

Devolution

Devolution –

Movement of power from the central government to regional governments within the state.

What causes devolutionary movements?

Ethnocultural forces

Economic forces

Spatial forces

The Forces of Devolution

- After USSR collapse in 1991, optimism-a New World Order?
- **Supranationalism**, no more costly arms race & negotiation replacing confrontation??
- Yet despite optimism-powerful self-interests contribute to **centrifugal** (divisive) forces.
- **Geopolitics**-the study of political science within a geographic framework



The Forces of Devolution

- Since 1990 about 26 new states created.
- Ironically with EU & adoption of *euro* greater centrifugal forces in Europe.
- London's decision to join EU encouraged Scottish nationalism.
- 1990s Scottish National Party encouraged devolution.
- 1997 Labour Party gave Scots & Welsh chance to vote-both voted to have their own parliaments



Ethnocultural Devolutionary Movements

Scotland

rise in independence movement is coupled with:

- European Union
- Scotland's oil resources



The Forces of Devolution-Cultural Forces

- Most of the world's 200 states have multicultural populations.
- **Spain-Basque & Catalonia** in 1979 signed autonomy agreements
 - Have their own parliaments
 - Languages have official status
 - Control over education
 - Power of taxation
- But **Basque** separatist were not satisfied-continued bombing & terror attacks



The Forces of Devolution-Cultural Forces

- **Quebec** and Parti Quebecois in Canada
- **Belgium**-Flemish (Dutch) in north, Walloons (French) in south
- **Czechoslovakia** split in Jan. 1993 in the “Velvet Divorce”
- **Sudan**-Muslim north & Christian south
- **Sri Lanka**-Tamils, a Hindu minority fight for independence from the Sinhalese a Buddhist majority



The Forces of Devolution-Cultural Forces

Greatest tragedy was Yugoslavia which erupted in Civil War in the 1990s

- Thrown together after WW I with Serbia as the core of “The Land of the South Slavs”
- 7 major, 17 minor ethnic groups, 3 religions & 2 alphabets
- North-Croats & Slovenes-Catholic
- South-Serbs are Orthodox, Muslim enclaves
- Rule by royal house of Serbia, during WWII German occupation the Croats supported the Nazis, Serbs fought as anti-Nazi partisans.
- **Josip Broz Tito** emerged as a communist leader after WWII-nationalism suppressed under his iron fist.

