



Unit 4: Political Geography

Day 5: Boundaries and Disputes

What are political boundaries?

Political boundaries have been fought over throughout history for territory, economic gain, or cultural influence.

Three major types

geometric boundaries

physical boundaries

ethnographic or cultural boundaries

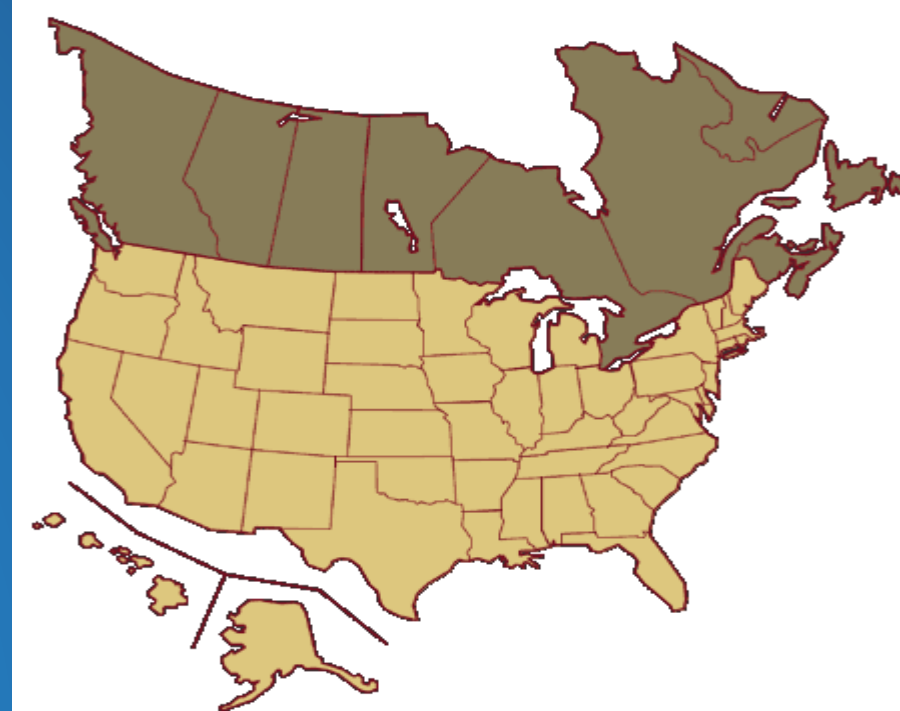
Geometric Boundaries

created by lines of latitude and longitude, usually straight lines

Example

49th parallel between the US and Canada (America's hat)

antecedent boundary- one that exists before human settlement of an area



Physical Boundaries

Using physical features from the landscape

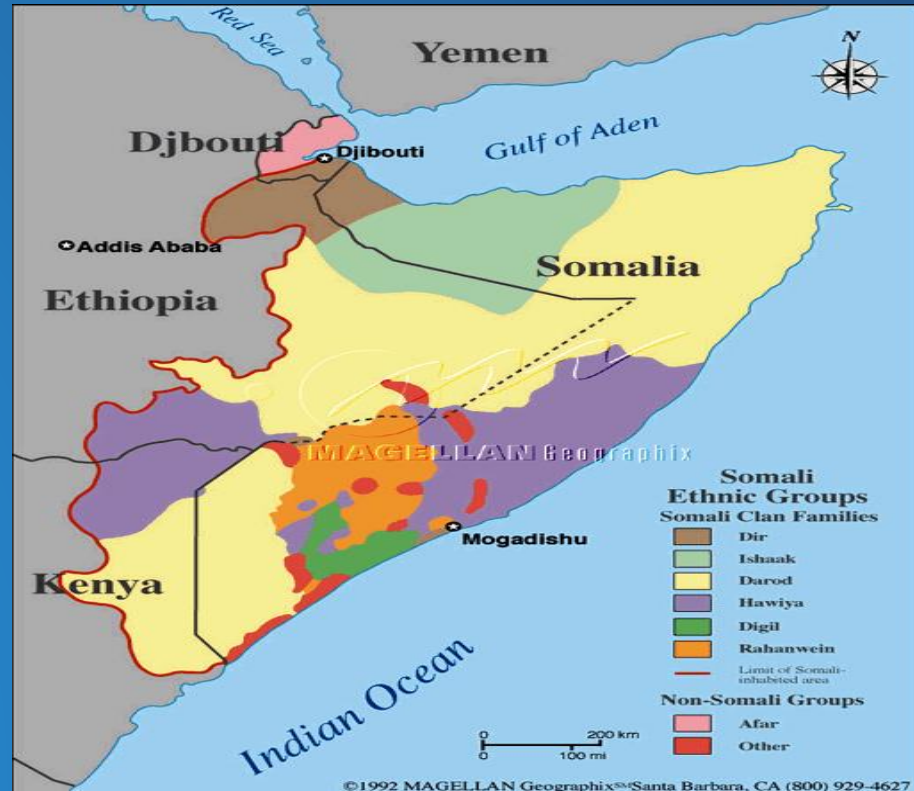
examples:

- Rio Grande
- Mississippi River
- Andes Mountains



Ethnographic/Cultural Boundaries

Using cultural features such as language, religion, or ethnicity



How do you establish a boundary?

