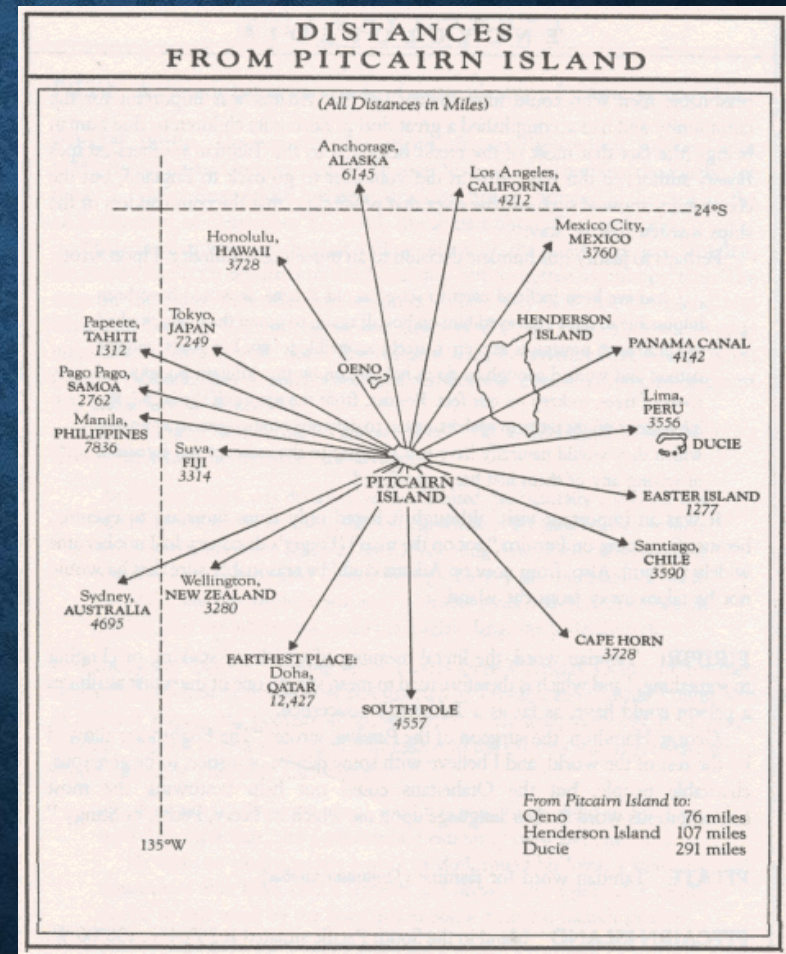


# *CHAPTER 8*

**Key Issue Two:  
why do boundaries  
cause problems?**

# BOUNDARIES AND BOUNDARY PROBLEMS OF STATES

- Shapes of states
  - *Five basic shapes*
  - *Landlocked states*
- Types of boundaries
  - *Physical boundaries*
  - *Cultural boundaries*
- Boundaries inside states
  - *Unitary and federal states*
  - *Trend toward federal government*
  - *Electoral geography*



# COMPACT STATES: EFFICIENT

- In a compact state, the distance from the center to any boundary does not vary significantly.
- Compactness is a beneficial characteristic for most smaller states, because good communications can be more easily established to all regions.



# PRORUPTED STATES: ACCESS OR DISRUPTION

- An otherwise compact state with a large projecting extension is a prorupted state.
- Prorptions are created for two principal reasons.
- First, a prorruption can provide a state with access to a resource, such as water.
- Prorptions can also separate two states that otherwise would share a boundary.



# ELONGATED STATES: POTENTIAL ISOLATION

- There are a handful of elongated states, or states with a long and narrow shape.
- The best example is Chile.
- A less extreme example of an elongated state is Italy.
- Elongated states may suffer from poor internal communications.

