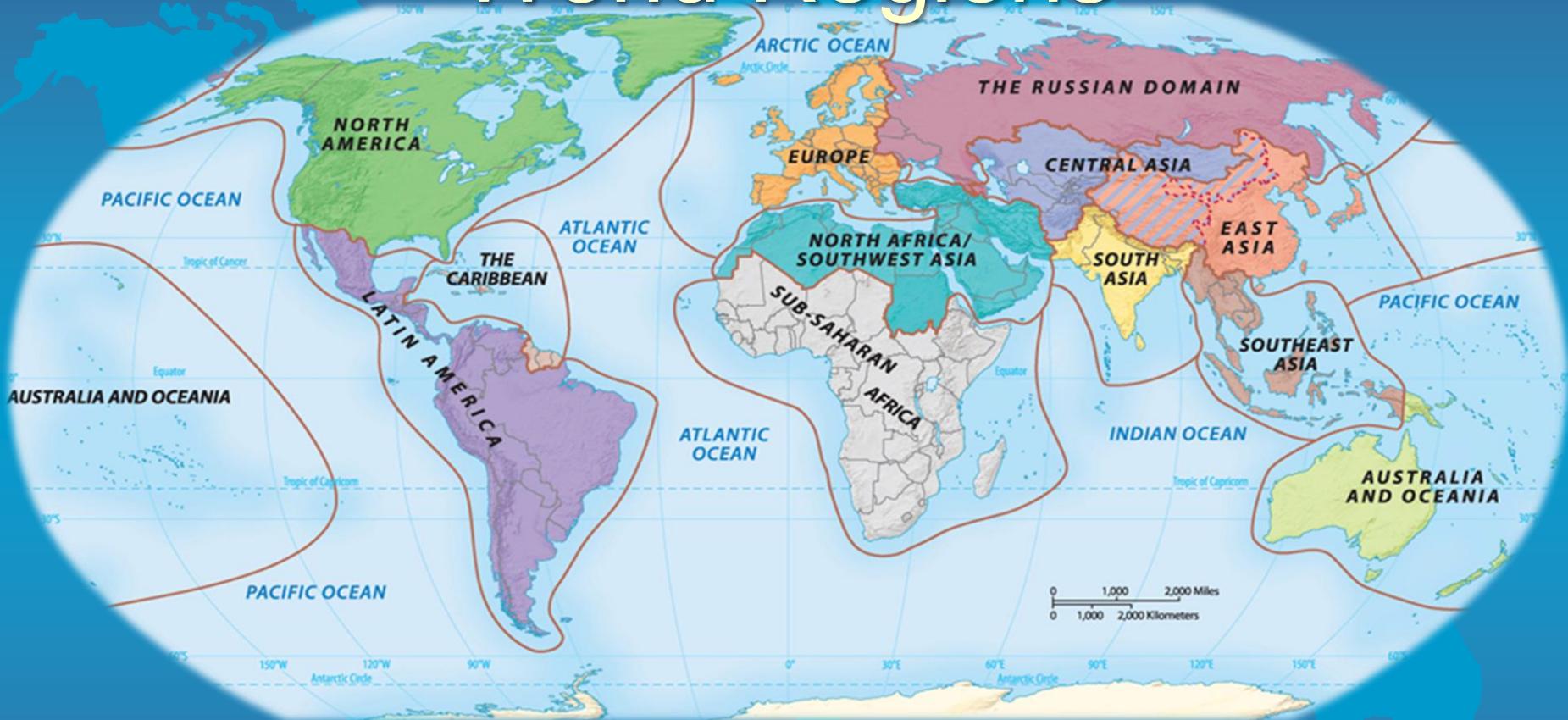


# COMPARING WORLD REGIONS

The world is changing rapidly but what vision  
will guide that change?

Allen Hammond

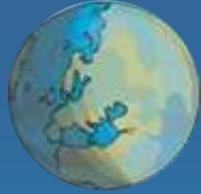
# World Regions



Go to your online syllabus.

