Political Patterns and Processes

AP Human Geography · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
state /steɪt/	A **state** has a territory, people and a government.
nation /ˈneɪʃn/	The Kurds see themselves as a **nation** with their own language and culture. Kurds
nation-state /ˈneɪʃn steɪt/	Japan is close to a **nation-state**: most people share one language and culture. Japan
boundaries	Many African **boundaries** were drawn by European powers. Africa Europe
unitary	France is a **unitary** state: most power is held by the central government. France
federal	The USA is a **federal** state: power is shared between the centre and the states. USA
devolution /dɪvəˈluːʃn/	**Devolution** gives more power to a region, such as Scotland. Scotland
supranationalism	The European Union is an example of **supranationalism**: countries share some power.
sovereignty /ˈsɒvərɪnti/	The **sovereignty** of a state is its right to rule itself.
multinational state /ˌmʌltɪˈnæʃənl steɪt/	The UK is a **multinational state** with English, Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish people.
multistate nation /ˌmʌltɪˈsteɪt ˈneɪʃn/	The Koreans form a **multistate nation**, living in both North and South Korea. Koreans

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stateless nation /ˈsteɪtləs ˈneɪʃn/	The Kurds are a **stateless nation** with no country of their own. Kurds
autonomous region	Tibet is an **autonomous region** of China. Tibet China
territoriality /ˌterɪˌtɔːrɪˈælɪti/	**Territoriality** is the wish of people or states to control an area.
colonialism /ˈkɒləʊnɪəlɪzəm/	Under **colonialism**, European countries ruled large parts of Africa and Asia. Europe Africa Asia
imperialism /ɪmˈpɪərɪəlɪzəm/	**Imperialism** is one country ruling others.
neocolonialism /ˈniːəʊkɒləʊnɪəlɪzəm/	Under **neocolonialism**, rich countries still control poor ones through money and trade.
choke point	The Strait of Hormuz is a **choke point** for oil ships.
shatterbelt	Eastern Europe was a **shatterbelt** during the Cold War, pulled between rival powers.
antecedent boundary	An **antecedent boundary** was drawn before many people lived in the area.
subsequent boundary	A **subsequent boundary** is drawn after people have settled in an area.
consequent boundary	A **consequent boundary** follows a cultural line, such as a language or religion.
superimposed boundary	A **superimposed boundary** is forced on an area by an outside power.

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geometric boundary	A **geometric boundary** is a straight line, such as the border of Colorado.
relic boundary	The Berlin Wall is now a **relic boundary**: it no longer divides a country. Berlin
UN Convention on the Law of the Sea	The **UN Convention on the Law of the Sea** sets rules for ocean use.
territorial waters	A country controls its **territorial waters** up to 12 nautical miles from the coast. 12
exclusive economic zone (EEZ) /eksˈkluːsɪv ˌiːkəˈnɒmɪk zəʊn/	A country's **exclusive economic zone (EEZ)** reaches 200 nautical miles from its coast. 200
compact /kəmˈpækt/	Poland is a **compact** state: it is roughly round. Poland
elongated	Chile is an **elongated** state: long and thin. Chile
fragmented /frægˈmentɪd/	Indonesia is a **fragmented** state, made of thousands of islands. Indonesia
perforated	South Africa is a **perforated** state because Lesotho lies inside it.
prorupted	Thailand is a **prorupted** state: a long arm of land sticks out to the south. Thailand
landlocked	Mongolia is **landlocked**: it has no coast. Mongolia
reapportionment	After a census, **reapportionment** gives growing states more seats.
redistricting /ˌriːˈdɪstrɪktɪŋ/	**Redistricting** draws new borders for voting areas.

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gerrymandering /ˈdʒerɪmændərɪŋ/	**Gerrymandering** draws voting areas in a strange way to help one party win.
packing /ˈpækɪŋ/	**Packing** puts as many of one party's voters as possible into a single area.
cracking /ˈkrækɪŋ/	**Cracking** splits a party's voters across many districts so they lose everywhere.
unitary state /ˈjuːnɪtəri steɪt/	France is a **unitary state**, where the central government makes most decisions. France
federal state /ˈfedərəl steɪt/	The USA is a **federal state**, where power is shared between the national government and the states. USA
balkanisation /ˌbɔːlkənaɪˈzeɪʃn/	The break-up of Yugoslavia into smaller states is an example of **balkanisation**. Yugoslavia
ethnic separatism	**Ethnic separatism** is when one ethnic group wants its own country.
supranational organisations /ˌsuːprəˈnæʃənl ˌɔːgənaɪˈzeɪʃnz/	The EU and the UN are **supranational organisations**.
irredentism /ɪˌriːˈdentɪzəm/	**Irredentism** is a country's wish to take back land where its people live.
terrorism	**Terrorism** uses violence against ordinary people to frighten a government.

Word	Example
centrifugal forces /ˌsentrɪ'fju:gl 'fɔ:sɪz/	Religious conflict is one of the **centrifugal forces** that can pull a country apart.
centripetal forces /sen'trɪpɪtl 'fɔ:sɪz/	A shared language and flag are **centripetal forces** that bring a country together.

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