

Unit 4

Political Organization of Space



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Palmer, David. *AMSCO Advanced Placement Human Geography*. Perfection Learning, 2019.

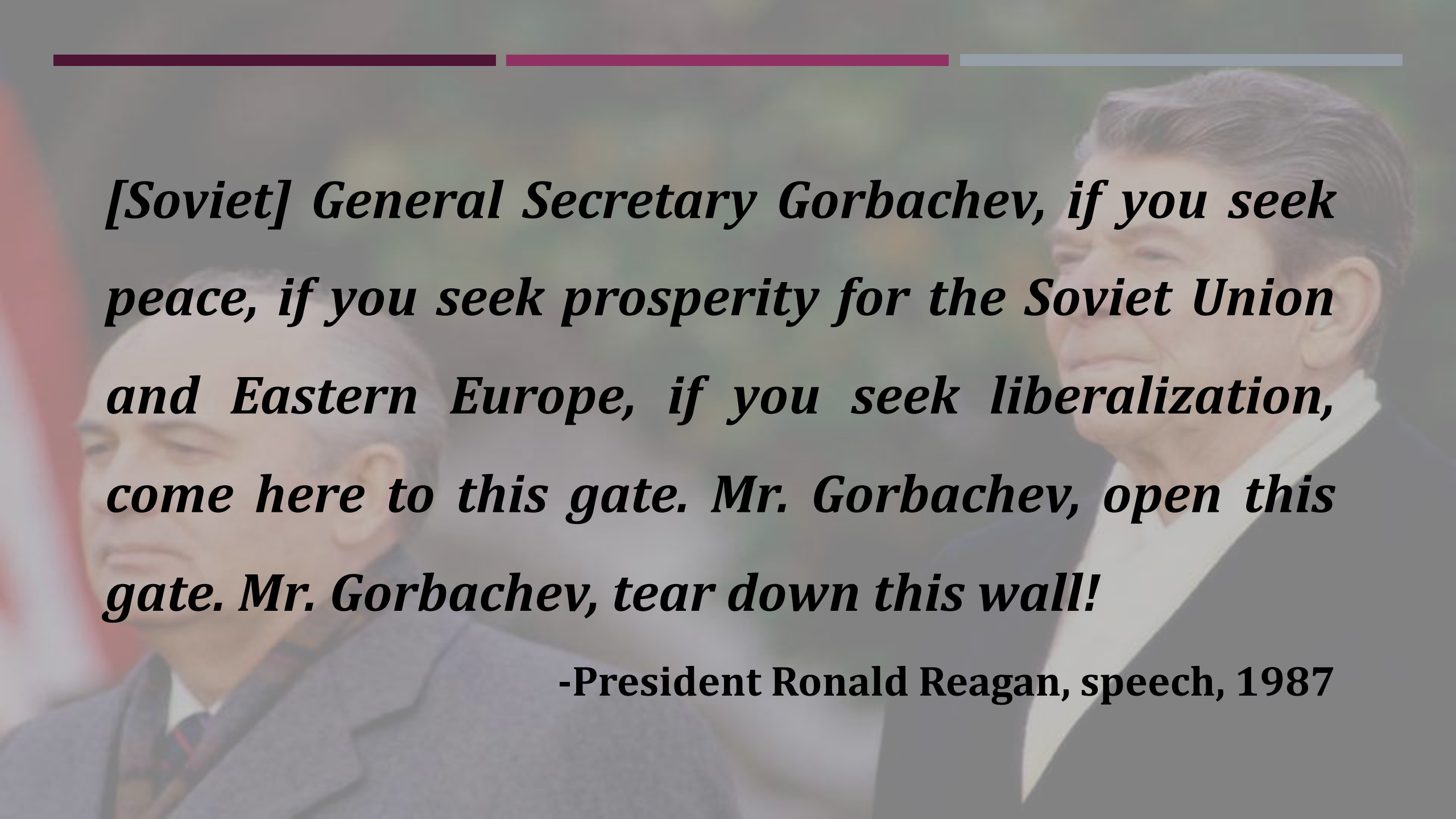


UNIT 4 – POLITICAL ORGANIZATION OF SPACE

CH 9: THE SHAPE OF THE POLITICAL MAP

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING (4.A)

By the end of this section, you will *understand* that **the contemporary political map has been shaped by events of the past.**



[Soviet] General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization, come here to this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!

-President Ronald Reagan, speech, 1987

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What social, historical, and economic factors have influenced modern political maps at various scales?



LEARNING OBJECTIVE (4.A.1.A)

By the end of this section, you will *be able to* **explain the structure of the contemporary political map.**

- a. Independent states are the primary building blocks of the world political map.
- b. Types of political entities include nations, states, nation-states, stateless nations, multinational states, multistate nations, and autonomous regions.

CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP

- Empires and kingdoms were common in most of the world for the past two thousand years.
- Global forces, wars, and changing ideas about political power, economics, and self-rule have reshaped the world map over the last 400 years.



CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP STRUCTURE

Independent States as Building Blocks

- Political units exist at various scales: town or city, county, state, a country, etc.
- Redefining **state**: the largest political unit – formal term for a country
- Must meet these four requirements
 - Defined boundary
 - Permanent population (Antarctica)
 - Maintains sovereignty (Puerto Rico)
 - Recognized by other states (Kosovo and Somaliland)

CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP STRUCTURE

- **Sovereignty** is the power of a political unit to rule over its own affairs.
- In order for a political unit to have legitimacy, it must have *sovereignty*.
- May be challenged on the local or global scale
 - China's claim that Taiwan is nothing more than a renegade province is a direct challenge to Taiwan's sovereignty.
 - Taiwan does not fully meet the third and fourth criteria.



LEARNING OBJECTIVE (4.A.1.B)

By the end of this section, you will *be able to* **explain the structure of the contemporary political map.**

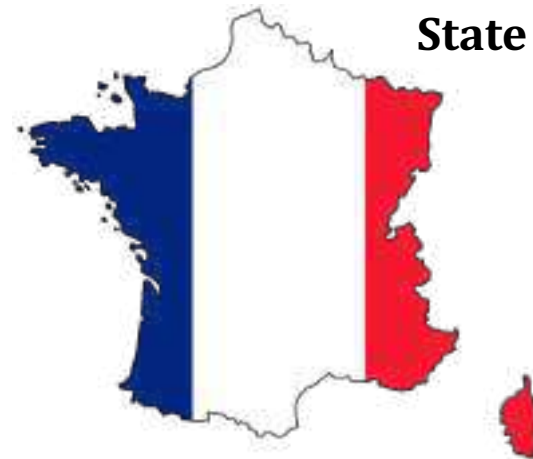
- a. Independent states are the primary building blocks of the world political map.
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CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP STRUCTURE

- **Types of Political Entities**

- **Nation**

- A **group of people** that share a common cultural heritage
- Have beliefs and values that help unify them
- Claim a particular space based on tradition as their homeland
- Desire to establish their own state or express self-determination in another way
- So France is the **state** and the French are the **nation**.



CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP STRUCTURE

- **Types of Political Entities**

- **Nation-State**

- A singular nation of people who fulfill the qualifications of a state.



Iceland

- 94% of population is Icelandic.
- Scandinavian settlers founded Iceland on an island that had no indigenous population.