Go to the *Unit 7* page.

Use the [Regional Data](#) link.



# Variables

<b>PHYSICAL</b>	potable water	scarce, uneven, plentiful	1
	arable land	scarce, uneven, plentiful	2
	valuable resources	none, exhausted and list former or list current	3
<b>CULTURAL</b>	influence of language	centrifugal, none, centripetal influence	4
	influence of religion	centrifugal, none, centripetal influence	5
	heterogeneity vs. homogeneity	heterogeneity creating conflict, heterogeneity with no conflict, homogeneity	6
<b>POPULATION</b>	literacy	% population that is literate in 2007	7
	poverty	% population below national poverty line in 2007	8
	population growth	% annual pop change (+ / -) in 2007	9
	urbanization	% population that lives in urban areas in 2007	10
	stage of DTM	I, II, III, IV, V (use birth, death, main eco activity)	11
<b>POLITICAL</b>	shape	compact, protruded, elongated, fragmented, perf	12
<b>ECONOMIC</b>	current eco status	GNI/GNI per cap (both for 2007 in current US\$)	13
	economic trend	% average annual change (+ / -) in GDP in 2007	14
	main eco activity	primary, secondary or tertiary	15



# Instructions

1. List the variables associated with more developed states and the variables associated with less developed states.
2. Compare the values of each individual state's variables to those two lists and determine if each individual state is more developed or less developed.
3. List the relationships between the social and economic variables.
4. Compare the values of each individual state's variables to that list of relationships and decide if each individual state's relationships fit.
5. Based on the analysis of individual states (in #2 and #4), does the *region* exhibit a pattern of development or undevelopment? Are there any exceptions in the region?



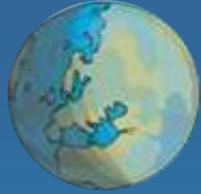
# Characteristics of MDCs I

- better access to potable water, arable land, and natural and human resources
- high literacy rate, including among women
- low or negative annual population growth
- decreasing population growth rate
- population fairly evenly spread among age cohorts
- high life expectancy
- low infant mortality rate
- high or increasing percent of urban population
- DTM stages III, IV and V



# Characteristics of MDCs II

- low percent of population below the national poverty line
- higher or increasing GNI per capita
- positive average annual change in GDP
- main economic activity is secondary or tertiary
- increasing or high standard of living
- large pool of skilled labor
- adequate to developed infrastructure
- higher level of technology
- most labor employed in secondary or tertiary economic activities



# Characteristics of LDCs I

- less access to potable water, arable land, or natural and human resources
- low literacy rate, especially among women
- high population growth
- high percent of population is young
- increasing population growth rate
- low life expectancy
- high infant mortality rate
- low percent of urban population
- DTM stages I, II and III



# Characteristics of LDCs II

- high percent of population below national poverty line
- low or decreasing GNI per capita
- negative average annual change in GDP
- main economic activity is primary
- low standard of living
- no or small percent of skilled labor
- limited or no infrastructure
- little or no technology
- most labor employed in primary economic activities



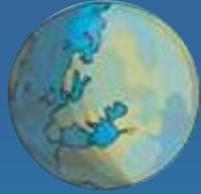
# Comparing MDCs and LDCs

Characteristic	MDC	LDC
per capita GDP and income	high	low
percent of pop in middle class	high	low
percent pop in manufacturing	high	low
energy use	high	low
percent of pop living in cities	high	low
percent of pop living in rural	low	high
birth rate	low	high
death rate	low	high
population growth rate	low	high
percent of pop under age 15	low	high
percent of pop literate	high	low
life expectancy	high	low
amount of available leisure time	high	low



# Example: MDCs and LDCs

State	GNI-PPP per Cap (2008 US\$)
Luxembourg	64,400
Norway	53,690
Kuwait	49,970
Brunei	49,900
Singapore	48,520
US	45,850
Congo, DR	290
Liberia	290
Burundi	330
Eritrea	400
Guinea-Bissau	470
Niger	630

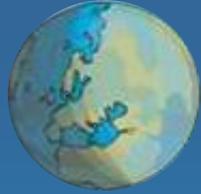


## Two things to remember...

You cannot look at one variable to determine level of development. You look for several variables that indicate the same thing ... a pattern.