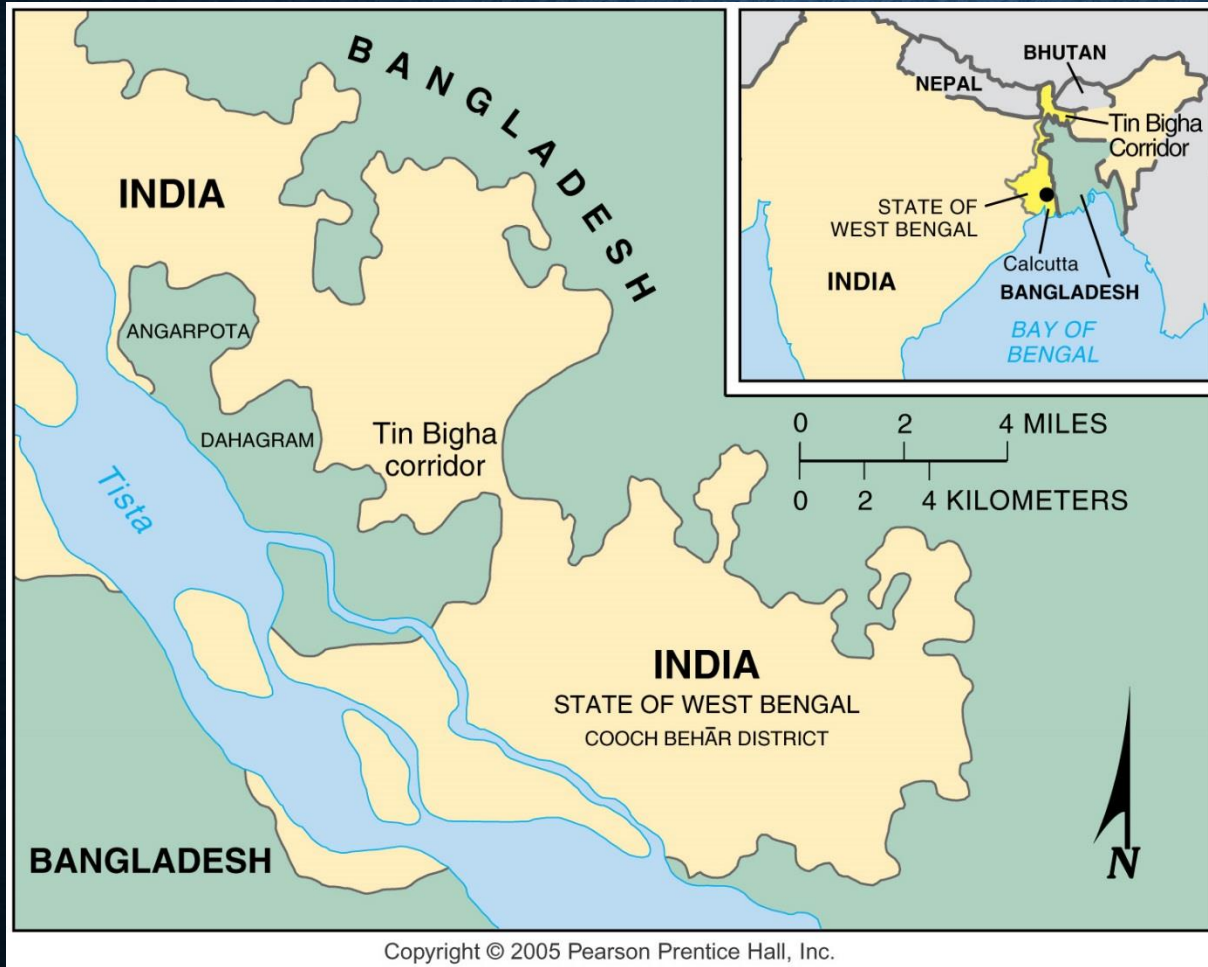


# FRAGMENTED STATES: PROBLEMATIC

- A fragmented state includes several discontinuous pieces of territory.
- There are two kinds of fragmented states: those with areas separated by water, and those separated by an intervening state.
- A difficult type of fragmentation occurs if the two pieces of territory are separated by another state.
- Picture the difficulty of communicating between Alaska and the lower 48 states if Canada were not a friendly neighbor.
- For most of the twentieth century, Panama was an example of a fragmented state divided in two parts by the Canal, built in 1914 by the United States.



# INDIA: THE TIN BIGHA CORRIDOR



The Tin Bigha corridor fragmented two sections of the country of Bangladesh. When it was leased to Bangladesh, a section of India was fragmented.

