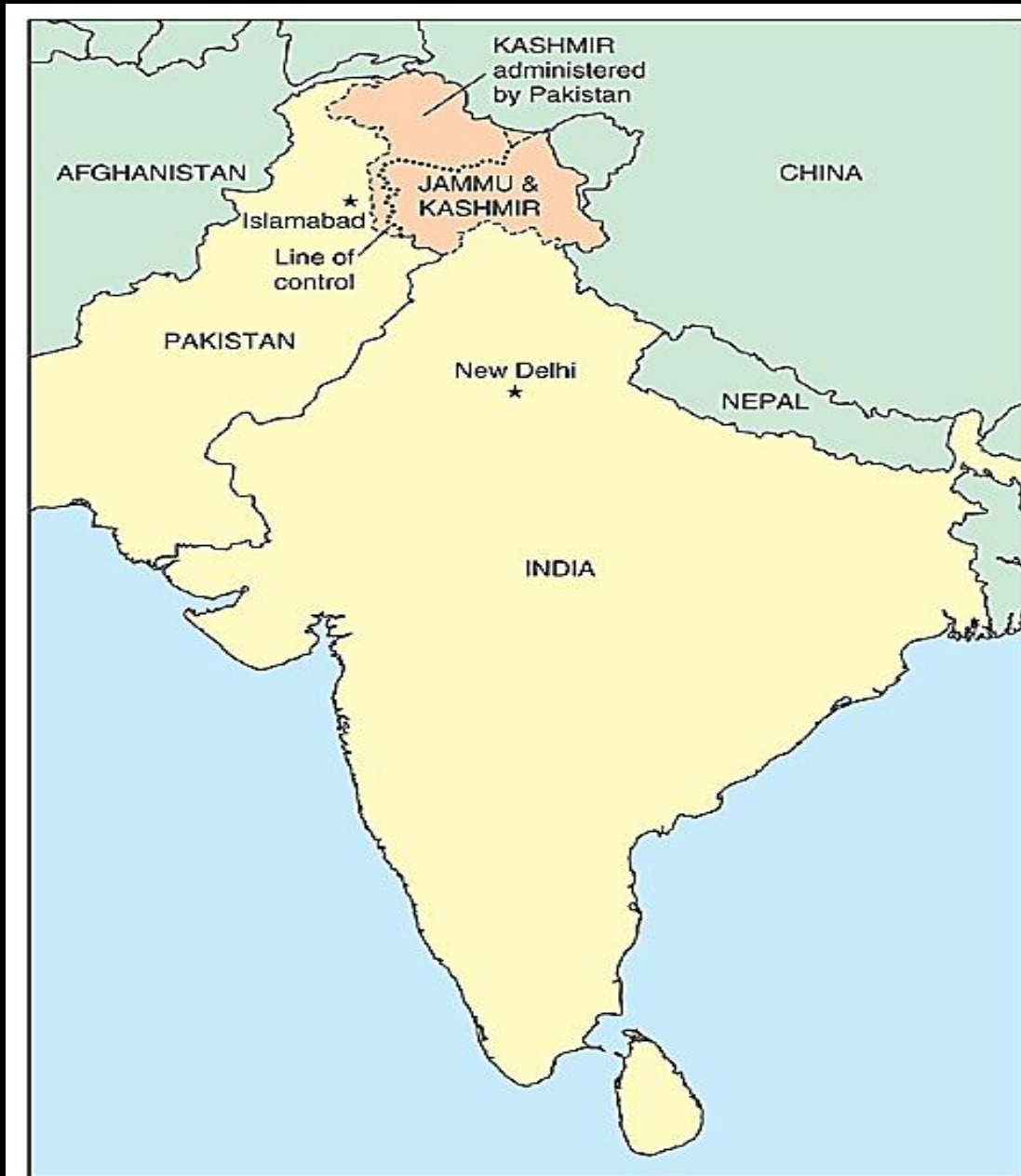
Buffer State



Disputed



Territorial Disputes



Resource Disputes

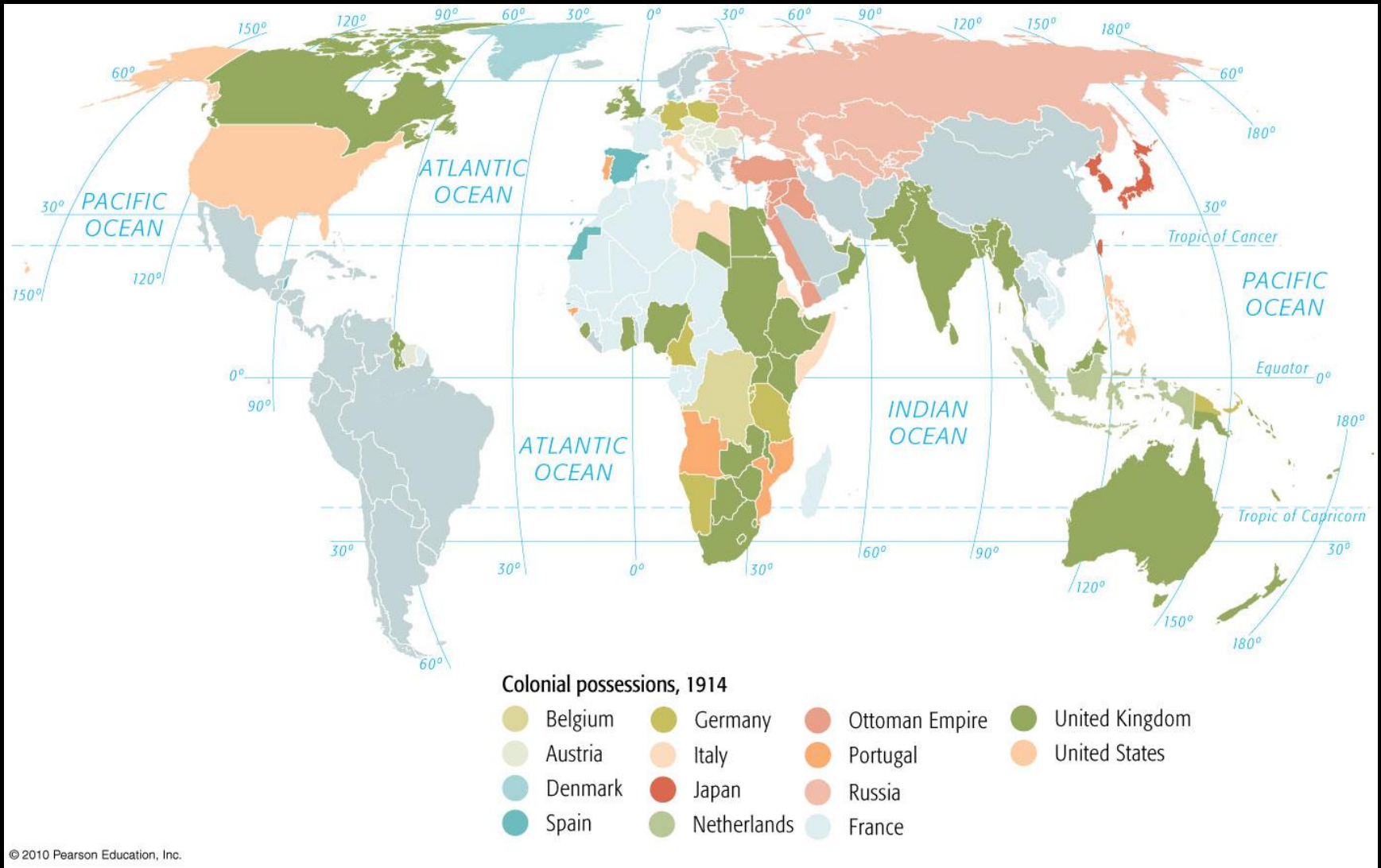


Canada and the US share jurisdiction over Georges Bank, a traditional fishing ground for