

# Summary and Review

## KEY ISSUE 1

### Where Are States Distributed?

Earth's land area is divided into nearly 200 states. A state is a political unit, with an organized government and sovereignty.

**LEARNING OUTCOME 8.1.1:** Explain the three eras of rapid growth in UN membership.

- All but a handful of states are members of the UN.
- UN membership grew rapidly in 1955, 1960, and the 1990s.

**LEARNING OUTCOME 8.1.2:** Explain why it is difficult to determine whether some territories are states.

- Several places are not universally recognized as sovereign.
- Polar regions have not been organized into states, although neighboring states have competing claims on them.

**LEARNING OUTCOME 8.1.3:** Explain the concept of nation-state and how it differs from earlier ways to govern.

- Dividing the world into states is a modern concept.
- Historically, most of Earth's surface was organized in other ways, such as empires, or else unorganized.

**THINKING GEOGRAPHICALLY 8.1:** A century ago the British geographer Halford J. Mackinder identified a heartland in the interior of Eurasia (Europe and Asia) that was isolated by mountain ranges and the Arctic Ocean. Mackinder argued that whoever controlled the heartland would control Eurasia and hence the entire world. To what extent has Mackinder's theory been validated during the twentieth century by the creation and then the dismantling of the Soviet Union?

**GOOGLE EARTH 8.1:** The smallest state is the Holy See (Vatican). What is housed in the government building immediately to the west of St Peter's (identified in Google Earth 6.1)?



## KEY ISSUE 2

### Why Are Nation-States Difficult to Create?

A nation-state is a state whose territory matches that occupied by an ethnicity. It is impossible to find a perfect match between the boundaries of a state and the area inhabited by a single ethnicity.

**LEARNING OUTCOME 8.2.1:** Understand the difference between a nation-state and a multinational state.

- No perfect nation-state, exists, but some states come close.
- A multinational state contains multiple ethnicities rather than a single ethnicity.

**LEARNING OUTCOME 8.2.2:** Describe differences among states formerly in the Soviet Union.

- The U.S.S.R. was once the world's largest multinational state.
- The country's largest ethnicities were organized into 15 republics that are now independent states.

**LEARNING OUTCOME 8.2.3:** Describe patterns of distribution of ethnicities in Russia and the Caucasus.

- Russia is now the world's largest multinational state, with numerous ethnic groups.
- The Caucasus Mountain region contains a complex array of ethnicities divided among several small states.

**LEARNING OUTCOME 8.2.4:** Explain the concept of colonies and describe their current distribution.

- A colony is territory legally tied to a state. Into the twentieth century, much of the world consisted of colonies, but few remain.

**THINKING GEOGRAPHICALLY 8.2:** To what extent should a country's ability to provide its citizens with food, jobs, economic security, and material wealth, rather than the principle of self-determination, become the basis for dividing the world into independent countries?

**GOOGLE EARTH 8.2:** The boundary between what states run through the Caucasus Mountains?



## Key Terms

**Anocracy** (p. 282) A country that is not fully democratic or fully autocratic, but rather displays a mix of the two types.

**Autocracy** (p. 282) A country that is run according to the interests of the ruler rather than the people.

**Balance of power** (p. 286) A condition of roughly equal strength between opposing countries or alliances of countries.

**Boundary** (p. 276) An invisible line that marks the extent of a state's territory.

**City-state** (p. 266) A sovereign state comprising a city and its immediately surrounding countryside.

**Colonialism** (p. 274) An attempt by one country to establish settlements and to impose its political, economic, and cultural principles in another territory.

**Colony** (p. 274) A territory that is legally tied to a sovereign state rather than completely independent.

**Compact state** (p. 280) A state in which the distance from the center to any boundary does not vary significantly.

**Democracy** (p. 282) A country in which citizens elect leaders and can run for office.

**Elongated state** (p. 280) A state with a long, narrow shape.

**Federal state** (p. 283) An internal organization of a state that allocates most powers to units of local government.

**Fragmented state** (p. 281) A state that includes several discontinuous pieces of territory.

**Frontier** (p. 276) A zone separating two states in which neither state exercises political control.

**Gerrymandering** (p. 284) The process of redrawing legislative boundaries for the purpose of benefiting the party in power.

**Landlocked state** (p. 281) A state that does not have a direct outlet to the sea.

**Microstate** (p. 261) A state that encompasses a very small land area.

**Multiethnic state** (p. 268) A state that contains more than one ethnicity.

**Multinational state** (p. 268) A state that contains two or more ethnic groups with traditions of self-determination that agree to

## KEY ISSUE 3

## Why Do Boundaries Cause Problems?

States are separated by boundaries, which are either physical or cultural. Boundaries affect the shape of a country and affect the ability of a country to live peacefully with its neighbors.

