

## CHAPTER 10

# Challenges in the Modern State

### *Topics 4.8–4.10*

#### **Topic 4.8 Defining Devolutionary Factors**

*Learning Objective:* Define factors that lead to the devolution of states. (SPS-4.A)

#### **Topic 4.9 Challenges to Sovereignty**

*Learning Objective:* Explain how political, economic, cultural, and technological changes challenge state sovereignty. (SPS-4.B)

#### **Topic 4.10 Consequences of Centrifugal and Centripetal Forces**

*Learning Objective:* Explain how the concepts of centrifugal and centripetal forces apply at the state scale. (SPS-4.C)

*Geography cannot solve all of the world's problems; but no problem can be solved without geography.*

—Dr. Joseph Manzo, Professor of Geography, Concord University



**Source:** Wikimedia Commons

The Arab Spring was a series of democratic protests seeking government reform in 2011. The photo shows protests in Yemen. (See Topic 4.9 for challenges to sovereignty.)

## Defining Devolutionary Factors

**Essential Question:** What factors lead to the devolution of states?

**M**odern states and the political map of the world are dynamic and can change over time and space. Numerous factors influence the changing nature and relationships both among and within states. Independence movements, civil wars, colonialism, economic development, physical isolation, ethnicity, and lack of representation can all put pressure on national and international relationships.

Governments and other political entities, such as the United Nations, often responds to tensions in order to maintain peace and order. These tensions can result in changes in borders, power, and governments, or even the creation of new countries. Geographers study these forces and the changes that result on global, national, and subnational levels.

### Forces Leading to Devolution

Within a country, groups or regions can feel disconnected and disempowered, leading to a lack of national pride. In these cases, groups often feel that local or regional issues are being ignored by the central government, causing anger and distrust toward the government to arise. If the feelings are strong and sustained, demands for changes in the political system can increase. This tension can lead to demands from the population ranging from more control in political affairs to complete separation.

One response that countries will use to keep a country united but still grant some powers is the process of **devolution**, the transfer of some political power from the central government to subnational levels of government. The powers within a government—administrative, judicial, and legislative—are divided among the national government and subnational levels. This division varies among countries and is influenced by whether the state has a unitary or federal system. (See Topic 4.7.) Federalism by its nature is an example of devolution because provinces and states have power. Forces that lead to or accelerate devolution within a country are physical geography, ethno-linguistic divisions, terrorism, economic factors, and social conditions.

### *Physical Geography*

While globalization and improved technology promote connections, the physical geography of a region can cause isolation, decrease connections, and increase the likelihood of devolution. Many states that are very large in size (Russia, India, the United States) or those that are made up of thousands of

islands (Indonesia and the Philippines) can face challenges of communication and connectivity within their borders. Other physical features that have reduced contact among groups of people include deserts, plateaus, mountain ranges, and large bodies of water. These challenges can be overcome but as distance from the political power center increases, identification with and trust in the government can often decrease.

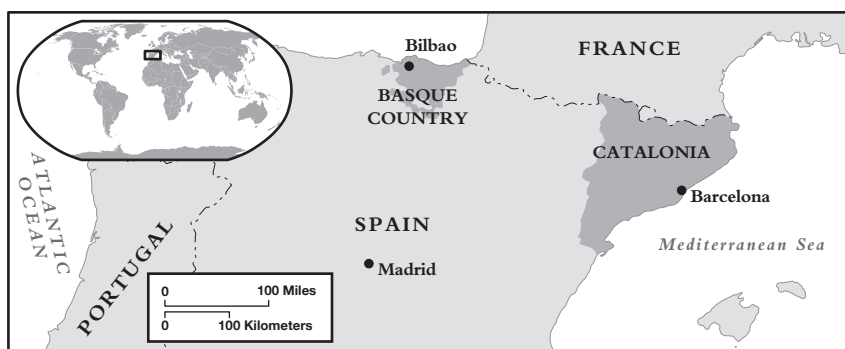
The Kashmir region of northern India and northern Pakistan has been and still is a region of conflict and border disputes. The Pir Panjal and Himalayan mountain ranges cause isolation among people in these regions. Areas claimed by India, China, and Pakistan have had some local autonomy because of the geographical isolation caused by these mountain ranges. Each country is unwilling to release its claims on the Kashmir because of the wealth of fresh water and natural resources in the region.

### ***Ethnic Separatism***

Many ethnic separatist movements throughout the world take place within specific regional lines within states. **Ethnic separatism** is the advocacy of full political separation (or secession) from the larger group along cultural, ethnic, tribal, or governmental lines. Ethnic groups and minorities are often concentrated in specific regions, which can lead to independence movements. In order to maintain unity, the central government will often grant more authority to these ethnic regions via devolution.

For example, Spain has two culturally and linguistically distinct groups within its border, the Basques and Catalans, in addition to the Spanish. The Basque Country was granted semiautonomy in 1979 by the Spanish government. Groups in Catalan are still seeking separation on the grounds of cultural differences and lack of power in the Spanish government. However, the intensity of their separatism is tied to actions by the central government of Spain. For example, if the national government imposes more restrictions throughout the country, then the Basques and Catalans may intensify their desire for independence. If the national government allows more local autonomy, it hopes that the desire for independence will decrease.