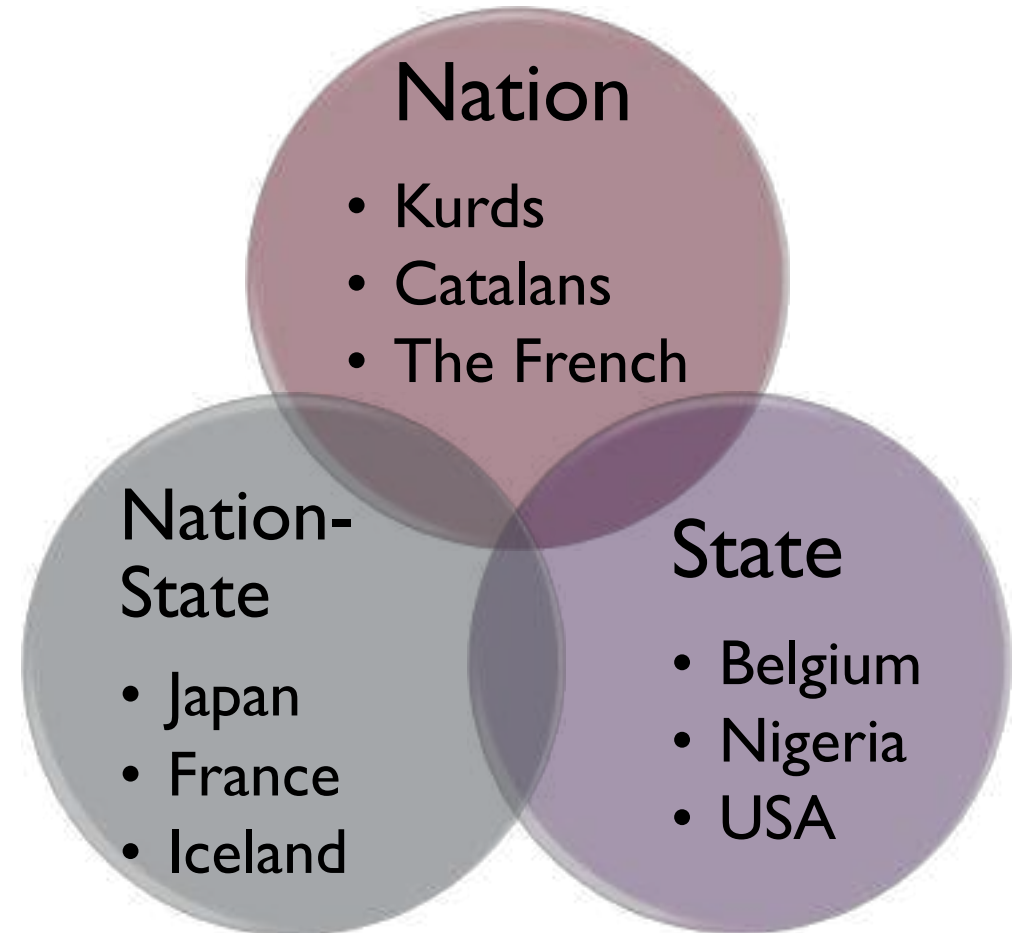
Japan

- 99% of population are Japanese.
- A strong national identity coupled with strict immigration policies have maintained Japan as a nation-state.



CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP STRUCTURE

- **Types of Political Entities**
 - Nation: the people
 - State: the country
 - Nation state: the country with almost all one nation.



CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP STRUCTURE

- **Types of Political Entities**
 - **Multinational States**
 - A country that contains more than one nation.
 - One dominant nation that controls most political power.
 - **Example: Canada**
 - English speakers dominate but 25% speak French
 - Most live in Quebec
 - To prevent Quebec from demanding independence, the national government passed laws giving Quebec local autonomy in government and education.
 - Nunavut: indigenous Inuit region of Canada

CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP STRUCTURE

- **Types of Political Entities**

- **Autonomous Region**

- A defined area within a state that has a high degree of self-government and freedom from its parent state.
 - Usually granted to geographically, ethnically, or culturally distinct areas.
 - Example: Åland (Aw-land) is a group of islands in the Baltic Sea; part of Finland but lies near Sweden; most residents are Swedish and speak that language. After WWI, Åland asked the League of Nations if they could join Sweden but they ruled that they would remain a non-militarized, largely self-governing entity that belongs to Finland.

CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP STRUCTURE



CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP STRUCTURE

- **Types of Political Entities**

- **Stateless Nation**

- Far more nations than states = many nations do not have a state of their own
 - Often have a political organization, however
 - A cultural group that has no independent political entity
 - Seeking to become independent
 - Palestinians (Gaza Strip and Occupied West Bank)
 - Basque (NE Spain and SW France in the Pyrenees mountains)
 - Kurds – largest stateless nation (Turkey, Armenia, Iraq, Iran, Azerbaijan, and Syria)

CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP STRUCTURE



CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP STRUCTURE



CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP STRUCTURE

- **Types of Political Entities**

- **Multistate Nation**

- Occurs when a nation of people has a state of its own but stretches across borders of other states.
 - Examples
 - Most Hungarians live in Hungary but many live in the Transylvania region of Romania
 - The Korean nation is divided mostly between North and South Korea but there is a large number in China and the United States



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ENDURING UNDERSTANDING (4.A)

By the end of this section, you will *understand* that **the contemporary political map has been shaped by events of the past.**

LEARNING OBJECTIVE (4.A.2)

By the end of this section, you will *be able to* **explain the evolution of the contemporary political map.**

- a. The concept of the modern nation-state began in Europe.
- b. Colonialism and imperialism led to the spread of nationalism and influenced contemporary political boundaries.

EVOLUTION OF THE CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP

- Today's world map includes nations without states, nations in multiple states, and states containing multiple nations.
- This reflects the evolution of politics, economics, and warfare over the last roughly 600 years.

EVOLUTION OF THE CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP

Modern Nation-State Concept

- Most European history – no relation between language and state
- Those who paid allegiance to the King of France in the 1500s did not speak French – they spoke a regional language.
- Those speaking Italian in the 1600s were not assumed to be part of the same state.
- The idea of the nation state started to take hold by the 1700s in France and England but the map did not reflect this desire.

EVOLUTION OF THE CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP

Modern Nation-State Concept

- Tiny states and a few multi-ethnic empires (Russian, Ottoman, etc.)
- 1800s saw an explosion of **nationalism** in Europe
- Some rebelled against being part of an empire that was controlled by another culture and others wanted to consolidate into unified countries (Italy and Germany).