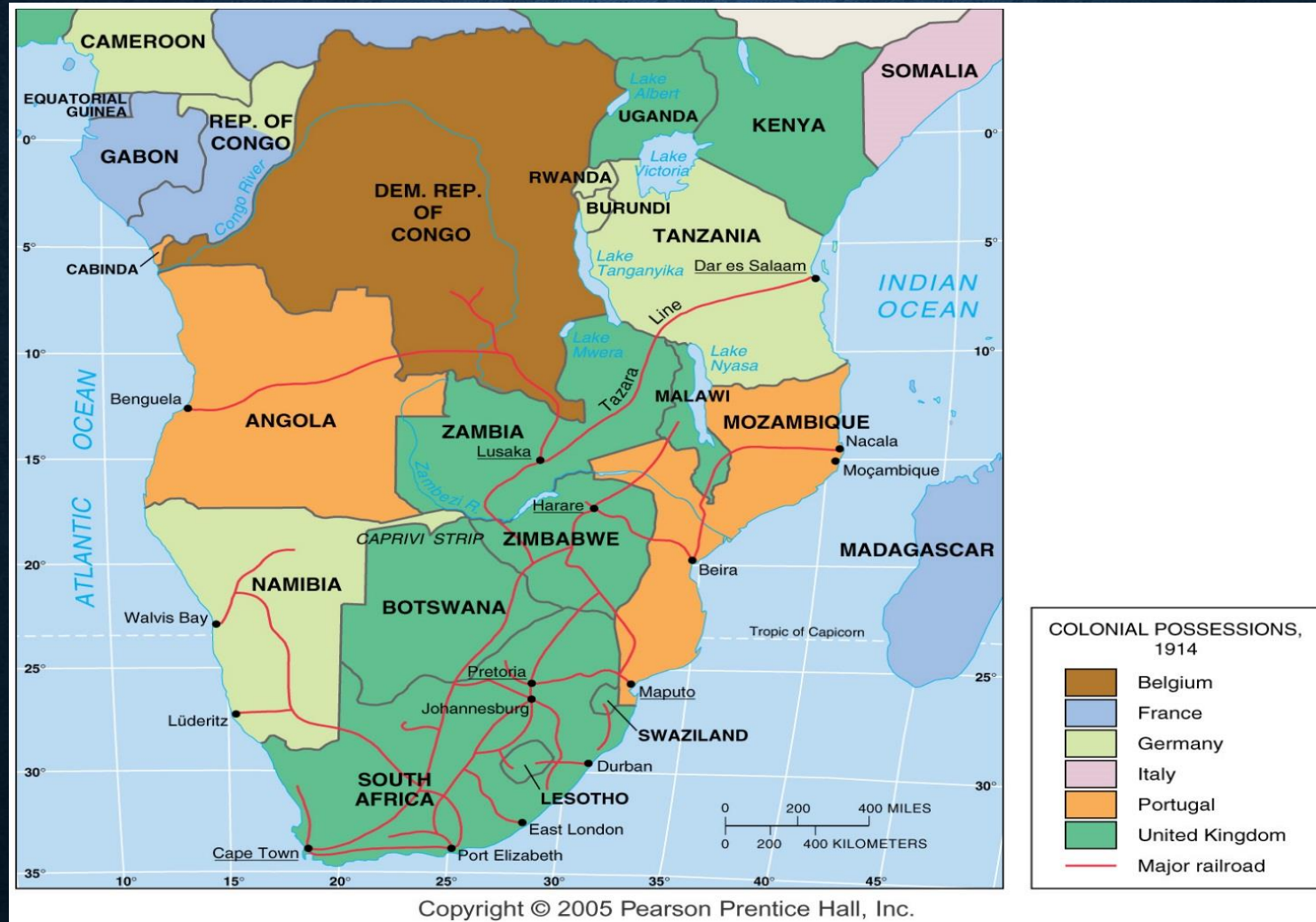
# PERFORATED STATES: SOUTH AFRICA

- A state that completely surrounds another one is a perforated state.
- The one good example of a perforated state is South Africa, which completely surrounds the state of Lesotho.





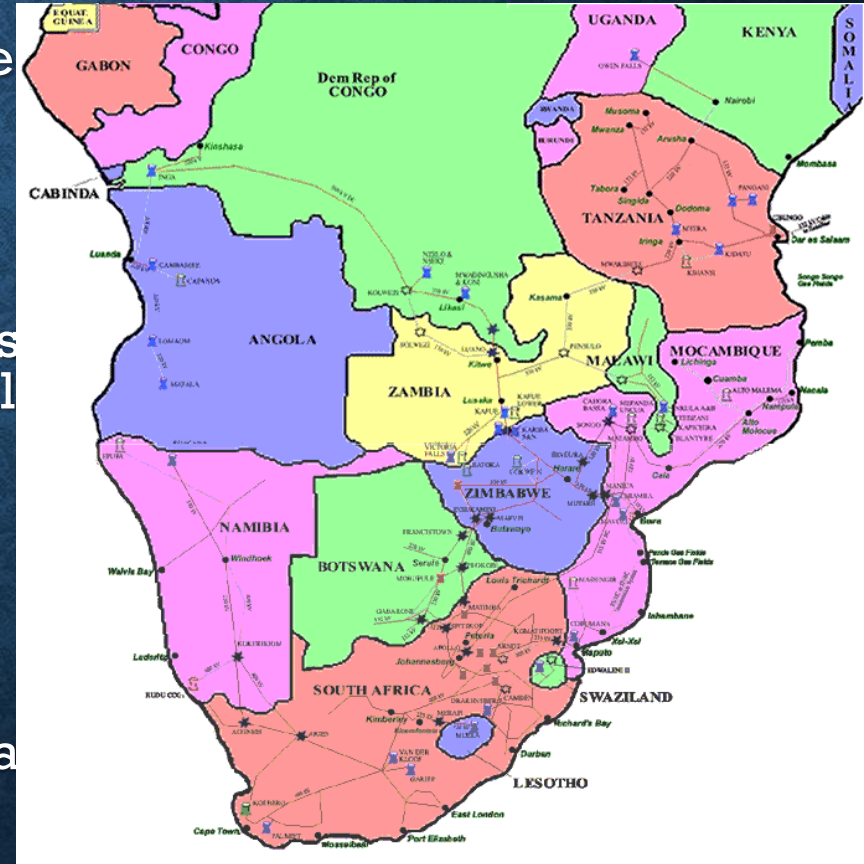
# AFRICAN STATES



Southern, central, and eastern Africa include states that are compact, elongated, prorupted, fragmented, and perforated. \*\*What are examples of these shapes of states?

