

# Unit 3: Day 9

Language Conflicts &  
What's the deal about official languages?

A series of horizontal stripes in various colors (yellow, green, blue, dark blue, orange, red, white, green) running across the bottom of the slide.

# What can cause conflicts over language?

1. Language is a cornerstone of culture
2. Colonization
3. Social classes

# French

Issue of globalization of language and  
preservation of national language

1975 ban foreign words in advertisements

1992 French is the official language

1994 try to stop the use of foreign (english)  
words


# Quebec

Canada is a bilingual country but most French speakers live in Quebec

Quebecois have called for independence twice (unsuccessfully)

Have passed several laws that put an emphasis on their French language

New immigrants must learn French under Quebec law



**A** Vanessa Ocampo Duque

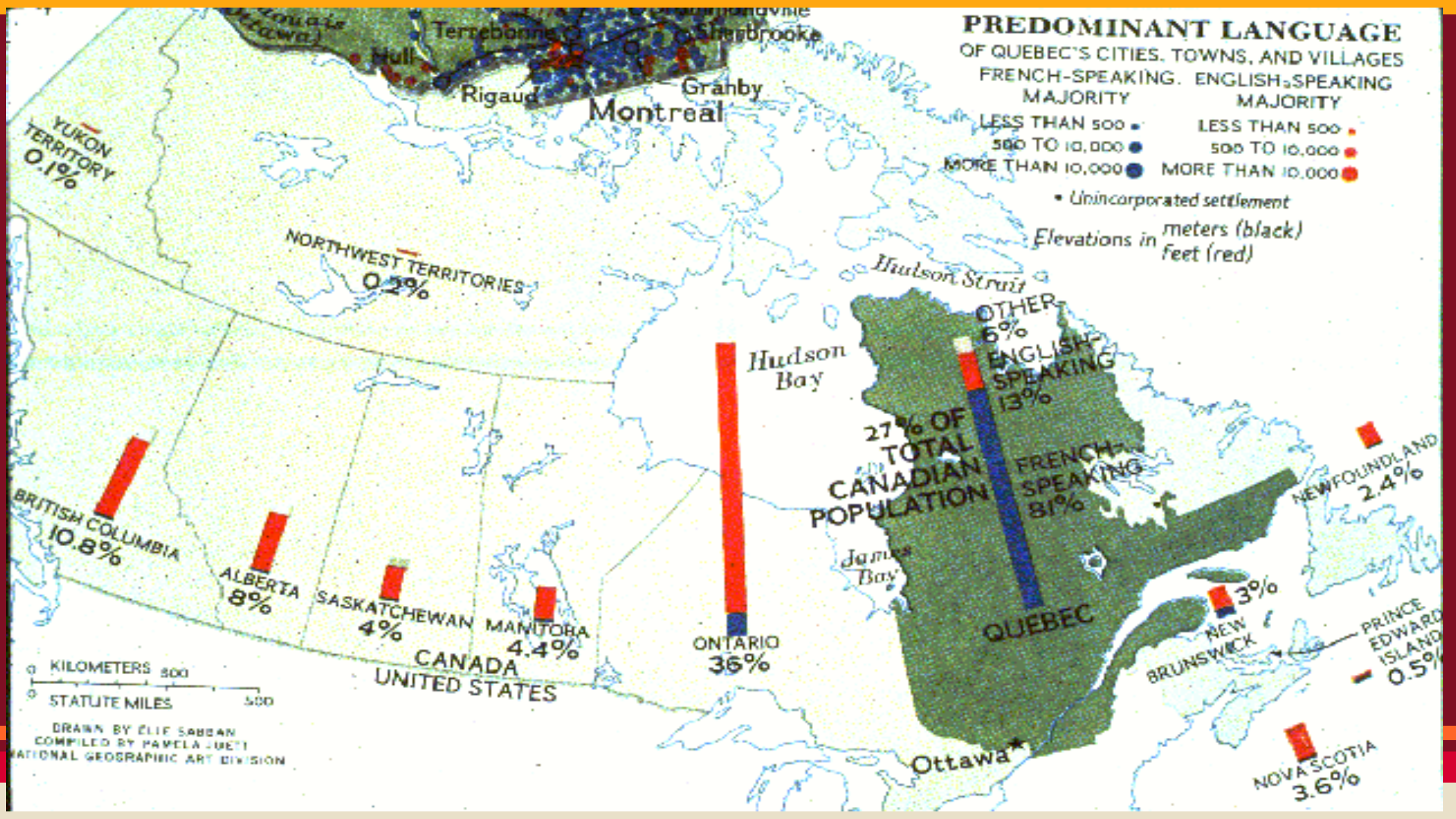
DOCTOR

tvo

**PREDOMINANT LANGUAGE OF QUEBEC'S CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES**  
 FRENCH-SPEAKING MAJORITY      ENGLISH-SPEAKING MAJORITY