#### **ETHNIC SEPARATISM IN SPAIN**



Groups in both the Basque Country and Catalonia are examples of ethnic separatism. Although the processes for these groups has been different, each sought separation from Spain.

## ***Ethnic Cleansing***

Ethnic groups may seek separatism because of how they are treated within a country. Certain ethnic groups may be persecuted or not have equal status from the government. In extreme cases, acts of genocide and/or ethnic cleansing attempt to eliminate a group of people from a country. The United Nations Commission of Experts described **ethnic cleansing** as “a purposeful policy designed by one ethnic or religious group to remove by violent or terror-inspiring means the civilian population of another ethnic or religious group from certain geographic areas.” Coercive tactics that have been used in ethnic cleansing include destruction of property, attacks on civilians, arbitrary arrest, rape, torture, and murder.

The concept is grounded in the desire to create an ethnically homogeneous nation-state. The term arose out of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s. Examples from earlier in history include European colonists in North America who killed or drove away Native Americans, Hitler’s attempt to eliminate all Jews from Germany, and Poles who forced Germans to leave Poland after World War II. More recent examples have been carried out by Russians against the Chechens in the Caucasus Mountains, Indonesians against the people of East Timor, and the Sudanese against people in Darfur. In each of these, hundreds of thousands of people were killed or forced to flee their homes.

## ***Terrorism***

**Terrorism** is organized violence aimed at government and civilian targets to create fear for the advancement of political goals. It is most commonly used by non-governmental groups that do not have an army.

Ethnic separatists sometimes employ terrorist tactics in hopes of achieving devolution. Since its inception in 1959, the Basque nationalist/separatist group Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (ETA) has fought for independence from Spain. Increased frustration spurred ETA to wage a campaign of violence beginning in 1968. After more than 820 deaths, ETA declared a permanent cessation of armed activities in 2011. However, ETA continued to seek independence of the Basque region from Spain.

On a global scale, terrorism often has its roots in specific regions or countries. Terrorist groups seeking power and recognition within a country can expand their operations across international borders and even on a global scale. Al Qaeda has its roots among Sunni Muslims fighting against Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s. However, in 1996, Al Qaeda directed its aggression toward the United States to protest U.S. support of Saudi Arabia and Israel. A series of attacks in eastern Africa and the Arabian Peninsula in the 1990s culminated in the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon on September 11, 2001.

## Economics

Control of natural resources, such as mineral deposits, can prompt regions of countries to advocate for devolution. People in one region might want to use locally produced wealth for local benefits, such as better schools, infrastructure, and healthcare—or simply to lower taxes. The central government might argue that these resources should benefit the entire country.

Many tribal groups in the Amazon River basin of Brazil object to the extraction of resources and the development of the rainforest without local communities benefiting and being a part of the decision-making process. In Scotland, revenues from North Sea oil helped fuel talk of independence from the United Kingdom. In 2014, Scotland narrowly voted to remain part of the United Kingdom.

## Social Issues

Social devolution often follows geographic divisions between religious, linguistic, and historical regions. Countries experiencing social devolution usually have concentrated pockets of a specific religion or distinct spoken language by the local inhabitants. Federal systems, as in the United States and Canada, allow local governments to maintain their distinct languages and religions.

The situation in Belgium, in northwestern Europe, is quite different. As the bilingual sign below reflects, the country is split into the Flemish-speaking north, called Flanders, and the French-speaking south, called Wallonia. As a result of linguistic, cultural, and economic differences, the country is sharply divided. Each region has its own institutions and many people identify themselves as Flemish or Walloon rather than Belgian. The future of Belgium as a single country is in doubt.



A bilingual sign showing direction to a police station in Belgium. It uses both the French term, *police*, and the Flemish term, *politie*.

**Irredentism**

As mentioned in Topic 4.5, **irredentism** is a movement to unite people who share a language or other cultural elements but are divided by a national boundary. One example of irredentism comes from the Caucasus Mountains region. Under the Soviet Union, Nagorno-Karabakh was an Armenian-majority region within Azerbaijan. However, when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh demanded that they be allowed to join the country of Armenia, which supported their demands. Azerbaijan refused, and war broke out. It is estimated that 30,000 people died before a cease-fire in 1994. In theory, a new state was created, the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. In practice, the new state became part of the country of Armenia. In the fall of 2020, the conflict reignited, and as a result, Armenia will return the territories to Azerbaijan that it occupied after the 1994 cease-fire.

**NAGORNO-KARABAKH REGION**



The conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia is a territorial and cultural dispute. Armenia is mostly Christian and Azerbaijan is mostly Muslim. Describe challenges drawing borders based on culture.

**REFLECT ON THE ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

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**Essential Question:** *What factors lead to the devolution of states?*

Factor	Impact on Devolution

**KEY TERMS**

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devolution

ethnic separatism

ethnic cleansing

terrorism

irredentism



## Challenges to Sovereignty

**Essential Question:** How do political, economic, cultural, and technological changes challenge state sovereignty?

**M**ajor events in history have dramatically changed the world political map and countries face challenges to their sovereignty, and sometimes their very existence. Since 1960, 104 countries have been born. During the 1960s, many of the new countries were in Africa and most had been former European colonies. During the 1990s, numerous countries were created, most as a result of the collapse of the Soviet Union. Between 2000 and 2020, five more countries were created, including Southern Sudan in 2011.

