

AP Human Geography Curriculum

Unit Name	Unit IV Political Organization of Space
Short Descriptive Overview	Students learn about the nature and significance of the political organization of territory. Patterns reflect ideas of territoriality which in turn affect a wide range of exercises of power and boundaries. Two major themes are the political geography of the modern state and relationships between states. Students are introduced to the different forces that shaped the evolution of the modern world: the influence of colonization and imperialism, the rise of supranational organizations and the impact of globalization. Students learn about the inconsistencies between maps of political boundaries and the patterns of ethnic and environmental patterns. Students analyze forces that are changing the role of the modern world, such as ethnic separatism, terrorism, economic globalization, and social movements. Problems that cross international boundaries. Students also focus on the subnational political units.
Generalizations/ Enduring Understandings	Students will understand that the contemporary political map has been shaped by ever-changing political patterns reflect ideas of territoriality and power at a variety of scales; that forces of globalization shape contemporary political-territorial arrangements
Learning Objectives	Students are able to explain the structure of the contemporary political map; explain the evolution of the contemporary political map; evaluate the geopolitical forces that influence the contemporary political map; the concepts of political power and territoriality; evaluate the nature and function of international boundaries; analyze the spatial relationships between political systems and patterns of globalization; compare and contrast forms of governance; describe patterns of local and metropolitan political systems; the political, economic, cultural and technological elements of globalization challenge state sovereignty; concepts of centrifugal and centripetal forces at the national scale; evaluate the nature and function of international and internal boundaries; analyze the spatial relationships between political systems and patterns of globalization; economy; compare and contrast forms of governance; describe patterns of local and metropolitan political systems
Learning Progressions	Students will know that independent states are the primary building blocks of the world; political entities include nations, states, nation-states, stateless nations, multistate nations, and regions; the concept of the modern nation-state began in Europe; colonization and imperialism influenced contemporary political boundaries; independence movements shaped the political map since post WWII; the fall of Communism ended the Cold War, created new independent states, and changed the world balance of power; political geography is expressed in the control over people, land, and resources; territoriality is the connection of people, culture, and the land; some forces that lead to supranationalism include economies of scale, trade agreements, alliances, and transnational environmental challenges; supranationalism is expressed in international organizations; some forces that may lead to devolution of states include political separatism, terrorism, economic and social problems, and irredentism; devolution is expressed in the division of states into autonomous regions, subnational political-territorial units, or Balkanization; communication technology have facilitated devolution, supranationalism, and democracy; devolution can originate in political dimensions, economic dimensions, or cultural dimensions; boundaries are delimited, demarcated, and administered; international boundaries establish the limits of state power; source of disputes; boundaries can influence identity and promote or prevent international trade and exchanges; the Law of the Sea has enabled states to extend their boundaries offshore; boundaries are a source of conflicts; voting districts, redistricting, and gerrymandering influence the results of elections; political boundaries do not always coincide with patterns of language, religion, ethnicity, and culture; forms of governance include unitary states and federal states; powers of the subdivisions

	to the form of governance; state morphology has economic, political, and social implications. Subnational forms of governance are subnational political units that have varying degrees of local control.
Formative Assessment (FOR learning)	Unit IV PowerPoint Quizzes Sessions 1-7 Regional Map Quizzes
Summative Assessment	Chapter 8 Test Unit IV Vocabulary Test
Resources	<p>Case Study-Political Country Study</p> <p>HUGO Notebook</p> <p>Guns, Germs & Steel-Africa</p> <p>Research information regarding your country using both reference texts, as well as current news sources.</p> <p>Part I.</p> <p>National Political Structure (official country name, government type, independence, core values, citizenship, suffrage, executive branch (chief of state, head of government, cabinet, etc.), legislative branch, judicial branch, political parties and leaders (top five), political special interest groups), international organization participation, diplomatic representation to the U. S.</p> <p>Part II.</p> <p>Research three current (January 2015-present) political issues. These issues must be different, although there may be <u>some</u> overlap. Summarize each issue. You must find these articles in newspapers, and/or periodicals. No blogs.</p> <p>Part III</p> <p>Bibliography</p>