- LESS THAN 500 ●      LESS THAN 500 ●
- 500 TO 10,000 ●      500 TO 10,000 ●
- MORE THAN 10,000 ●      MORE THAN 10,000 ●

● Unincorporated settlement  
 Elevations in meters (black) / feet (red)



0 KILOMETERS 500  
 0 STATUTE MILES 500

DRAWN BY ELIF SABHAN  
 COMPILED BY PAMELA UETI  
 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ART DIVISION



CC  
is off

North America  
Program 25.  
Ethnic Fragmentation  
in Canada

Skip to  
13:54



# Belgium (multilingual state)



Flemish speaking in  
Flanders (North)  
French speaking Wallonia  
(South)

## Issues

Brussels is bilingual but located  
in the north (EU)  
“Frenchification” of Flanders  
Country is partitioned in the  
1960’s





# Official Language Debate

## The Telegraph

Home Video News **World** Sport Finance Comment Culture Travel Life Women Fa  
USA Asia China Europe Middle East Australasia Africa South America Central Asia E

HOME » NEWS » WORLD NEWS » AFRICA AND INDIAN OCEAN » GAMBIA

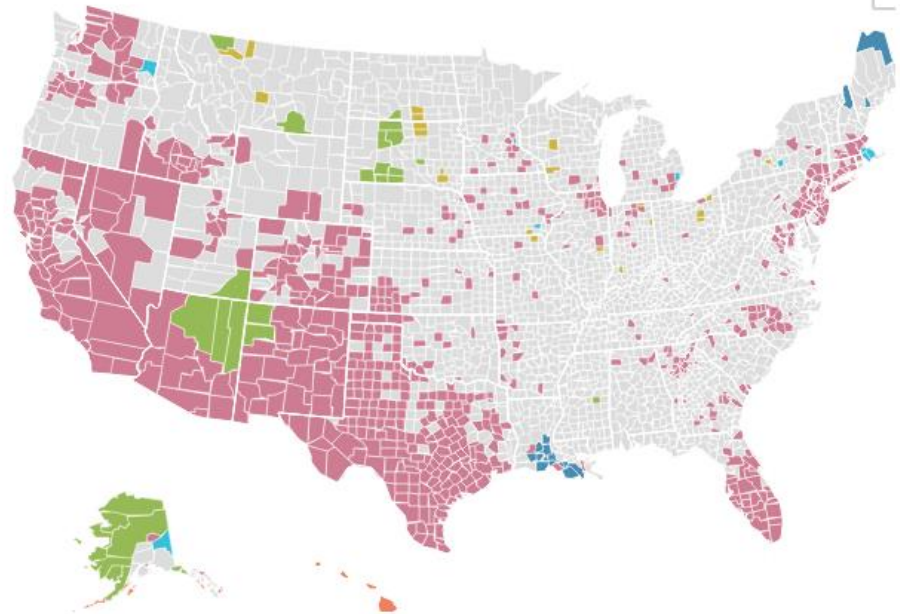
### Gambia president rejects English language

President's decision to shift official language from English to local language comes months after its decision to withdraw from the Commonwealth

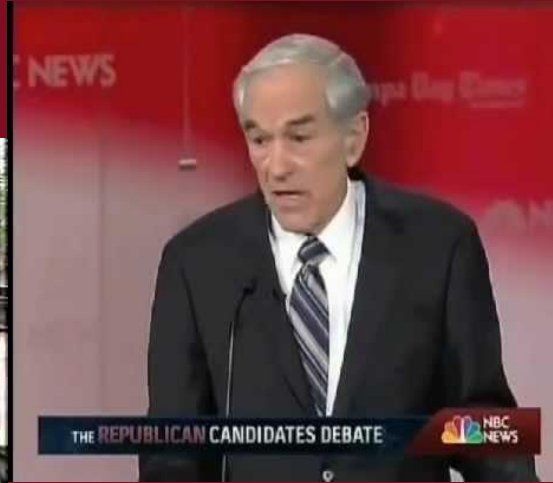


President Yahya Jammeh has given Gambian public sector workers a weekly extra day off Photo: Reuters

English is spoken in at least 90 percent of homes in 2,347 counties.