scallops, lobster, cod, haddock, and other fin fish, which marks the southern gateway to the Gulf of Maine. Approximately one sixth of the Bank lies on the Canadian side

Subjugated

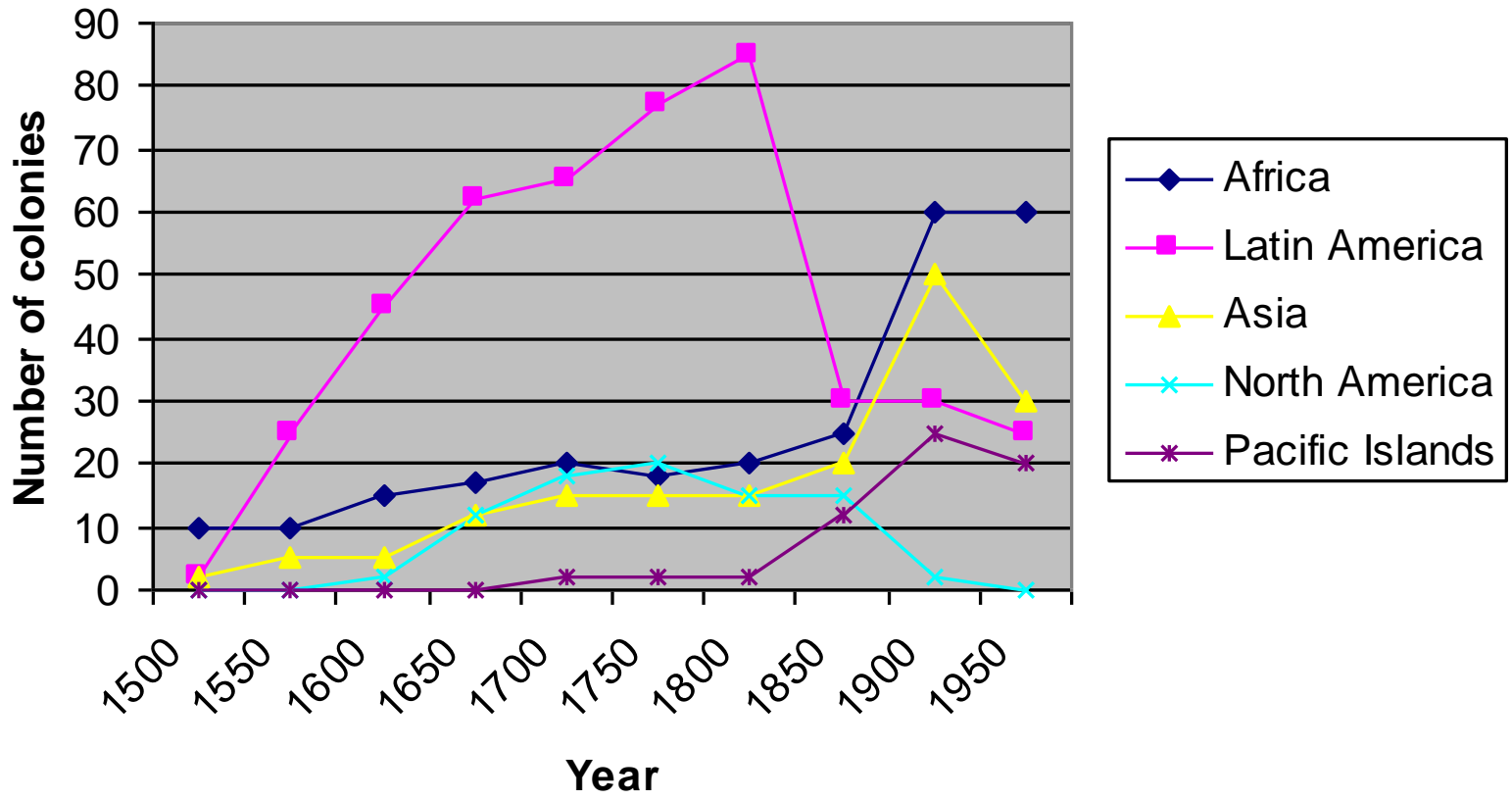
- Colony
- Protectorate
- Trust Territory
- Condominium

