**AP Human Geography Unit 4: Political Geography Mr. Stepek**

**Question 1:**

1. **DESCRIBE supranationalism using an example OTHER than the EU.**

A supranational organization is any organization of three or more countries that come together in pursuit of a common goal. Usually that requires some giving up some aspect of sovereignty but not always. A prominent example of supranationalism would be the United Nations which is an international organization designed to maintain world peace and promote worthwhile causes such as achieving sustainable development, protecting human rights and providing humanitarian aid.

1. **DESCRIBE a characteristic of the EU which has made it a better definition of the concept of supranationalism than other examples.**

The characteristic that makes the EU a better example of supranationalism is that its member states sacrifice some element of sovereignty to the EU. For example, most countries in the EU are also in the Eurozone which means that they have abandoned their own currency in favor of the Euro. Policy regarding that currency is no longer controlled by individual countries but by EU, meaning these countries have sacrificed some of the control over decision-making (sovereignty) to the supranational organization.

1. **With reference to the Map #2 above, EXPLAIN one reason for why membership in a supranational organization would be a centrifugal force for a state.**

The influx of economic migrants and refugees and the EU’s policies have caused centrifugal forces within member states. For example, some segments of the population resent the influx of immigrants into their countries and feel that membership in the EU has taken away national control over immigration. This has led not only to anti-EU sentiment but also to deep divisions within countries that pits more pro-immigration forces against nativist forces. This is reflected in the vote for Brexit which split Britain and was largely fueled by anti-immigrant sentiments.

1. **IDENTIFY the main push factor for the main European migration routes depicted in Map #2.**

The main push factor for the migration routes into Europe depicted in Map #2 is social unrest and violence in the countries of origin. For two of the largest migration flows (Western Mediterranean and Western Balkans), Syria and Afghanistan are the top source areas of migrants. Syria has been engaged in a brutal civil war and a conflict against the terrorist group ISIS for almost a decade creating huge out-migration flows of people seeking asylum(refugees). In addition, Afghanistan has been politically unstable and prone to violence since the US invasion in 2001.

1. **DESCRIBE a different reason for why membership in a supranational organization would be a centrifugal force for a state.**

A different reason why membership in a supranational organization would be a centrifugal force for a country would be an increased loyalty and identification with the supranational organization as opposed to the individual state. An example of this would be Catalonia. Catalonia is a more developed and wealthy part of Spain. Many Catalans resent having to pay taxes in support of poorer regions of Spain and consequently they no longer see a benefit in being part of that state. They may see themselves as having a local Catalan identity but a broader European identity due to integration with the EU. With open borders, Catalans may interact socially and economically more with southern France and therefore feel less loyalty to Spain representing a centrifugal force for the Spanish state.

1. **DESCRIBE one reason for why membership in that organization would be a centripetal force for a country.**

**(only one would be required)**

One reason why membership in a supranational organization could be a centripetal force for a country would be the economic benefits from membership. The EU has policies that encourage investment in less developed member states. For example, since former Eastern European countries have joined the EU, the organization has instituted policies for the growth of manufacturing in places like Poland. A result the Polish economy has boomed in recent years lessening the wealth gap within Poland between rural and urban regions. This has made Poland less divided and has served as a centripetal force.

Another example outside the EU, could be the sense of security membership in a supranational organization can give to a member state. Many supranational organizations are military alliances intended to defend member states from outside aggression. An example would be NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) which binds the US and Canada to Europe militarily. Many regions might be hesitant to press separatist demands because in doing so it might jeopardize their membership in this defensive alliance. If Catalonia were the split from Spain or Scotland from the UK would these new states automatically get NATO protection? The UK and Spain might also oppose their entry.

**Question #2**

1. **DEFINE centrifugal and centripetal forces from a political geography perspective.**

A centrifugal force is something that weakens support for the state and divides the citizens of country. A centripetal force is something that enhances support for the state and unites the citizens of a country.

1. **With reference to state boundary origins, EXPLAIN a centrifugal force which affects NIgeria.**

Nigeria’s borders are superimposed. Superimposed borders are created by outside forces without regard to cultural factors of a region. These borders are a legacy of the colonial period in Africa. Nigeria’s borders are a centrifugal force because they have placed various linguistic and religious groups into a state. For example, as you can see from the map, the Yoruba ethnic group appears to be split by the border between Benin and Nigeria. In addition, the Yoruba have been within the same political state due to superimposed borders with other groups such as the Hausa and Igbo and Edo with which they might have long standing tensions. The multi-ethnic state created by the superimposed borders might make it difficult for various groups to develop a national Nigerian identity that overrides their ethnic, linguistic or religious identity. Superimposed borders, therefore, can be a centrifugal force.

