



4.8 Defining Devolutionary Factors

Objective and Essential Learning

4.8 Define factors that lead to the devolution of states.

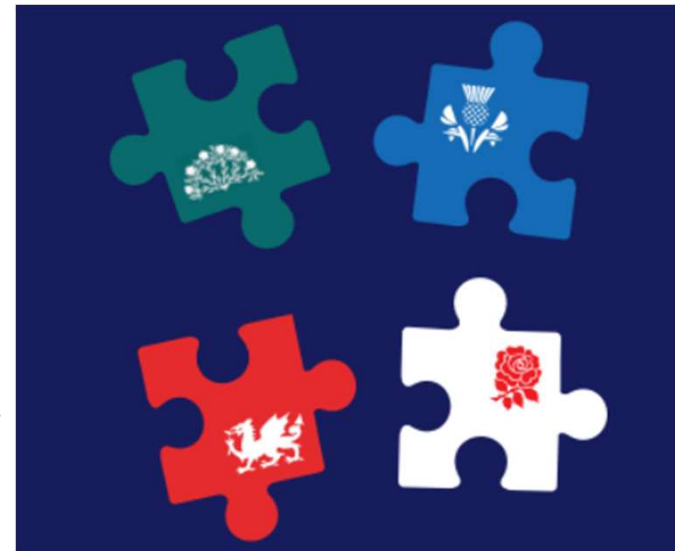
- Factors that can lead to the devolution of states include the division of groups by physical geography, ethnic separatism, ethnic cleansing, terrorism, economic and social problems, and irredentism.



What factors lead to the devolution of states?

Devolution is the process in which regions within a state demand and gain political strength and growing autonomy at the expense of the central government.

- Autonomy: Independence, freedom, self-governing
- NOT BALKANIZATION, but it is a challenge to state sovereignty and destabilizes the central government.



Great Britain, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

What factors lead to the devolution of states?

1. Physical Geography
2. Ethnic Separatism
3. Ethnic Cleansing
4. Terrorism
5. Economic or Social Problems
6. Irredentism

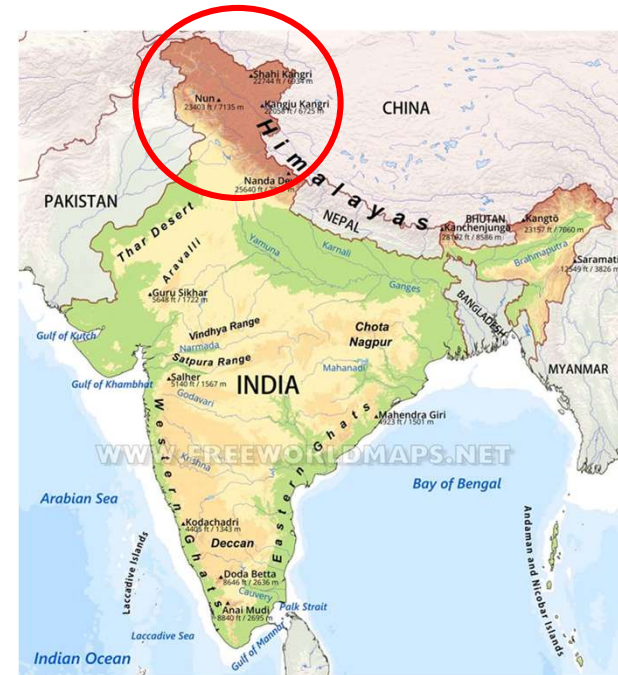


**CENTRIFUGAL
FORCES**

What factors lead to the devolution of states?

1. Physical Geography

- Regions that are separated from the central state due to physical features such as mountain ranges, deserts, or bodies of water.
 - Fragmented states like Indonesia or the Philippines
- Distance Decay: As distance increases between two locations, the quantity and quality of interactions decline.



Example: Kashmir is separated from the rest of India because of the Himalayan Mountains.

What factors lead to the devolution of states?

1. Physical Geography



Example: Indonesia is made up of 17,508 islands of which about 6000 are inhabited.



Example: The Kurds, a stateless nation, are situated at the intersection of several mountain ranges.

What factors lead to the devolution of states?

2. Ethnic Separatism

- People of a particular ethnicity in a multinational state identify more strongly with their ethnic group than as citizens of the state.
- Many times a result of mistreatment or disparity between dominant ethnic group and minority ethnic group within a state.