Colonial Possessions, 1914

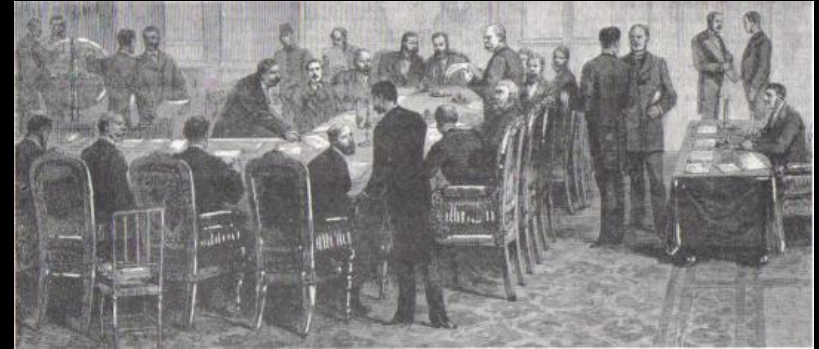


By the outbreak of World War I, European states held colonies throughout the world, especially throughout Africa and in much of Asia.

Colonized regions of the world



The Scramble for Africa



[http://www.homestead.](http://www.homestead)

[.html](#)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/3516965.stm>

- 1870s, Belgium King Leopold begins sending emissaries to Africa to establish trade relations
- Other European powers begin to actively acquire African territory

Berlin Conference, 1884-85



- Belgium, France, Germany, Portugal United States, Austria–Hungary, Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Russia, Spain, Sweden–Norway, Great Britain
 - Principle of possession via occupation.
 - Signatory powers must give notification of intent to occupy to all other signatory powers.


The Scramble for Africa



Cecil Rhodes stands astride the whole of Africa.

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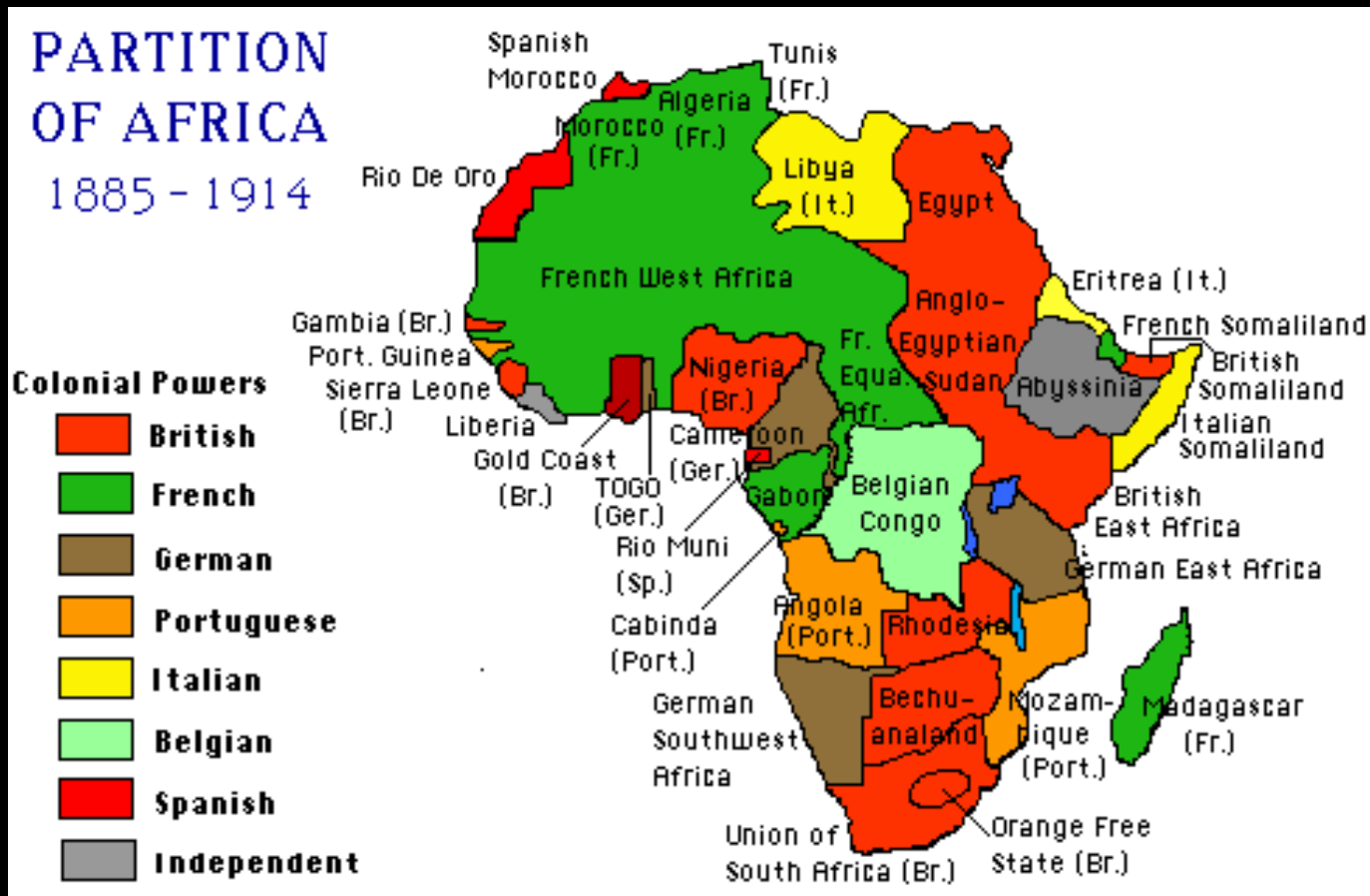
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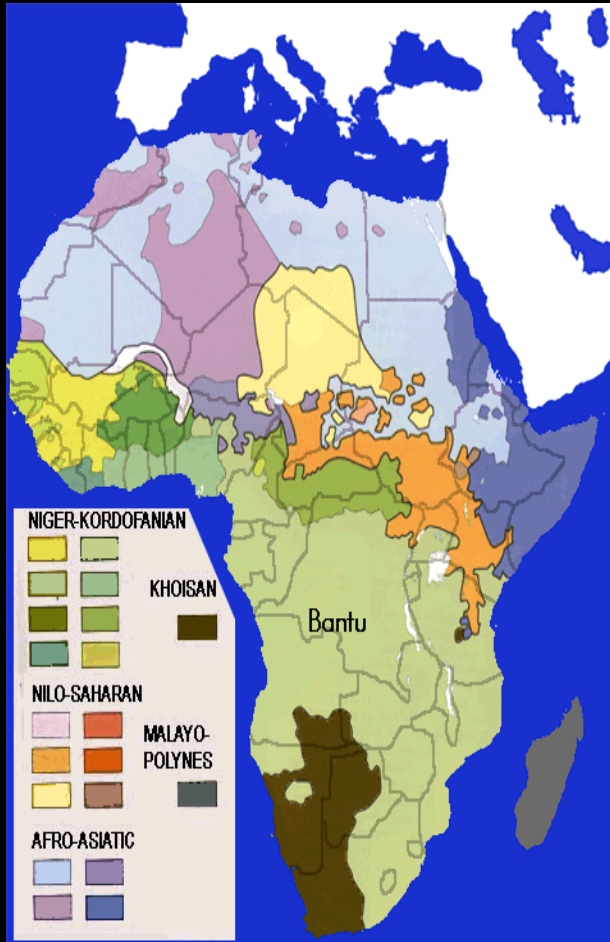
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Scramble for Africa

