Unit 4: Political Organization of Space

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s): **AP Human Geography**
Time Period: **January**
Length: **5 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Transfer Skills

Determine how political patterns reflect ideas of territoriality, how Earth's surface should be organized, which in turn affect a wide range of exercises of power over space and boundaries.

Enduring Understandings

The political organization of space results from historical and current processes, events, and ideas.

Political boundaries and divisions of governance, between states and within them, reflect balances of power that have been negotiated or imposed.

Political, economic, cultural, or technological changes can challenge state sovereignty.

Essential Questions

PSO- How do historical and current events influence political structures around the world?

IMP- How are balances of power reflected in political boundaries and government power structures?

SPS -How can political, economic, cultural, or technological changes challenge state sovereignty?

Content

Independent states are the primary building blocks of the world political map.

Types of political entities include nations, nation-states, stateless nations, multinational states, multistate

nations, and autonomous and

semiautonomous regions, such as American Indian reservations.

The concepts of sovereignty, nationstates, and self-determination shape the contemporary world.

Colonialism, imperialism, independence movements, and devolution along national lines have influenced contemporary political boundaries.

Political power is expressed geographically as control over people, land, and resources, as illustrated by neocolonialism, shatterbelts, and

choke points.

Territoriality is the connection of people, their culture, and their economic systems to the land.

Types of political boundaries include relic, superimposed, subsequent, antecedent, geometric, and consequent boundaries.

Boundaries are defined, delimited, demarcated, and administered to establish limits of sovereignty, but they are often contested.

Political boundaries often coincide with cultural, national, or economic divisions. However, some boundaries are created by demilitarized

zones or policy, such as the Berlin Conference.

Land and maritime boundaries and international agreements can influence national or regional identity and encourage or discourage

international or internal interactions and disputes over resources.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea defines the rights and responsibilities of nations in the use of international waters,

established territorial seas, and exclusive economic zones.

Voting districts, redistricting, and gerrymandering affect election results at various scales.

Forms of governance include unitary states and federal states.

Unitary states tend to have a more top-down, centralized form of governance, while federal states have more locally based, dispersed

power centers.

Factors that can lead to the devolution of states include the division of groups by physical geography, ethnic separatism, ethnic cleansing,

terrorism, economic and social problems, and irredentism.

Devolution occurs when states fragment into autonomous regions; subnational political-territorial units, such as those within Spain,

Belgium, Canada, and Nigeria; or when states disintegrate, as happened in Eritrea, South Sudan, East Timor, and states that were part

of the former Soviet Union.

Advances in communication technology have facilitated devolution, supranationalism, and democratization.

Global efforts to address transnational and environmental challenges and to create economies of scale, trade

agreements, and military

alliances help to further supranationalism.

Supranational organizations—including the United Nations (UN), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), European Union (EU),

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Arctic Council, and African Union— can challenge state sovereignty by limiting the

economic or political actions of member states.

Centrifugal forces may lead to failed states, uneven development, stateless nations, and ethnic nationalist movements.

Centripetal forces can lead to ethnonationalism, more equitable infrastructure development, and increased cultural cohesion.

Skills

Identify the different types of information presented in visual sources.

Explain what maps or data imply or illustrate about geographic principles, processes, and outcomes.

Explain spatial relationships across various geographic scales using geographic concepts, processes, models, or theories.

Describe a relevant geographic concept, process, model, or theory in a specified context.

Explain the degree to which a geographic concept, process, model, or theory effectively explains geographic effects across various geographic scales.

Identify the scales of analysis presented by maps, quantitative and geospatial data, images, and landscapes.

Describe spatial patterns, networks, and relationships.

Explain what maps or data imply or illustrate about geographic principles, processes, and outcomes.

Compare geographic characteristics and processes at various scales.

For world political maps: a. Define the different types of political entities. b. Identify a contemporary example of political entities.

Explain the processes that have shaped contemporary political geography.

Describe the concepts of political power and territoriality as used by geographers.

Define types of political boundaries used by geographers.

Explain the nature and function of international and internal boundaries.

Define federal and unitary states.

Explain how federal and unitary states affect spatial organization.

Define factors that lead to the devolution of states.

Explain how political, economic, cultural, and technological changes challenge state sovereignty.

