The Geography of Nationalism
Defining Nationalism

• Historic Definition
  – A desire by a large group of people to form a separate country with a government that represents them or rejoin a country it had been separated from

• Modern Definition
  – A group of people being loyal and showing love for their country, often with a feeling of supremacy
  • Semi-Synonymous with Patriotism
Patriotism

• Love and loyalty felt towards one's own country
• Different from nationalism as it is more inclusive of people living inside the state
Problems of Nationalism: Multinational States

- Country with multiple nationalities contained within its borders
  - Can lead to cultural convergence and the creation of a hybrid culture
  - Can result in conflict
Problems of Nationalism: Nation-less States

• A large group of people from a particular ethnic group in a territory that is without a sovereign state of its own
  – Minority ethnic group in multiple states
• Often leading to persecution and resentment
Case Study: Kurdistan

• Ethnic Kurds scattered throughout Western Asia
  – Especially in Turkey, Iraq, and Iran
• Persecuted throughout history by hosts
Problems of Nationalism: Nation-less States

• Forming new states
  – Often at the expense of pre-established states
  – Often results in the relocation and displacement of current residents
Case Study: Israel

• Jewish peoples scattered over thousands of years of history
  – Often facing brutal persecution
• Jewish state formed in 1948
  – Zionist movement: Encouraged the movement of Jews back to historic homeland
  – Created heavy tension with residing Palestinians
Case Study: Palestine

• Creation of Israel immediately displaced 700,000 people
• At current Palestinians only occupy Gaza and West Bank
  – Leading to major conflict between Israel, Palestinians, and Arab neighbors
Case Study: Palestine

Map of countries that support creation of Palestine
Case Study: Yugoslavia

• Created in 1918 but faced many problems due to many ethnicities
  – Nationalist movements resulted in division of Yugoslavia in 1993
Effects of Nationalism: Devolution

• Transfer or delegation of power to a lower level, especially by central government to local or regional administration.
Case Study: Scotland Act of 1998

• Effectively established a Scottish Parliament and government to handle most of the affairs of Scotland
  – Still member of the United Kingdom but provided more autonomy
  – Supported by 74% of Scottish voters
Effects of Nationalism: Separatist Movements

• The desire of a group of people to break away from existing government and create a new state

• Main reasons for movements
  – Cultural differences
  – Governmental Differences
  – Military Occupation
  – Ethnic/Racial Conflict
  – Economic differences

• Often spark counter-Nationalist movements
Separatist Movements of Europe
Case Study: Kosovo

- Kosovo is mostly ethnic Albanians, not Serbs
  - Predominantly Sunni Muslims, not Orthodox Christians like serbs
- Could set precedent in area that would allow for redrawing lines of nearby countries
Case Study: Quebec

- Many cultural differences between Quebec and “English Canada”
- Referendum for separation in 1995 barely failed
  - 50.58% of Quebec voted against separation