1. **With reference to state shape, DESCRIBE a centripetal force that affects Nigeria.**

Nigeria is a relatively compact state meaning it is somewhat circular (there are no proruptions, or enclaves, or exclaves, it’s not elongated nor fragmented) and its current capital, Abuja, is centrally located. This means that no region is remote from the capital and communication is relatively equal to all parts of the country. A compact shape, ignoring other factors, would discourage separatist tendencies and serve as centripetal force that unites Nigerians and strengthens support for the state.

1. **IDENTIFY the government structure of Nigeria.**

The government structure of Nigeria would be a federal state. You can see this form the second map because there are “states”/provinces where Sharia law is in force and “states”/provinces where it is not. Therefore, it can be implied that individual provinces have some power to make their own decisions rather than have policy dictated to them by the central government as would be the case in a unitary state.

1. **With reference to Map #2, EXPLAIN how the government structure of Nigeria could be a centrifugal force.**

The federal structure of Nigeria can be a centrifugal force because not all subregions of the country may agree with the policies of other regions. For example, many Christians/Animists in the south may disagree with the enforcement of Sharia law in the north. Christians/animists who travel or have reasons to be in the north might see that as an infringement of their religious freedom or a restriction on the rights of women within their country. This disagreement would serve to divide the citizens of Nigeria and weaken the state making it a centrifugal force.

1. **DESCRIBE (using any example) how that same government structure could be a centripetal force.**

A federal system can also serve as a centripetal force. This is because, under a federal system, citizens may have a stronger sense of control over the decision-making and autonomy that relates to their daily lives. For example, in the United Kingdom, the central government in London has allowed the formation and empowerment of parliaments in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The movement of power form a central government to regional governments is called devolution. This has allowed those regions some control over their own decision-making processes. This has resulted in less of the Scottish or Northern Irish advocating for formal separation from the United Kingdom and therefore represents a centripetal force because it strengthens the UK.

**Question #3**

1. **With reference to the map above DESCRIBE irredentism.**

Irredentism is when a country claims the territory of another country because people of its ethnic or national group reside in that territory. An example would be when Russia claimed sovereignty over the Crimea. Crimea is the peninsula the juts into the Black Sea. After the breakup of the Soviet Union it became part of Ukraine. However, as you can see from the map, the majority of people on the Crimea are ethnic Russians. Russia used this as an excuse to foment separatist feelings amongst the Crimeans. Russia has since annexed Crimea as part of its territory.

1. **EXPLAIN a centrifugal force that may affect the countries of Kazakhstan and Latvia.**

The multi-ethnic population of Kazakhstan and Latvia are a centrifugal force in those countries. A centrifugal force weakens support for the state and divides its population. Both Latvia and Kazakhstan have significant Russian minorities within their borders. During the Russian Empire and Soviet Union, many ethnic Russians moved to other non-Russian areas controlled by the central government. After the breakup of the Soviet Union, these regions became independent states but still has significant Russian residents. This might serve a centrifugal force because the ethnic Russians in Latvia or Kazakhstan might advocate to be reunited with Russia weakening the unity of the state (Kazakhstan or Latvia) where they are presently living.

1. **EXPLAIN how supranationalism could affect the situation in Latvia.**

Supranationalism which is the formal cooperation of three or more states in pursuit of a common goal could affect the situation in Latvia because of their membership in NATO. NATO is a supranational military alliance created between the United States and Western Europe during the Cold War to protect against Soviet aggression. Since the fall of the Soviet Union, NATO has expanded its membership into former Soviet satellite states in Eastern Europe and even into former republics of the Soviet Union itself, like Latvia. If Russia turns irredentist towards Latvia and that leads to aggression, Latvia’s NATO allies would be obliged under their supranational commitment to defend Latvia’s sovereignty perhaps sparking a war between nuclear-armed powers.