# LANDLOCKED STATES

- Lesotho is unique in being completely surrounded by only one state, but it shares an important feature with several other states in southern Africa, as well as in other regions: It is landlocked.
- The prevalence of landlocked states in Africa is a remnant of the colonial era, when Britain and France controlled extensive regions.
- Direct access to an ocean is critical to states because it facilitates international trade.
- To send and receive goods by sea, a landlocked state must arrange to use another country's seaport.



# FRONTIERS IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA



Several states in the Arabian Peninsula are separated by frontiers rather than precise boundaries.

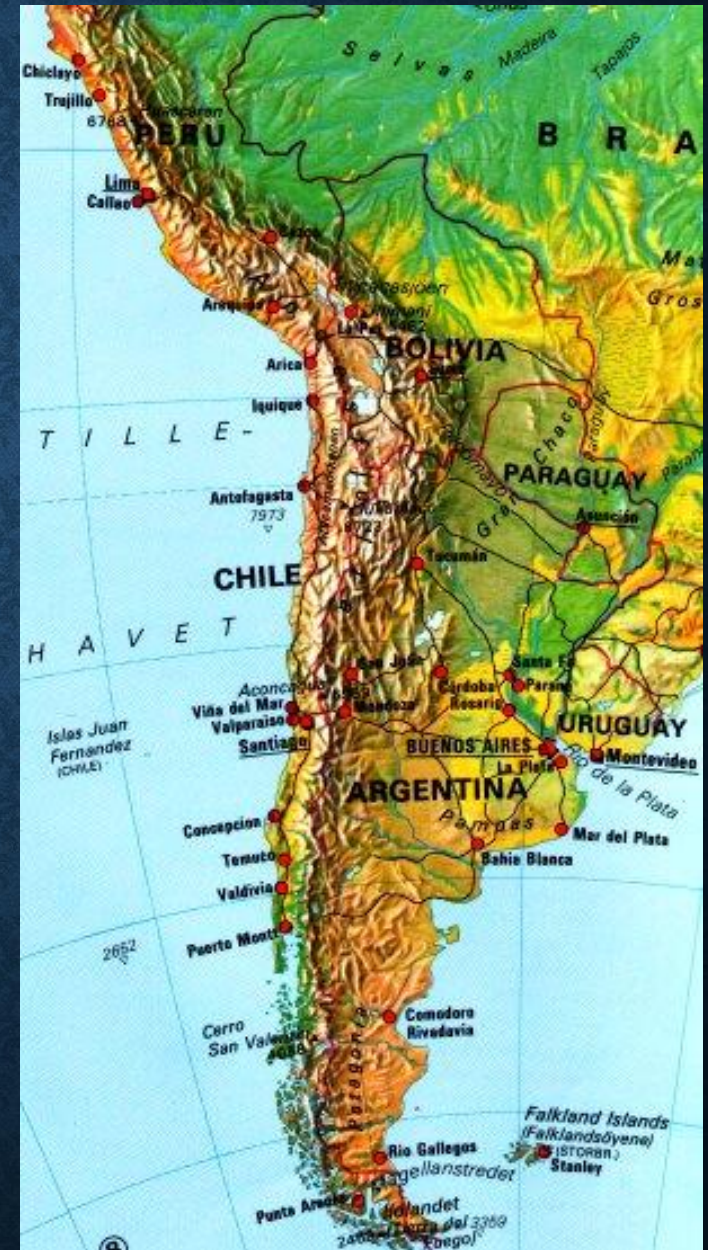
# BOUNDARIES ARE OF TWO TYPES: PHYSICAL AND CULTURAL

- Neither type of boundary is better or more “natural,” and many boundaries are a combination of both types.
- Important physical features on Earth’s surface can make good boundaries because they are easily seen, both on a map and on the ground.
- Three types of physical elements serve as boundaries between states:
  - mountains,
  - deserts,
  - and water.



# MOUNTAIN BOUNDARIES

- Mountains can be effective boundaries if they are difficult to cross (and) because they are rather permanent and usually are sparsely inhabited.
- Mountains do not always provide for the amicable separation of neighbors.
- Argentina and Chile agreed to be divided by the crest of the Andes Mountains but could not decide on the precise location of the crest.