### Devolution and Fragmentation

As previously stated, devolution is the transfer of power from the central government to lower levels of government. However, devolved powers can lead to regional autonomy and increased desire for independence, causing fragmentation of the state. When this fragmentation occurs, the state fractures along regional lines.

### *Autonomous Regions*

**Autonomous regions** have their own local and legislative bodies to govern a region with a population that is an ethnic minority within the entire country. Though these regions handle their own day-to-day governance, they are not fully independent from the state in which they are located. Many of these regions, such as the Navajo Nation in the United States, reflect the heritage of an indigenous population. Some, such as the Jewish Autonomous Oblast in far eastern Russia, are based on religion. Jews began settling in the area in the 1920s. Both federal states, such as India, and unitary states, such as China, include autonomous regions.

### *Subnationalism*

People in autonomous regions usually have a great deal of local power but give their primary allegiance to the national state. In contrast, **subnationalism** describes people who have a primary allegiance to a traditional group or ethnicity. Many French-speaking people in the province of Quebec, Canada, are subnationalists. They feel a stronger loyalty to Quebec than to Canada. In 1995, advocates of independence for Quebec narrowly lost a popular vote on the issue. Quebec remained part of Canada. In Nigeria, each of the country's

36 states chooses its own legal system. The 12 northern states of Nigeria, where Islam is the predominant religion, have sharia (legal systems based on traditional Islamic laws). The 24 southern states, where Christianity and animism are more common, use more secular legal systems. Sharia in the north is applied only to Muslims, not Christians or animists.

Many countries include several subnational groups as a result of wars, shifting borders, and movement of people. The concept of subnationalism can evolve into a stateless nation (see Topic 4.1) if the group seeks to separate and create an independent country. These groups have had various types of goals:

- **Equality:** In France, citizens of North African ancestry have fought for changes in laws that they argue discriminate against them.
- **Independence:** In far western China, some members of the Uyghur ethnic group have advocated seceding from China to form a new country, East Turkestan.
- **Changing countries:** In eastern Ukraine, many Russian-speaking citizens felt closer ties to Russia than to the rest of Ukraine. Russia invaded and claimed control of this region in 2014 based on irredentism. Several thousand people died in the fighting. Additionally, Crimea, a part of Ukraine, was invaded and annexed by Russia. Ukraine and NATO did not recognize the annexation. (See Topics 4.2 and 4.3 for more on Crimea.)

#### PRO-RUSSIAN UNREST IN UKRAINE, 2014



**Source:** Wikimedia Commons

The southern and eastern portions of Ukraine are where the conflicts occurred. Explain the importance of Crimea to Russia.

Numerous other groups have fought for independence and caused the fragmentation or disintegration of a country. Timor is an island on the eastern end of Indonesia, a predominately Islamic country. The eastern end of the island was settled by the Portuguese, and today is nearly 100 percent Roman Catholic. Timor-Leste (East Timor) won its independence from Indonesia in a



brief war in 2002. East Timor has rich oil reserves off of its coast and recently applied to join ASEAN, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

## **Balkanization**

Sometimes an entire country or region explodes in ethnic conflict, as the Balkan Mountains region in southeastern Europe did in the early 1900s and again in the 1990s. The rugged mountains of the area made communication difficult, so the region developed a high density of distinct cultural groups—Serbs, Croats, Slovenes, Bulgars, Romanians, and others. In the early 1900s, several of these groups demanded independence from the Austrian and Ottoman empires that controlled the region.

In 1918, several of these Balkan ethnic groups that felt threatened by the Communist victory in the Russia Revolution joined together to form Yugoslavia. However, when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1990, tensions and ethnic cleansing once again fractured the region into multiple countries. Today, **balkanization** means the fragmentation of a state or region into smaller, often hostile, units along ethno-linguistic lines. Areas that suffer from balkanization are also known as *shatterbelts*. (See Topic 4.5.)

### **BALKANIZATION OF YUGOSLAVIA**



Other regions have suffered from balkanization. The country of Sudan was one of the largest countries in Africa when it gained its independence in 1956 from Britain and Egypt. Sudan has a history of numerous civil wars and strife. The southern regions of Sudan are non-Arab, Christian, and animist, while the north is Arab and Muslim. People of the southern regions felt persecuted and marginalized by those in the north. After a long and bloody civil war, with approximately 1.5 million deaths, the country of Southern Sudan was granted independence in 2011. Southern Sudan is very culturally diverse and is experiencing increasing internal disputes recently.

In 1962, after 30 years of internal conflict, Ethiopia annexed the coastal country of Eritrea to gain access to the Red Sea. In 1993, Eritrea declared its independence from Ethiopia and in 2000 the two countries signed a peace agreement to resolve boundary issues over land claimed by both countries. Eritrea claims separate nationality based on ethnic, linguistic, and cultural differences. Both countries signed a formal peace agreement in 2018 that ended the hostilities. In December 2020, the northern province of Ethiopia, Tigray, erupted into conflict and attempted to gain independence which further destabilized the region and country.

## **Globalization Challenges State Sovereignty**

The world is full of networks in transportation, communication, trade, social media, beliefs and values, and politics. **Globalization** is the integration of markets, states, communication, and trade on a worldwide scale. While these forces have brought people and systems closer, they have also put a strain on the sovereignty of states. This in turn has led to a race to create special alliances. Globalization has created the necessity for alliances for collective benefits on a worldwide and regional scale. In addition, economic networks between consumers and producers have changed dramatically as a result of globalization.

