

# Political Globalization

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# Political Globalization

- The growing inter-connection between countries and international organizations.
  - *Free trade, UN, NATO etc.*





# Examples Of Political Globalization

- UNITED NATIONS (UN)
- INTERNATIONAL MONERTARY FUND (IMF)
- WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)
- EUROPEAN UNION (EU)



## Three problems of **GLOBALIZATION:**

### ***Sovereignty***

challenges to the  
idea of the nation-state

### ***Accountability***

transnational forces &  
organizations:  
who controls them?

### ***Identity***

who are we?  
Nation, group, community.




# THE NATIONAL IDEA

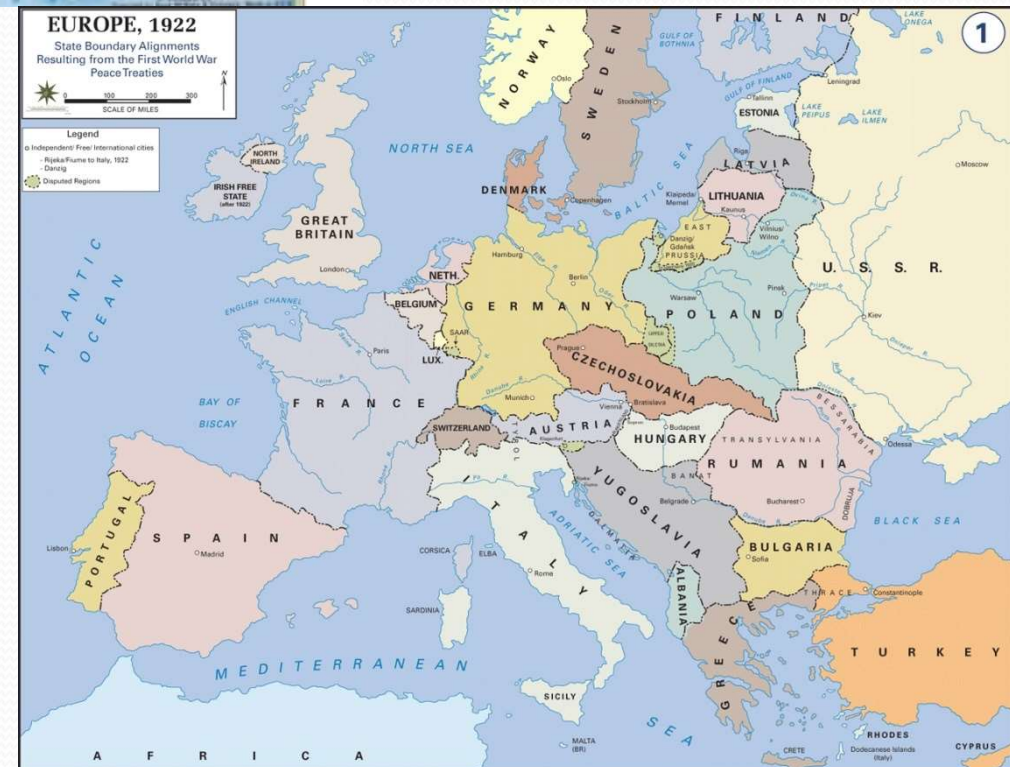


**The idea Of the Nation:** The belief that some group of people share a unique and common culture, history and territory and deserve to govern themselves independently.



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- ❖ At the beginning of the 20th century, much of world's population still lived in empires, governed by foreigners.
  - ❖ Nationalist wave erased " Many Empires. "
  - ❖ WW1 was the end of unification.









**Anticolonial Nationalism:** The First stage in this triumph of the nation lay in the dissolution of those empires, which had for centuries governed much of humankind.

- This process, brought to an end powerful Austrian-Hungarian Empire, Ottoman And Russian Empires after WW1
- German and Japanese empires during WW2
- Decolonization in the 20th century: 130 colonies became independent nation-states.





**Nationalism and communism:** 20th century nationalism revealed its power not only in the end of old empires but also in cofounding some of the fondest hopes of the communist movement.

