

# Unit 4

# Political Organization of Space



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This PPT has been created using the information from the *AMSCO Human Geography: Preparing for the Advanced Placement Examination* book.  
Palmer, David. *AMSCO Advanced Placement Human Geography*. Perfection Learning, 2019.



## UNIT 4 – POLITICAL ORGANIZATION OF SPACE

### CH 10: TERRITORY, POWER, AND BOUNDARIES

# ENDURING UNDERSTANDING (4.B)

By the end of this section, you will *understand* that **spatial political patterns reflect ideas of territoriality and power at a variety of scales.**

- **Territoriality:** **connection** of people, culture, and their economic system to the **land**.
- **Power:** geographic **control** over people, land, and resources.

# LEARNING OBJECTIVE (4.B.4)

By the end of this section, you will *be able to* **compare and contrast forms of governance.**

- a. Students will know that forms of governance include unitary states (centralized government) and federal states.
- b. Students will know that power of the subdivisions of states vary according to the form of governance (e.g., the United States and Switzerland as federal states, France as a unitary state).
- c. Students will know that state morphology (e.g., compact, elongated, perforated, fragmented, prorupted states) has economic, political, and social implications.

# DIFFERENT FORMS OF GOVERNANCE

## **Federal and Unitary States**

- Countries are governed on more than one level but different forms of governance determines how much power each level receives.
- There are two main political spatial organizations: federal and unitary
- Both administer day-to-day operations, are sovereign, and the national government is the final authority.
- However, there are some major differences between the two.

# DIFFERENT FORMS OF GOVERNANCE

FEDERAL VS. UNITARY STATES		
Trait	Federal	Unitary
<b>Authority of the Government</b>	Shared between the central government and provincial, state, and local governments	Held primarily by the central government with very little power given to local governments
<b>Hierarchy of Power</b>	Multiple levels of power; power diffused throughout the hierarchy	No hierarchy of sovereign powers
<b>Type of Country Where Commonly Used</b>	Multiple ethnic groups with significant minorities	Few cultural differences and small minorities

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# DIFFERENT FORMS OF GOVERNANCE

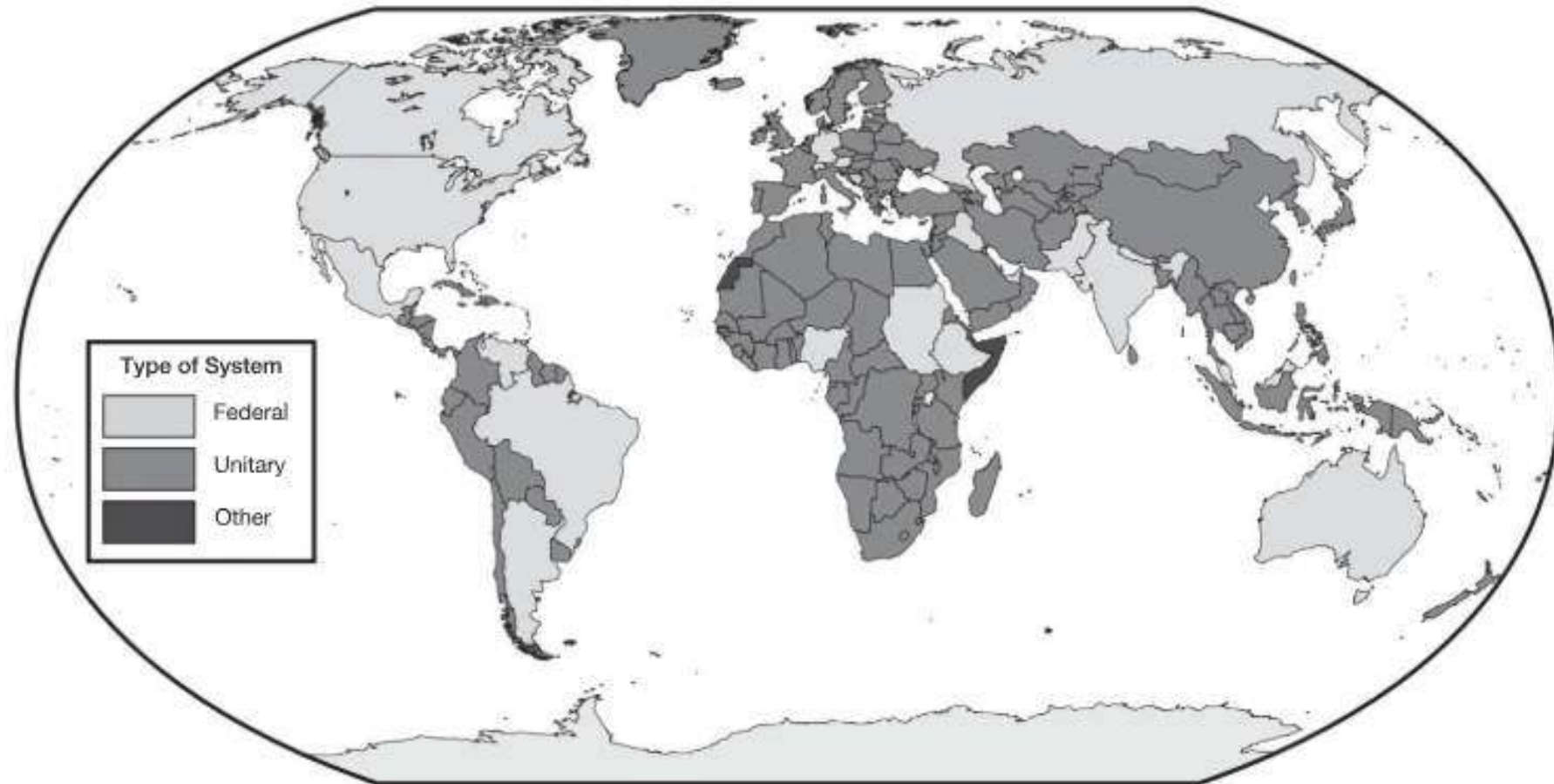
## **Local Powers Vary by Government Type**