**LEARNING OUTCOME 8.3.1:** Describe the types of physical boundaries between states.

- Physical features used to delineate boundaries include deserts, mountains, and bodies of water.

**LEARNING OUTCOME 8.3.2:** Describe the types of cultural boundaries between states.

- Geometry and ethnicities can be used to delineate cultural boundaries between states.

**LEARNING OUTCOME 8.3.3:** Describe five shapes of states.

- States take five forms: compact, elongated, prorupted, perforated, and fragmented.

**LEARNING OUTCOME 8.3.4:** Describe differences among the three regime types.

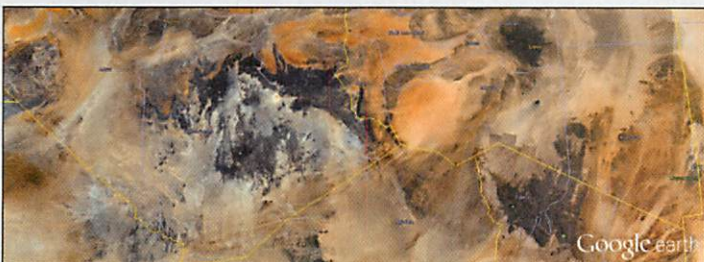
- Regimes can be democratic, anocratic, or autocratic; the trend has been toward more democratic regimes.
- Local governments can be organized according to unitary or federal state principles; the trend has been toward more federal states.

**LEARNING OUTCOME 8.3.5:** Explain the concept of gerrymandering and three ways that it is done.

- Gerrymandering is the redrawing of electoral districts to benefit the party in power.
- Three forms of gerrymandering are wasted vote, excess vote, and stacked vote.

**THINKING GEOGRAPHICALLY 8.3:** Given the movement toward increased local government autonomy on the one hand and increased authority for international organizations on the other, what is the future of the nation-state? Have political and economic trends since the 1990s strengthened the concept of nation-state or weakened it?

**GOOGLE EARTH 8.3:** Portions of what four states can be seen near the Libyan Desert?



coexist peacefully by recognizing each other as distinct nationalities.

**Nation-state** (p. 267) A state whose territory corresponds to that occupied by a particular ethnicity that has been transformed into a nationality.

**Perforated state** (p. 281) A state that completely surrounds another one.

**Prorupted state** (p. 280) An otherwise compact state with a large projecting extension.

**Self-determination** (p. 267) The concept that ethnicities have the right to govern themselves.

**Sovereignty** (p. 261) Ability of a state to govern its territory free from control of its internal affairs by other states.

**State** (p. 261) An area organized into a political unit and ruled by an established government that has control over its internal and foreign affairs.

**Terrorism** (p. 290) The systematic use of violence by a group in order to intimidate a population or coerce a government into granting its demands.

**Unitary state** (p. 283) An internal organization of a state that places most power in the hands of central government officials.

## KEY ISSUE 4

## Why Do States Cooperate and Compete with Each Other?

Competition among states has been replaced in some regions by economic alliances, especially in Europe. At the same time, violence has increased in the world because of terrorist attacks.

**LEARNING OUTCOME 8.4.1:** Describe the principal alliances in Europe during the Cold War era.

- States were allied with the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States.

**LEARNING OUTCOME 8.4.2:** Describe the principal economic alliances in Europe in the period since World War II.

- With the end of the Cold War, economic alliances have replaced military alliances in importance, especially in Europe.

**LEARNING OUTCOME 8.4.3:** Explain the concept of terrorism.

- Terrorism is the systematic use of violence to intimidate a population or coerce a government.

**LEARNING OUTCOME 8.4.4:** Describe ways that states have sponsored terrorism.

- States have supported terrorism by providing sanctuary to terrorists, supplying them with weapons and intelligence, and planning state-sponsored attacks.

**THINKING GEOGRAPHICALLY 8.4:** In his book *1984*, George Orwell divided the world into three states, controlling people through technology. To what extent has Orwell's vision of a global political order been realized in an age of terrorism?

**GOOGLE EARTH 8.4:** If you zoom into the center of Abbotabad, Pakistan, where Osama bin Laden's hideout was located, turn on 3D, switch to ground-level view, and pan around, what is the only 3D building? Given the distribution of religions discussed in Chapter 6, why does this building seem out of place here?



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