

AP Human Geography Vocabulary

Apartheid: a legal system that was the physical separation of different races into different geographic areas

My definition: separation of people in South Africa based on race

Example: There were apartheid laws in South Africa between around 1950 to 1994.
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Balkanization: Process by which a state breaks down through conflicts among its ethnicities

My definition: Destruction of a state due to ethnic conflicts

Example: Sudan is currently undergoing balkanization.
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Balkanized: term used to describe a small geographic area that could not successfully be organized into one or more stable states because it was inhabited by many ethnicities with complex, long-standing antagonisms toward each other

My definition: An area that cannot be combined into a single state due to problems between ethnicities.

Example: Rwanda
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Blockbusting: A process by which real estate agents convince white property owners to sell their houses at low prices because of fear that black families will soon move into the neighborhood.

My definition: Realtors buy cheap houses from white people who are afraid of black people moving into their neighborhood and sell them to black families at higher prices.

Example: Many neighborhoods in the south underwent blockbusting.
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Centripetal Force: an attitude that tends to unify people and enhance support for a state

My definition: Attitude that raises support for a state

Example: Nationalism is a centripetal force.
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Ethnicity: Identity with a group of people that share distinct physical and mental traits as a product of common heredity and cultural traditions.

My definition: A group of people who share common cultures and traditions.

Example: Caucasian
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Ethnic Cleansing: Process in which more powerful ethnic group forcibly removes a less powerful one in order to create an ethnically homogeneous region

My definition: When a group tries to wipe out another group or ethnicity to create a state with only one ethnicity.

Example: The Nazis tried to wipe out the Jews during WWII.

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Multiethnic State: a state that contains more than one ethnicity.

My definition: A state with multiple ethnicities.

Example: The United States is a multiethnic state.

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Multinational State: State that contains two or more ethnic groups with traditions of self-determination that agree to coexist peacefully by recognizing each other as distinct nationalities.

My definition: A country with two or more ethnicities with feelings of self-determination.

Example: Scotland

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Nationalism: love of country and willingness to sacrifice for it

My definition: Love and feelings of pride towards a country.

Example: "America is better than England"

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Nationality: Identity with a group of people that share legal attachment and personal allegiance to a particular place as a result of being born there.

My definition: Group who share an attachment to a country

Example: Ben Boyd's nationality is American

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Nation State: A state whose territory corresponds to that occupied by a particular ethnicity that has been transformed into a nationality

My definition: A state with only one ethnicity.

Example: An example of a nation state is Denmark

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Race: Identity with a group of people descended from a common ancestor.

My definition: Group of people who have a common biological ancestor.

Example: African American

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Racism: Belief that one racial group is superior to another

My Definition: Belief that a person is better than another based on race and skin color.

Example: Slavery in the USA

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Racist: a person who subscribes to the beliefs of racism

My definition: A person who thinks they are better than someone with a different race

Example: Ben Boyd (JK)

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Self-determination: the concept that ethnicities have the right to govern themselves

My definition: Belief that ethnicities can rule themselves.

Example: Any Nation State

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Sharecropper: works fields rented from a landowner and pays the rent by turning over to the landowner a share of the crops

My definition: A person who rents and works a field for another person and pays with part of the crop.

Example: Former slaves in the southern US.

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Triangular Slave Trade: a practice, primarily during the eighteenth century, in which European ships transported slaves from Africa to Caribbean Islands, molasses from the Caribbean to Europe, and trade goods from Europe to Africa.

My definition: Trade in which slaves went to the Americas, Molasses goes to Europe, and trinkets went to Africa.

Example: Africa →Caribbean→Europe

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Balance of Power: Condition of roughly equal strength between opposing countries or alliances of countries.

My definition: Idea that no one country should become more powerful than another and all countries have almost equal power

Example: Germany and France should have equal power.

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Boundary: Invisible line that marks the extent of a state's territory.

My definition: Invisible line that separates states

Example: Border between the US and Mexico.

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City-State: A sovereign state comprising a city and its immediate hinterland.