1. **IDENTIFY a migration stream from 1990s that resulted from the situation depicted in the map above.**

A migration stream from the 1990s resulting from the distribution of ethnic Russians within the former Soviet Union is the return of ethnic Russians to Russia itself. One of the main pull factors in migration is the desire to be connected with people of your same ethnicity. We have seen examples of this in the establishment of the state of Israel or in the migration of Hindus and Muslims after the partition of India/Pakistan in the 1940s. Many ethnic Russians opted to return to Russia proper rather than remain in other newly formed countries after the breakup of the Soviet Union causing a major migration stream.

**Question #4**

1. **IDENTIFY the international agreement that governs the arrangement depicted in item #1.**

The international agreement that governs sovereignty and rights over the waters bordering a state is the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS).

1. **COMPARE and CONTRAST the level of control which a state has over the waters within 12 miles of its shoreline and between 12 miles and 200 miles from its shoreline.**

Within 12 miles from their shoreline, a state has a territorial zone meaning all of their laws are in force and they have complete sovereignty. If a ship is in that zone, the coast guard of a sovereign country would have the right to board that vessel or demand that it retreat to outside the 12 mile territorial zone. It can apply all of its laws such as those pertaining to immigration, drug smuggling, etc. Outside the territorial zone but up to 200 miles form the shoreline, the country has an EEZ or Exclusive Economic Zone. Only economic usage licensed or authorized by the country can occur within that zone including fishing and oil exploration. Any violation of those rights would need to be appealed to an international organization for resolution. The country would not be able to enforce sovereign laws dealing with immigration or drug smuggling and could not take direct military action or board ships in the EEZ.

1. **EXPLAIN how the Spratly Islands complicate the international agreement discussed above.**

The Spratly Islands in the South China Sea pose a complication for UNCLOS because there are overlapping claims regarding whose EEZ they are part of. Various countries such as the Philippines and Malaysia claim the right to economically exploit the area that is rich in oil and natural gas reserves. Even more disturbing is China’s claim to the area. China (even though its mainland is quite distant form the Spratly Islands) has laid a claim to these islands. The Chinese have done this by building manmade islands and claiming both a territorial zone and EEZ extending outward in all directions from these islands. This has increased tensions as the US and other powers do not recognize these as legitimate claims. The US often sails its fleet within the 12-mile territorial zone of these manmade Chinese islands in order to emphasize its non-recognition of Chinese claims.

**Question #4** (please look at all four maps when crafting your answers) (oops I guess there were two questions #4, my bad)

1. **DEFINE the type of border/boundary creation process which resulted in the borders of present-day Poland.**

The type of border creation process setting the modern-day borders of Poland would be subsequent borders. After WWII, the victorious Soviet Union wanted a buffer zone to prevent against future Western aggression. In creating this zone millions of Germans and Poles were forced to migrate West. The borders negotiated after this migration created modern-day Poland and are therefore subsequent borders created to reflect the situation on the ground after the migration.

1. **DESCRIBE the type of border/boundary evident in Map #2.**

The type of border evident in map #2 is a relic border. A relic border is a border that no longer exists but whose impact can still be seen. The imperial borders during the partition of Poland reflect boundaries that have not existed since the end of WWI. However, based on results of the 2015 Presidential election in Poland, one can still see that the voting patterns still closely align with the imperial borders which haven’t existed for over 100 years, making those borders “relic”.

1. **EXPLAIN how a state within Europe reflects the characteristics of a nation-state. (only one example required)**

A “perfect” nation-state is when a political territory matches exactly with the area occupied by an ethnicity and there are not significant members of that ethnicity with loyalty to the state outside its borders. No perfect nation-states exist in the world but some examples come close. An example of a nation-state in Europe is Iceland. Iceland fits the characteristics of a nation-state because its territory is exclusively inhabited by people of the same Icelandic ethnicity and there are no significant minorities of Icelandic people asserting loyalty to Iceland outside its territory. Other examples would be Poland, Czechia/Czech Republic and Slovenia because their borders match the distribution of their ethnicity.

1. **EXPLAIN how a state within Europe reflects the characteristics of a multi-national state.**

A multi-national state is a country where there are multiple ethnic national groups who have some history of political allegiance, loyalty, or identification with their national group or ethnicity before having loyalty to the state. An example of a multi-national state on Europe is the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom consists of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Each of those national groups at one time were sovereign. Therefore, their initial identification/loyalty would be to their respective region or national group before that of the larger state. A person from Scotland would identify themselves as being Scottish before British.