3. Ethnic Cleansing

- State governments attack an ethnic group in an attempt to try to eliminate them through expulsion, imprisonment, or mass murder.
- Similar to genocide -> The Holocaust

<https://youtu.be/cMkHcZ5lwjU>



What factors lead to the devolution of states?

Ethnic Separatism in China

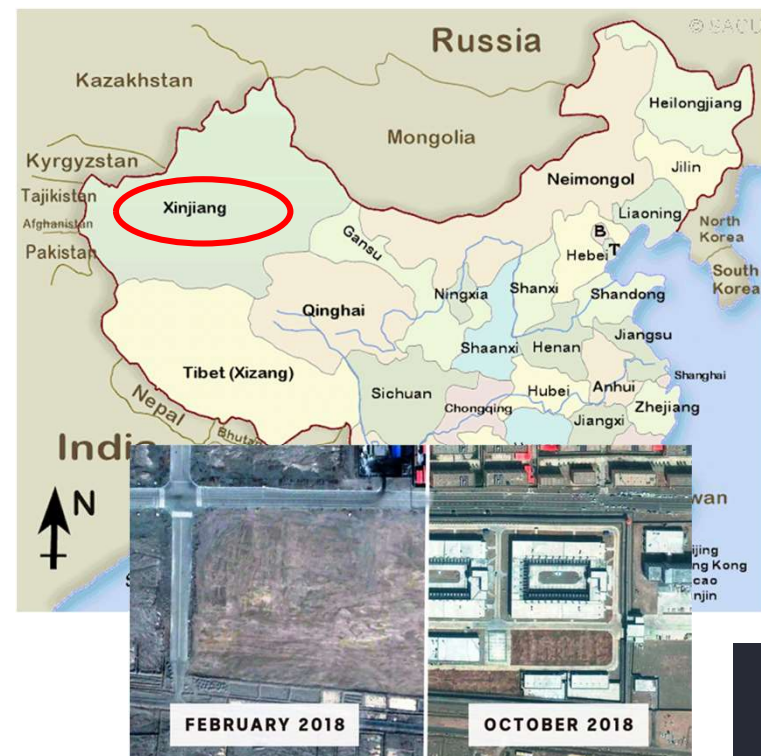
- Majority ethnic group - 55% Han Chinese
- Tibetan Buddhists view themselves as culturally distinct from dominant China.
 - Tibetan ethnicity & Religious minority
 - Long history of resisting invasions by the British & Chinese.
 - Dalai Lama, the leader of Tibetans has been exiled to India since 1959.



What factors lead to the devolution of states?

Ethnic Cleansing in China

- Uyghurs are originally apart of “East Turkistan,” speak Turkish and are Muslims.
 - Ethnic separatism & in fighting for sovereignty, the Uyghurs have turned to violent tactics.
 - The whole group has been labeled as terrorist threats and many have been unwillingly send to “re-education” centers.



The line that stands out most in the script, however, may be the model answer for how to respond to students who ask of their detained relatives, “Did they commit a crime?”

The document instructed officials to acknowledge that they had not. “It is just that their thinking has been infected by unhealthy thoughts,” the script said.

“Freedom is only possible when this ‘virus’ in their thinking is eradicated and they are in good health.”





A watchtower this spring at a high-security facility near what is believed to be a re-education camp on the outskirts of Hotan. Greg Baker/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images



What factors lead to the devolution of states?

4. Terrorism

- Organized violence aimed at government and civilian targets intended to create fear in order to accomplish political aims.
- Most commonly utilized by non-government groups with no army, (ethnic separatists) in order to achieve recognition or power.
- Examples: Uyghurs in China, Palestinians in Israel, Basque ETA from 1959-2011.



What factors lead to the devolution of states?

5. Economic or Social Problems

- Uneven development, different levels of economic activity/productivity, and conflict over the allocation of funding from the central level of government.
- Example: Scotland in the UK
 - Most of the UK's oil and gas assets are found in the North Sea, in Scotland.
 - Control of the oil and gas reserves could make \$\$ for Scotland, rather than the UK if independent.



What factors lead to the devolution of states?

5. Economic or Social Problems

- Social problems such as discrimination against a minority group fuel devolutionary forces as well.

6. Irredentism

- A majority ethnic group wants to claim territory from a neighboring state due to a shared culture with the people residing across the border.
- Reunification of multistate nations.
- Example: Russians in Ukraine and other former Soviet republics