- In both federal and unitary, the local divisions have some degree of power.
- Large landmass countries tend to be federal states – United States, Canada, Russia, etc.
- Smaller landmass countries tend to be unitary states – Japan, Egypt, Spain, etc.
- Of course, there are many exceptions – China (large but unitary), Belgium (small but federal – reflects the cultural differences between the Walloon and Flemish citizens)



# DIFFERENT FORMS OF GOVERNANCE

## FEDERAL AND UNITARY STATE SYSTEMS



# DIFFERENT FORMS OF GOVERNANCE

## **Local Powers Vary by Government Type**

- Federal governments are able to overcome many of the complications involved with governing a multicultural population by allowing local governments to manage either own affairs.
  - Example: provinces in northern Nigeria have enacted sharia (Islamic law) to accommodate their growing Muslim population.
- Unitary states have strong centralized governments who hold most of the power and local governments are just extensions of it.
  - Can be undemocratic (China, Saudi Arabia) or fairly democratic (France, Indonesia).

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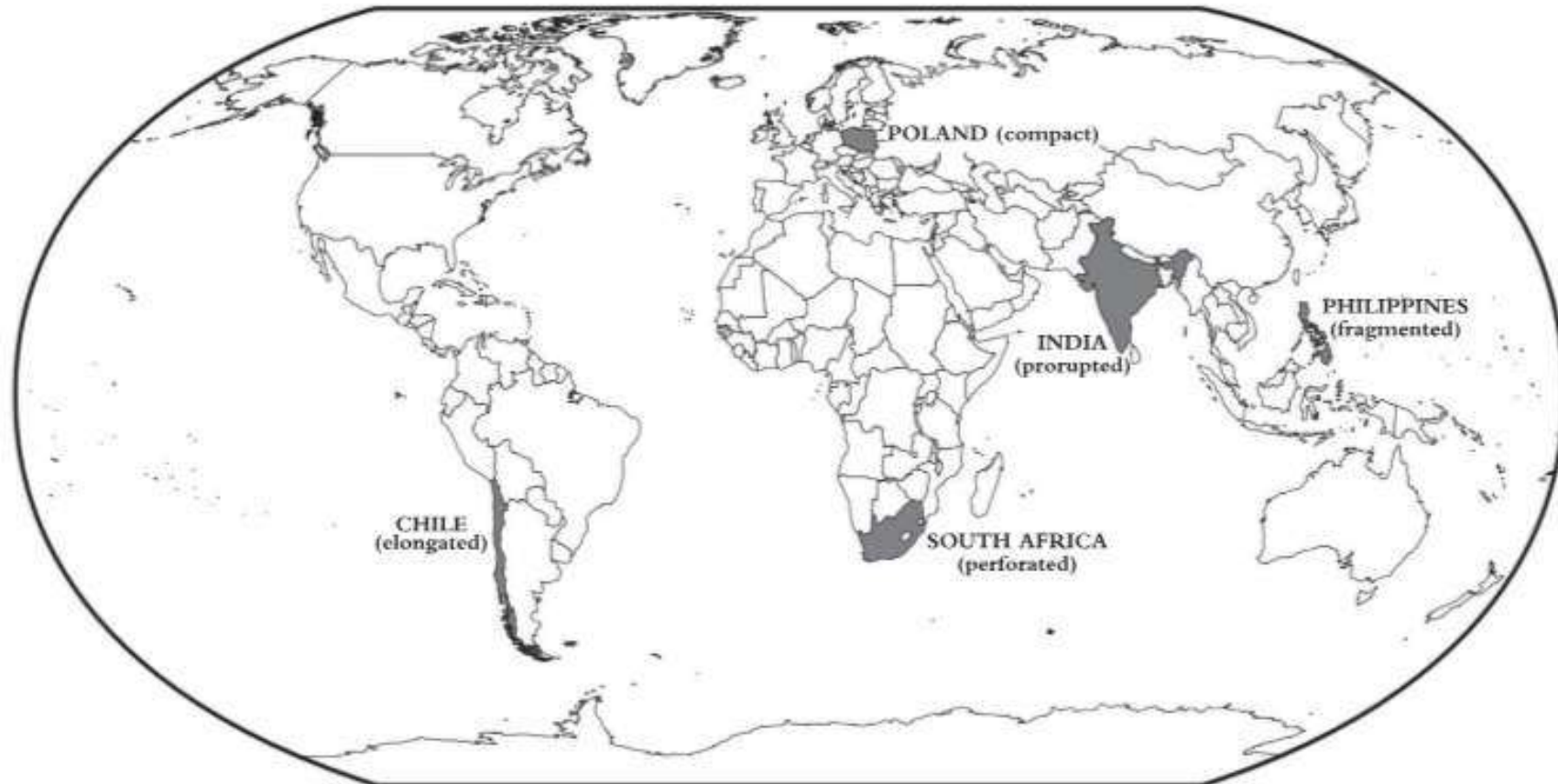
# DIFFERENT FORMS OF GOVERNANCE

## The Effects of State Morphology

- **Morphology** refers to the state's shape and can influence how people in the state interact.
- Example: a state with a highly populated central region and outlying areas far from its center, then those far away may face the following issues:
  - Difficulty receiving goods and services
  - May feel underrepresented in the government
  - May feel isolated from family or ethnic groups
  - May demand strong local control leading to internal conflict