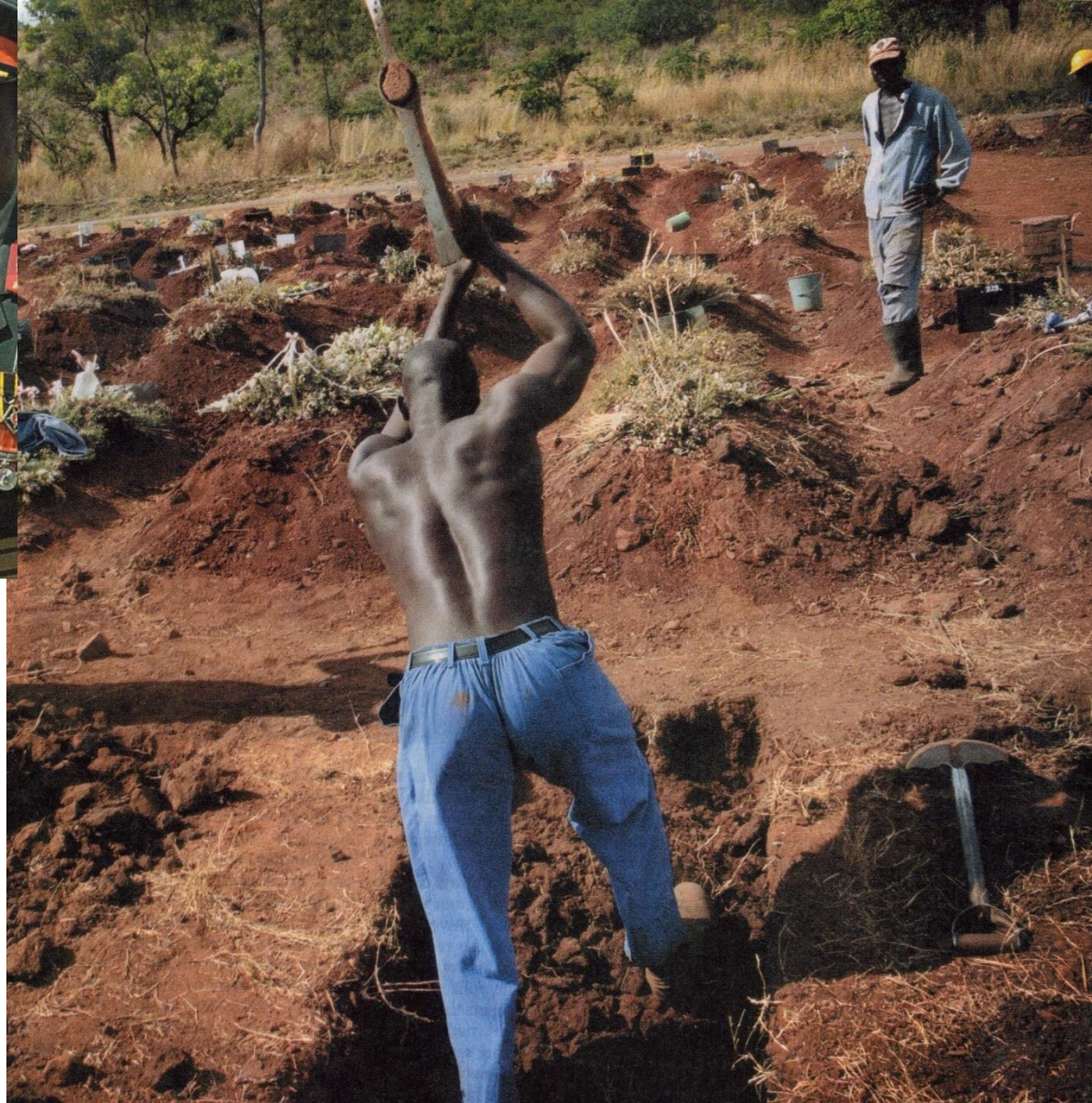
The Forces of Devolution-Cultural Forces

- After the death of **Tito** & later the collapse of communism-ethnic conflict of Croat versus Serb and everyone versus Muslims emerged again.
- Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia-Montenegro & Macedonia became independent.
- **Bosnia**-no clear majority, Dayton Accords partitioned Bosnia & ended the civil war- Muslims 44%, Serbs 32% & Croatians 17%