EVOLUTION OF THE CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP

Forces Unifying and Breaking Apart Countries

- **Nationalism:** a nation's desire to create and maintain a state of its own
- **Centripetal force:** unifies people
 - Shared religion
 - External threats
 - Common language
- **Centrifugal force:** breaks states apart or keeps them from forming
 - Religion/language – Belgium
 - Northern Dutch Protestants speak Flemish
 - Southern Roman Catholics speak French

LEARNING OBJECTIVE (4.A.2.B)

By the end of this section, you will *be able to* **explain the evolution of the contemporary political map.**

- a. The concept of the modern nation-state began in Europe.
- b. Colonialism and imperialism led to the spread of nationalism and influenced contemporary political boundaries.

EVOLUTION OF THE CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP

Imperialism and Colonialism

- Similar concepts but not the same
- **Imperialism**
 - Broader concept
 - Includes many ways of influencing another country or group of people, by direct conquest, by economic control, or by cultural dominance.
- **Colonialism**
 - Type of imperialism
 - People move into and settle on the land of another country

EVOLUTION OF THE CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP

Imperialism and Colonialism

EARLY COLONIALISM

- Spain and Portugal
- Then France and Britain
- Focused on the Americas
- Gold, God, and Glory
- Religious influence, economic wealth, and political power
- *Terra Nullius* led to the dispossession of indigenous people

LATER COLONIALISM

- 19th Century
- Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, and Germany
- Focus: Africa and Asia
- Berlin Conference



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ENDURING UNDERSTANDING (4.A)

By the end of this section, you will *understand* that **the contemporary political map has been shaped by events of the past.**

LEARNING OBJECTIVE (4.A.3)

By the end of this section, you will *be able to evaluate the geopolitical forces that influence the contemporary political map.*

- a. Students will know that independence movements and democratization have shaped the political map since the end of World War II.
- b. Students will know that the fall of Communism ended the Cold War, led to the creation of newly independent states, and changed the world balance of power.

GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP

- While the European colonies in Africa and Asia did not last long, their legacy was strong.
- It can be seen in contemporary maps and the links among countries.

GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP

Modern Colonial Independence Movements

- Colonists often resisted the rule of Europeans, sometimes violently, because they wanted economic control over natural resources, free elections, and changes in society (racial equality, religious freedom)
- The United Nations supported these demands for *self-determination* and within 100 years of the Berlin Conference, almost all European colonial territories gained independence.
- This is known as **decolonization**.

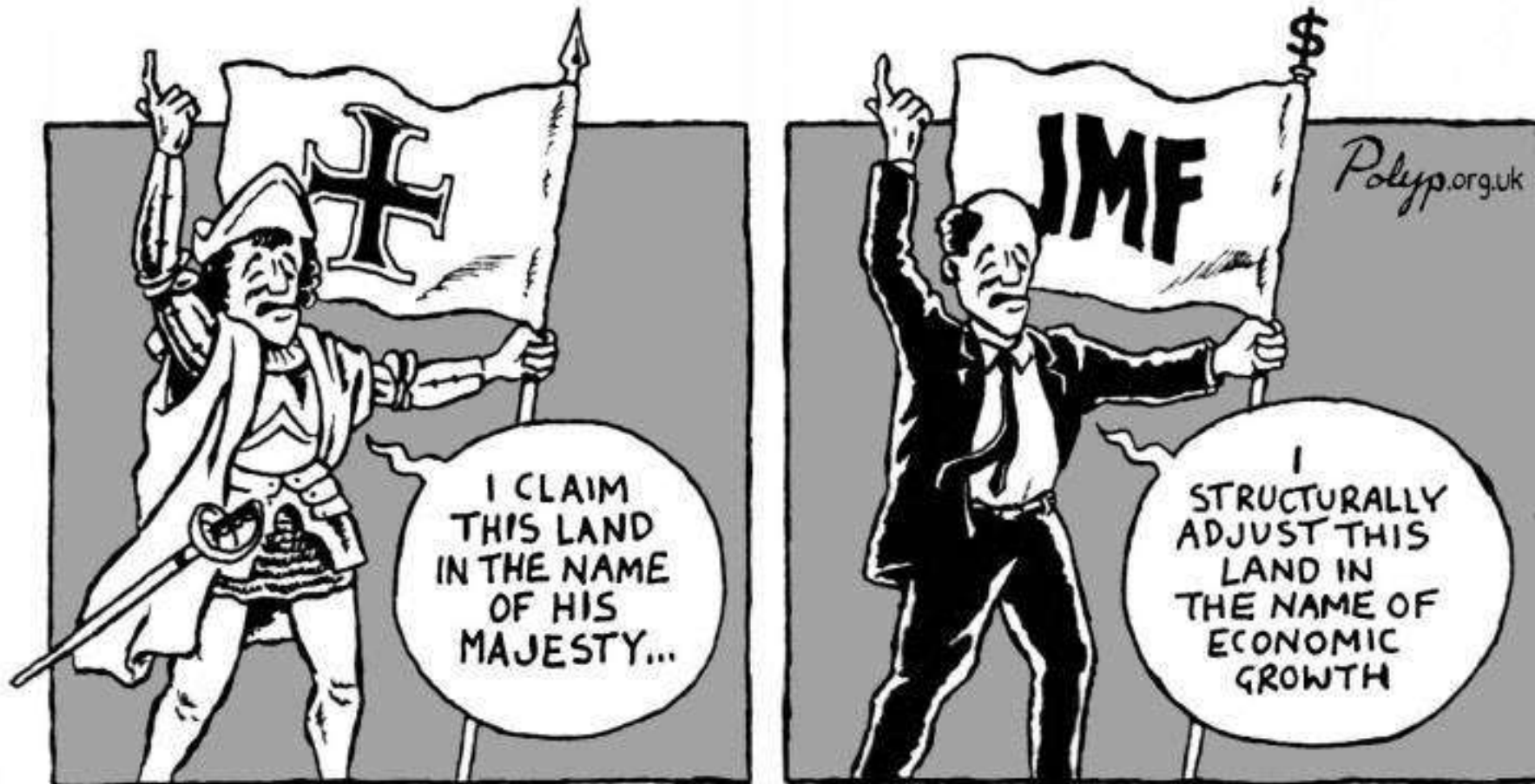
GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP

Modern Colonial Independence Movements

- However, many gained political independence, but not economic independence
- Transnational corporations continued to extract natural resources
 - Mining
 - Coffee, cacao, bananas, etc.
- **Neocolonization**, remember *neo* means new, is when control over developing countries is indirect and can be economic, political, or even cultural.

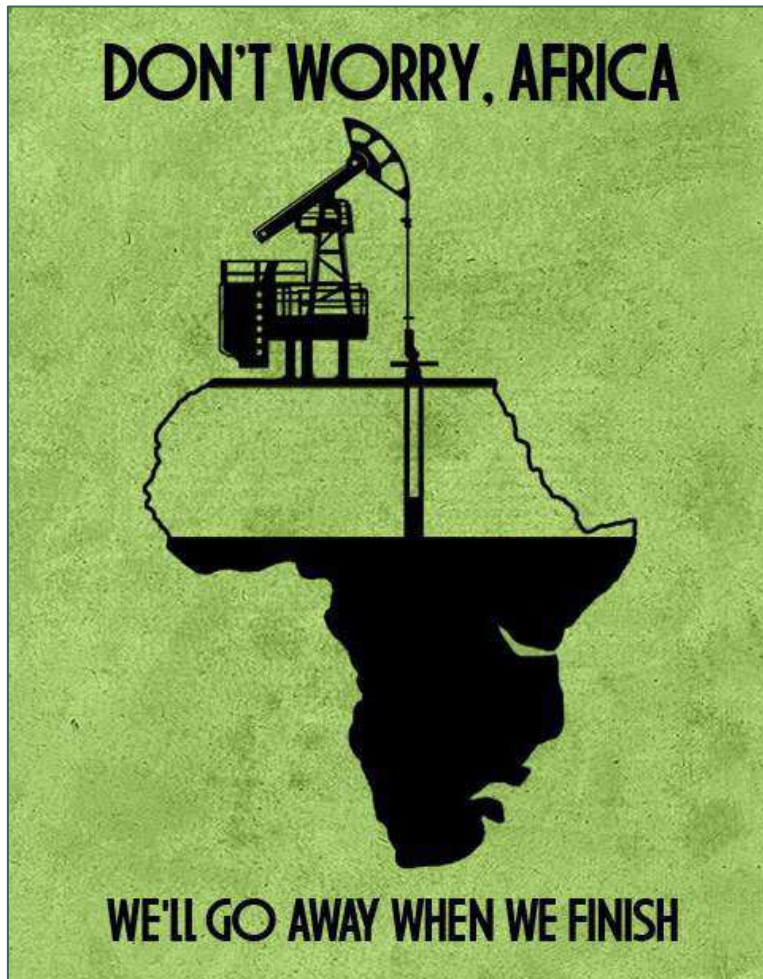


GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP



'PROGRESS'

GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP



DECOLONIZATION



GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP

Civil Wars in the Developing World

- From 1960-1970, 32 colonies, not cultural groups, gained independence and many imposed boundaries remained.
- Cultural and political boundaries did not match leading to civil war
- Rwanda, 1994
 - Hutu and Tutsi
 - **Genocide**
- Pattern: Independence → civil war and regional conflict

LEARNING OBJECTIVE (4.A.3)

By the end of this section, you will *be able to evaluate the geopolitical forces that influence the contemporary political map.*

- a. Students will know that independence movements and democratization have shaped the political map since the end of World War II.
- b. Students will know that the fall of Communism ended the Cold War, led to the creation of newly independent states, and changed the world balance of power.

GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP

The Cold War

- War against the spread of communism
- Diplomatic, political, and military rivalry between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR/Soviet Union)
- Started after World War I (1945)
- Continued through the collapse of the Berlin Wall (1989)
- Ended with the breakup of the Soviet Union (1991)

COLLAPSE OF THE BERLIN WALL



The Breakup of the Soviet Union, 1991



GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP

The Cold War

- The United States and Soviet Union did not fight directly – they fought proxy wars (proxy: representative)
 - Korea
 - Vietnam
 - Afghanistan
- Goal was to extend their sphere of influence

**SOVIET
COMMUNISM**

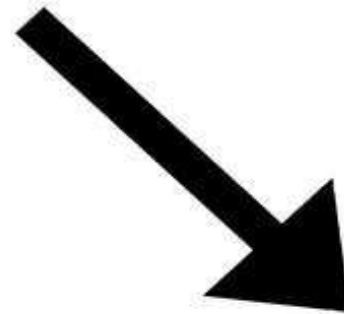
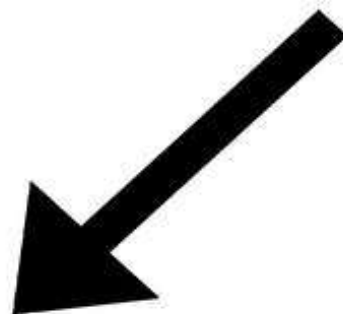
**AMERICA
DEMOCRACY**



COLD WAR



(1947-1991)



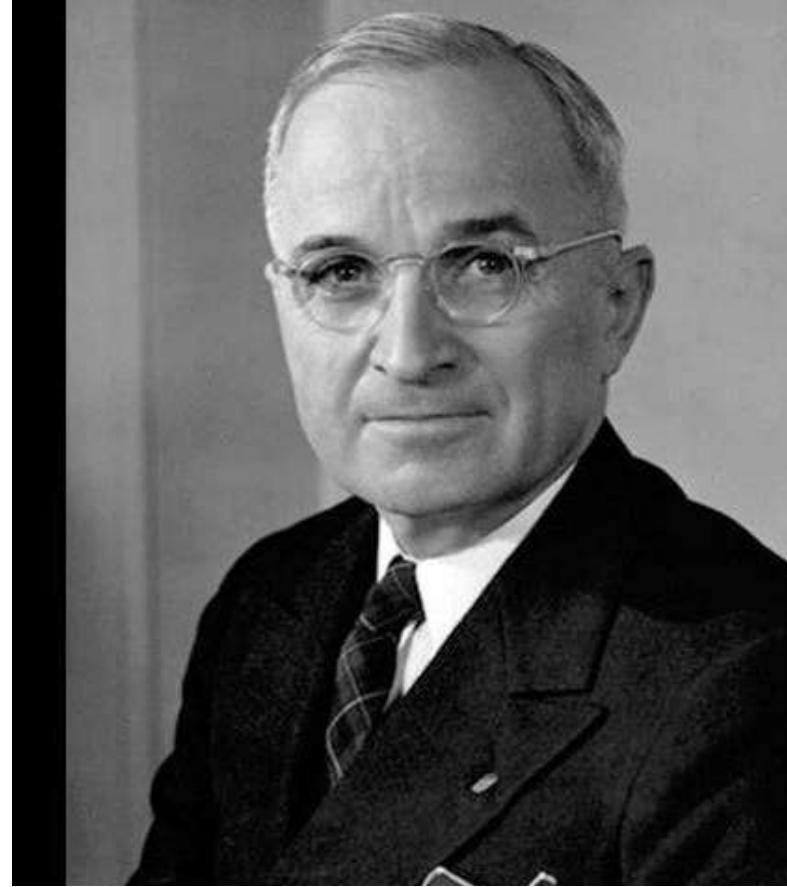
**Soviet War
in Afghanistan**
(1979-1989)



**Vietnam
War**
(1955-1975)



Korean War
(1950-1953)



KOREAN WAR





VIETNAM WAR

A map of Vietnam and its surrounding region, including Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, and parts of China. The map shows major cities, rivers, and the Gulf of Tonkin and Gulf of Thailand.



