



## What is Democracy?

- system of government where the people grant the authority to govern within constitutional constraints (rule of law)

Two dominant varieties:

### 1. Direct Democracy

- citizens are directly involved in making decisions

### 2. Representative Democracy

- decisions affecting the community are made by elected representatives of the people
- two forms: the *Constitutional Monarchy* (hereditary monarch is largely a ceremonial head of state) and the *Republic* (people elect the head of state)



Constitutional monarchies, such as Canada, employ a **parliamentary system** of government (Republics, on the other hand, use a **presidential or hybrid system**)



## Brief History of Democracy

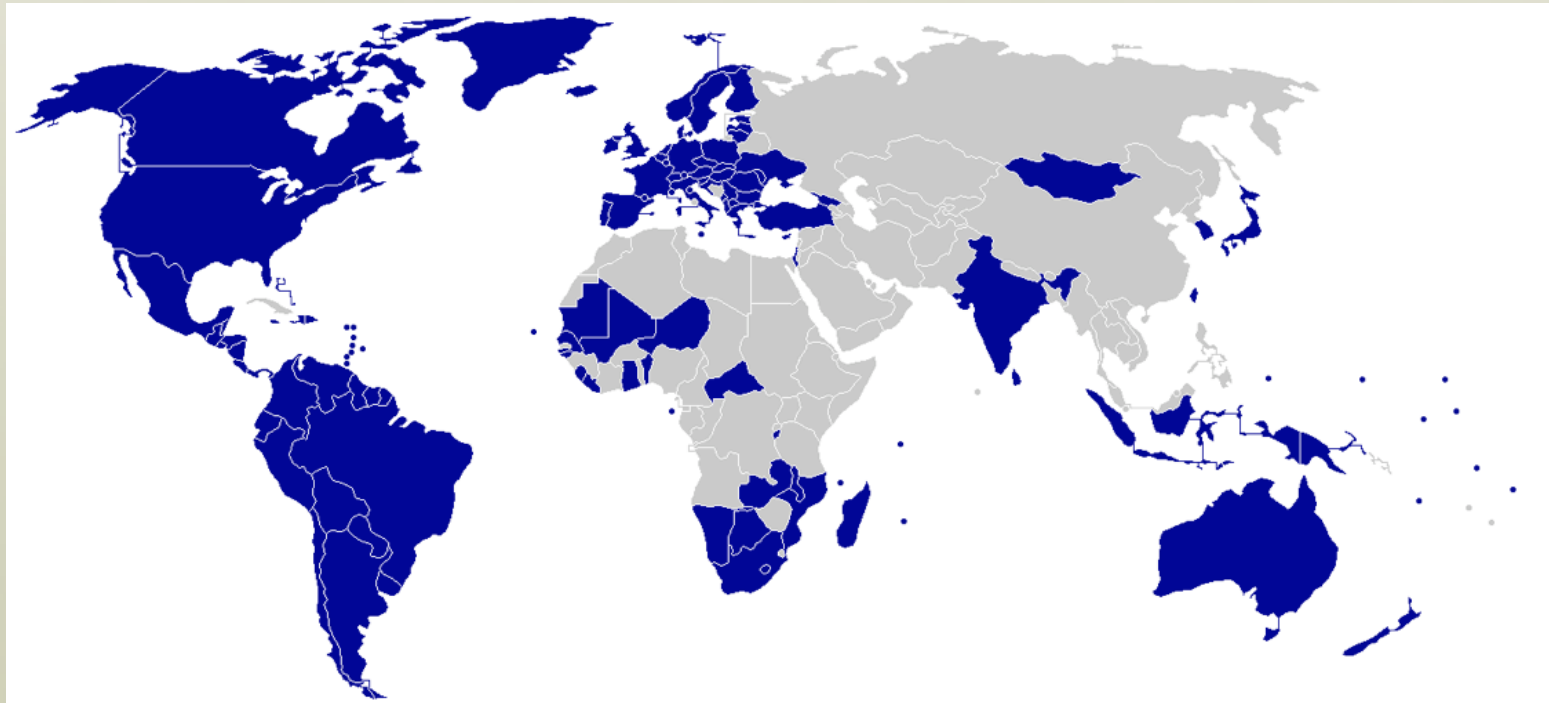
Use the BBC Democracy Timeline to investigate democracy over time. Choose 3 points in the history of democracy that you feel are most critical to its development.

