Forming Borders
Defining Borders

- **Boundaries** - Limit the jurisdiction and authority of one entity in favor of another
  - Limits defense, laws, rights, services, taxation

- **Political Borders** – Represent the spatial limits of a political organization
  - Boundary Demarcation
    - The clear marking of boundaries by the building of walls, signs, etc...
  - Often cause conflict between states
  - Can also serve as clear cultural dividing points
Delimited Borders

• The process of creating borders on a map that do not necessarily have any representation on the landscape itself
Demarcation of Borders

• The impression of political borders on the landscape
  • i.e. actually marking a border’s location
Scales of Borders

• Supra-National Scale – Organizations that transcend the boundaries of multiple countries
  • Example: The United Nations

• State Scale – The political division of the Earth’s surface among different countries
  • Example: Countries

• Intra-State Scale – Further division of a state into smaller entities
  • Example: Provinces of Canada
Importance of Clear Borders

• Centripetal Forces
  • States with clearly defined borders promotes unity and cultural cohesion

• Centrifugal Forces
  • The more boundaries and nationalities possessed by a state the higher the likelihood of conflict
    • Separatist movements
    • Regionalism
    • External threats
Types of Borders

• Physical Boundaries
  • Utilize natural landforms to create separations
    • Rives, lakes, mountains, etc...
Types of Borders

• Geometric Borders
  • Straight lines that create separation and are unrelated to landforms or culture
Types of Border

• Ethnic Borders
  • Borders that attempt to reflect the cultural differences of the people living in a particular area
    • Often leave to ethnic enclaves and exclaves

• Religious/Language Borders
  • Boundaries that divide different religious groups or language families
Case Study: Africa

Murdock Ethnic Map (1959)
Enclaves and Exclaves

Enclaves

• Territories completely surrounded by another country but are culturally/ethnically different

Exclaves

• Regions that are geographically separated from the rest of the country but not wholly surrounded by one state
Case Study Baarle-Hertog & Baarle-Nassau
Subsequent vs Antecedent Boundary

**Antecedent Boundary**

- A boundary that already existed before the present settlement in that area occurred. The cultural landscape emerged and stayed in place while people moved in to occupy the surrounding area.
Note* Really only works in reference to establishment of states over the lands already inhabited by Native Americans.
Subsequent Boundary

- A boundary that is established after the settlement with an attempt to accommodate cultural differences. It developed with the evolution of the cultural landscape and is adjusted as the cultural landscape changes.
Case Study: Kashmir
Case Study: The United States
Relict Boundaries

- A political boundary that has ceased to function but the imprint of which can still be detected on the cultural landscape
  - Ex. Berlin
Case Study: The Schengen Area
Superimposed Boundary

• A political boundary placed by powerful outsiders on a developed human landscape
  • Often with little regard for considerations of people living there
  • Source of MANY border conflicts
Fortified Boundaries

- The creation of walls/barriers to either prevent foreigners from getting in, or its citizens from getting out
  - Usually fairly ineffective against determined efforts
  - Symbolic demarcation
Case Study: Northern Ireland Peace Wall
Case Study: West Bank Barrier
Maritime Boundaries

- Division of different claims to the oceans around the shores of the country
  - Generally accepted to be 200 miles
  - Water equally divided among countries located close to each other