The sovereignty of states in the modern age of globalization has been challenged in many ways. Political borders have become less significant as ideas flow more rapidly among most countries, trade in goods is freer than in the past, and even people can travel easily in areas such as Europe. However, the challenges of COVID-19 forced many countries to reassert their control of borders and close country borders and limit in-person interactions in order to slow the spread of the disease. The state system has attempted to adapt to these changes, but the speed at which these changes occur often outpaces states' attempts to keep up. Similarly, social, economic, and environmental forces have had difficulty in maintaining pace with the forces of globalization.

The Arab Spring, a movement of pro-democracy demonstrations and rebellions that began in late 2010, provides a good example of how rapidly ideas can spread. It began with antigovernment demonstrations in Tunisia. But, aided by social media, protests spread quickly throughout North Africa and the Middle East, leading to turmoil throughout the region. The Black Lives Matter movement that started in the United States also spread in 2020 via social and mass media, with protests across the world demanding equality and changes in government and police policies.

## **Supranationalism**

At times, countries sacrifice a degree of sovereignty by joining with other countries for a shared goal. The practice of multiple countries forming an organization for the benefit of all members is **supranationalism**. These organizations are often formed to create a military alliance, promote trade, or combat an environmental problem. Among the first modern supranational

organizations was the League of Nations, founded after World War I. Without the United States as a member, and without strong support from other large countries, the League failed. However, it provided the inspiration for a more effective organization, the United Nations, founded after World War II.

SUPRANATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS			
Organization	Members States	Mission	Headquarters
<b>United Nations (UN)</b> , 1945	193: most countries of the world and two others as non-member observer states	To promote peace, security and human rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New York City</li> </ul>
<b>North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)</b> , 1949	30: United States, Canada, Iceland, most countries in western and central Europe, and Turkey	To provide mutual defense of member states	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Brussels, Belgium</li> </ul>
<b>European Union (EU)</b> , 1993	27: mostly countries in western and central Europe	To integrate member states politically and economically	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Brussels, Belgium</li> </ul>
<b>United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)</b> , 2020 formerly NAFTA (1994–2019)	3: United States, Mexico, and Canada	To stimulate free trade among members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Washington, DC</li> <li>▪ Mexico City</li> <li>▪ Ottawa, Canada</li> </ul>
<b>Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)</b> , 1967	10: countries from SE Asia	To advance economic growth, peace, social progress, and cultural and economic development in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jakarta, Indonesia</li> </ul>
<b>Arctic Council</b> , 1996	8: only countries with territory in the Arctic—Canada, Russia, the United States, and countries of northern Europe	To foster cooperation, coordination, and interaction among the Arctic states with participation of Arctic indigenous communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tromsø, Norway</li> </ul>
<b>African Union</b> , 2002	55: all countries in Africa	To advocate peace, security, and stability on the continent through greater cooperation, economic development, and global integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</li> <li>▪ Johannesburg, South Africa</li> </ul>

## ***Economic Supranationalism***

The most common reason for multiple states to participate in a collective cause is economics. The most significant economic benefits are increased trade members and regulations that consider the interest of all countries involved.

**World Trade Organization (WTO)** One of the largest and most influential supranational organizations is the World Trade Organization (WTO). The goal of the WTO is to have countries agree to a set of fair and non-discriminatory guidelines for international trade. A secondary goal of the WTO is to ensure that trade flows smoothly, freely, and predictably.

**Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** focuses on the production of oil, or petroleum. Its mission is to coordinate and unify its members' petroleum policies in order to stabilize oil markets. Membership spans three continents, including countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Indonesia, Venezuela, Nigeria, and Iran. Ensuring a steady income for its members influences the quantity of oil supplied to the global market. Sometimes conflicts arise between the members. For example, one country may want to curtail production in order to drive prices up, while another member may want to increase production to generate more jobs.

**Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** Seeking mutually beneficial trade agreements has fostered economic growth and peace for member states of ASEAN. For example, the nations of ASEAN had rapidly growing economies—well ahead of regional powerhouses such as Japan, South Korea, India, and Australia.

**European Union** In the years following World War II, European leaders hoped to create stronger economic and cultural ties that would bring peace to a region ravaged by war for centuries. European countries began to eliminate national barriers to trade and travel on the continent. They reduced tariffs (taxes on trade), established a common set of regulations on products to replace individual national regulations, and coordinated labor policies. The two major steps to overcome nationalism were the formation of the European Union (EU) in 1993 and establishment of a common currency (the Euro) in 1999.

The EU is a political and economic union of 27 democratic European states that has a single-market free-trade zone and movement toward a standardized system of laws. The borders between member states were opened and the movement of people and goods increased. For example, products made in Germany could now be sold and transported to Spain without additional fees or taxes. Nineteen countries in Europe adopted the Euro as their currency. A unified currency within this Eurozone increased efficiency and reduced the cost of trade.

The result of these changes provided European corporations with easy access to a large market—one that included far more people than the U.S. market—in which to sell their products. Success in Europe helped EU-based companies compete in the global marketplace.

## THE EUROPEAN UNION, 2021



United Kingdom withdrew in 2020 (Brexit). There are currently five countries seeking admission: Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Turkey.

**United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement** The success of the European Union inspired the creation of other regional, economic supranational organizations such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). In 1993, the governments of the United States, Canada, and Mexico signed this economic treaty in order to compete in a rapidly changing and extremely competitive global market. In 2020, the treaty was renegotiated and is now called the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

**Transnational Corporations** The rise of **transnational corporations**, companies that conduct business on a global scale, has dramatically weakened state sovereignty. In contrast to corporations based in a single country, transnationals have no strong connection to any one place. As a result, they can move jobs from one country to another in order to take advantage of lower wages, lower taxes, or weaker laws on worker safety and environmental protection. Their ability to move operations around the world gives any single country less influence over them. Some members of the EU are concerned with countries losing their cultural identity as people of different backgrounds move to other countries within the EU, resulting in a changing cultural landscape.

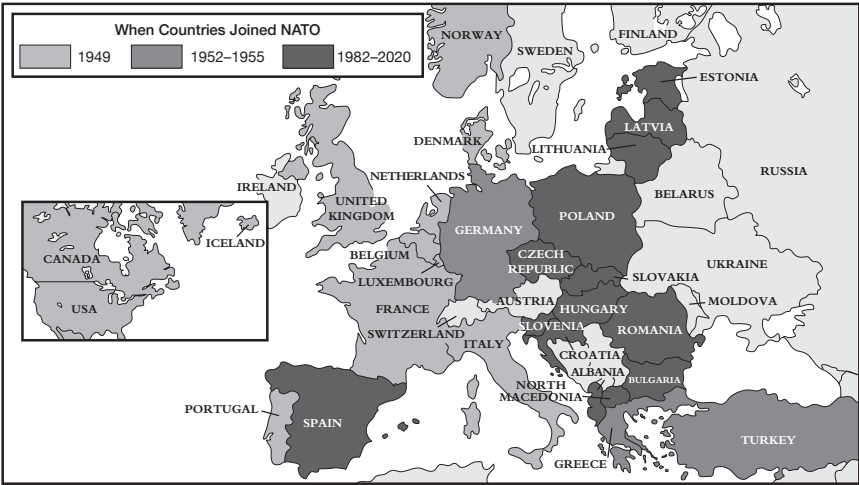
### ***Military and Strategic Supranationalism***

Another example of supranationalism is military cooperation through mutual defense alliances. One such alliance, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), was created in 1949 by the United States and its allies in response to tensions with the Soviet Union. NATO is the largest military alliance in the

world. While NATO did not confront the Soviet military directly, it did use its power to stabilize conflicts in the Balkans during the 1990s.

After the Cold War ended, several former allies of the Soviet Union in Central and Eastern Europe joined NATO. The first were the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland in 1999. Their strategic shift angered Russia, and renewed tension between NATO and Russia.

**THE GROWTH OF NATO, 1949–2020**



***Supranationalism and the Environment***

As the 21<sup>st</sup> century progresses, worldwide concern for the environment has become one of the biggest challenges facing states, supranational organizations, and transnational corporations. Most transnational corporations are based in the economic core—the countries of the developed world. However, much of the production and manufacturing occurs in the economic periphery—countries of the developing world—in order to minimize labor, land, and resource costs. This creates tension.

In wealthy countries such as the United States, workers resent corporations sending their jobs overseas. In poorer countries, people have different concerns. The government of a poorer country, more in need of jobs and development than a wealthy country, might be more willing to accept an environmentally damaging facility. Countries make different economic decisions based on the options they have.

As a result of lax environmental regulations in periphery countries, transnational corporations often pollute the air, water, and soil. To further exacerbate this problem, neighboring states are subject to this pollution as well. The largest supranational organization, the United Nations, has attempted to resolve some of these issues through the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea, and the Paris Agreement on climate change.



The Impact of Technology

The Internet, social media, and the ease of jet travel have had varied effects on how people relate to each other around the world:

- promoted globalization by connecting people across boundaries
- weakened globalization by helping subnational groups to organize
- supported **democratization**—the transition from autocratic to more representative forms of politics—by helping reform movements to communicate in China, Iran, Egypt, and other countries
- threatened democratization where the government has tried to limit the spread of information
- created a digital divide between countries with and without access to information for either political or infrastructure reasons
- increased **time-space compression**, the social and psychological effects of faster movement of information over space in a shorter period of time

REFLECT ON THE ESSENTIAL QUESTION

**Essential Question:** *How do political, economic, cultural, and technological changes challenge state sovereignty?*

Changes	Challenges to Sovereignty

KEY TERMS

autonomous regions	Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
subnationalism	Arctic Council
balkanization	African Union
globalization	World Trade Organization (WTO)
supranationalism	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
United Nations (UN)	transnational corporations
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)	democratization
European Union (EU)	time-space compression
United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)	

# Consequences of Centrifugal and Centripetal Forces

**Essential Question:** How do the concepts of centrifugal and centripetal forces apply at the state scale?

As defined in Topic 3.3, **centrifugal forces** divide the citizenry in a country while **centripetal forces** unite a country's population. Often, an action has potential to be both types of forces at once. For example, a political election can unite people behind a leader or issue—or divide people bitterly. It is uncommon to find a single event or process that can be neatly defined as centrifugal or centripetal.

Geographers study the extent to which these forces contribute to nation-building by examining interaction, scale, timing, and perspective. To unify a state, a government must define, control, and defend its boundaries. Additionally, the government must blend the different groups within its borders into one society.

## Centrifugal Forces

Often a minority population is concentrated in various pockets of a state, thus resulting in minority self-awareness and an emerging nationalist movement. **Regionalism** is when loyalty to a distinct portion of a country is more important than loyalty to the entire country. Regionalism can create centrifugal forces.

When a segment of a state's minority population feels underrepresented and lacking political power, it might pursue a path of separation from the larger state. Canada provides a good example. The country's French-speaking population, concentrated in southern Quebec, has pursued more power over local issues, such as education and administrative governance, including its judicial system. However, for some French-speaking Canadians in Quebec, this is not enough; therefore, political centrifugal forces still exist.

On the economic side, globalization has widened the gap between the rich and poor within a state. Uneven development within a country may lead to divisions between the “haves” and the “have-nots.” Uneven development results in uneven benefits and the separation and fragmentation of a state. For example, India is an emerging economic power, but it is not a strongly united country. Despite rapid economic growth on a global scale, India still has large segments of its population living in abject poverty. This poverty is divided along regional lines.

## REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF POVERTY IN INDIA



Describe the location of regions in India that suffer the highest and lowest percentages of poverty. Explain how high poverty can be a centrifugal force.

Centrifugal cultural forces have intensified as a result of globalization. Declining state sovereignty and economic advances have empowered ethnonational groups to demand more autonomy. **Ethnonationalism** is support for the political interests of a particular ethnic group within a state, especially its national independence or self-determination. For example, fragmentation within Syria and Iraq gave rise to Kurdish independence movements in those countries.

## Centripetal Forces

Governments, religious groups, and other institutions use a combination of methods to promote unity in a society. Centripetal forces are often focused on economic development, political identity, and cultural practices.

**Economic Development** One of the most effective centripetal forces used by governments throughout history has been building infrastructure. Improved infrastructure—such as efficient transportation systems and well-constructed roads and railways—can promote trade, communications, dependence, and other forms of connections among the population within a state. Improvements in transportation are one way to promote unity by increasing interaction

among different ethno-linguistic groups. These can increase the overall wealth of the country.

**Political Identity** Governments attempt to build political unity throughout its population in several ways:

- Unifying institutions, such as schools, promote social cohesion by educating students on the historical accomplishments of the state. Unifying institutions may also promote holidays that are historically significant, such as an independence day or a day to honor veterans.
- **Nationalism**, the strong feelings of patriotism and loyalty one feels toward one's country, promotes a sense of belonging, even if a country's population is an ethnically diverse one.
- The acceptance of rules or laws and the promotion of political equality help to reinforce political centripetal forces. Examples of this are governmental administration practices, such as a fair legal and judicial system and protection of the populace by the government.
- Customs and rituals based on citizenship are a common way to promote a sense of common identity. In the United States, public school students throughout the country often recite the Pledge of Allegiance each day.

**Cultural Practices** States with a population that is *homogeneous*, one that shares a common trait, likely have cultural practices that function as centripetal forces. For example, in heavily Islamic countries such as Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, Ramadan is a month-long religious observation that helps to unite the overall population. Japan, which has preserved a homogeneous culture by maintaining restrictive immigration policies, has strong cultural centripetal forces such as a common language and a shared sense of history.

FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE CENTRIPETAL AND CENTRIFUGAL FORCES		
	Centripetal Forces	Centrifugal Forces
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Quality transportation and communication infrastructure</li><li>▪ Wealth and high quality of life</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Poor transportation and communication infrastructure</li><li>▪ Poverty and uneven distribution of wealth</li></ul>
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Acceptance of racial, ethnic, and gender differences</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Practices that discriminate and exclude based on race, ethnicity, or gender</li></ul>
Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Just laws that protect all people equally</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Laws that discriminate against different segments of society</li></ul>
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Low pollution and access to clean air and water in all regions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ High pollution and unequal access to clean water</li></ul>
Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Celebration of a national day of importance</li><li>▪ Common religion of the majority of country</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Some religions not accepted</li><li>▪ Holidays that celebrate controversial individuals or events</li></ul>

## REFLECT ON THE ESSENTIAL QUESTION

**Essential Question:** *How do the concepts of centrifugal and centripetal forces apply at the state scale?*

### Centrifugal Forces and Their Impact

### Centripetal Forces and Their Impact

## KEY TERMS

centrifugal forces  
centripetal forces  
regionalism

ethnonationalism  
nationalism



## GEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVES: UNITED KINGDOM AND EUROPEAN UNION

In June of 2016, the citizens of the United Kingdom (Britain) voted to leave or exit the European Union (EU), hence the name Brexit. In January of 2021, the United Kingdom and EU reached an agreement of separation and formally split. The United Kingdom and EU will continue to have a free trade zone, but movement of people and products between the two regions will have new restrictions.

The vote to leave demonstrated very clear demographic and geographic patterns. Older, less educated, and unemployed populations were more in favor of leaving the EU, while younger and highly educated voters favored staying in the EU. Young people in the UK had a 65 percent voter turnout rate, while over 90 percent of older populations chose to vote. Scotland, Northern Ireland, and highly populated areas near London voted to remain in the EU. The rural and industrial areas of England and Wales voted heavily to leave.