Not every variable should go on the lists since many don't seem to be related to development – heterogeneous culture, language, religion, etc.

# Relationships between Social and Economic Variables



- literacy rate (especially among women) and birth rate
- percent of urban population and level of industrialization
- infant mortality rate and standard of living
- life expectancy and standard of living
- level of education and access to skilled labor
- population growth and percent of population below national poverty line

# World Regions



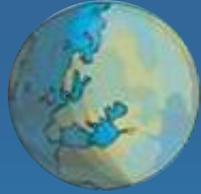




# North America

- Sometimes called “Anglo America” because of its ties to Britain, but North America is increasing its cultural diversity through globalization and immigration.
- highly developed and wealthy
- in stage 4 of Demographic Transition
  - low population growth
  - industrial, fuel, agricultural resources
  - postindustrial

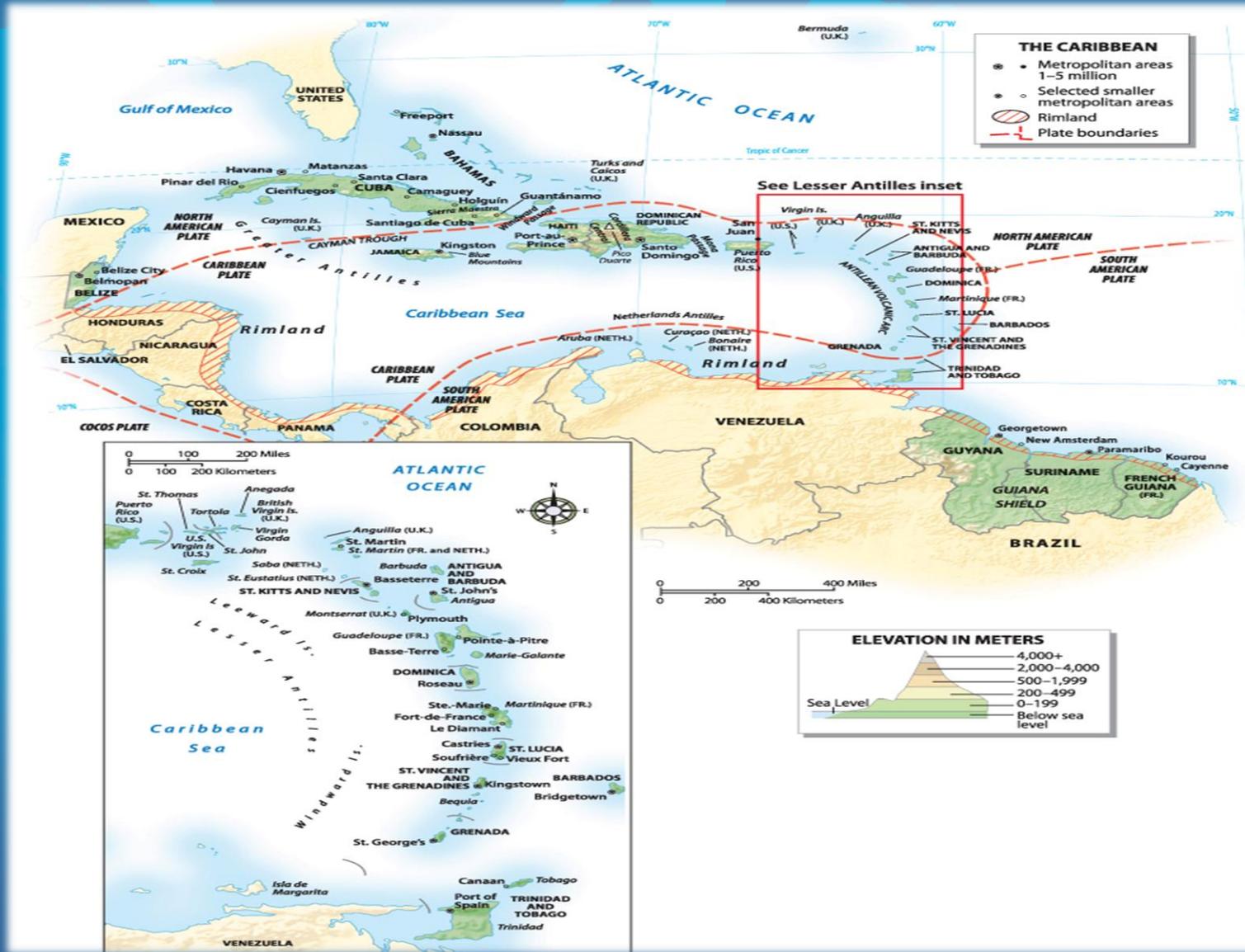
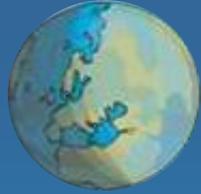