BBC Democracy Timeline ▶ [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in\\_depth/why\\_democracy/timeline/html/non\\_flash.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/why_democracy/timeline/html/non_flash.stm)

BBC Democracy Timeline Flash ▶ [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in\\_depth/629/629/7034525.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/629/629/7034525.stm)



- in modern times, *liberal democracy* is used to indicate a representative democracy
- **Liberal Democracies** are based on the common ground of respect for constitutional procedure, limited state intervention, and the protection of personal freedoms



**Liberal Democratic States 2010** (source: Wikipedia)



## What constitutes a full *Liberal Democracy*?

### 1. Freedom

- of speech, religion, and political, economic, and social rights - all are a precondition

### 2. Rule of Many

- with protection of minority rights

### 3. Govern within the Rule of Law

- in accordance with the constitution
- equality under the law

### 4. Equality of Political Rights

- every individual has the right to vote, run for office, serve on a jury, speak on public issues, and carry out public functions



## 5. Majority Rules (refers to election to public office)

- *Plurality Majority*: the largest number of votes, even if <50%, in order to be elected
- *Qualified Majority*: 2/3 or 3/5 of vote required to be elected (more difficult to attain, is done to protect minority rights)
- *Simple Majority*: 50% plus one
- *Unanimity*

## 6. Mass Participation

- *Universal Suffrage*: all adult citizens have the right to vote

## 7. Legitimacy of Opposition

- the right to criticize government (within the law) and run against incumbents



## Limitations of Full Democracy

### 1. Lobby & interest groups

- speak for powerful private institutions (e.g. corporations), can override the concern for the common good

### 2. Electoral systems less than perfect

- (e.g. *first past the post*, *proportional representation*) may not accurately reflect the public will

### 3. Globalization & international free trade

- can erode economic sovereignty (e.g. decisions by WTO or IMF)

### 4. Failure to protect identifiable groups

- can discriminate against minority groups (e.g. racial profiling)



## 5. Can limit civil liberties

- Anti-terrorism Act (2001) and Public Safety Act (2004) increased police powers

## 6. Can act arbitrarily

- without justification (e.g. detaining foreigners with suspected links to terrorist groups, such as the U.S. officials deporting Canadian Maher Arar)

## 7. Oligarchy of the wealthy

- concentration of wealth in the hands of a few, increasing economic disparities

## 8. Focus on Individualism

- individual rights tend to supersede the public good (e.g. U.S. constitution guaranteeing individuals the 'right to bear arms')

Read the BBC article, Still only 2 cheers for democracy (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/7025675.stm>) and pp. 247-258 in your text. What do they have to add to the "Limitations of Democracy"?



## Democracies can also be classified according to degree:

### *Partial Democracies*

- have only some of the characteristics of a full democracy

### *Emerging Democracies*

- are partial democracies attempting to become a full democracy

As pointed in your text, the transition to democratic values and institutions is a complex process and can be at odds with cultural, political and economic realities. Conflicts inevitably arise, which can sometimes erupt into violence.

For many countries of the world, progress toward democracy has involved *colonization* and *decolonization*.