# GREAT WALL OF CHINA



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*The wall was built in the 3rd century B.C. and extended during the following century.*

# DESERT BOUNDARIES



- Like mountains, deserts are hard to cross and sparsely inhabited.
- Desert boundaries are common in Africa and Asia.

# WATER BOUNDARIES

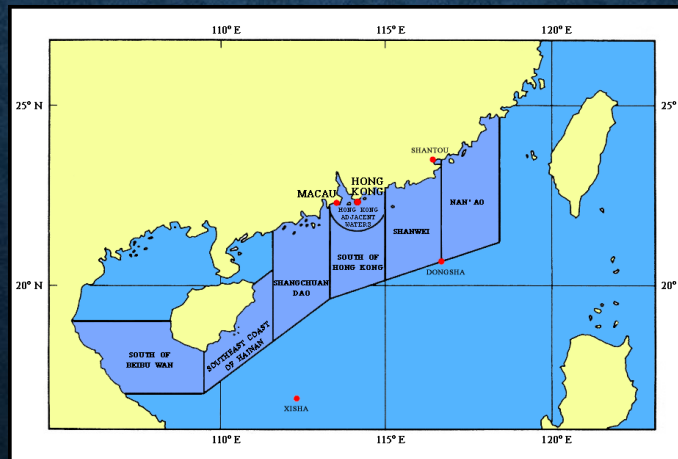
- Rivers, lakes, and oceans are the physical features most commonly used as boundaries.
- Water boundaries are especially common in East Africa.
- Boundaries are typically in the middle of the water, although the boundary between Malawi and Tanzania follows the north shore of Lake Malawi (Lake Nyasa).
- Again, the boundaries result from nineteenth-century colonial practices: Malawi was a British colony, whereas Tanzania was German.
- Water boundaries can offer good protection against attack from another state, because an invading state must secure a landing spot.
- The state being invaded can concentrate its defense at the landing point.





# COASTAL WATERS

- The use of water as boundaries between states can cause difficulties, though.
- One problem is that the precise position of the water may change over time.
- Rivers, in particular, can slowly change their course.
- Ocean boundaries also cause problems because states generally claim that the boundary lies not at the coastline but out at sea.
- The reasons are for defense and for control of valuable fishing industries.



# CULTURAL BOUNDARIES



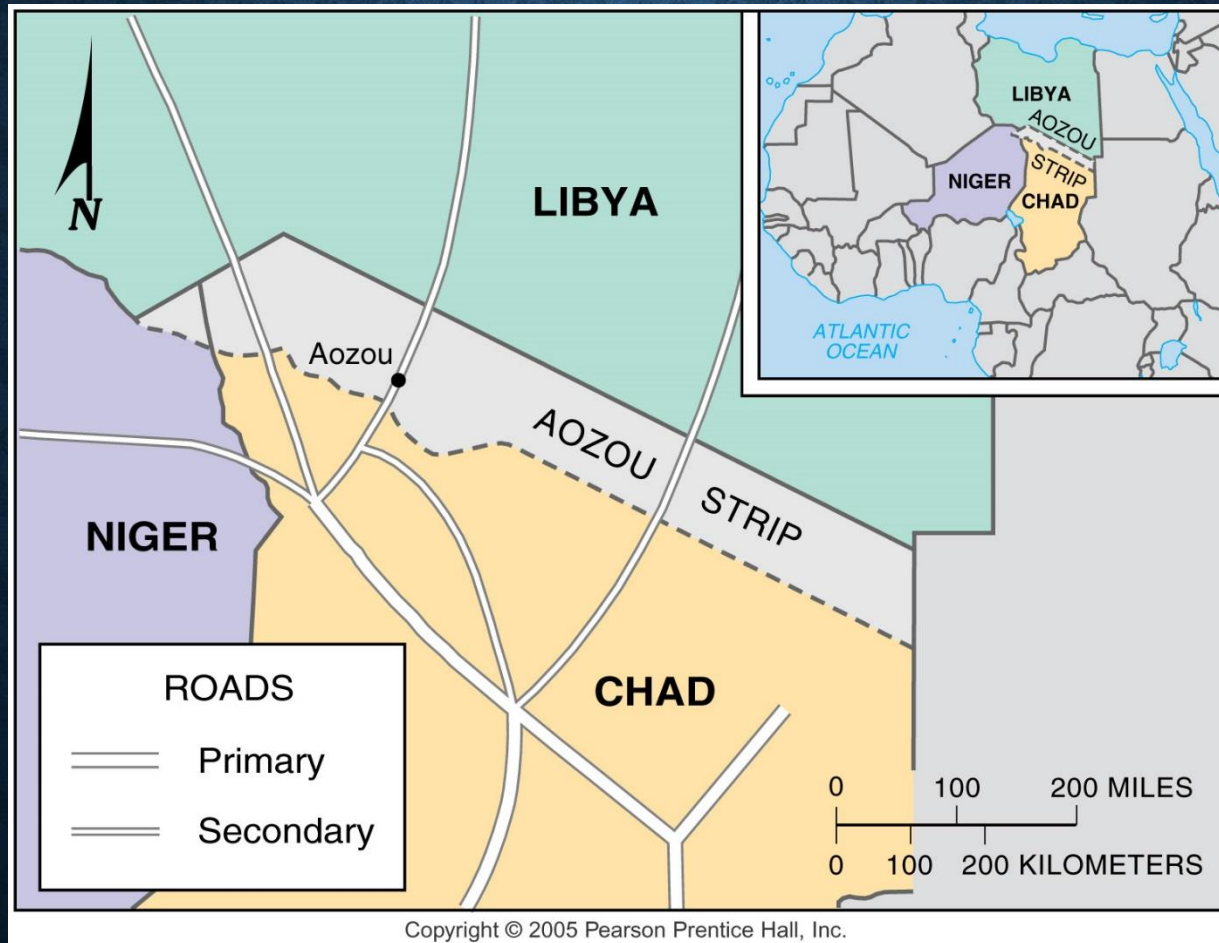
- The boundaries between some states coincide with differences in ethnicity.
- Other cultural boundaries are drawn according to geometry; they simply are straight lines drawn on a map.

