

Political Geography

Nations, States, and Nation-States

- A NATION is a group of people who share an attachment to each other culturally and have a homeland.
- A NATION is nearly synonymous with ETHNICITY.
 - ie. a NATIONALITY is very similar to an ETHNICITY (they are both based on culture and birth into a group.)
 - These groups are often referred to as ethnic nationalist groups
- NATIONALISM is the pride a person has in his/her culture/ethnicity.
- A nation IS NOT a country.
- Examples of nations include:
 - England, Scotland, and Wales
 - Kurdistan (in the Middle East)
 - Native American groups like the Cherokee Nation, Souix Nation, etc.
- A STATE is a country. It has:
 - A government
 - Defined territory and borders
 - Recognition from the International Community
 - Sovereignty.
- Most countries in the world are states with more than one nation residing inside its boundaries
- Patriotism is the pride a person has in his/her country
- A NATION-STATE is a country whose boundaries coincide with the boundaries of a single national group.
 - The goal of many nations is to create their own nation-state
 - Nation-states tend to be small, isolated and homogeneous
- Examples of nation-states include:
 - Slovenia, Denmark, Iceland and Japan

Relationships between nationalities and states

- A person can exhibit both nationalism and patriotism
 - Examples of nationalities celebrating their national pride include:
 - the Scots and the Welsh reviving their languages instead of adopting English entirely
 - Ethnic Germans in the US celebrate Oktoberfest, Hispanics celebrate Cinco de Mayo
 - Examples of people celebrating their pride in their country include:
 - The singing of the national anthem
 - Pride in your country's sports teams at the Olympics.
- In the United States most people put patriotism ahead of nationalism
- In Europe most people put nationalism ahead of patriotism
- Most states have two or more nations within its borders
 - Relations between these nations are critical to the stability of the state