Relationship between cartography and the birth Nation-State

A nation-state is defined by its territory. A state that has no territory is not a nation-state, as defined by the international law. The essence of the state is the territory.

History of Nation-State:

Empires/city-states/alliances of cities (many forms of political rule prior nation-state).

Since the 16th century, there is a growing rift between the Protestants and Catholics, leading to a divorce between Protestants and Catholic church. (There were also tensions between Catholics and Protestants rulers = wars of religion -> doesn’t allow coexistence.) Making Europe a cauldron of conflicts in the 16th century.

Treaties of Westphalia (17th century) – Before this, the concept of rules was based on persons. (You owe your allegiance to the king/lord/church etc| system of feudal protection.) Multi-layer system of rule. Treaties of Westphalia took 10 years to negotiate all and established the principle rule of the territory – the one whose region it is, it is his religion “Cuius Regio, Eius Religio”. Stop trying to expand. It automatically meant the loss of authority of the church, the only thing it rules now are the souls (because the prince rules).

“The invention of the nation-state seems to make peace. The invention of the territory is best to make war.” – Charles Tilly (more and worse wars). The medieval kings could tax the people on an ad hoc basis (either for war or when their children were getting married). Charles Tilly said that the nation-state was a very good solution to the problem of getting regular resources for war (money and humans). Before the invention of the nation-state, soldiers are paid.

When nation-state was invented, nationalism was also invented to motivate people to go to war. Nationalism is the unquestioned allegiance to the country where the greatest sacrifice is the sacrifice. How to create nationalism:

1. Have some emblems (flags etc)

2. Create **a common history** and the idea of a territory, create one people spatially.

3. Ritualization of the power (singing the anthem etc)

The concept of the nation state needs to utilise its past to lead to the present, when in fact that there was no teleological process of history. A nation-state is not a descendant of an ancient regime because of the lack of teleological process and the ancient regime creates myth about its longevity.

An empire was less powerful than a nation-state, where in the empire, it is from the centre to the periphery, radiates outwards. The further out you go, the less influence they have, which was why borders did not matter.

Hadrian’s wall (Hadrian was the last ancient roman emperor) – it was a military outpost, also a symbolic projection of power. Every empire thinks of itself as an all-encompassing empire, hegemonic.

The nation-state states that the entire territorial space is treated the same (looks inwards). Mutual exclusion of territory and mutual recognition.

Territory is closely aligned with the concept of sovereignty. Sovereignty is the rule over a specific space. Sovereignty is “The ultimate power to make the laws but not obey the laws” – Bodin.

State sovereignty will inherit all the characteristics of the individual – social contract.