

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.

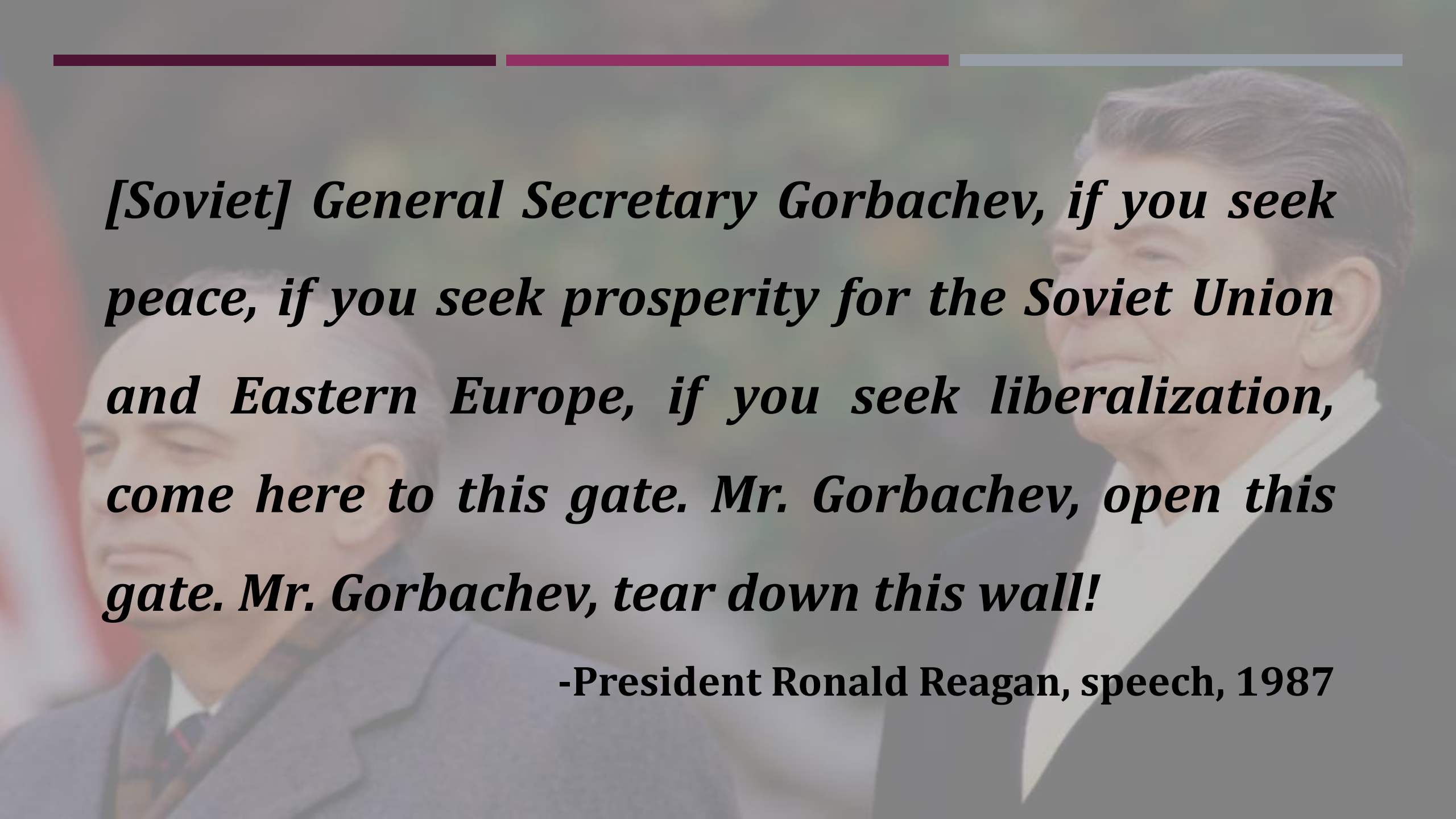


UNIT 4 – POLITICAL ORGANIZATION OF SPACE

CH 9: THE SHAPE OF THE POLITICAL MAP

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING (4.A)

By the end of this section, you will *understand* that **the contemporary political map has been shaped by events of the past.**



[Soviet] General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization, come here to this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!

-President Ronald Reagan, speech, 1987

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What social, historical, and economic factors have influenced modern political maps at various scales?



LEARNING OBJECTIVE (4.A.1.A)

By the end of this section, you will *be able to* **explain the structure of the contemporary political map.**

- a. Independent states are the primary building blocks of the world political map.
- b. Types of political entities include nations, states, nation-states, stateless nations, multinational states, multistate nations, and autonomous regions.

CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP

- Empires and kingdoms were common in most of the world for the past two thousand years.
- Global forces, wars, and changing ideas about political power, economics, and self-rule have reshaped the world map over the last 400 years.



CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP STRUCTURE

Independent States as Building Blocks

- Political units exist at various scales: town or city, county, state, a country, etc.
- Redefining **state**: the largest political unit – formal term for a country
- Must meet these four requirements
 - Defined boundary
 - Permanent population (Antarctica)
 - Maintains sovereignty (Puerto Rico)
 - Recognized by other states (Kosovo and Somaliland)

CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP STRUCTURE

- **Sovereignty** is the power of a political unit to rule over its own affairs.
- In order for a political unit to have legitimacy, it must have *sovereignty*.
- May be challenged on the local or global scale
 - China's claim that Taiwan is nothing more than a renegade province is a direct challenge to Taiwan's sovereignty.
 - Taiwan does not fully meet the third and fourth criteria.



LEARNING OBJECTIVE (4.A.1.B)

By the end of this section, you will *be able to* **explain the structure of the contemporary political map.**

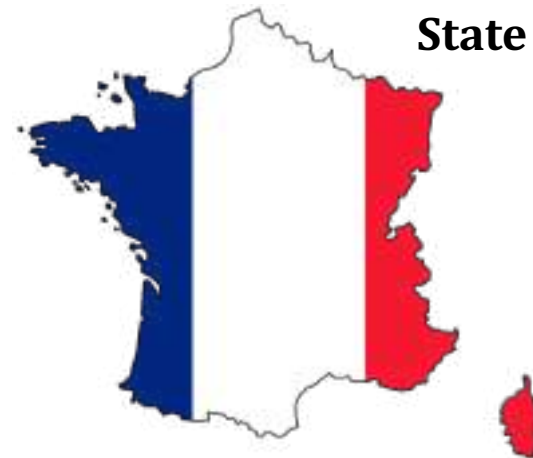
- a. Independent states are the primary building blocks of the world political map.
- b. Types of political entities include nations, states, nation-states, stateless nations, multinational states, multistate nations, and autonomous regions.

CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP STRUCTURE

- **Types of Political Entities**

- **Nation**

- A **group of people** that share a common cultural heritage
- Have beliefs and values that help unify them
- Claim a particular space based on tradition as their homeland
- Desire to establish their own state or express self-determination in another way
- So France is the **state** and the French are the **nation**.



CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP STRUCTURE

- **Types of Political Entities**

- **Nation-State**

- A singular nation of people who fulfill the qualifications of a state.



Iceland

- 94% of population is Icelandic.
- Scandinavian settlers founded Iceland on an island that had no indigenous population.