# Should the US have an official Language?



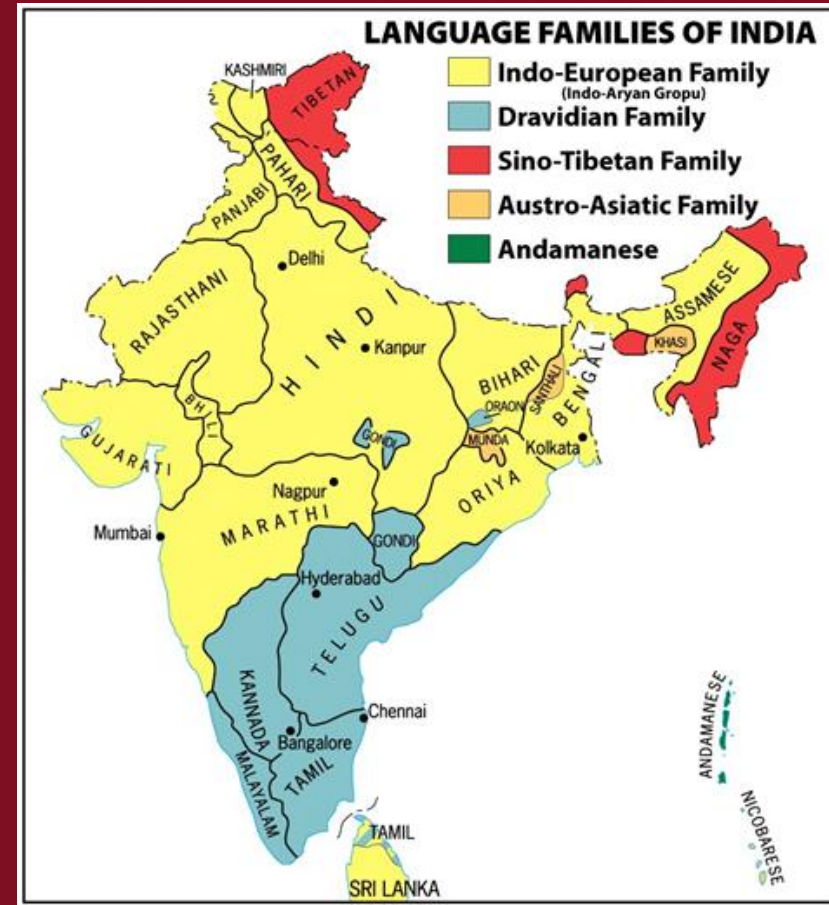
What are the arguments for or against?  
What are the biggest fears?