1. **DESCRIBE how a situation within Europe reflects the characteristics of a stateless nation.**

A situation in Europe that reflects the characteristics of a stateless nation would be the Basques in northern Spain and southwestern France. A stateless nation is a national/ethnic group with political aspirations for sovereignty who do not have a state of their own. The Basques speak a non-European language isolate and have existed in the Pyrenees mountains between Spain and France since prehistoric times. They have consistently advocated for a state of their own and some of them even engaged in a terrorist campaign in the late-20th century to achieve this. Other global examples of stateless nations would be the Kurds and the Palestinians.

1. **DESCRIBE how a state within Europe reflects the characteristics of a multi-ethnic state.**

A multiethnic state is a country that has numerous different ethnicities whose political allegiance is to the larger state rather than their own ethnicity. The United States is an example of a multi-ethnic state. An example of a multi-ethnic state in Europe is Russia. Russia has many non-Russian ethnicities that may have some local autonomy such as the Tartars and Karelians but these groups express loyalty to the Russian state.

1. **DESCRIBE an ethnic enclave within Europe.**

An ethnic enclave is a cluster of people who are surrounded by a different ethnicity. An ethnic enclave evident from Map #3 is the cluster of Hungarians who live in Transylvania region of Romania. Since they are completely surrounded by Romanians, these Hungarians represent an ethnic enclave from the perspective of Romania (from the perspective of Hungary they would be an ethnic exclave.)

1. **DESCRIBE a political exclave within Europe.**

A political exclave is the result of a fragmented state. A political enclave is a piece of territory controlled by a state but that is physically separated form that state by the territory of another. Alaska is a political exclave of the United States. An example of a political exclave in Europe is the territory of Kaliningrad. Kaliningrad is the piece of territory belonging to Russia that sits on the Baltic Sea between Poland and Lithuania. It is disconnected from the rest of Russia by the territory of Poland and Lithuania making it characteristic of a political exclave.

**Question #5 (both maps below were created in response to the 2010 Census)**

1. **EXPLAIN the process by which the 2011 Congressional district map (Map A) was created.**

Map A was created through a process of redistricting that was manipulated by gerrymandering. Every ten years the US conducts a census. Based on where the population resides congressional seats are reapportioned between the various states. If a state has a change in its number of seats its districts must be redrawn to reflect that change. Usually the state legislature is put in charge of creating the new map. If the map drawing process is manipulated to give an advantage to the party in power this is called gerrymandering. Gerrymandering is evident in the 2011 map of Pennsylvania districts drawn by the state legislature because the districts are not compact and distorted. One can assume they were drawn this way to give the party in charge of drawing the map an advantage. This is usually achieved by either packing all of your opponent’s constituents into a few districts thereby lessening their influence in other districts or by cracking your opponent’s constituents across several districts so that represent a minority vote in each and have less influence.

1. **EXPLAIN a disadvantageous political effect of this kind of redistricting plan (Map A).**

A disadvantageous political effect of gerrymandering is the polarization of ideas and discourse in American politics. If a politician knows that they only need to appeal to voters on one part of the political spectrum, they will be less likely to moderate their views to attract voters from the other side or from the center. In fact, today, most of the challenge in getting reelected in gerrymandered districts comes from defending your seat in a primary election against members of your party who may be even more extreme and who may accused the incumbent of not being pure enough for the gerrymandered constituency. This has led to more extreme members of Congress and less room for compromise for the benefit of the country.

1. **EXPLAIN an advantage of the districts drawn in the new map (Map B).**

In map B the districts were drawn by a court after map A was found to be unconstitutional due to gerrymandering. As can be seen in map B, the districts created by the court are more compact than the gerrymandered map (A) and less likely to give one party an unfair electoral advantage. An advantage of the districts drawn in this map would be that politicians, in order to win an election, must appeal to more diverse political viewpoints. This might lessen polarization as politicians would be more willing to moderate their stances to appeal to voters of the other party or independents in the center of the political spectrum.

1. **EXPLAIN a disadvantage of the districts drawn in the new map (Map B).**

A disadvantage of the districts drawn under map B would be the disenfranchisement of minority voters. Under one method of gerrymandering, districts can be “stacked” (a form of packing) with members of a certain racial or ethnic minority in order to guarantee that group has representation. Without specifically drawn districts, these minority groups might be spread across many districts and would lose the chance to elect one of their own with shared experiences to give them a voice in government.