

Basics of Political Geography

Defining States, Nations, and their
lands

Warm Up

- List three different ways that countries might be formed or created.

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



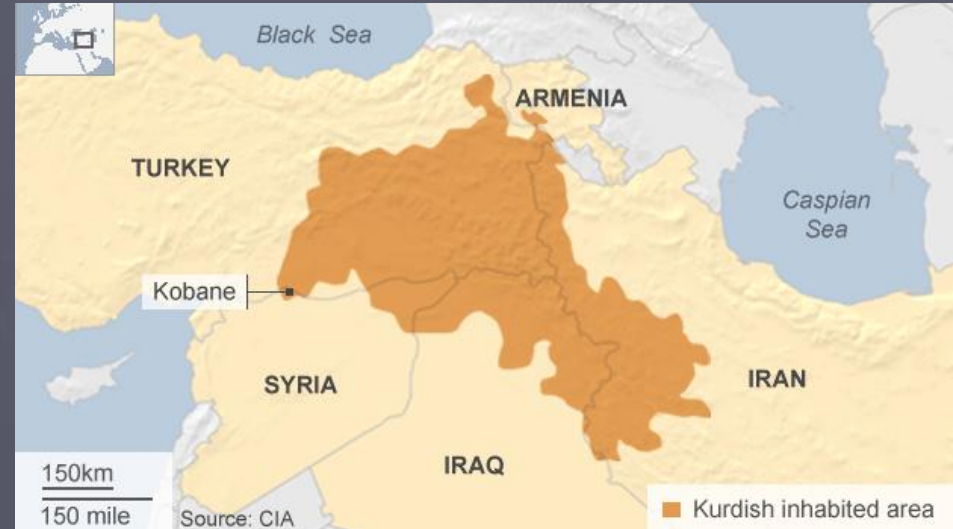
Nations and Nation-States

- 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



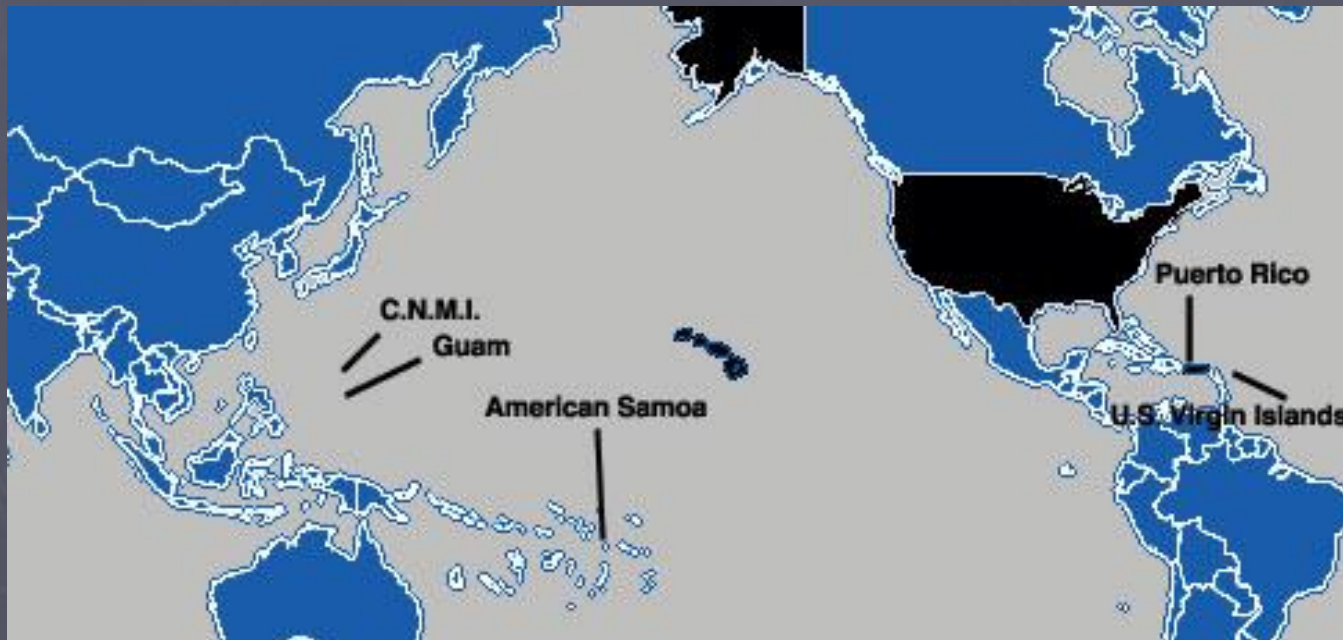
Stateless Nations

- 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