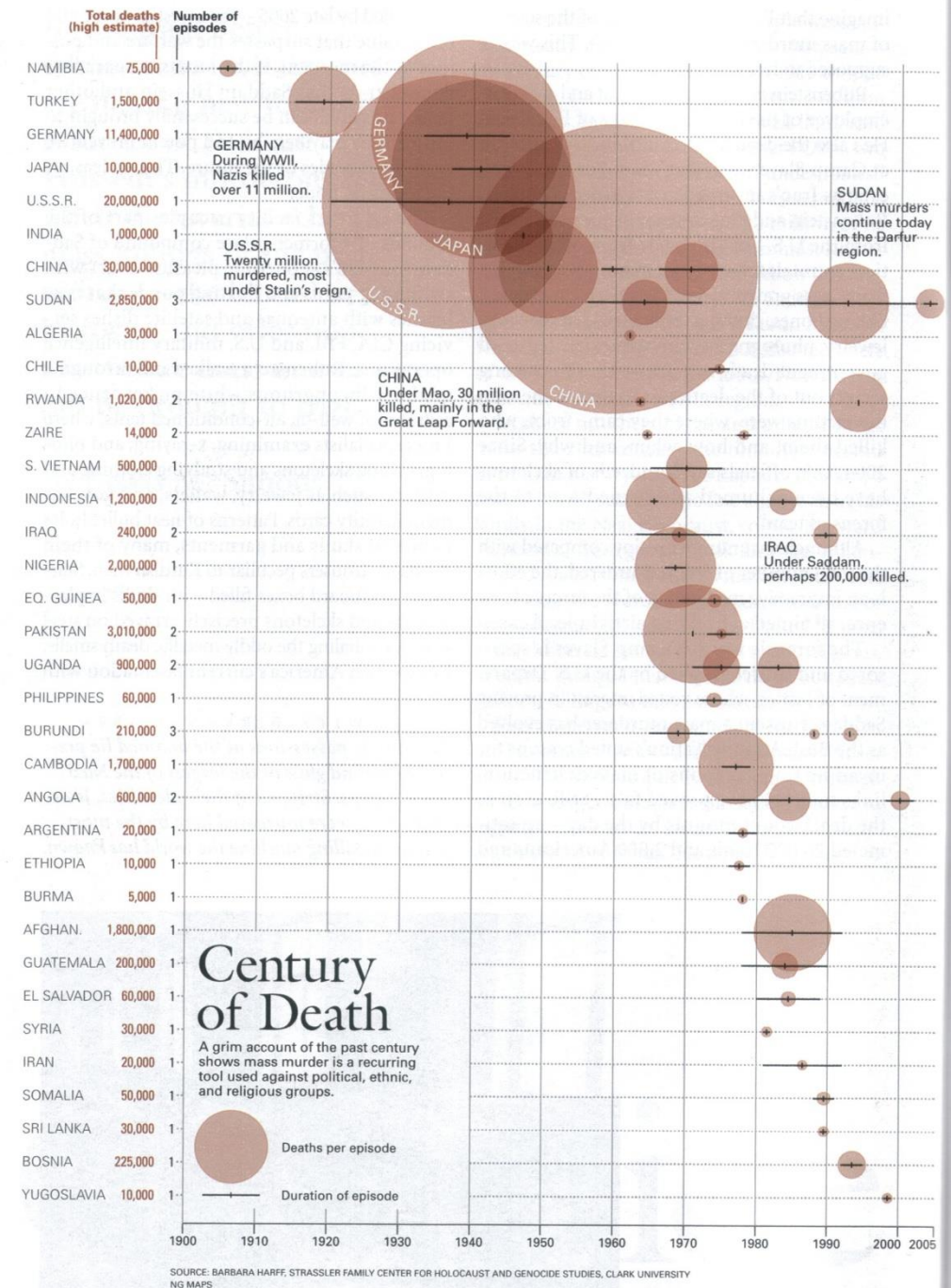
- Robert Mugabe's dictatorship forced thousands of white farmers to flee Zimbabwe.



Zimbabwe

Genocide

- **Genos**, greek for tribe or family, **-cide** from Latin to kill.
- Last 100 years over 50 million people were murdered due to race, ethnicity, religion or political persuasion.
 - Mao Zedong-30 m. Chinese
 - Stalin-20 m. Soviets
 - Nazis-11.4 m. Jews, Slavs, etc.
 - Japan 10 m. Chinese, etc.