# DIFFERENT FORMS OF GOVERNANCE

## EXAMPLES OF STATE MORPHOLOGY



# DIFFERENT FORMS OF GOVERNANCE

TYPES OF STATE MORPHOLOGY		
Morphology Type	Characteristics	Examples
<b>Compact State</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Distance from center does not significantly vary</li><li>• Efficient in trade, travel, and communication from the center</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Poland</li><li>• Romania</li><li>• Zimbabwe</li></ul>
<b>Elongated State</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Potential isolation at the periphery</li><li>• Difficult communication and travel</li><li>• Challenging to govern and defend</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chile</li><li>• Malawi</li><li>• Norway</li></ul>
<b>Prorupted State</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Compact area with an extension</li><li>• Limited access</li><li>• Proruption may cause disruption</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• India</li><li>• Thailand</li><li>• Democratic Republic of Congo</li></ul>

# DIFFERENT FORMS OF GOVERNANCE

TYPES OF STATE MORPHOLOGY		
Morphology Type	Characteristics	Examples
<b>Perforated State</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• State that completely surrounds another state</li><li>• Surrounded state dependent on perforated state for travel and trade</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• South Africa</li><li>• Italy</li></ul>
<b>Fragmented State</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Scattered (islands) from the core</li><li>• Problems with trade, communication, travel, and distribution of power</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Philippines</li><li>• Indonesia</li><li>• United States</li></ul>