## Colonization and Decolonization

### Colonization

- is the population of a new area by an influx of people

### Colonialism

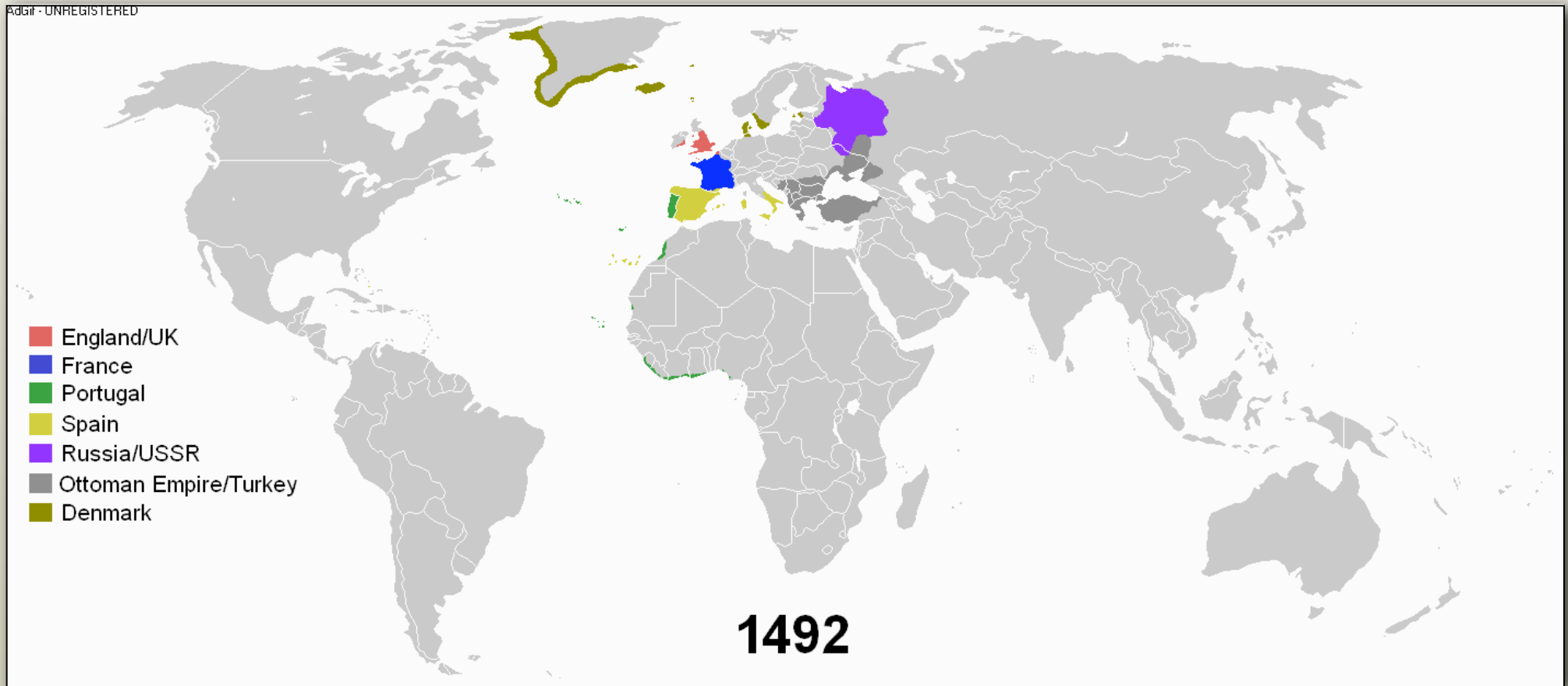
- is the extension of a nation's sovereignty over territory beyond its borders by the establishment of either settler or exploitation colonies in which indigenous populations are directly ruled, displaced, or exterminated.

### Decolonization

- the process in gaining independence after a colonial power recognizes the right of a colony to self-government