Explain how the concepts of centrifugal and centripetal forces apply at the state scale.

Resources

AP Classroom AP Classroom is a dedicated online platform designed to support teachers and students throughout their AP experience. The platform provides a variety of powerful resources and tools to provide yearlong support to teachers and enable students to receive meaningful feedback on their progress.

UNIT GUIDES Appearing in this publication and on AP Classroom, these planning guides outline all required course content and skills, organized into commonly taught units. Each unit guide suggests a sequence and pacing of content, scaffolds skill instruction across units, organizes content into topics, and provides tips on taking the AP Exam.

PERSONAL PROGRESS CHECKS Formative AP questions for every unit provide feedback to students on the areas where they need to focus. Available online, Personal Progress Checks measure knowledge and skills through multiple-choice questions with rationales to explain correct and incorrect answers, and free-response questions with scoring information. Because the Personal Progress Checks are formative, the results of these assessments cannot be used to evaluate teacher effectiveness or assign letter grades to students, and any such misuses are grounds for losing school authorization to offer AP courses.*

PROGRESS DASHBOARD This dashboard allows teachers to review class and individual student progress throughout the year. Teachers can view class trends and see where students struggle with content and skills that will be assessed on the AP Exam. Students can view their own progress over time to improve their

performance before the AP Exam.

AP QUESTION BANK This online library of real AP Exam questions provides teachers with secure questions to use in their classrooms. Teachers can find questions indexed by course topics and skills, create customized tests, and assign them online or on paper. These tests enable students to practice and get feedback on each question.

Standards

TEACH SKILL CATEGORIES: Skill categories spiral throughout the course.

1. Concepts and Processes
2. Spatial Relationships
3. Data Analysis
4. Source Analysis
5. Scale Analysis

BIG IDEAS: Big Ideas spiral across topics and units linking ideas together.

PSO- Patterns and Spatial Organization

IMP- Impacts and Interactions

SPS- Spatial Processes and Societal Change

How they tie together in the Unit:

PSO 4- 4.1 Introduction to Political Geography

PSO 3-4.2 Political Processes

PSO 5-4.3 Political Power and Territory

IMP 1- 4.4 Defining Political Boundaries

IMP 5- 4.5 The Function of Political Boundaries

IMP 5- 4.6 Internal Boundaries

IMP 2- 4.7 Forms of Governance

SPS 3- 4.8 Defining Devolutionary Factors

SPS 5- 4.9 Challenges to Sovereignty

SPS 5- 4.10 Consequences of Centrifugal and Centripetal Forces

SOC.6.1.12.A.15.a	Analyze the factors that led to the fall of communism in Eastern European countries and the Soviet Union, and determine how the fall influenced the global power structure.
SOC.6.1.12.A.16.a	Examine the impact of media and technology on political and social issues in a global society.
SOC.6.1.12.D.14.d	Evaluate the extent to which women, minorities, individuals with gender preferences, and individuals with disabilities have met their goals of equality in the workplace, politics, and society.
SOC.6.2.12.A.4.c	Analyze the motivations, causes, and consequences of the genocides of Armenians, Roma (gypsies), and Jews, as well as the mass exterminations of Ukrainians and Chinese.
SOC.6.2.12.A.4.d	Assess government responses to incidents of ethnic cleansing and genocide.
SOC.6.2.12.A.5.c	Explain how World War II led to aspirations for self-determination, and compare and contrast the methods used by African and Asian countries to achieve independence.
SOC.6.2.12.A.5.d	Analyze the causes and consequences of mass killings (e.g., Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia, Sudan), and evaluate the responsibilities of the world community in response to such events.
SOC.6.2.12.A.5.e	Assess the progress of human and civil rights around the world since the 1948 U.N. Declaration of Human Rights.
SOC.6.2.12.A.6.a	Evaluate the role of international cooperation and multinational organizations in attempting to solve global issues.
SOC.6.2.12.A.6.c	Analyze why terrorist movements have proliferated, and evaluate their impact on governments, individuals, and societies.
SOC.6.2.12.A.6.d	Assess the effectiveness of responses by governments and international organizations to tensions resulting from ethnic, territorial, religious, and/or nationalist differences.