# GEOMETRIC BOUNDARIES

- Part of the northern U.S. boundary with Canada is a 2,100-kilometer (1,300-mile) straight line (more precisely, an arc) along  $49^{\circ}$  north latitude, . . . established in 1846 by a treaty between the United States and Great Britain, which still controlled Canada.
- The United States and Canada share an additional 1,100-kilometer (700-mile) geometric boundary between Alaska and the Yukon Territory along the north-south arc of  $14^{\circ}$  west longitude.



# AOZOU STRIP: A GEOMETRIC BOUNDARY



The straight boundary between Libya and Chad was drawn by European powers, and the strip is the subject of controversy between the two countries.

# ETHNIC GROUPS IN SOUTHWEST ASIA



Ethnic boundaries do not match country boundaries, especially in Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

# LANGUAGE BOUNDARIES

- Language is an important cultural characteristic for drawing boundaries, especially in Europe.
- By global standards, European languages have substantial literary traditions and formal rules of grammar and spelling.
- The French language was a major element in the development of France as a unified state in the seventeenth century.
- In the nineteenth century, Italy and Germany also emerged as states that unified the speakers of particular languages.
- The movement to identify nationalities on the basis of language spread throughout Europe in the twentieth century.

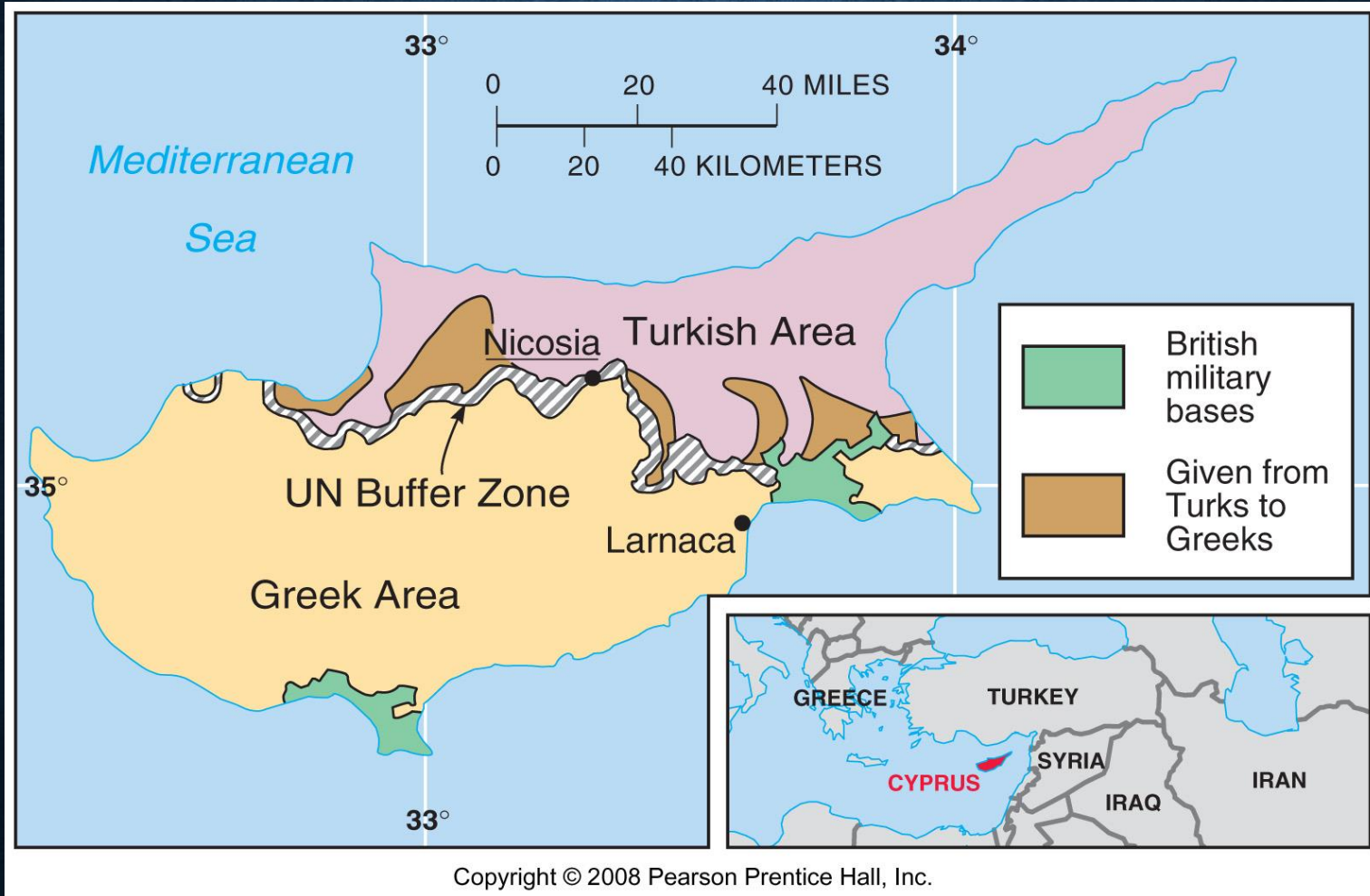


# TREATY OF VERSAILLES



*After World War I, leaders redrew the map of Europe using language as the most important criterion to create new states and adjust the boundaries of existing ones.*

# DIVISION OF CYPRUS



*Cyprus has been divided into Greek and Turkish portions since 1974.*



# NICOSIA, CYPRUS CHECKPOINT



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*Checkpoint between Greek and Turkish portions of Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus.*