# Latin America

- From the Rio Grande (Rio Bravo) in the north to Tierra del Fuego in the south
- colonial landscape: former colonies of Spain and Portugal, shared colonial history (Iberian: associated with the states of Spain and Portugal)
- large, multiethnic populations
  - 21 states
  - urbanization among the highest in developing world
  - indigenous peoples with Indian and African presence
  - industrialization and development growth since 1960s
  - natural resource extraction remains important

# The Caribbean



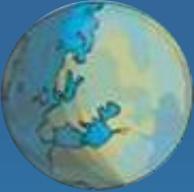


# The Caribbean

- The Caribbean includes 26 states and dependent territories located in the Caribbean Sea.
- isolated proximity
- Europeans, then the US, influenced the region.
- Plantation agriculture is important.
- high population densities, environmental problems
- cultural diversity greater than Latin America
- economy based on tourism, offshore banking, manufacturing, exports (e.g., flowers).
- wide disparities in wealth

# Sub-Saharan Africa

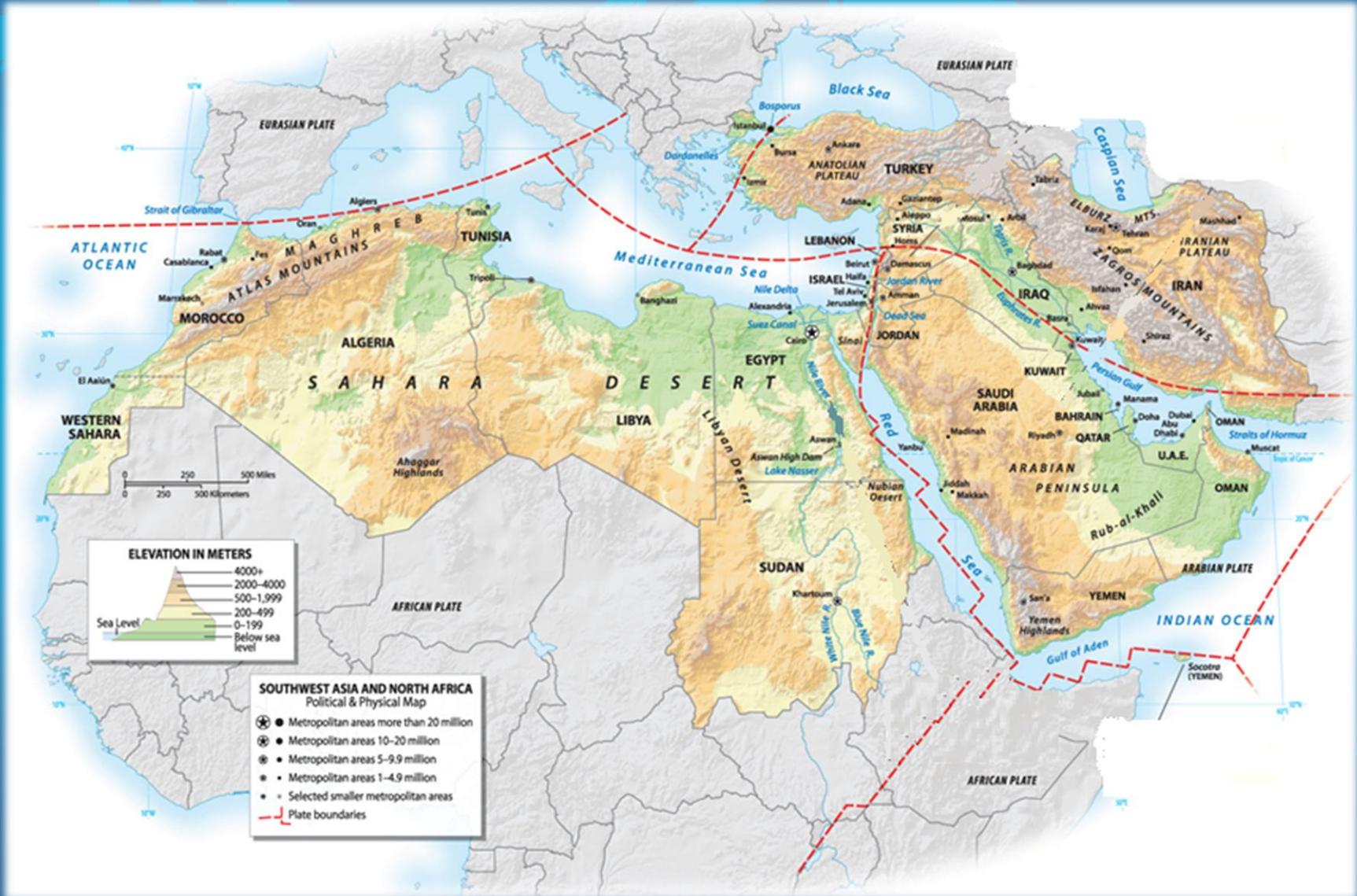


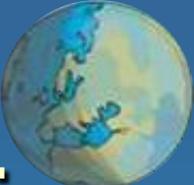


# Sub-Saharan Africa

- unity based on similar livelihood systems and shared colonial experience
- a culturally diverse region
- world's fastest-growing region
- relatively low economic output
  - foreign aid helped improve agriculture, but led to large debt and corruption

# North Africa and Southwest Asia



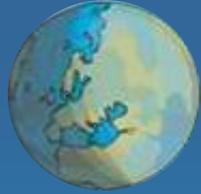


# North Africa and Southwest Asia

- sometimes called the Middle East (a European perspective)
- Region is generally arid, Muslim and contains oil (but this is not true of all states in the region).
