Introduction to Political Geography
Defining a Country

• **State/Country**
  – A space with a permanent population, territorial boundaries recognized by other states, a government, and sovereignty.
    • A synonym for STATE is COUNTRY

• **Sovereignty**
  – A state has sovereignty if it has authority over its own political, social, and economic matters.
    • In other words, a country can take care of its own “stuff” without anyone else messing with their “stuff.”
States/Provinces

- States and provinces are smaller sub-divided political units
  - Still controlled by central national government, but have some powers of their own
Nations and Nation-States

- Nations are groups of people with a shared heritage, history, and cultural identity
- Nation-States are countries comprised mainly of people from one nation
  - Ex. Ethnic Japanese make up 98.5% of Japan
- A Multi-National State is a country that is made up of people from many nations
Stateless Nations

• Stateless nations are groups of people without a nation of their own
  – Often leads to them being considered “others” or being persecuted within countries they are living
Territory

- An area of land that is under the political control of a country, but the citizens of the territory are not given full rights of citizenship
  - Often lack ability to vote, or hold certain positions
Frontier

- Frontiers are areas of land that are not formally owned and no one exercises political control over it.
Patriotism and Nationalism

- Patriotism is the love for one's country
- Nationalism is the desire for all the members of a group of people to be united
  - Under a governmental body that represents them
Hyper-Nationalism

- Extreme nationalism, the belief in the superiority of one's nation and the desire to make it strong
Ethnic Cleansing and Genocide

- Genocide – The attempt to eradicate all peoples of a racial, ethnic, or religious group
- Ethnic Cleansing – The aim of establishing cultural homogeneity
  - Does not necessarily use methods of mass killings
Ethnic Cleansing

- The act of removing “unwanted” ethnicities from an area to attempt to create a ethnically homogenous geographic area
  - Forced deportations
  - Displacement
  - Mass killings
Supranational Organizations Defined

- Organizations that extend beyond the borders of three or more states that seeks to promote economic, political, or cultural unity between members
Economic Unions/Trading Blocs

• Attempt to foster unity through economic cooperation
  – Remove trade barriers such as Tariffs, quotas, and currency exchange restrictions
Collective Security Unions

• Members work together to provide mutual defense for one another against outside aggressors
  – Promote peace through creation of super blocs