My Definition: A state made up of a city and the surrounding land.

Example: City-states in Mesopotamia and Egypt.

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Colonialism: Attempt by one country to establish settlements and to impose its political, economic, and cultural principles in another territory.

My definition: When a state takes over another territory and imposes its principles on it

Example: Great Britain colonizing North America.

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Colony: A territory that is legally tied to a sovereign state rather than completely independent.

My definition: a territory that is a part of a sovereign state.

Example: Porto Rico

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Compact State: A state in which the distance from the center to any boundary does not vary significantly.

My Definition: A state with the capital near the center that has efficient communication and transportation.

Example: Spain is an example of a compact state.

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Elongated State: A state with a long, narrow shape.

My Definition: A state that is longer than it is wide.

Example: Chile and Italy are elongated states.

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Federal State: An internal organization of a state that allocates most powers to units of local government.

My definition: A state with most power in the hands of local governments and the people.

Example: Poland is a federal state.

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Fragmented State: A state that includes several discontinuous pieces of territory.

My definition: A state made up of several pieces of land and territory

Example: Indonesia is a fragmented state.

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Frontier: A zone separating two states in which neither state exercises political control.

My definition: A territory where no state is in control.

Example: Antarctica

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Gerrymandering: Process of redrawing legislative boundaries for the purpose of benefiting the party in power.

My definition: When a person rearranges boundaries to help the political party in power.

Example: Legislative boundaries in the United States

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Imperialism: Control of territory already occupied and organized by an indigenous society.

My definition: When a country takes over a territory that already has people living there.

Example: Some American territories in Latin America

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Landlocked State: A state that does not have a direct outlet to the sea.

My definition: A state with no access to the ocean.

Example: Lesotho is a landlocked state.

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Microstate: A state that encompasses a very small land area.

My Definition: A state with a small land area.

Example: Monaco is a microstate.

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Perforated State: A state that completely surrounds another one.

My definition: A state that surrounds another on all sides and the surrounded state must rely in the other one for imports and exports.

Example: South Africa and Lesotho are an example of a perforated state.

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Prorupted State: An otherwise compact state with a large projecting extension.

My definition: A state with a piece of territory extending from it.

Example: Congo

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Sovereignty: Ability of a state to govern its territory free from control of its internal affairs from other states.

My definition: When a state has the ability to handle itself and take care of its internal affairs without interference from other countries.

Example: Taiwan is a sovereign state.

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State: An area organized into a political unit and ruled by an established government with control over its internal and foreign affairs.

My definition: An organized area with and established government that can control its internal and foreign affairs.

Example: China is an example of a state.

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Unitary State: An internal organization of a state that places most power in the hands of central government officials.

My definition: State where government officials hold most of the power.

Example: France is a unitary state.

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Development: A process of improvement in the material conditions of people through diffusion of knowledge and technology.

My definition: Improving material conditions through more knowledge and technology.

Example: LDCs trying to become like MDCs

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Fair Trade: Alternative to international trade that emphasizes small businesses and worker owned and democratically run cooperatives and requires employers to pay workers fair wages, permit union organizing, and comply with minimum environmental and safety standards.

My definition: Trade that favors small businesses and their workers

Example: Coffee beans, tea, and chocolate can be fair-traded

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Foreign Direct Investment: Investment made by a foreign company in the economy of another country.

My definition: When a foreign company invests in another country

Example: Apple investing in Chinese companies to help make their products.

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Gender Empowerment Measure: Compares the ability of women and men to participate in economic and political decision-making.

My definition: Ability of women to men to participate in politics and the economy

Example: Gender Empowerment Measure of Japan is 0.527

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Gender Related Development Index: Compares the level of development of women with that of both sexes.

My definition: Development of women to men

Example: Gender Related Development Index is 0.684

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Gross Domestic Product: The value of the total output of goods and services produced in a country in a given time period (normally 1 year).