# BOUNDARIES INSIDE STATES

- Within countries, local government boundaries are sometimes drawn to separate different nationalities or ethnicities.
- They are also drawn sometimes to provide advantage to a political party.



# UNITARY AND FEDERAL STATES

- In the face of increasing demands by ethnicities for more self-determination, states have restructured their governments to transfer some authority from the national government to local government units.
- The governments of states are organized according to one of two approaches: the unitary system or the federal system.
- The unitary state places most power in the hands of central government officials, whereas the federal state allocates strong power to units of local government within the country.



# UNITARY AND FEDERAL STATES CONTINUED

- Unitary states are especially common in Europe.
- In reality, multinational states often have adopted unitary systems, so that the values of one nationality can be imposed on others.
- In a federal state, such as the United States, local governments possess more authority to adopt their own laws.
- Multinational states may adopt a federal system of government to empower different nationalities, especially if they live in separate regions of the country.
- The federal system is also more suitable for very large states because the national capital may be too remote to provide effective control over isolated regions.



# FRANCE: CURBING A UNITARY GOVERNMENT

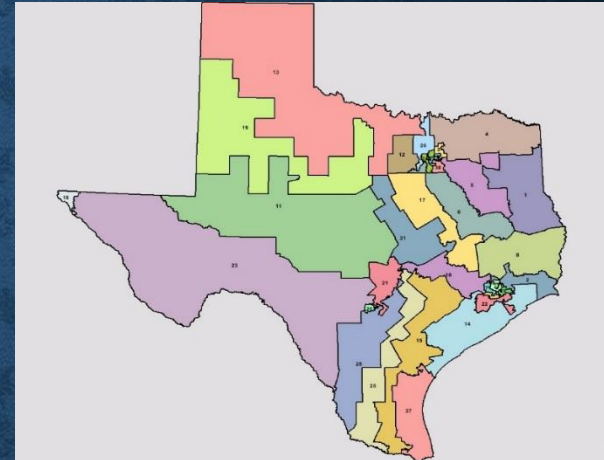
- A good example of a nation-state, France has a long tradition of unitary government in which a very strong national government dominates local government decisions.
- Their basic local government unit is the *département*.
- A second tier of local government in France is the *commune*.
- The French government has granted additional legal powers to the departments and communes in recent years.
- In addition, 22 regional councils that previously held minimal authority have been converted into full-fledged local government units.