Ethnocultural Devolutionary Movements

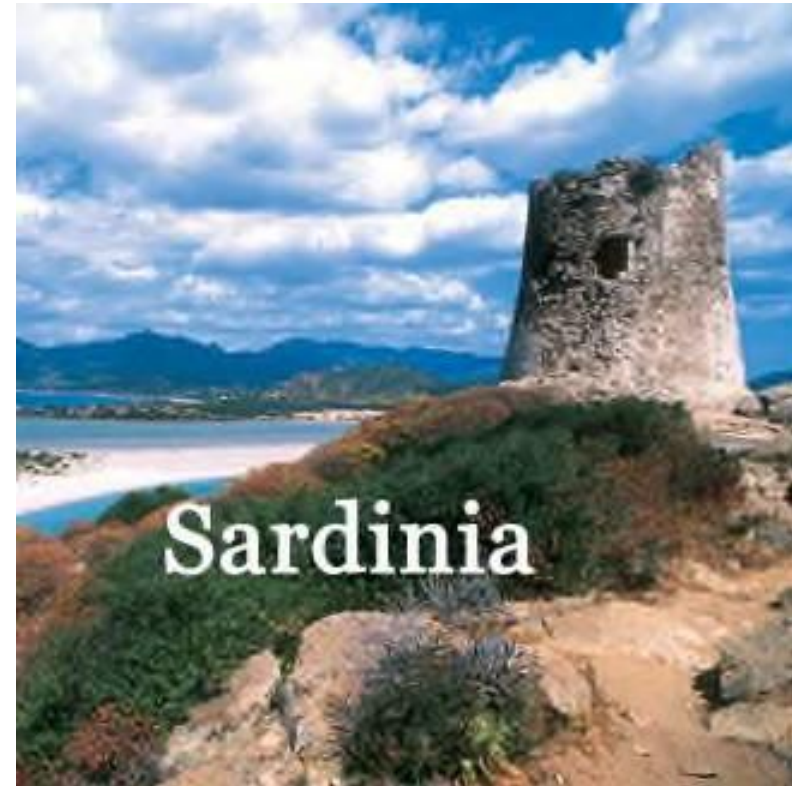
Eastern Europe

devolutionary forces since the fall of communism



The Forces of Devolution-Economic Forces

- **Catalonians** in Spain site reasons for economic independence-6% of territory, yet have 25% of exports & 40% of industrial exports.
- **Italy-*Mezzogiorno*** (region of the south is poor & agrarian) Sardinia feels neglected and there is a growing disparity between the industrial North & agricultural South
- Italy has moved to a federal system due to pressure by the north.



Economic Devolutionary Movements

Catalonia, Spain

Barcelona is the center of banking and commerce in Spain and the region is much wealthier than the rest of Spain.



The Forces of Devolution-Economic Forces

- **France-Corsica**, a small minority of the islands 25,000 demand autonomy. It was taken from Genoese, Italy in 1768. Bomb attacks (600) in 1996 caused tourism to drop.
- **Brazil-1990s** the 3 southern states: Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Parana claimed the govt. misspent money in Amazon-had a leader, created flag, and demanded independence for the Republic of the Pampas.



The Forces of Devolution-Spatial Forces

- Spatial factors-remote frontiers, isolated villages, rugged topography or repeated historic invasions contribute to devolution
- Many islands such as Corsica, Sardinia, Taiwan, Singapore, Zanzibar, Jolo (Philippines) and Puerto Rico have demanded independence.
- **Hawaii**-indigenous population demand autonomy; **Puerto Rico** small, but vocal independence movement; **Cascadia**-Washington, Oregon & British Columbia.



Spatial Devolutionary Movements

Honolulu, Hawai'i

A history apart from the United States, and a desire to live apart in order to keep traditions alive.



Devolution of the Soviet Union

- 50 years a Bi-Polar World of Cold War arms race & danger of nuclear war.
- In 1980s centrifugal forces increased-multiculturalism, multi-nationalism, economic troubles
- Gorbachev loosened the Soviet grip on Eastern Europe & at home introduced perestroika (restructuring) & glasnost (openness)
- Fall of 1989 the Iron Curtain collapsed, the Berlin Wall was opened.



The Devolution of the Soviet Union

- Failed coup attempt in August 1991 led to the collapse of communism & dissolution of the USSR on Dec. 25, 1991.
- Commonwealth of Independent States created, Baltic States & Georgia stayed out & became completely independent.
- Muslim Azerbaijan & Christian Armenia had armed conflict.
- Georgia had a civil war, Abkhazia in Northwest declared independence
- Near Abroad-what the Russians called the 25 million Russians who live in the former Soviet Republics.

Irredentism

- Type of expansionism and is often the consequences of superimposed boundaries.
- Territorial disputes over the ownership of a region often arise when a boundary that has been superimposed on the landscape divides an ethnically homogeneous population.
- Each of the two states then has some justification for claiming the territory inhabited by the ethnic group in question.

Supranationalism

Pair-Share: What do you know about the European Union?

Supranational Organizations

A separate entity composed of three or more states that forge an association and form an administrative structure for mutual benefit in pursuit of shared goals.

Many supranational organizations

exist in the world today:

U.N.

N.A.T.O.

European Union

S.E.A.T.O.