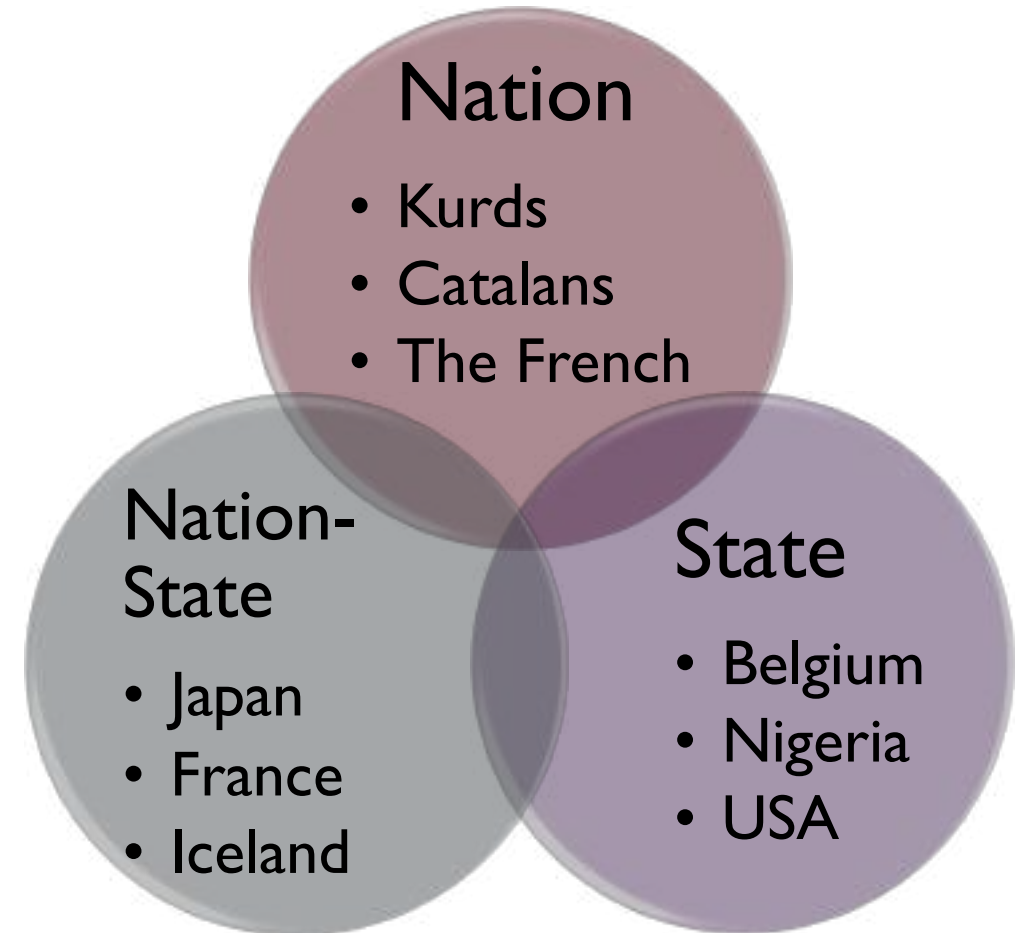
Japan

- 99% of population are Japanese.
- A strong national identity coupled with strict immigration policies have maintained Japan as a nation-state.



CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP STRUCTURE

- **Types of Political Entities**
 - Nation: the people
 - State: the country
 - Nation state: the country with almost all one nation.



CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP STRUCTURE

- **Types of Political Entities**
 - **Multinational States**
 - A country that contains more than one nation.
 - One dominant nation that controls most political power.
 - **Example: Canada**
 - English speakers dominate but 25% speak French
 - Most live in Quebec
 - To prevent Quebec from demanding independence, the national government passed laws giving Quebec local autonomy in government and education.
 - Nunavut: indigenous Inuit region of Canada

CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP STRUCTURE

- **Types of Political Entities**

- **Autonomous Region**

- A defined area within a state that has a high degree of self-government and freedom from its parent state.
 - Usually granted to geographically, ethnically, or culturally distinct areas.
 - Example: Åland (Aw-land) is a group of islands in the Baltic Sea; part of Finland but lies near Sweden; most residents are Swedish and speak that language. After WWI, Åland asked the League of Nations if they could join Sweden but they ruled that they would remain a non-militarized, largely self-governing entity that belongs to Finland.

CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP STRUCTURE



CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP STRUCTURE

- **Types of Political Entities**

- **Stateless Nation**

- Far more nations than states = many nations do not have a state of their own
 - Often have a political organization, however
 - A cultural group that has no independent political entity
 - Seeking to become independent
 - Palestinians (Gaza Strip and Occupied West Bank)
 - Basque (NE Spain and SW France in the Pyrenees mountains)
 - Kurds – largest stateless nation (Turkey, Armenia, Iraq, Iran, Azerbaijan, and Syria)

CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP STRUCTURE



CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP STRUCTURE



CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MAP STRUCTURE

- **Types of Political Entities**

- **Multistate Nation**

- Occurs when a nation of people has a state of its own but stretches across borders of other states.
 - Examples
 - Most Hungarians live in Hungary but many live in the Transylvania region of Romania
 - The Korean nation is divided mostly between North and South Korea but there is a large number in China and the United States