1. Define- legal document is created with exact location defined
2. Delimit- boundary is drawn out on a map
3. Demarcate- boundary is marked by either signs, wall, fence, etc
4. Administrate

Boundary Disputes

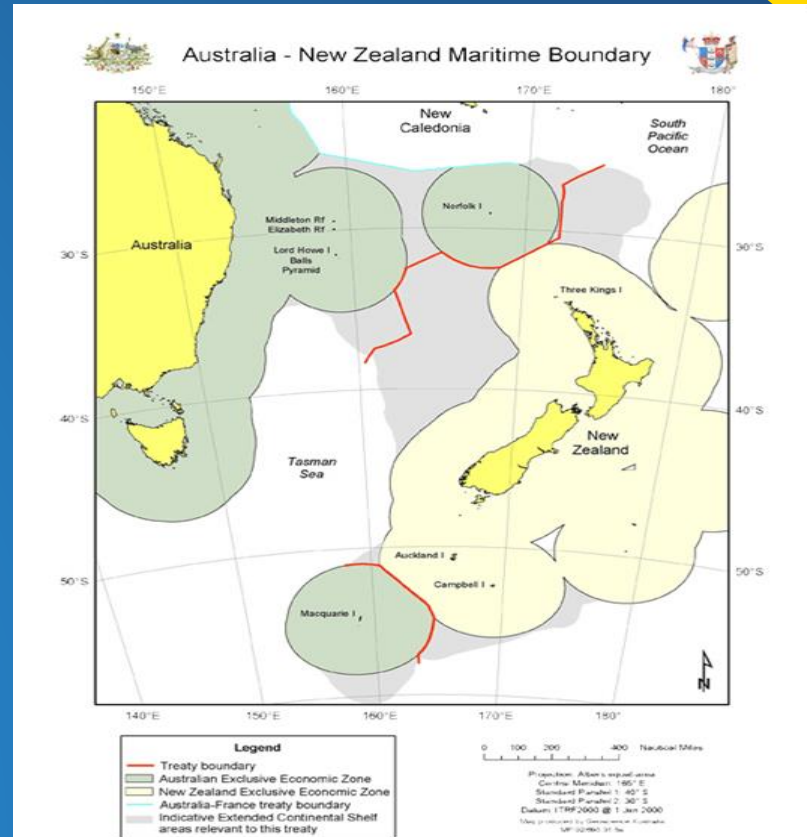
1. Definitional- legal language of a boundary
2. Locational- questions the interpretation of the boundary, Mississippi River
3. Operational- disagreements over a major issue with the border, illegal immigration, drugs
4. Allocational- usually involve natural resources, who has dominant rights?