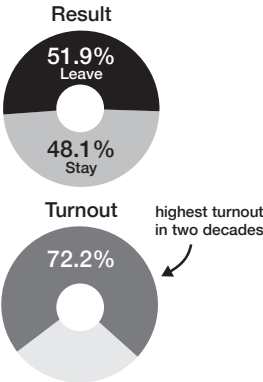
People who voted to leave the EU were often swayed by concerns about immigration into the UK and a desire to control the United Kingdom's political and financial future without interference from mainland Europe. People who voted to remain were in favor of the open borders and the benefits of economic exchange with mainland Europe. London has many world and European headquarters for transnational companies. Some believe that after Brexit companies may move their headquarters and numerous jobs to cities like Berlin and Paris within the EU.

# Scotland and Northern Ireland

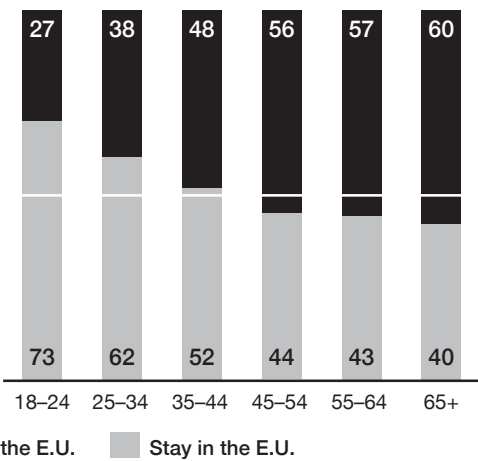
Both Scotland and Northern Ireland voted to remain in the EU because they experienced rapid economic growth since joining the EU. Since the Brexit vote, the government of Scotland has increased their desire for independence from the UK in hopes of joining the EU as an independent country. Concerns are high in Scotland and Northern Ireland that numerous jobs will be lost and economic growth will decline.

Residents of Northern Ireland could have a different experience than the rest of the UK. Northern Ireland's citizens have the option of dual citizenship in the UK and Ireland. The country of Ireland is independent and still a member of the EU. If Northern Ireland's citizens choose to get an Ireland passport they can still move freely within the EU and receive all of the benefits of EU citizenship.

## The U.K. voted to leave in June 2016



## Brexit Vote By Age



1. Describe the demographic characteristics of people who voted for leaving the EU.
2. Describe the geographic patterns for areas that voted for staying in the EU.
3. Explain how the changing function of borders could influence the United Kingdom.





## THINK AS A GEOGRAPHER: LABELING A BOUNDARY DISPUTE

Various titles of a single map can reflect competing perspectives on geographic relationships. In 1947 the British ended colonial rule in the Indian subcontinent. They divided the colony into two countries, India and Pakistan. (In 1971, the eastern part of Pakistan became the independent country of Bangladesh.) The basis for the separation was religion. Regions where nearly everyone was a Muslim became Pakistan. The rest of the region, with a Hindu majority, became India.

However, people disputed control over the region of Kashmir, in the northern tip of the subcontinent. Most people were Muslims, but the rulers were Hindus, so both Pakistan and India felt a strong claim on it. People failed to agree on a formal boundary. Instead, they accepted a “line of control.” Pakistan controls the territory northwest of this line, while India controls the territory southeast of the line. To make the issue more complicated, China claims part of eastern Kashmir. Each country is unwilling to release its claims on the Kashmir because of the wealth of fresh water and natural resources in the region.



The title of a map can influence the point of view or perspective of people viewing a map.

1. If the title of the map was “World’s Most Dangerous Boundary Dispute,” describe the impact of this title on how you think about the map.
2. If the title of the map was “Indo-Pakistani Boundary Dilemma,” describe the impact of this title on how you think about the map.
3. Create a new title for the map that is fair and representative of the dispute.

# CHAPTER 10 REVIEW:

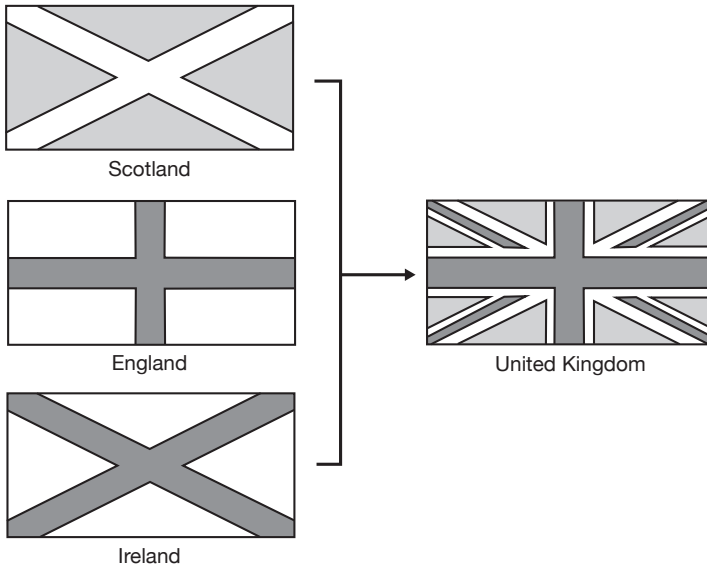
## Challenges in the Modern State

*Topics 4.8–4.10*

### MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

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Question 1 refers to the following diagram.