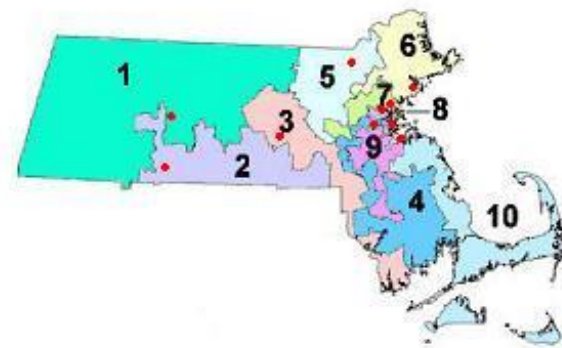


# ELECTORAL GEOGRAPHY

- The boundaries separating legislative districts within the United States and other countries are redrawn periodically to ensure that each district has approximately the same population.
- Boundaries must be redrawn because migration inevitably results in some districts gaining population, whereas others are losing.
- The job of redrawing boundaries in most European countries is entrusted to independent commissions.
- In most U.S. states the job of redrawing boundaries is entrusted to the state legislature.
- The process of redrawing legislative boundaries for the purpose of benefiting the party in power is called gerrymandering.



Existing Districts



# GERRYMANDER: HISTORICALLY

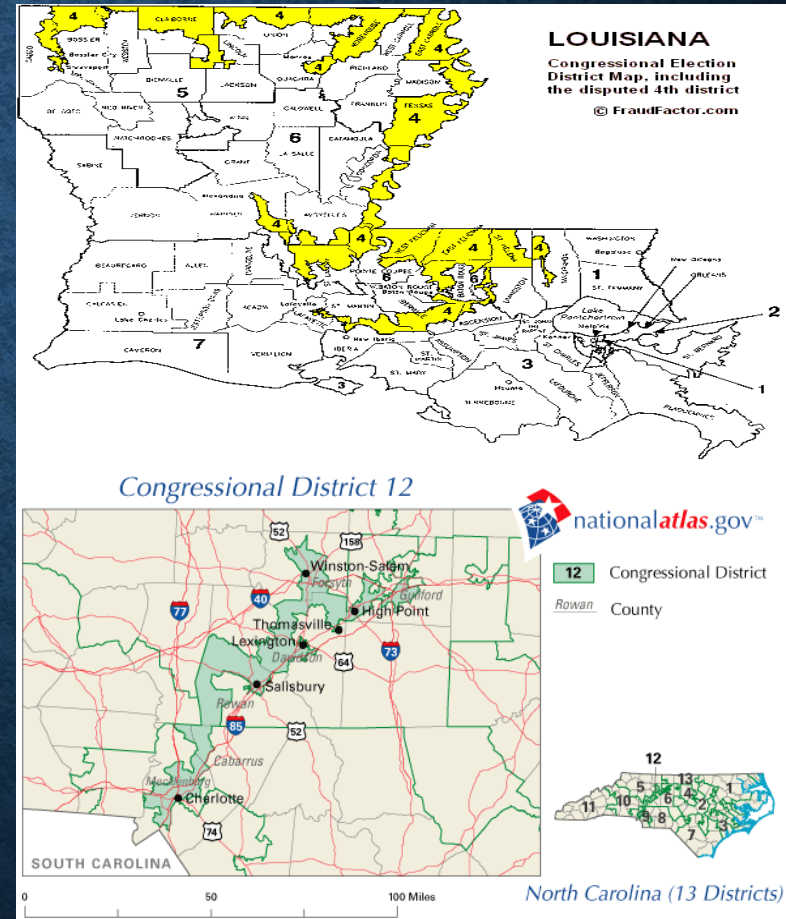


- Printed in March 1812, this political cartoon was drawn in reaction to the state senate electoral districts drawn by the Massachusetts legislature to favor the Democratic-Republican Party candidates of Governor Elbridge Gerry over the Federalists.
- The caricature satirises the bizarre shape of a district in Essex County, Massachusetts as a dragon-like "monster."
- Federalist newspapers editors and others at the time likened the district shape to a salamander, and the word *gerrymander* was a blend of that word and Governor Gerry's last name.



# TYPES OF GERRYMANDERING

- Gerrymandering takes three forms.
- “Wasted vote” spreads opposition supporters across many districts but in the minority.
- “Excess vote” concentrates opposition supporters into a few districts.
- “Stacked vote” links distant areas of like-minded voters through oddly shaped boundaries.



# GERRYMANDERING: FLORIDA AND GEORGIA

- Recent gerrymandering in the United States has been primarily “stacked vote.”
- “Stacked vote” gerrymandering has been especially attractive to create districts inclined to elect ethnic minorities.
- Through gerrymandering, only about one-tenth of Congressional seats are competitive, making a shift of more than a few seats increasingly improbable from one election to another in the United States.

State legislature boundaries were drawn to maximize the number of legislators for Republicans in Florida and Georgia.