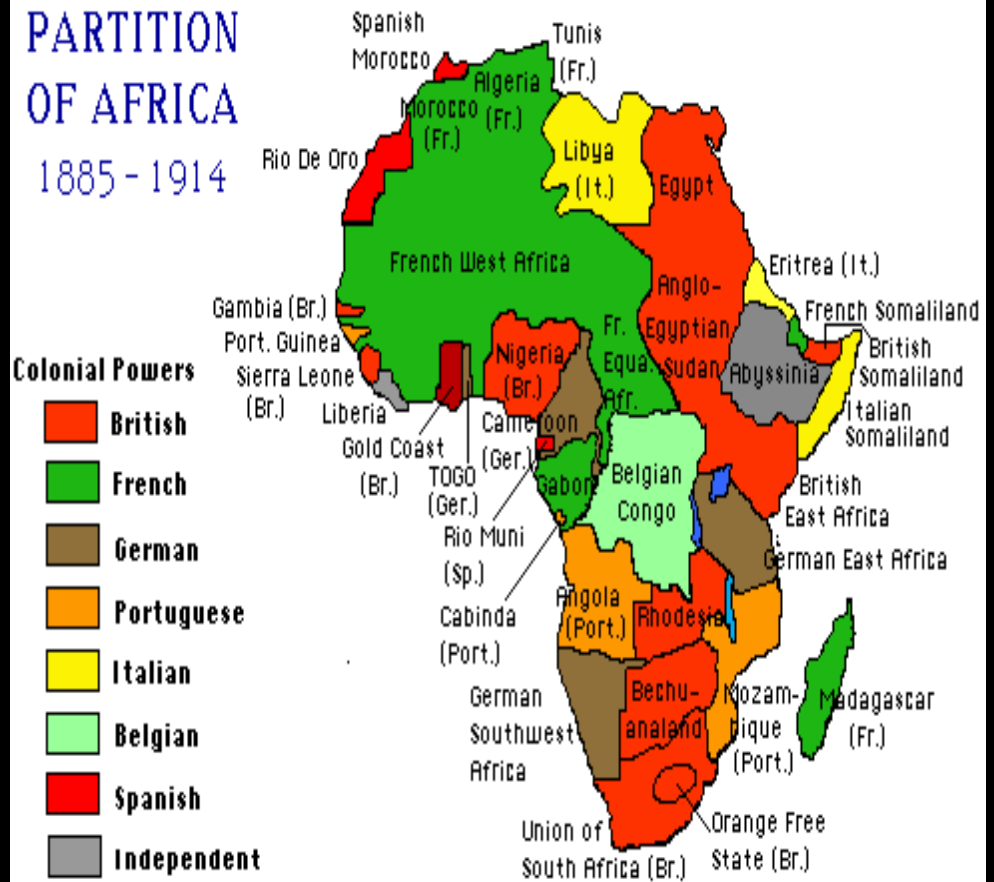


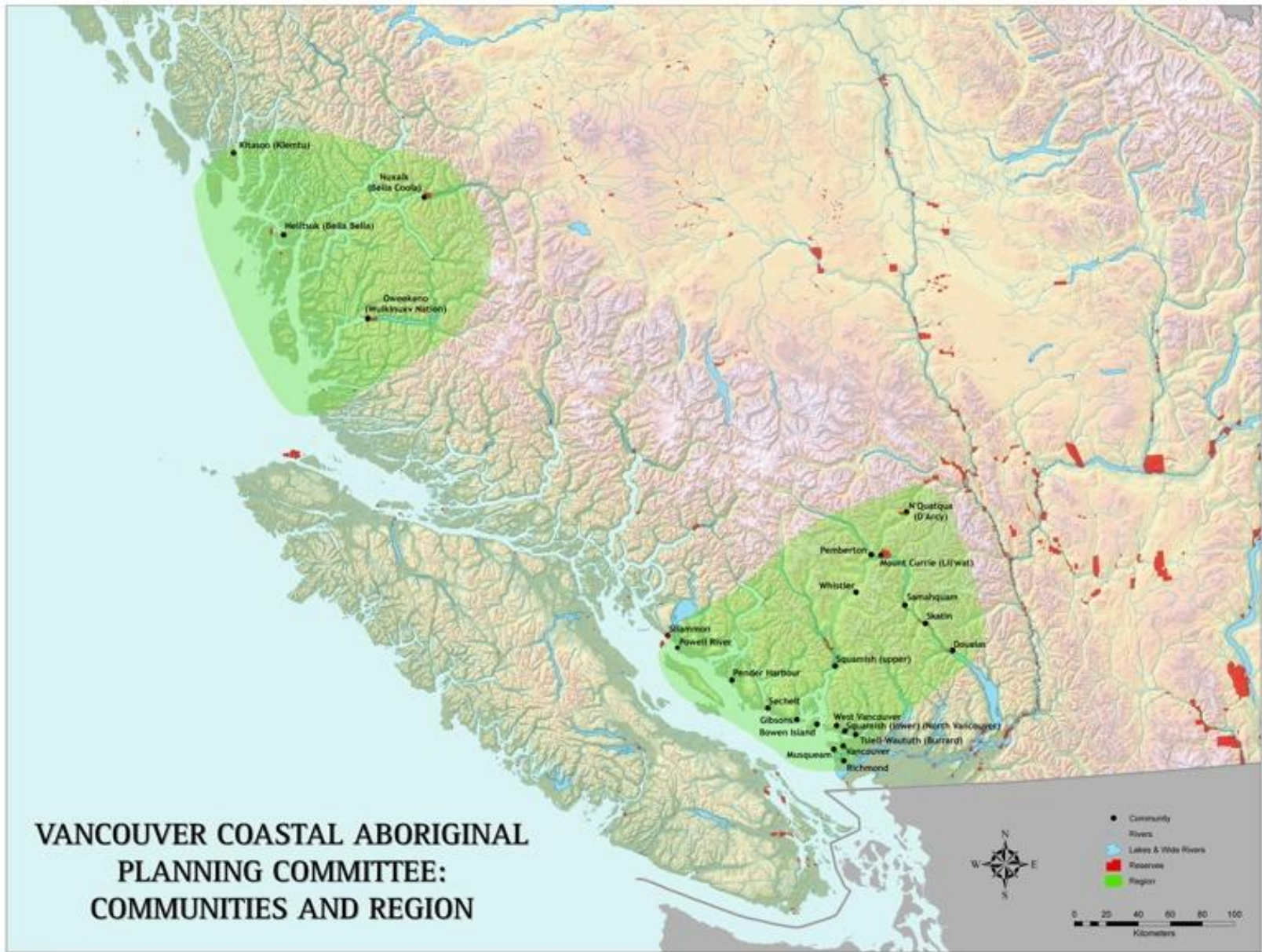
African language groups





PARTITION OF AFRICA 1885 - 1914



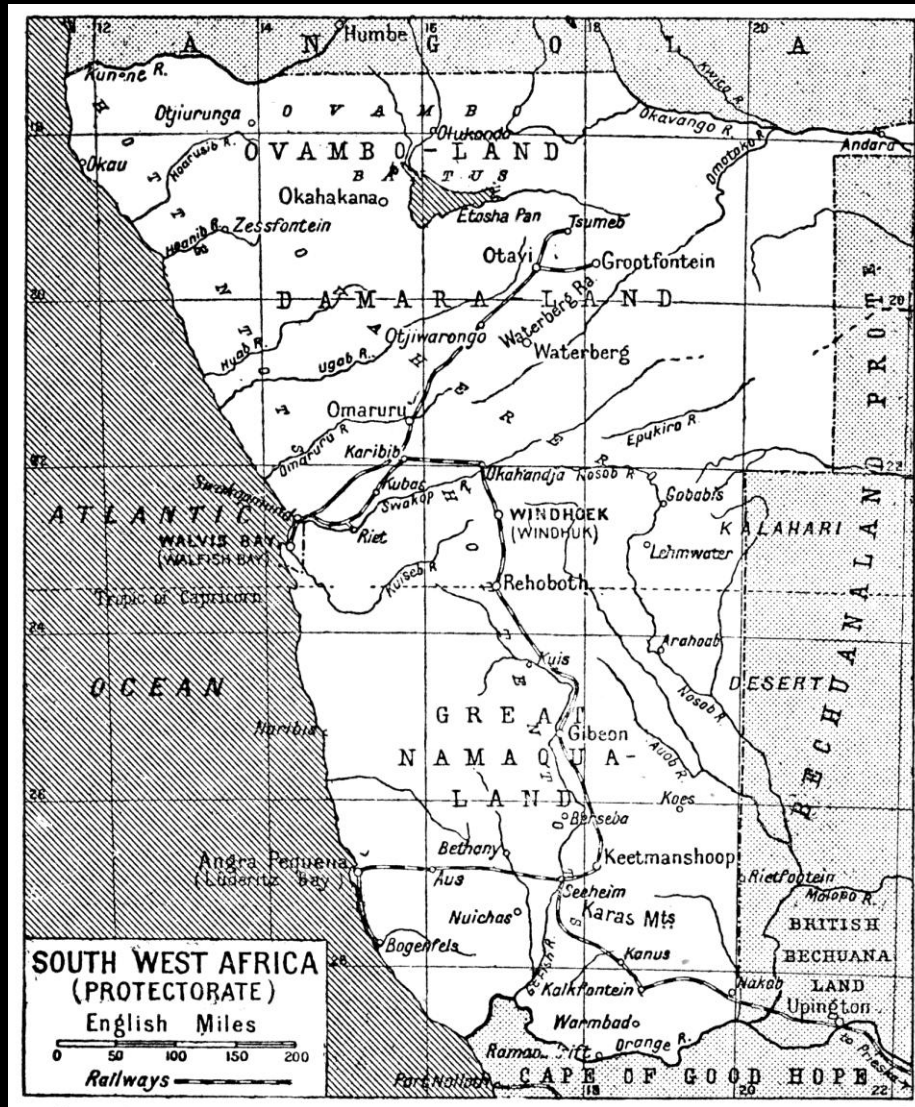


**VANCOUVER COASTAL ABORIGINAL
PLANNING COMMITTEE:
COMMUNITIES AND REGION**

Protectorate



Trust Territory



Condominium



Creation of State: Process & Development

Some Important Model

- The Deterministic View
- The Concept of Natural Unit
- The Concept of Nationalism
- The Organic State Model
- The Circulation Theory
- The Unified Field Theory

The Organic State Model

Ratzel's Laws

Based on the concept of organic state, Ratzel developed seven laws of the expansion of states

-The size of the state grows with its culture.

The Organic State Model

Ratzel's Laws

-The growth of states follows other manifestations of the growth of peoples, which must necessarily precede the growth of states.

The Organic State Model

Ratzel's Laws

-The growth of the states proceeds by the annexation of smaller members into the aggregate. At the same time , the relationship of the population to the land becomes continuously closer.

The Organic State Model

Ratzel's Laws

-The boundary is the peripheral organ of the state, the bearer of its growth as well as its fortification, and takes part in all of the transformations of the organism of the state.

The Organic State Model

Ratzel's Laws

-In its growth the state strives toward the envelopment of politically viable positions .

The Organic State Model

Ratzel's Laws

-The first stimuli to the spatial growth of states come to them from the outside.

The Organic State Model

Ratzel's Laws

-The general tendency toward territorial annexation and amalgamation is transmitted from state to state and continually increases in intensity.

The Organic State Model

Competition for Space