- This region is a cultural hearth: a region of many cultural innovations that subsequently diffused to other parts of world.
- The development of the petroleum industry has had a large impact on the region.
- OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries): member states profoundly influence global prices and production targets for petroleum.
- Islamic fundamentalism: an aspect of Islam that advocates the return to more traditional practices, calls for the merger of civil and religious authority, and challenges the encroachment of global popular culture.

# Europe



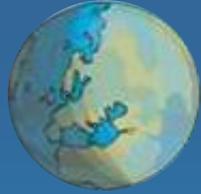


# Europe

- Europe is diverse.
- different climates, landforms, agricultural output
- 51 different states, with many different languages and cultures
- long history of warfare, mostly along state lines
- Europe is globalizing, was a major colonial power.
- European Union, a supranational organization
- cradle of the Industrial Revolution
- shared history amidst cultural diversity

# The Russian Domain





# The Russian Domain

- Russia is the largest state (in land area) on Earth; it spans 11 time zones.
  - rich in resources but one of the world's harshest climates
  - rapid political and economic change
  - persisting Russian influence in this region
- The Russian Domain has had extremely rapid political and economic change since 1990.
  - from centrally planned economy to capitalism
  - from authoritarian dictatorship to democracy
  - region's economy is currently weak, commitment to democracy uncertain, nationalist movements threaten stability
  - Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and the Ukraine must all work on global relationships.