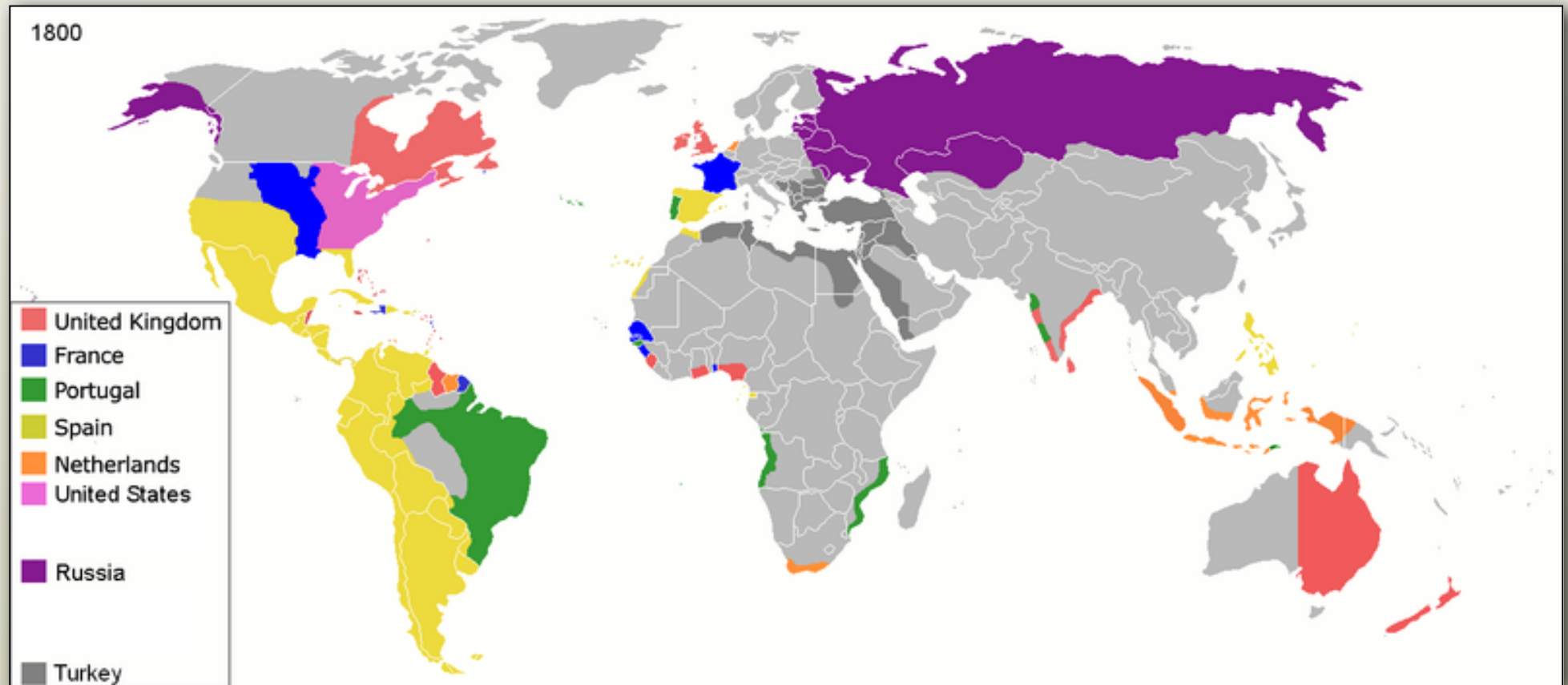


## Colonial Powers



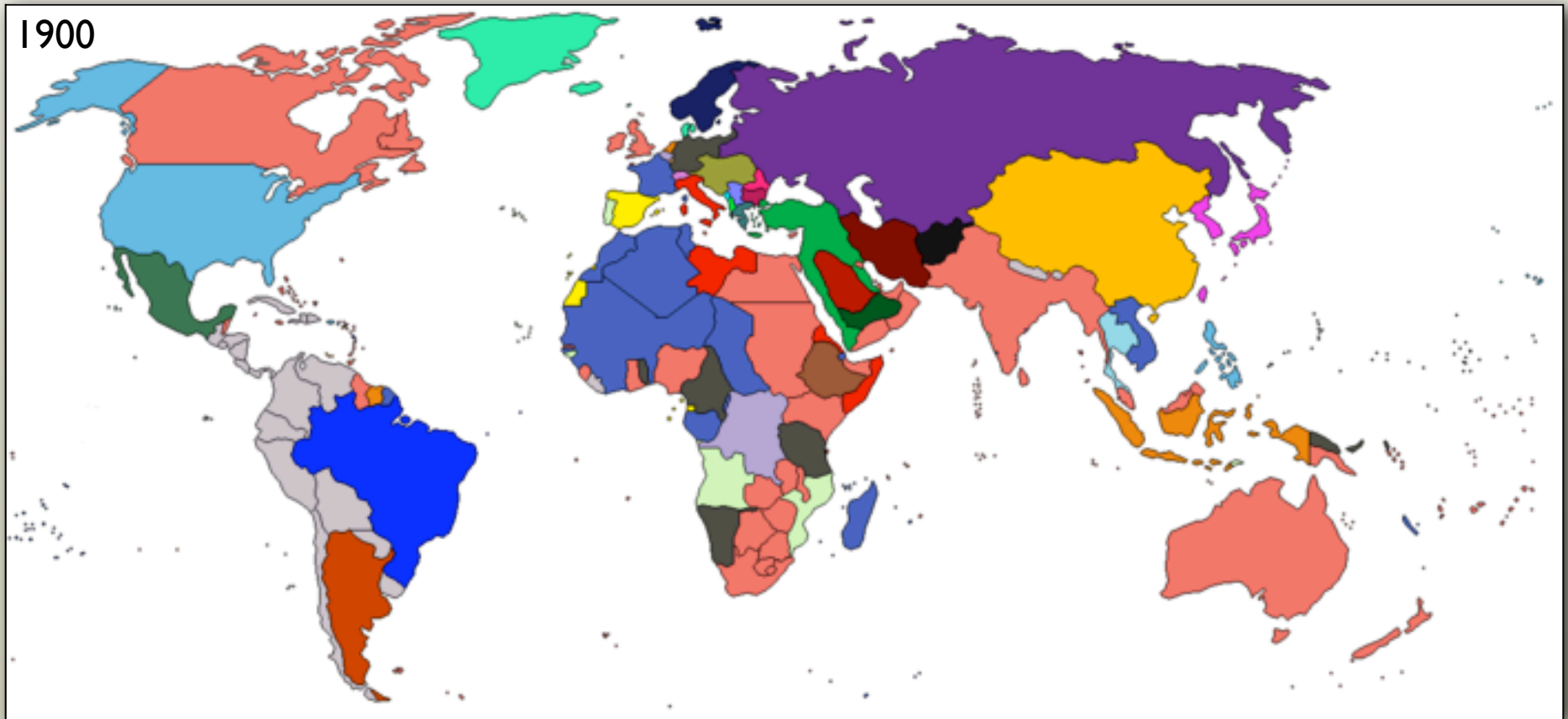