- ❖ Soviet policies in fact inadvertently promoted national or ethnic consciousness by encouraging the use of native languages in schools and newspapers, by creating ethnically based "republics" within the soviet union, and by fostering Russian migration into non-Russian areas.
- ❖ But defining the soviet union as a Russian project provoked a defensive nationalism among various non Russian peoples.
- ❖ When Gorbachev's reforms allowed this to be expressed, the Soviet Union dissolved.

- Elsewhere in the communist world, nationalism also found expression.



Hungary 1956




1968  
Czechoslovakia



1981 Poland



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- Other Political alternatives to territorial nationalism also failed.
  - Efforts to bring Egypt and Syria together in United Arab Republic lasted only three years(1958-1961).
  - The territorially divided nation of Pakistan, founded in 1947 expressly as a Muslim State, broke apart 25 years later when East Pakistan became Bangladesh.

- It was in Europe, tempered by the horrific excesses of nationalism in the early 20th century, that efforts toward economic and political integration gained the most ground with the formation of European Union, European parliament, and a European currency.







## **Challenges to the national idea: Globalization**

- ❖ During the 20th century, nation states were also undermined, eroded and challenged.
- ❖ One such challenge derived from the multiple processes of Economic globalization.
- ❖ In history nation states managed economic affairs.
- ❖ Why?
  - Control of Military Strength
  - Control of natural resources and colonies
  - And Most importantly Political independence
- ❖ All of these aspects are of diminishing importance in a global economy.



## **Ethnic Seperatism:**

- If globalization posed a challenge to the nation from outside, seperatist movements that were seeking autonomy or independence did it from inside.
- Seperatism resulted in the dismemberment of a number of nation-states in the second half of the 20th century:
- India, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and of the course the Soviet union, which dissolved into 15 separate states in 1991



## Challenges to the National idea: **WORLD GOVERNMENT**




- Another challenge to the idea of nation-states with complete sovereignty lay in efforts to construct some form of global government able to maintain world peace and contain the excesses of nationalism.
- Growing out of the devastation of the WW1, the League of Nations(1919-1940) was the first such attempt
- A more sustained effort in the form of the United Nations arose in 1945, supported by the victorious powers in that war.

## THE DEMOCRATIC IDEA





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- Democracy, was an opportunity for ordinary people to shape their lives through a peaceful political process of selecting their own leaders and debating alternatives.
  - Based on the novel idea of;
    - ✓ The equality of citizens
    - ✓ Their freedom to speak
    - ✓ Write and Organize





## MODERN DEMOCRACY

What Modern Democracy Requires?


- There must be a **Constitution**
- There must be **equality** before the law
- There must be **individual rights** and **liberties**
- There must be **human rights** and there must be the **rule of law** to enforce those rights and liberties
- The government must be **transparent** and **accountable**.




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- ❖ The progress of democracy by the early 20th century persuaded many that democracy was the wave of the future.
  - ❖ But the 1920's, 1930's and 1940's Europe witnessed a sharp contraction of democracy.
  - ❖ In Italy, Germany, Spain and much of eastern Europe, fascist or Right-wing movements came to power.


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- ❖ Defeat of the axis powers provided an opening for a further wave of democratization following WW2.
  - ❖ After WW2, Prestige of Democracy pushed Turkey, Greece and much of Latin America to democratization path.
  - ❖ Also, Most of the colonies becoming independent after WW2 dozens of them in Africa



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- ❖ By the 1960's and 70's much of democratic progress lay in tatters.
  - ❖ Military takeovers in Turkey, Greece, South Korea and many Latin American and African countries ended modest democratic experiments.
  - ❖ In many places, democracy was discredited by its association with economic failure or with corruption and ethnic conflict.

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- Some intellectuals and political leaders in Asia and Africa argued that democracy was a Western import and a legacy of colonialism, unsuited for the needs of their developing societies.
  - The abandonment of democracy in much of the Third World led in many places to political systems even more repressive than colonial rule.





**The question arises whether or not political globalization signifies the decline of the nation-state.**