# Central Asia





# Central Asia

- large, compact, remote region within the Eurasian landmass
- culture: Turkish languages and Islam
- similar environmental settings
- Until 1991, the region contained only two independent states, Mongolia and Afghanistan.
- Soviet Union's breakup added several independent states to the region.
- Historically, Central Asia has been weakly integrated into international trade networks.

# East Asia



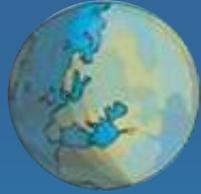


# East Asia

- East Asia is a core area of the world economy and an emerging center of political power
- East Asia is the world's most populous region, while China is the most populous state, with the oldest continuous national culture.
- East Asia has experienced colonization, and has seen both internal and international conflict.
- China and Japan have been rivals from time to time over the centuries.
- Japan is extremely wealthy, but poverty may be found in parts of the region.
- Japan, North and South Korea, and Taiwan share cultural similarities with the eastern part of China. The western part of China, however, does not fit this region as well.

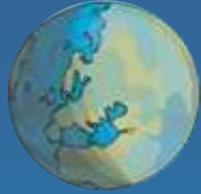
# South Asia





# South Asia

- The Subcontinent is a distinct landmass of Asia south of the Himalayan Mountains. There is extensive cultural and religious diversity in the region.
- includes: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives
- South Asia is the world's second most populous region and growing, raising concerns about food production keeping pace.
- South Asia was a British colony for several centuries.
- Since achieving independence in 1947, India and Pakistan have been embroiled in conflict; both states have nuclear weapons.
- This region is one of the world's poorest.