-With population still increasing ,Ratzel believed that each generation would feel more keenly a scarcity of land . Each nation needed room for expansion, which he termed ' Lebensraum'

The Organic State Model

A Critical Evaluation of the organic State

-Pounds makes a critical evaluation of the concept of the organic state ,especially in the light of the contemporary cold war.

The Circulation Theory

Gottman's Political Partitioning Model

-Circulation

-Iconography

Unified Field Theory

The theory simply states that idea and state are two ends of a chain. The chain is as follows :

Political Idea-Decision-Movement-Field-Political Area

Unified Field Theory

Application to Political Areas

Application of this theory to a case of one new national state is fairly simple. Zionism is the idea, the Balfour Declaration the conspicuous decision, permitting migration and other movements,. A field of settlement , governmental activity and war leads to the State of Israel.

Unified Field Theory

Studies of National Power

Studies of national power may also be fitted into the field theory. Lasswell and Kalpan define power as "participation in the making of decisions". If power is participation in the making of decisions ,if power is necessary before an idea can produce movement , then we can easily fit power into this model.

Unified Field Theory

Studies of National Power

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Unified Field Theory

Utility of the Theory

*The unified field theory according to S.B Jones ,
satisfies the first requirement of a successful
theory, a compact description.*

State Evolution : Cycle Theory

Samuel Van Valkenburg (1939)

- *Youth (U.S.A 1776-1803)*
- *Adolescence (U.S.A 1803-1918)*
- *Maturity*
- *Old Age*

Formation & Deterioration of State

- Centrifugal Forces (Deterioration)
- Centripetal Forces (Formation)

