

POLITICAL FRQ 4.3: Summary Review

Summary & Review

KEY ISSUE 1

Where are states distributed?

Nearly all of Earth's land area is divided among around 200 sovereign states. "State" is a synonym for country, an area organized into a political unit. The fifty U.S. states are a form of local government. Some disputes exist concerning whether an area belongs to one state or to two.

THINKING GEOGRAPHICALLY



1. Why might China, Japan, and Taiwan all wish to control the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands, despite their extremely small size?

▲ **FIGURE 8-69 SENKAKU/DIAOYU PROTEST** Protesters in Taiwan burn an effigy representing a Japanese warship during a protest against what the Taiwanese claim is Japan's illegal occupation of the islands.

KEY ISSUE 2

Why are nation-states difficult to create?

A nation-state is a state whose territory corresponds to that occupied by a particular ethnicity. Ancient and medieval states were organized as city-states, kingdoms, and other forms of government. The creation of nation-states began in Europe in modern times. A colony is territory legally tied to a state. The world once contained a large number of colonies, but only a few remain.

THINKING GEOGRAPHICALLY



2. Why might some states in Europe split in the future into multiple states, as occurred in the 1990s in Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union?

▲ **FIGURE 8-70 SUPPORTERS OF INDEPENDENCE FOR CATALUNYA** Marchers in the streets of Barcelona show their support for Catalonia becoming independent of Spain.

KEY ISSUE 3

Why do boundaries cause problems?

States are separated from each other by boundaries. Boundaries can be cultural or physical. Countries are considered democracies, autocracies, or anocracies. The trend has been towards more democracies. Legislative districts are sometimes gerrymandered to benefit the party in power.

THINKING GEOGRAPHICALLY



3. What factors might be promoting the decline of autocracies?

▲ **FIGURE 8-71 ASTANA, CAPITAL OF KAZAKHSTAN** The Center for Systemic Peace classifies Kazakhstan as an autocracy.

KEY ISSUE 4

Where do states face threats?

Nearly all states are members of the United Nations. Europe was divided into two sets of military and economic alliances during the Cold War. Now most European states are united in the European Union. Terrorism is the systemic use of violence against the entire population. The world's three most active terrorist organizations are currently al-Qaeda, the Islamic State, and Boko Haram.

THINKING GEOGRAPHICALLY



4. In what ways might the diffusion of personal electronic devices and social media help promote pro-democratic forces, and in what ways might they provide assistance to terrorists?

▲ **FIGURE 8-72 ANTI-TERRORIST PROTEST** The protest is against laws in the United Kingdom limiting members of the public from taking photographs at events where the police believe that a threat of a terrorist attack may exist.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

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AP® HUMAN GEOGRAPHY -- SECTION II -- Time—25 minutes --- Percent of total score—100

Directions: You have 25 minutes to answer the free response portion. It is suggested that you take 5 minutes of this time to plan and outline each answer. While a formal essay is not required, it is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. Illustrate your answers with substantive geographic examples where appropriate. Be sure to number each of your answers, including individual parts, in this booklet as the questions are numbered below

1. HINT: None of these should be answered in a few sentences

- A. Explain** where states are distributed:
- B. Explain** why nation-states are difficult to create:
- C. Explain** why boundaries cause problems:
- D. Explain** where states face threats: