

A GEOPOLITICAL BOUNDRIES: ANCIENT, MODERN AND POST MODERN

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Abstract: Boundaries in geopolitics are lines that separate territorial entities like places or governments. Boundaries are made, protected, and maintained by individuals and groups as they develop territory. For example, states must have borders to justify their authority over their people. To put it another way, a boundary acknowledges the geographic scope of sovereignty. This covers which individuals are subject to state control and which resources they have access to. Things like fences, flags, ground posts, and gates draw attention to boundaries. Demarcations can occasionally be connected to the actual physical geography of the landscape. Mountains, rivers, and lakes are examples of physical barriers that are widely employed, but each has its own challenges.

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Introduction

A boundary is the strip of territory that, on a map, divides units of government like states and countries. Political boundaries help communities to organize, define territorial sovereignty, and avert land-related political conflicts. Specifically, territorial waters and land territory in connection to diplomatic history are the centre of geopolitics, which is concerned with political power related to geographic space. By establishing, protecting, and maintaining boundaries, individuals and organisations define their territory. For instance, states need borders to justify their authority over their people. The process of building a country includes the creation of political boundaries. It entails grouping individuals into separate organizational units. Some nations' borders are set randomly, while others are determined by nature. While some nations place few or no restrictions on travel to or from a neighbor, others have erected walls to secure their boundaries. A nation's approach to its borders is greatly influenced by geopolitics. These can sometimes be aligned with a natural geographic feature, such as a river, to create a border or barrier between countries.

Political borders can be described in several ways, including antecedent, consequent, cultural, defined, delimited, and demarcated.

Geo-Political Boundaries

Consequent Boundaries

A consequent boundary is a line drawn to divide two opposing or quarrelling ethnic groups. On the island of Ireland, the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland was drawn as a result of disputes between the predominantly Protestant north and the predominantly Catholic south. Israel's and Palestine's border is another instance of a consequent line. This line was made in 1949 to divide the predominantly Jewish nation of Israel from its predominantly Muslim neighbours. Since neither Israel nor Palestine can concur on where the border should be drawn, there has been a dispute over their borders for many years.

Antecedent Boundaries

Antecedent boundaries are political boundaries which established by earlier agreements or treaties between two or more states or nations before the respective states or countries had a significant population on the territory. An example of an antecedent boundary would be the border between the United States and Canada. This boundary was established in the Treaty of Paris in 1814 after the American War of Independence (Carroll, 2021, pp. 61-63).

As the two modern nations started to populate their areas of land, the boundary helped to ensure there were few disputes and encouraged peaceful relations between the two developing nations.

Subsequent/Ethnographic Boundaries

A boundary made after two tribes or communities have settled there is known as an ethnographic boundary or a subsequent boundary. It stands in contrast to an antecedent boundary, which was built up before settlement. They are frequently created to guarantee that ethnic communities have their own independent territory. It is frequently used to divide people into different groups according to their ethnicity or cultural heritage. Because subsequent boundaries are always constructed as a result of conflict, they differ from consequent boundaries. A future boundary, on the other hand, might be formed as a result of diplomatic negotiations or hostilities. The phrase is mostly used to denote the opposite of antecedent limits in a binary sense.

Superimposed Boundaries

Boundaries that are drawn without the approval or consultation of locals are referred to as superimposed boundaries. They can be used to redraw existing or draw new political or administrative boundaries. Superimposed boundaries can be particularly contentious since they frequently lead to conflicts between parties that each claim ownership of a portion of the same piece of property. The colonisers' partitioning of the Middle East and Africa is one instance of overlaid boundaries. These frequently resulted in the division of cultural groupings along arbitrary borders.

Natural Boundaries

An area of land that divides two or more governmental entities, such as states, countries, or provinces, is referred to as a natural boundary. It is comparable to a demarcated border in this regard, but

it is always determined by a natural rather than artificial structure. For instance, the Rocky Mountains divide Colorado and Wyoming, two states in the United States, naturally. Another illustration is the English Channel, which separates France and the United Kingdom. Natural borders can be significant for a variety of reasons. For instance, they can stop one country or province from plundering another's province's important resources, such as its oil and gas reserves.

Cultural Boundaries

A cultural boundary is a line separating two or more distinct cultures. The border between the United States and Mexico is an illustration of a societal divide.

The border between the United States and Mexico is a physical line that divides two very distinct societies because the two countries have very different cultures. (Pavlovich-Kochi, & Morehouse, 2017). Crossing cultural barriers can be challenging. For instance, foreign nationals who wish to reside in the United States are required to acquire English, the country's official tongue. This is challenging for many immigrants, and the border between the US and Mexico is frequently seen as a barrier that reduces their possibilities.

Defined Boundaries

A political boundary that has been clearly established by law or treaty. It could be a permanent or temporary line, but a legal document will always describe it precisely. The U.S. border with Mexico is an illustration of a clearly delineated political boundary. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo explicitly defines the boundary, and it has been upheld ever since. The border between North and South Korea, which was established to stop hostilities during the Korean Civil War, is another illustration of clearly defined political boundaries. Both sides are cognizant of the circumstances on either side of each of these boundaries, which are each clearly defined.

Delimited Boundaries

Geographic boundaries that are marked on a chart are known as delimited boundaries. It differs from a demarcated boundary in that it might only be evident on maps rather than the actual landscape. When comprehending delimited boundaries, the only important thing to keep in mind is that they are ones that are clearly visible as having been drawn on an official map. The border between the United States and Canada serves as an illustration of a delineated barrier. The boundary between the two nations is precisely marked along the 49th Parallel.

Demarcated Boundaries:

On a landscape, a demarcated border is clearly visible. As you get closer, you'll see it. A group of stones, a waterway cutting through a scene, or the summit of a mountain could serve as the demarcation. Alternatively, it might be more complicated to block entry, such as a wire fence, military checkpoint, or even a line of landmines. The US-Mexico border is an illustration of a defined boundary. Although there are tangible barriers, such as the US-Mexico fence (also known as Trump's wall!), that prevent people from crossing the border, it is a conceptual line that divides the United States from Mexico. For a variety of factors, clearly defined boundaries can be crucial. For instance, they can assist in

defending individuals and assets on one side of the border from harm or theft on the other. In order for various groups of people to live in peace and harmony, they can also assist in making sure that they each have their own designated areas. Economic considerations may also make clearly defined boundaries essential. For instance, they can ensure that a nation safeguards crucial resources, such as oil or fishing areas.

Economic Boundaries

A boundary between industrial regions is referred to as an economic boundary. People living "on the other side of the tracks" is a common idiom to describe this. This adage refers to the notion that towns are divided into rich and poor areas depending on which side of the railway lines you reside. Similar to this, the division between the two halves of Berlin during the Cold War could be seen as both a demarcated and an economic border because the west was prosperous while the east was torn apart by communism. East Berlin continues to be fiscally poorer. Historically, social classes within a community were divided along economic lines, with members of lower castes being relegated to less desirable neighbourhoods.

Geometric Boundaries

A border that is determined by a particular geometric shape is called a geometric boundary. Straight line boundaries are an illustration of a geometric border.

Geometric boundaries can be crucial for determining political boundaries for a variety of reasons, including the following: First geometric limits are simple to recall and comprehend. Second, it is simple to map geometric limits onto actual maps. Third, various kinds of boundaries, including political, economic, and territorial ones, can be defined using geometric boundaries.

A good illustration of a geometric boundary is the border between Canada and the United States. Two nations are divided by a straight line. Geographical and societal considerations should be taken into account when drawing boundaries, but geometric boundaries are frequently criticised for doing so. The post-World War II geometric borders, for instance, may have looked good on a chart but left no room for the ethnic Kurds to have their own country.

Militarized Boundaries

Boundaries that are strongly defended by military forces are known as militarised boundaries. They are frequently employed to defend nations from invasion or to regulate the flow of people and products. The frontier between North and South Korea is an illustration of a militarised border. This line was drawn during the Korean War (1950–1953), and the U.S. military is still in charge of maintaining it. The borders between nations, such as Syria and Turkey, are militarised as well. These nations' governments have dispatched their armed forces to patrol the boundary and stop intruders from going from one side to the other.

Open Boundaries

Political boundaries which don't have walls or other barriers are known as open boundaries. Typically unmarked, they can be challenging to spot. When two nations share a long, open border, open boundaries are employed. One such open boundary is the one separating the United States from Canada.

Between the two nations, there are no walls or other obstructions, and the border is clearly marked. When two nations have a close relationship and wish to prevent any potential conflict or friction between them, this form of barrier is frequently adopted.

Relic Boundaries

A relic boundary is a type of political boundary that is no longer used but is still visible on the landscape as a cultural artifact. The line between East and West Berlin prior to the fall of the Berlin Wall serves as an illustration of a relic border. Although the boundary is no longer utilised to control movement of people or commodities, the government nevertheless recognises it as the precise line separating the two areas of the city. Another illustration is Hadrian's Wall, which served as a boundary between the Roman Empire and the British Isles. Between AD122 until around AD410, when Roman sovereignty over Britain was abandoned, it was intermittently occupied.

Conclusion

The lines that divide nations, states, and other political enclaves are known as political borders. They may be man-made characteristics, like highways or borders, or they may be natural features, like rivers or mountains. They are the cornerstones of world politics, albeit they can occasionally be altered through conflict or negotiation. Along with ensuring that diverse groups of people can coexist peacefully, political boundaries also aid in defining and defending the rights of various groups of people. They play a significant role in society and play a crucial role in defending human rights.

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