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.
  o ie. a NATIONALITY is very similar to an ETHNICITY (they are both based on culture and birth into a group.)
  o 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:
  o England, Scotland, and Wales
  o Kurdistan (in the Middle East)
  o Native American groups like the Cherokee Nation, Souix Nation, etc.

• A STATE is a country. It has:
  o A government
  o Defined territory and borders
  o Recognition from the International Community
  o 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.
  o The goal of many nations is to create their own nation-state
  o Nation-states tend to be small, isolated and homogeneous

• Examples of nation-states include:
  o Slovenia, Denmark, Iceland and Japan
Relationships between nationalities and states

- A person can exhibit both nationalism and patriotism
  
  o 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
  
  o 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
  
  o Relations between these nations are critical to the stability of the state