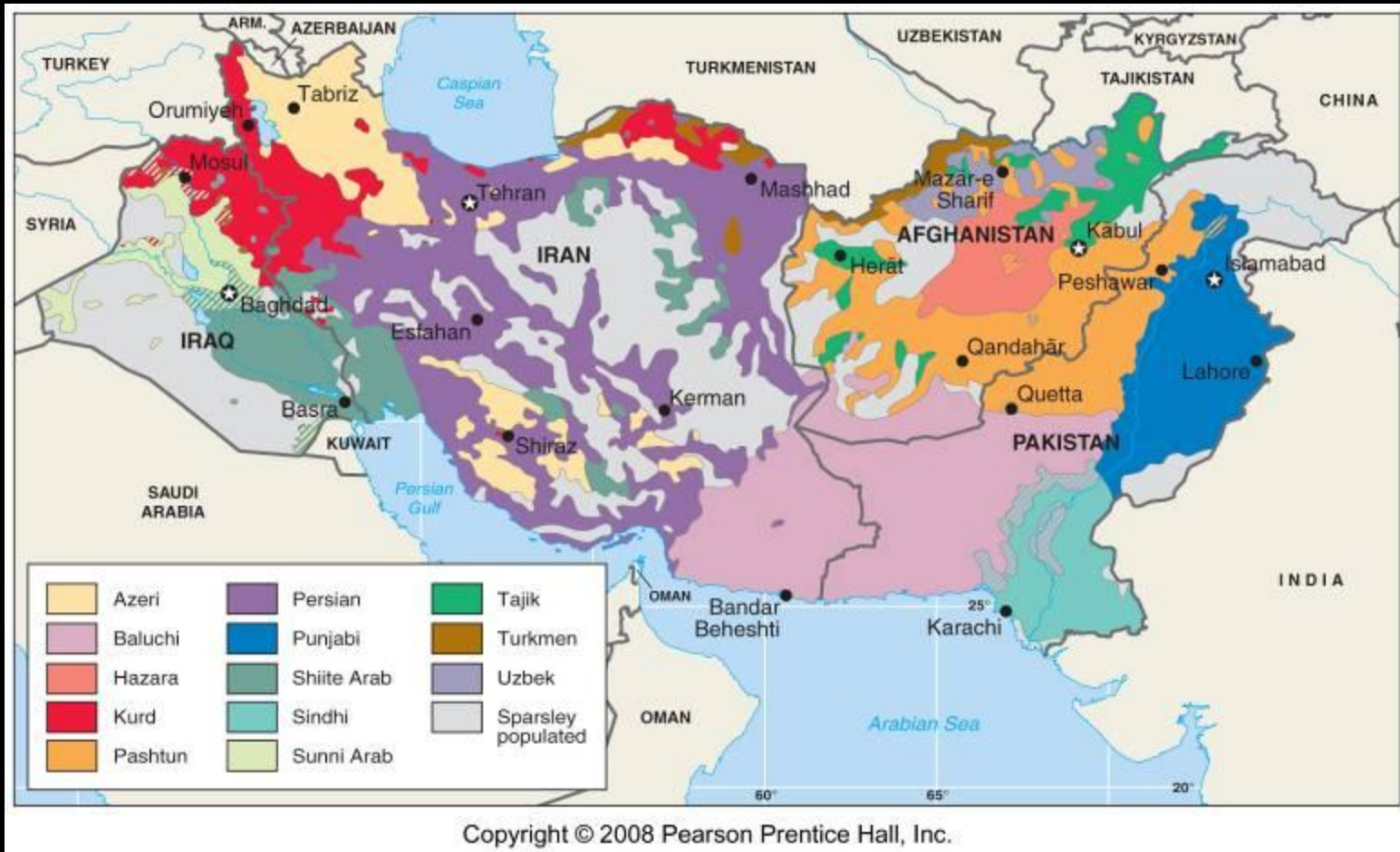
Centrifugal Forces

- Preconditions common to regional autonomist movements
 - Territory
 - Nationality
- Secondary common characteristics
 - Peripheral location (law of peripheral neglect)
 - Social and economic inequality

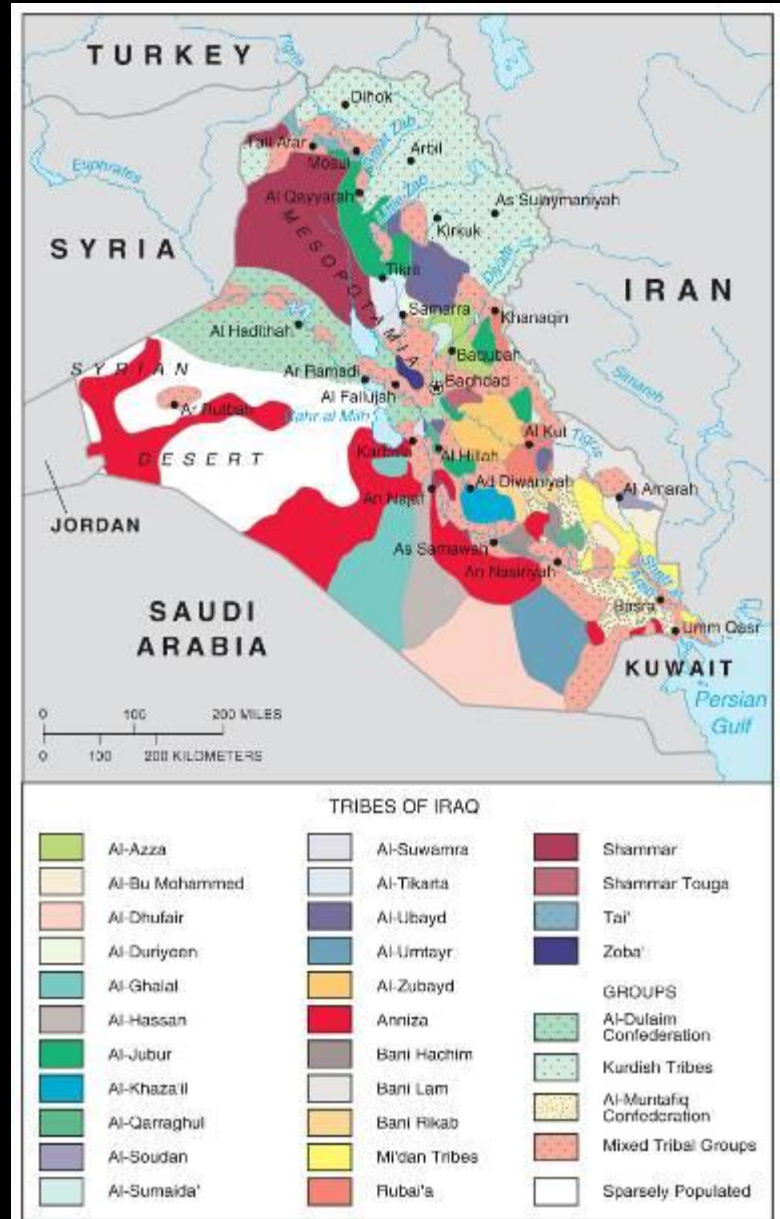
Centrifugal Forces

- Territorial Non-contiguity
- Separation Due to Distance
- Regional Diversities
- Absence of Settlement
- Inadequacy of Communication
- Diversity of Population Groups
- Administrative Disparity

Ethnic Groups in Southwest Asia



Tribes of Iraq



Centrifugal Forces: Slovakia

The Velvet Divorce

- Officially, The Slovak Republic came into existence on January 1, 1993.