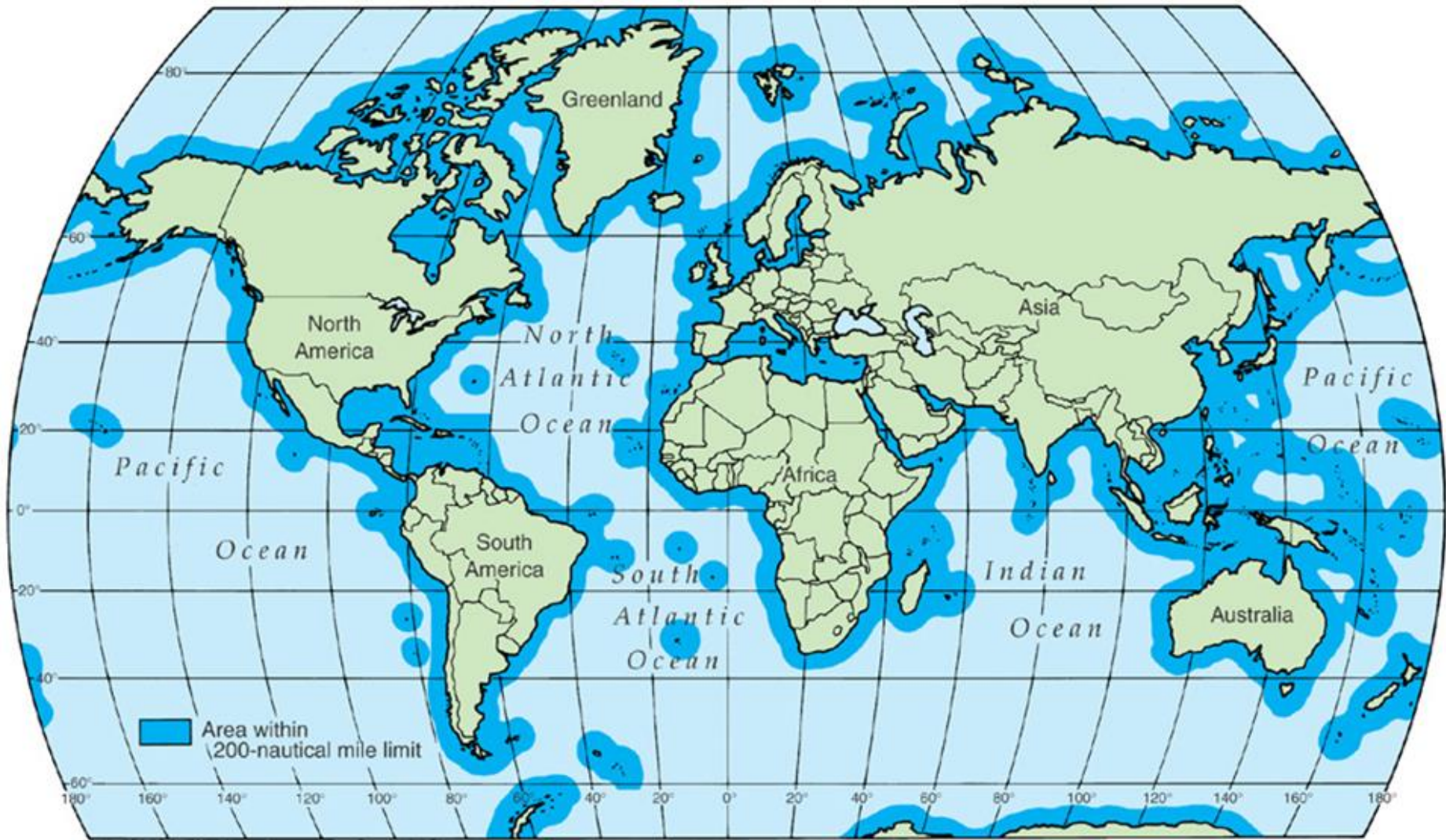
International Law of the Sea

State boundaries extend 12 nautical miles from the shoreline

EEZ- Economic rights extend 200 nautical miles from shore.

median line principle





Frontiers

area where no state
exercises complete
control
uninhabited or
sparsely settled

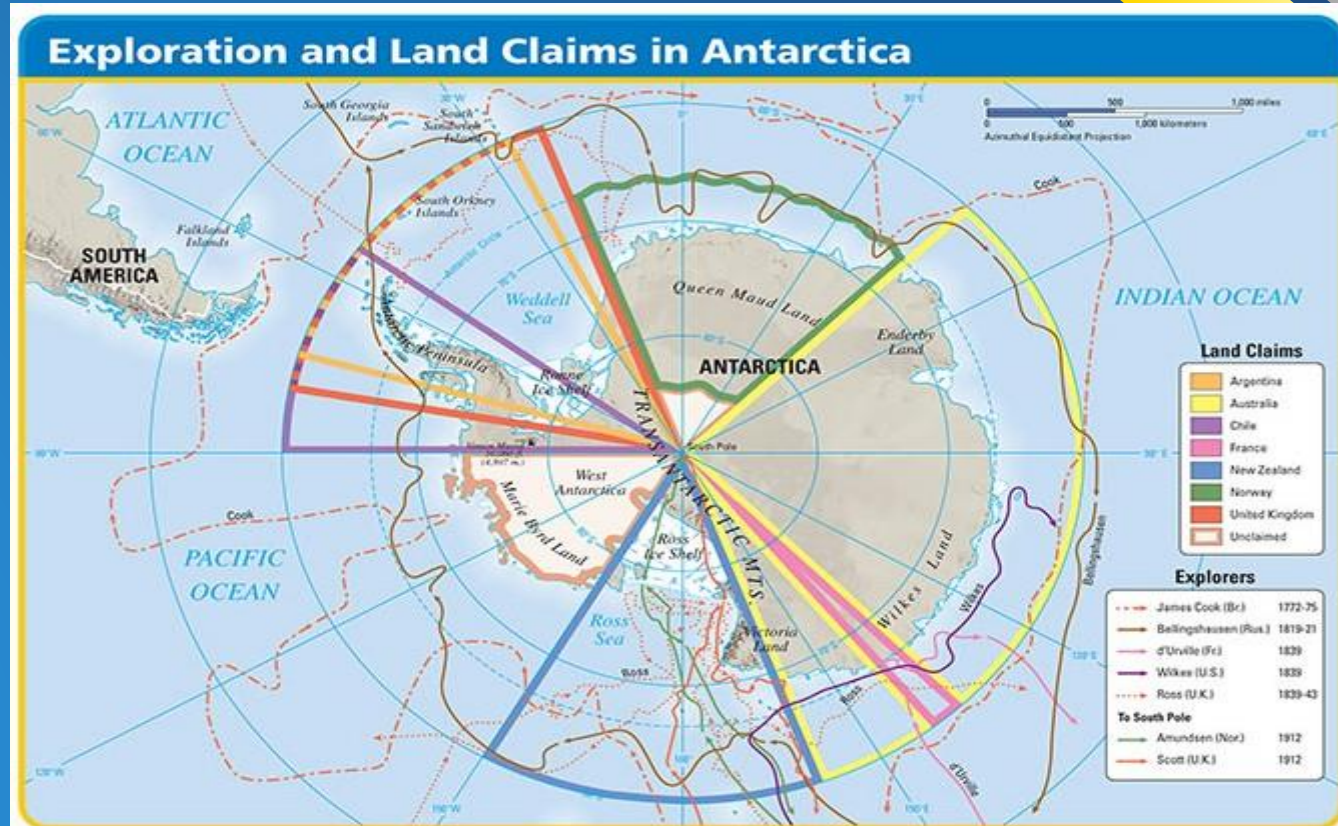
Example:

- Arabian Peninsula
- Antarctica



Global Commons

countries
do not
have the
right to
search for
natural
resources



Subsequent Boundaries

Northern Ireland and Ireland

develop along with the cultural landscape, is created after settlement to divide religious, economic, or other cultural differences



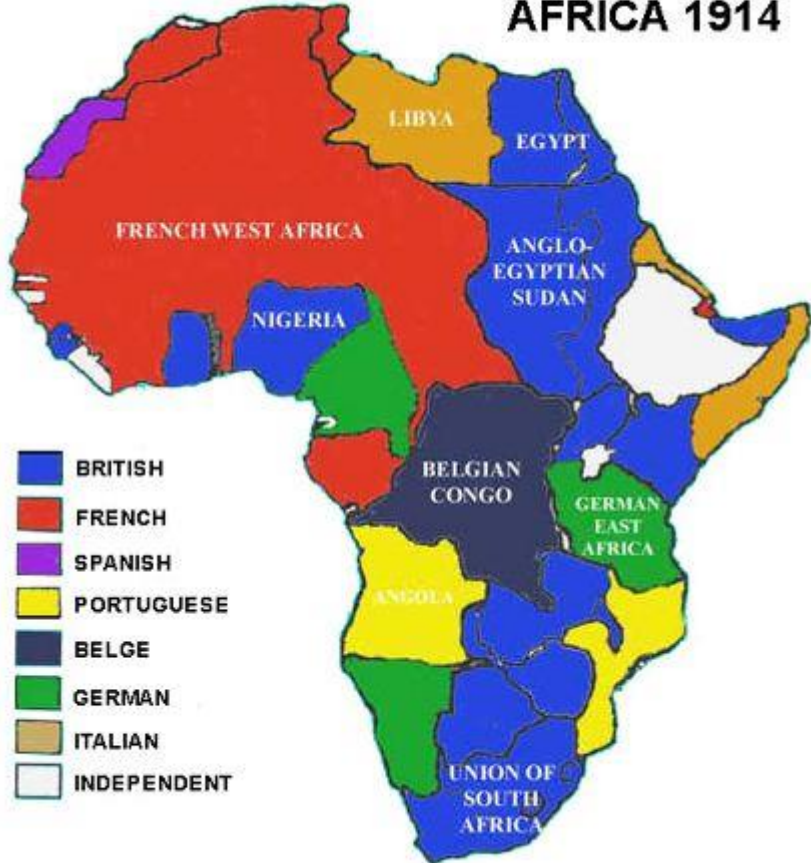
Superimposed Boundaries

ignores existing cultural boundaries
created by a higher authority to satisfy their
needs/interests

Examples

- Conference of Berlin
- 38th Parallel between North and South Korea

AFRICA 1914



Relic Boundaries

a relic on the
landscape

at one time was used
to mark a boundary
but not longer applies

Example:

- Berlin Wall
- Great Wall of China



State Shapes Review