# Southeast Asia



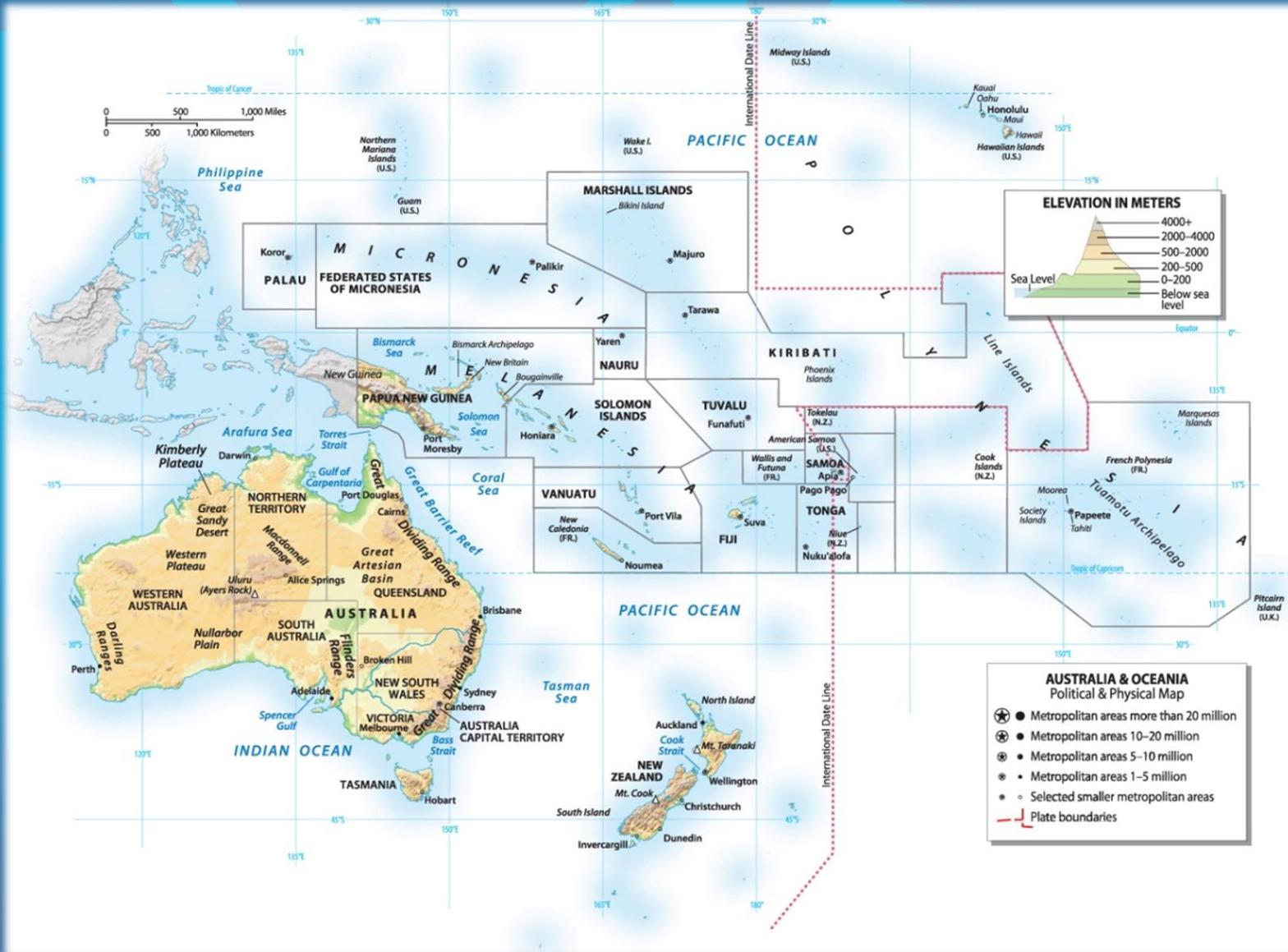


# Southeast Asia

- There is considerable variation in spatial extent, population, cultural traits and levels of economic and social development.
- Southeast Asia illustrates both the promises and perils of globalization.
- This region has long been influenced by external sources because of its resources and its strategic location.
- Recent economic turmoil has come with increased ethnic and social tensions in many states in the region.
- ASEAN, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, has brought a new level of regional cooperation to the area with the goal that the states in the region will control – rather than be controlled by – external global forces.



# Australia, New Zealand and Oceania





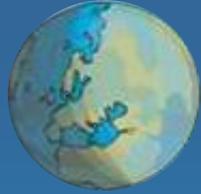
# Australia, New Zealand and Oceania

- The states in the region share elements of indigenous and colonial history.
- Australia, New Zealand and Oceania are dominated mostly by water.
- Oceania is a sweeping collection of islands reaching from New Guinea and New Zealand to Hawaii.
  - Melanesia - dark islands
  - Polynesia - many islands
  - Micronesia - small islands, west of Polynesia
- Political unrest in Fiji between Fijians and descendants of South Asian sugarcane workers illustrates the role of globalization in this region.
- The largest states in the region are Australia and New Zealand.



# Regional Comparisons

Region	Pop (millions)	Pop Density sq mi	RNI %	HDI	Urban %	Arable %	GNI-PPP per cap
North America	335	40	0.6	0.949	79	10	43,290
Latin America	569	72	1.5	0.781	74	7	8,800
Sub-Saharan Africa	749	89	2.5	0.439	31	6	2,020
Middle East	503	85	1.9	0.709	56	6	7,980
Europe	532	271	0.1	0.917	74	24	28,160
Russian Domain	278	33	0.0	0.770	64	8	8,590
Asia	3,617	451	1.1	0.688	38	20	6,710
Oceania	34	10	1.0	0.881	71	5	23,990
World (comparison)	6,692	127	1.2	0.719	49	10	9,730
US (comparison)	304	82	0.6	0.951	79	19	45,850



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The End