- Except for a brief period during World War II, during which Slovakia was a protectorate state of Nazi Germany, the Slovak people have been subjected to domination by stronger political entities, such as the Czechs of the Czechoslovak federation, the Magyars of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and the sovereigns of the Habsburg Empire.

- Slovaks celebrated independence on Jan. 1, 1993.

- Although the history of the Slovak people as expressed in the nation state is less than a decade old, Slovaks have existed as a unique entity for over 1500 years.



Centripetal Forces

- Nationalism
- Unifying Institutions
 - Educational System
 - Religion
 - Military
- Organization and Administration
- Transportation and Communication

Centripetal Forces

- Physical Characteristics
- Population Characteristics
- Political Characteristics
 - ✓ State Idea
 - ✓ Political Participation
 - ✓ Even Development
 - ✓ Regular Pattern of Power Transfer

Capital Cities



- Seat of government. Often centre of finances, education, health services
- Symbol of national or state pride
- May be oldest & largest city in state, centre of most activities – *Primate City*

London is the *Primate City* of the United Kingdom

Primate Cities

- A primate city is the largest and most important city *by far* in a country.
- It dominates the urban system of its country.
- Examples: Paris, London, Mexico City, Seoul
- Toronto and New York are *not* primate cities.
- Ottawa is a capital that is *not* a primate city

Moving the Capital ...

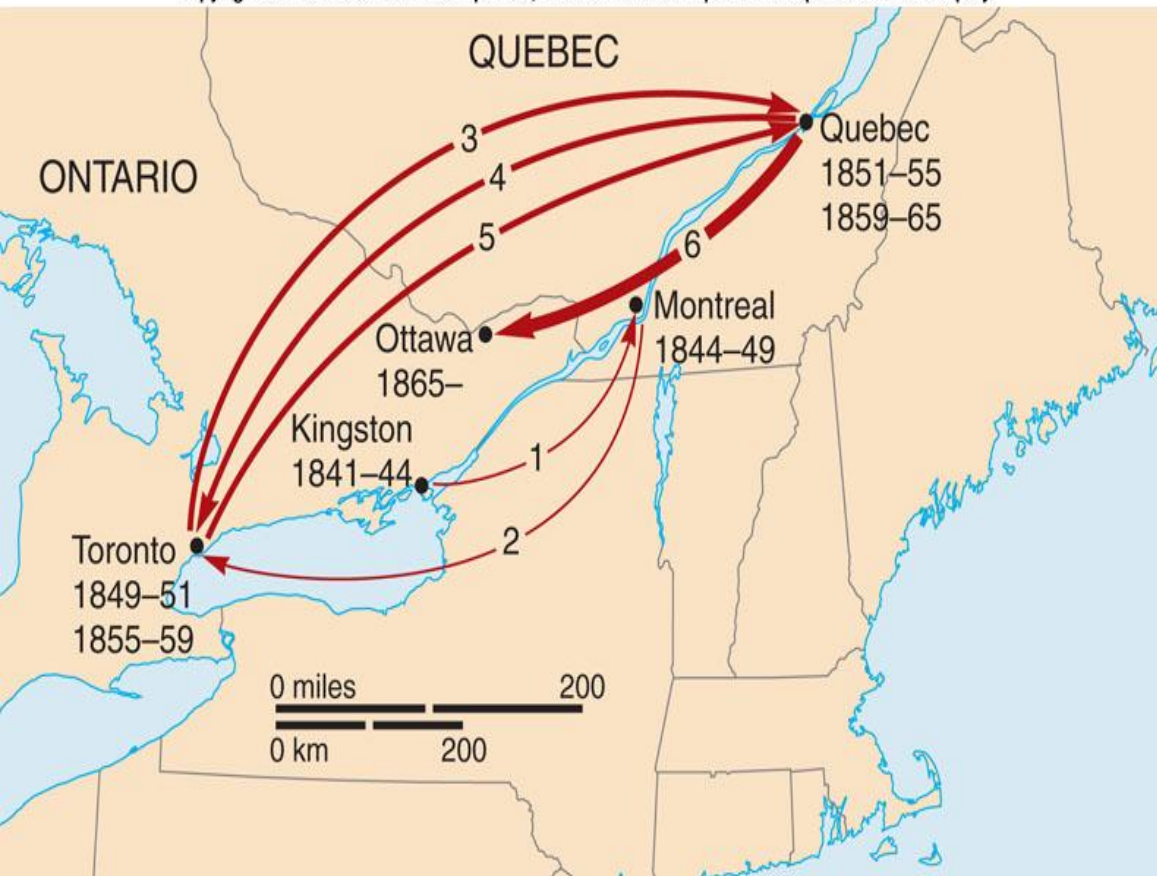


Brasilia

- To access the ocean – St. Petersburg
- To open new territory – Brasilia
- Due to boundary change – Bonn; Berlin
- To choose a 'neutral' site – Washington, Canberra
- To lessen the dominance of a primate city – Ankara (vs. Istanbul)
- To change attitudes – all of the above

Moving the capital:

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- Ottawa (Bytown) was selected in 1865 as a neutral site.
- small lumbering town.
- “in the middle of nowhere” and on the boundary between Lower and Upper Canada.
- More distant from the US and therefore less subject to attack.

What would be an equivalent choice today for a new capital for Canada?



Canberra

- capital of Australia
- city planned as the centre of federal government
- separate from commercial and economic activity in Sydney and Melbourne
- deliberately situated in area of mild climate

Capital cities











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Thank You