1. Notice how the crosses in the flags of Scotland, England, and Ireland are combined in the flag of the United Kingdom. Which process does this represent?
  - (A) The balkanization of the British Isles
  - (B) The formation of autonomous regions within a state
  - (C) The process of irredentism in uniting people with the same culture
  - (D) The creation of a single state out of separate nations
  - (E) The centrifugal forces pulling a country apart

2. The presence of centrifugal forces within a country has led many central governments to transfer power to regional or local governments. This process is called?
- (A) Devolution
  - (B) Acculturation
  - (C) Autocratic rule
  - (D) Imperialism
  - (E) Capitalism
3. Which of the following terms best applies to what a country experiences when its unity is threatened by inequality or economic problems?
- (A) Centrifugal forces
  - (B) Centripetal forces
  - (C) Colonialism
  - (D) Federalism
  - (E) Supranationalism
4. Which provides the strongest support for the conclusion that Japan has few centrifugal forces?
- (A) Japan is an island located off the east coast of China.
  - (B) Japan is part of the United Nations.
  - (C) Japan has never colonized another country.
  - (D) Japan has a high degree of ethnic and linguistic homogeneity.
  - (E) Japan has one of the largest economies in the world.
5. Which is NOT an example of a centripetal force?
- (A) About nine-tenths of Swedes speak Swedish as their first language.
  - (B) About 95 percent of Iranians belong to the Shia Muslim faith.
  - (C) The Mindanao region of the Philippines has poor infrastructure and inadequate basic services.
  - (D) Since the end of World War II, Europe has worked to remove trade and political barriers among countries.
  - (E) About 96 out of every 100 people in Thailand identify as part of the Thai ethnic group.

6. Which groups have been gaining more local power around the world as a result of devolution?
- (A) Indigenous people
  - (B) French-speaking people
  - (C) Spanish-speaking people
  - (D) Recent immigrants from East Asia
  - (E) Recent immigrants from Syria
7. Which of the following best describes the effect of globalization related to state sovereignty?
- (A) States' sovereignty has clearly increased as a result of globalization.
  - (B) State sovereignty has increased because of the need to defend borders from imperialistic states.
  - (C) Globalization has not had an effect on state sovereignty.
  - (D) States have given up some sovereignty in order to join supranationalistic organizations.
  - (E) The number of sovereign states in the world has declined during the era of globalization.

#### FREE-RESPONSE QUESTION

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1. Political, economic, cultural, or technological changes can challenge a country's ability to self-rule, or its sovereignty. Many boundaries in the world have changed over the past 50 years. Some countries have split into smaller countries and some have joined supranational organizations such as the European Union (EU) or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

#### EUROPE AND THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA



## INTERNAL BOUNDARIES IN CANADA



- (A) Describe the difference between centripetal and centrifugal forces.
- (B) Describe the impact of ONE cultural centrifugal force on the unity of either Canada or the former Yugoslavia.
- (C) Explain how federalism might reduce tension within a country.
- (D) Explain how nationalism can be both a centripetal and a centrifugal force within a country.
- (E) Explain ONE economic reason why many states of Eastern Europe such as Poland, Slovakia, and Romania chose to join the EU.
- (F) Explain ONE political reason why many states of Eastern Europe such as Poland, Slovakia, and Romania chose to join NATO.
- (G) Describe the role that the Internet or social media has played in fueling subnational protest movements.

## UNIT 4 REVIEW:

# Connecting Course Skills and Content

### APPLYING GEOGRAPHIC SKILLS

Applying geographic skills is critical for success on the AP Exam. For each skill listed write a one-paragraph response that illustrates your understanding of the question. Support your response with specific examples and evidence. Refer to the Unit 1 introduction (pages 3–7) for tips on how to apply geographic skills.

- 1D** Describe TWO geographic concepts, processes, models, or theories in Unit 4 and support them with specific geographic examples.
- 2C** Explain a likely outcome of the Kurds realizing the goal of gaining their own country of Kurdistan. What challenges will they face?
- 3C** Using the map and data in Topic 4.9, explain the patterns and trends related to the number of countries created since 1960.
- 4B** Choose a map from Unit 4 and explain its strengths and limitations.
- 5A** Locate and identify Unit 4 maps, data, and/or images that illustrate the following scales of analysis: global, regional, national, and local.



### WRITE AS A GEOGRAPHER: USE EXAMPLES

Strong answers to free-response questions usually include specific examples. These examples are one way to show that the writer understands a concept well enough to apply it. They also show that the writer can make distinctions between related concepts such as nation and state, or centripetal and centrifugal.

*For each term, list the letter of the example below that best demonstrates it.*

- |                   |                     |                  |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. terrorism      | 3. irredentism      | 5. balkanization |
| 2. subnationalism | 4. supranationalism | 6. devolution    |
- (A) Several dozen countries in Africa form an organization to promote security and economic development throughout the continent.
  - (B) The national government of France transfers decision-making on building roads and bridges to local and regional governments.
  - (C) In 1881, a group of Russians attempt to overthrow the government by assassinating the country's leader, Tsar Alexander II.
  - (D) In early 1861, Robert E. Lee felt more loyalty to his state of Virginia than to his country, the United States.
  - (E) When the French empire in West Africa collapsed, the region split into eight different countries.
  - (F) Some Norwegians argue that Norway is the rightful ruler of parts of Sweden that were once part of Norway.