• **Monolingual state:** A country in which only one language is spoken

• **Multilingual state:** A country in which more than one language is in use

**Official language:** Government-selected language or languages to try to enhance communication in a multilingual state



# What role does language play in making places?

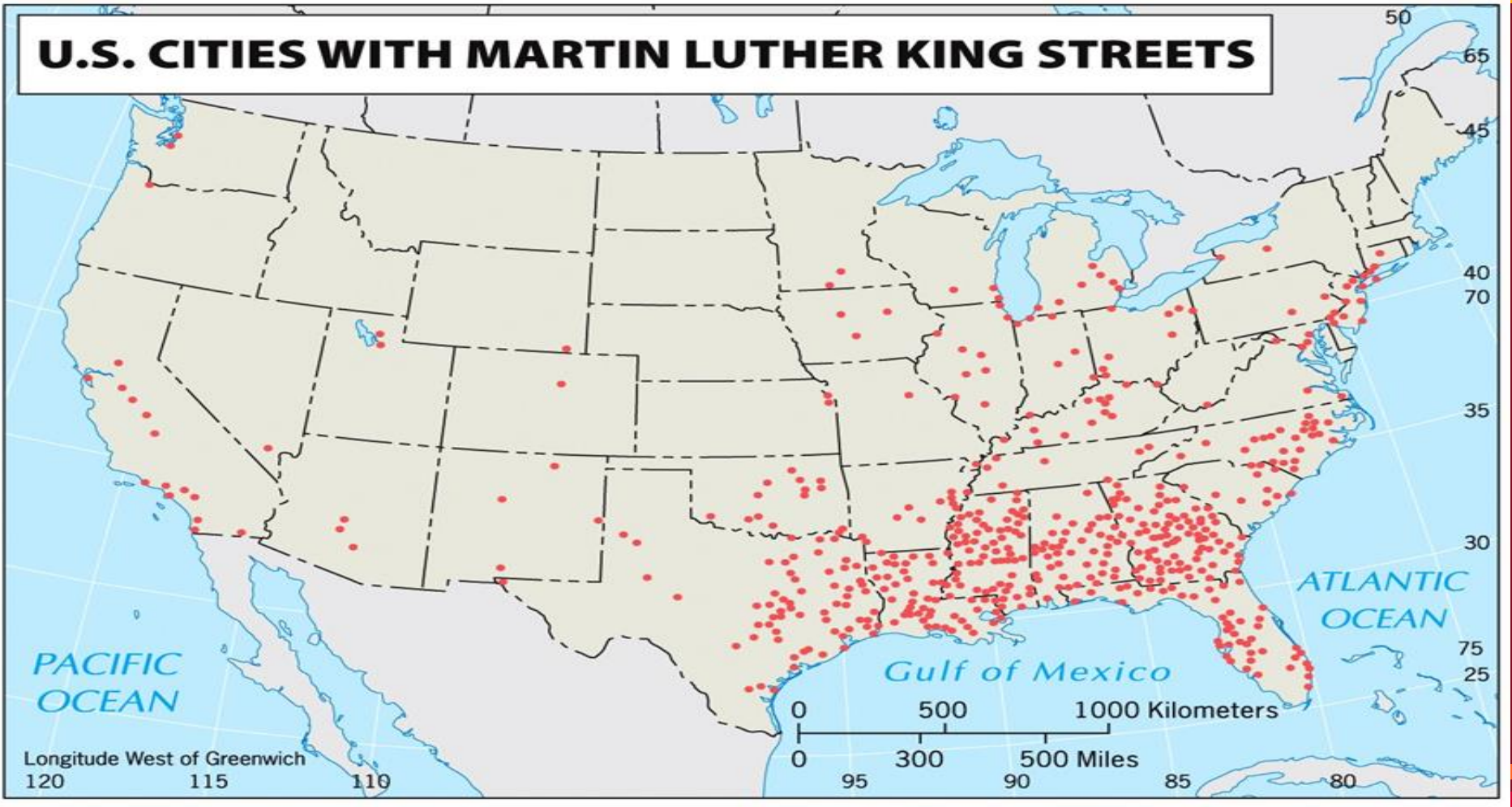
- Place: The uniqueness of a location, what people do in a location, what they create, how they impart a certain character, a certain imprint on the location
- Toponym: A place name
  - Imparts a certain character on a place
  - Reflects the social processes in a place
  - Can give a glimpse of the history of a place

# Changing Toponyms

Major reasons people change toponyms

- After decolonization
- After a political revolution
- To commodify or brand a place
- To memorialize people or events

# U.S. CITIES WITH MARTIN LUTHER KING STREETS



Longitude West of Greenwich  
120 115 110

0 500 1000 Kilometers  
0 300 500 Miles



# World Language Map Review

## World Language Families Today



# World Map Question “Review”

1. According to the Map, what is the most widely dispersed language family in the World?  
-Indo European
2. In terms of total speakers, what is most likely the second largest family?  
-Sino Tibetan (China)
3. Referencing question 1, what is most likely the hearth of this language family? Label the hearth on your map with a star.  
- Star should be in Anatolia in modern day Turkey
4. Identify the major branches of the above language families.  
-Germanic, Romance, Slavic
5. Explain the primary reason for the dispersed concentration (around the world) of the Language Family in question 1.  
-European colonization
6. Which two continents seem to have the most diversity among Language Families?  
-Africa, Asia

# Review Continued

1. Besides Indo European languages what other families are prominent on the European Continent.  
-Uralic, Altaic
2. What are the two largest branches of Indo European in Europe?  
-Germanic, Romance
3. Which of these branches get its name from the Empire that is responsible for its diffusion? What was the official language of this Empire?  
-Romance (Rome), Latin
4. What is the group in Northern Spain that is isolated from the surrounding Indo European languages? What aspect of physical geography has allowed for this isolation?  
-Basque (Euskera), Pyrenees Mountains
5. What is another language that could be considered isolated due to its geographic features?  
-Icelandic
6. English is considered Germanic but what other branch greatly influenced the formation of English as a language? Why was it influenced by this branch?  
-Latin (Romance Group), close proximity, Roman Empire, Norman Conquests
7. Geographers believe that language is one of the most prominent elements of culture. Identify 3 areas where differences in language have caused political/cultural tensions.  
-Quebec, Canada; Nigeria; former colonies keeping language of colonizer after independence