AFGHANISTAN WAR

GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP

The Cold War

- Frontline for the Cold War was in Europe
- After defeating the Nazis, Europe was divided between East and West
- East became Soviet **satellite states** (dominated politically and economically by another state)
- Hungary (1956) and Czechoslovakia (1968) tried to break away from Soviet domination but were unsuccessful

GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP

The Cold War

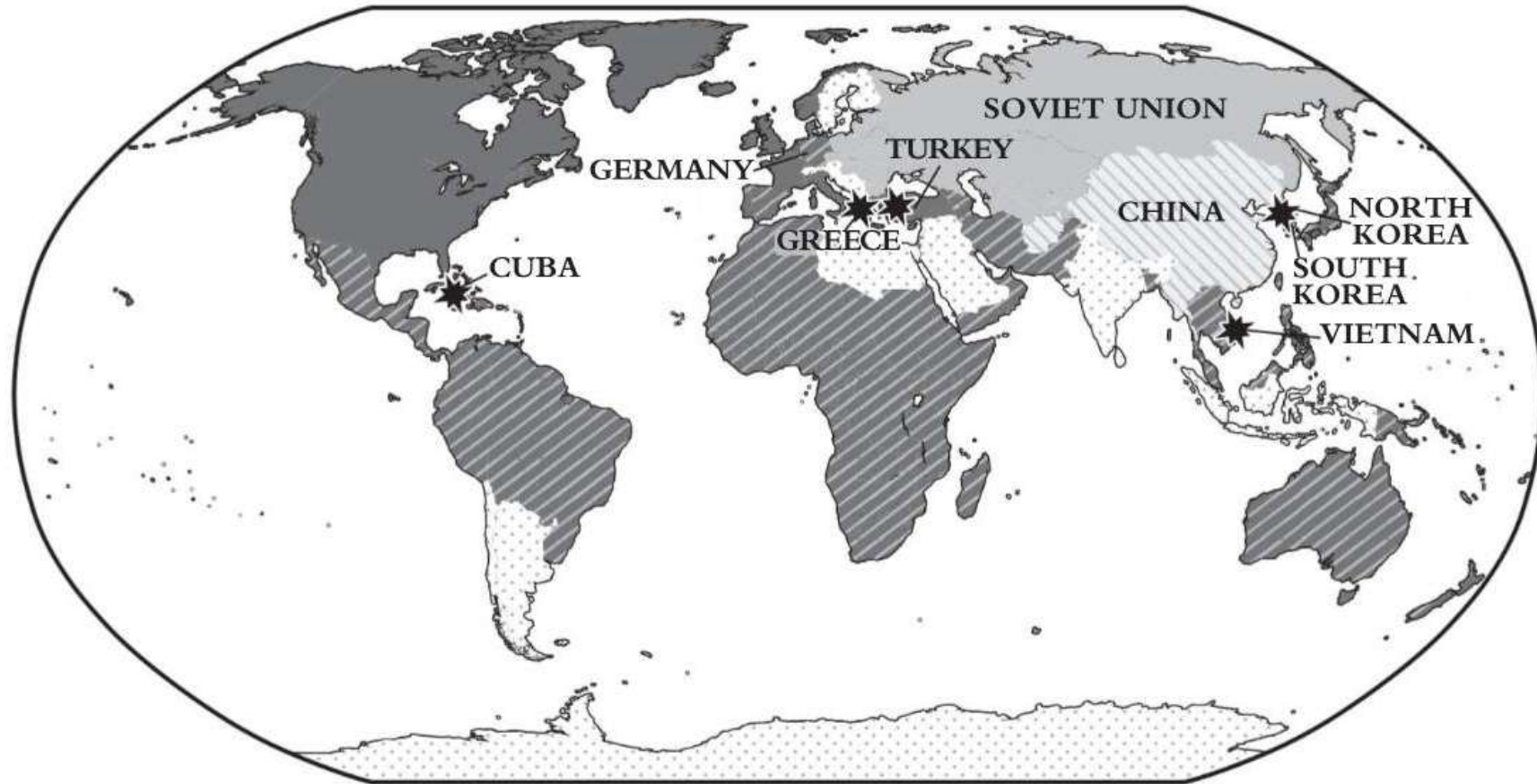
- Germany was more complicated and was divided in 4 zones
 - United States
 - United Kingdom
 - France
 - Soviet Union
- First 3 formed the Federal Republic of Germany (West)
- Soviet zone became the German Democratic Republic

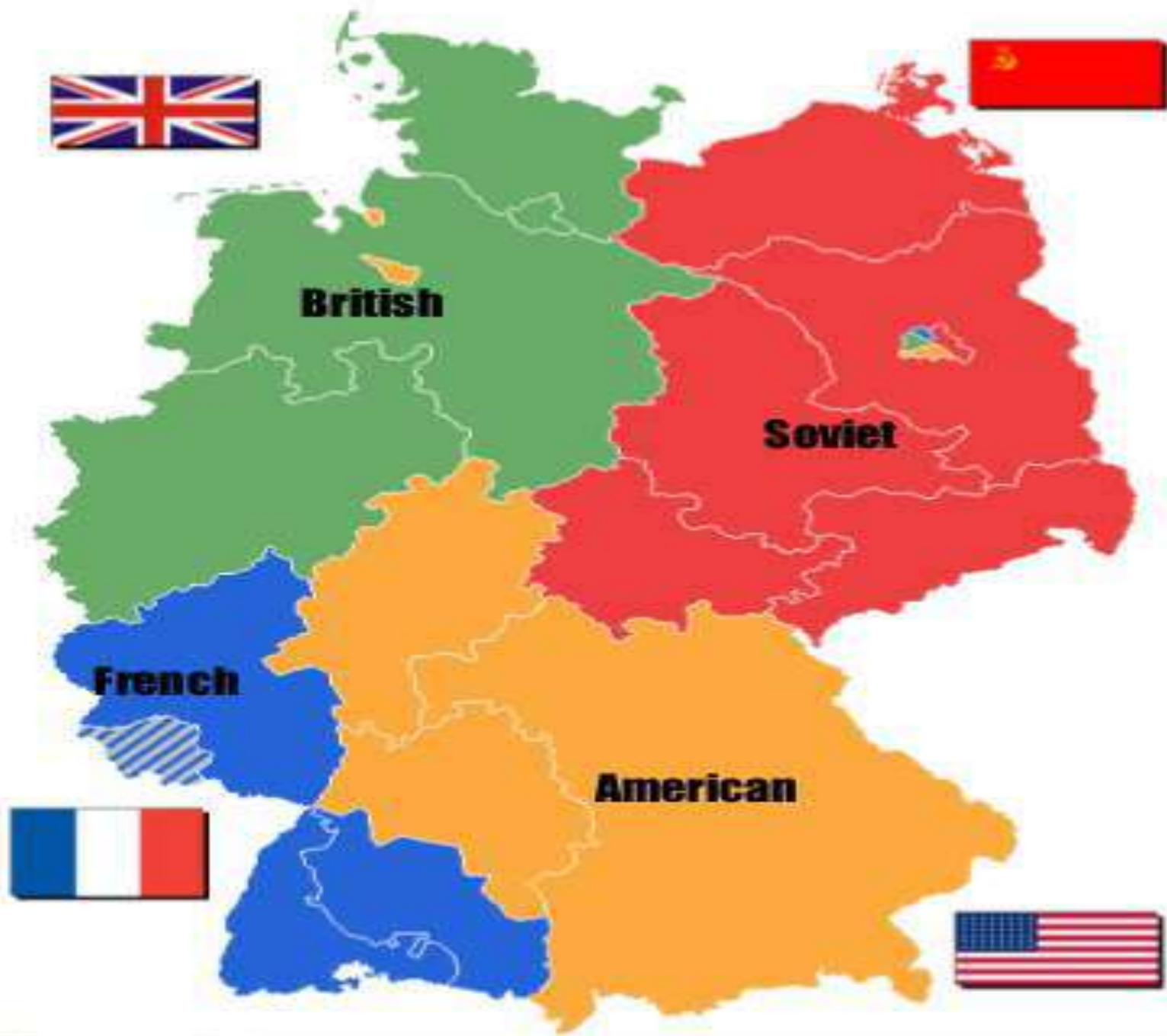
GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP

The Cold War

- The split carried into the smaller city of Berlin, located *inside* the Soviet zone.
- Divided into four parts
 - Soviet – East Berlin
 - Other three – West Berlin (located in East Germany – which is Soviet)

COLD WAR BLOCS, C. 1960





Germany Divided

- *After World War II, Germany was divided into four zones, occupied by French, British, American, and Soviet troops*
- *Berlin, the capital city, was divided*

GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP

The Collapse of Communism

- Late 1980s – new leadership relaxes the grip on satellite states
- November 1989, Germans on both sides bring down the Berlin Wall
- Germany reunites and former satellite states hold free elections
- Soviet Union began to collapse and, eventually, all 15 republics became independent states.

GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP

Newly Independent States

- After 1990, political borders changed again
- Most of Europe made a smooth transition out of communism
 - Example: 1993, Czechoslovakia transitioned into the Czech Republic and Republic of Slovakia – called the **Velvet Divorce**
- Some were more violent
 - Example: 1991, Yugoslavia – ethnic tension erupted and hundreds of thousands died in clashes between the Bosnians, Serbs, and others
 - **Ethnic cleansing** – the forced removal of a minority ethnic group from a territory.

GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP

Changes in the Balance of Power

- The collapse of communism and the Soviet Union drastically changed the balance of power in Europe and the world
- Some countries joined the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Trade Organization (NATO), the western military alliance formed in 1949 to oppose Soviet military power in Europe
- The balance of economic, political, and military power tilted toward Western Europe and the United States

THE GROWTH OF NATO, 1945 TO 2015