COMECON

Warsaw Pact

How does Supranationalism affect the State?



identities

economics



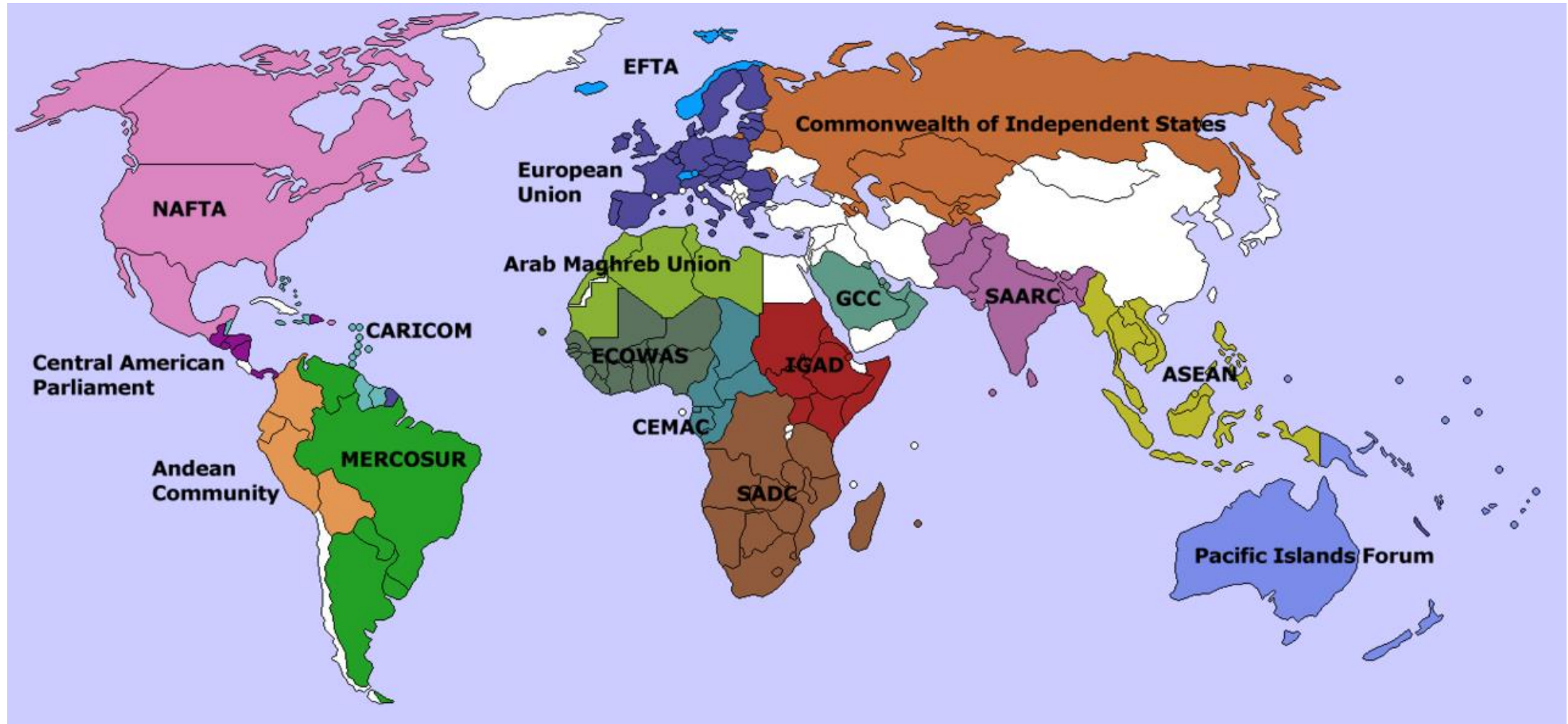
Regional Scale – The European Union



Economic Supranational-Examples: Benelux, Common Market, European Community, European Union, NAFTA (North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement), Association of Caribbean States, APEC (Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation), Economic Community of African States, OPEC(Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries)

Military Alliances- NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), SEATO (Southeast Asia Treaty Organization), ANZUS (Australia, New Zealand, and United States Treaty)

Cultural Organization and Political Unions-The Arab League, Organization of African Unity, The French Community, African States, OPEC(Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries)



Make a T-Chart in your notes

EU Pros

EU Cons