My definition: Value of the total output of a country's goods and services in a year

Example: 2011 GDP of China is 11.77

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Human Development Index: Indicator of level of development for each country, constructed by United Nations, combining income, literacy, education, and life expectancy

My definition: Combined literacy, education, and life expectancy of a country to determine its level of development

Example: HDI of Australia is 0.929

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Less Developed Country: Also known as a developing country, a country that is at a relatively early stage in the process of economic development

My definition: A country that is trying to develop and is at an early stage

Example: Iran and Iraq

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Literacy Rate: The percentage of a country's people who can read and write.

My definition: Number of people in a country that can read and write

Example: Literacy Rate in India is 74.04.

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Millennium Development Goals: Eight international development goals that all members of the United Nations have agreed to achieve by 2015

My definition: Eight goals that all UN members agree to achieve by 2015

Example: Reducing poverty and hunger and infant mortality

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More Developed Country: Also known as a relatively developed country or a developed country, a country that has progressed in relative far along a continuum of development.

My definition: country that has a high level of development

Example: United States and Japan

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Primary Sector: The portion of the economy concerned with the direct extraction of materials from Earth's surface

My definition: Section of the economy that extracts materials from the Earth.

Example: Mining, fishing, and agriculture

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Productivity: The value of a particular product compared to the amount of labor needed to make it.

My definition: Value of a product compared to the labor needed to make it

Example: Productivity of the United States in 2012 was 0.7

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Secondary Sector: The portion of the economy concerned with manufacturing useful products through processing, transforming, and assembling raw materials.

My definition: Section of the economy that manufactures products

Example: Car factories

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Structural Adjustment Program: Economic policies imposed on less developed countries by international agencies to create conditions encouraging international trade, such as raising taxes, reducing government spending, controlling inflation, selling publicly owned utilities to private corporations, and charging citizens more for services.

My definition: Economic policies that international agencies place on LDCs to encourage international trade

Example: Nigeria has been emphasizing domestic production over expensive imports, and a lesser dependence on oil revenues.

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Tertiary Sector: The portion of the economy concerned with transportation, communications, and utilities, sometimes extended to the provision of all goods and services to people in exchange for payment.

My definition: Section of the economy that provides human services

Example: Education, sales clerk, and government officials

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Transnational Corporation: A company that conducts research, operates factories, and sells products in many countries, not just where its headquarters or shareholders are located.

My definition: A company that works other places than just where its headquarters is located

Example: GM and McDonalds

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Value Added: the gross value of the product minus the costs of raw materials and energy.

My definition: value of a product minus the cost of raw materials and energy used to create it

Example: Offering free service on a computer

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Core/periphery: Core countries have high levels of development, a capacity at innovation and a convergence of trade flows. Periphery countries usually have less development and are poorer countries.

My definition: Core countries are highly developed but periphery countries are not and are poor

Example: United States/ Kenya

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European Union: an international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members

My definition: Organization of European countries to increase economic cooperation in Europe.

Example: Germany is part of the European Union

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Iron Curtain: Winston Churchill's term for the Cold War division between the Soviet-dominated East and the U.S.-dominated West.

My definition: Term used to describe the division of Eastern Europe and Western Europe during the cold war

Example: Berlin Wall

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Suffrage: The civil right to vote, or the exercise of that right

My definition: The right to vote

Example: Women in the US once fought for the right to vote

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Shatterbelt: A region caught between stronger colliding external cultural-political forces, under persistent stress, and often fragmented by aggressive rivals

My definition: Region stuck between colliding forces that is under stress

Example: Eastern Europe

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Reunification: The unification of something that was previously divided; used especially of a country

My definition: Uniting something that was divided such as a country

Example: Germany was unified at the end of the Cold War

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Theocracy: A system of government in which priests rule in the name of God or a god.

My definition: System of government where the leader rules in accordance to God

Example: Iran

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Unitary: Single; uniform; of or relating to a system of government or organization in which the powers of the separate constituent parts are vested in a central body.

My definition: Organization where all the power is in the hands of a central body

Example: The government of France is unitary.

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