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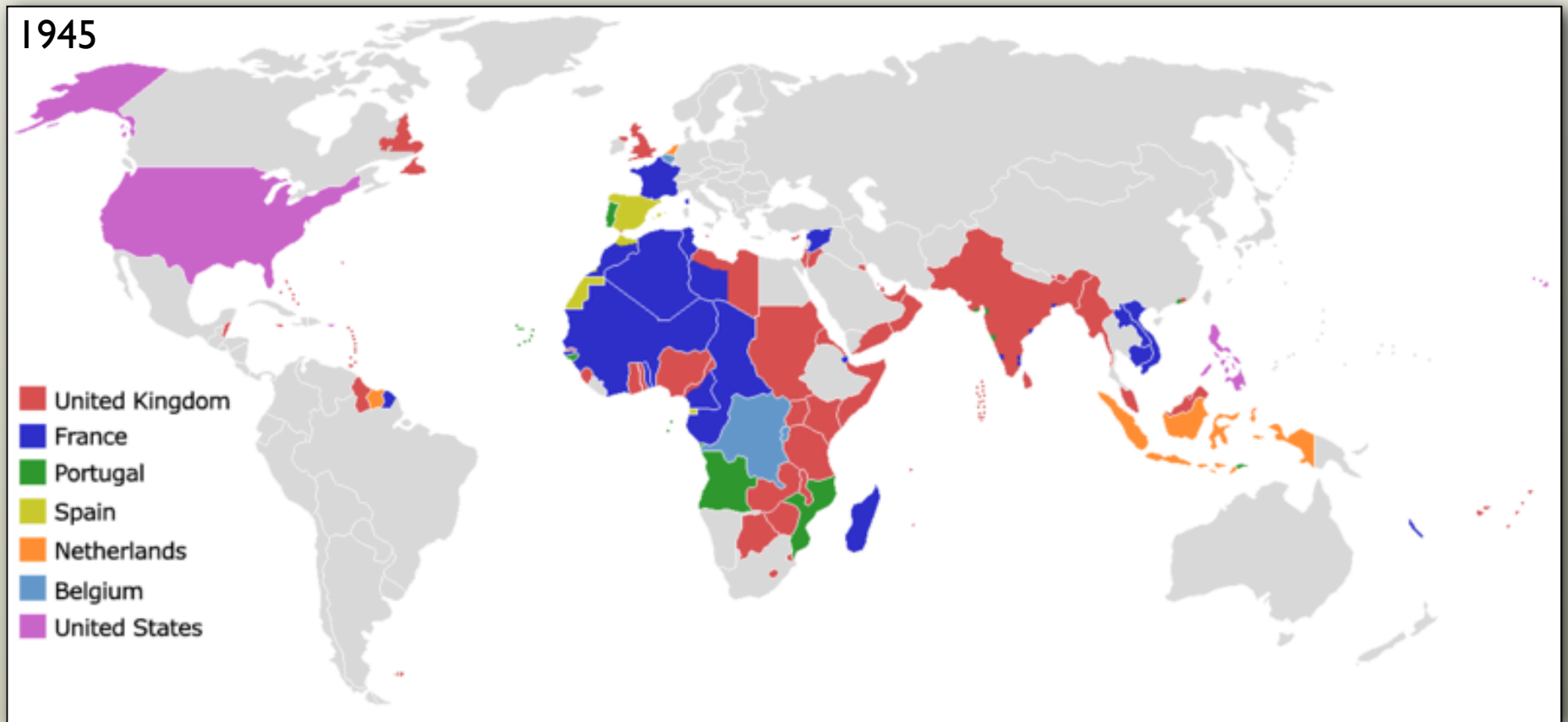


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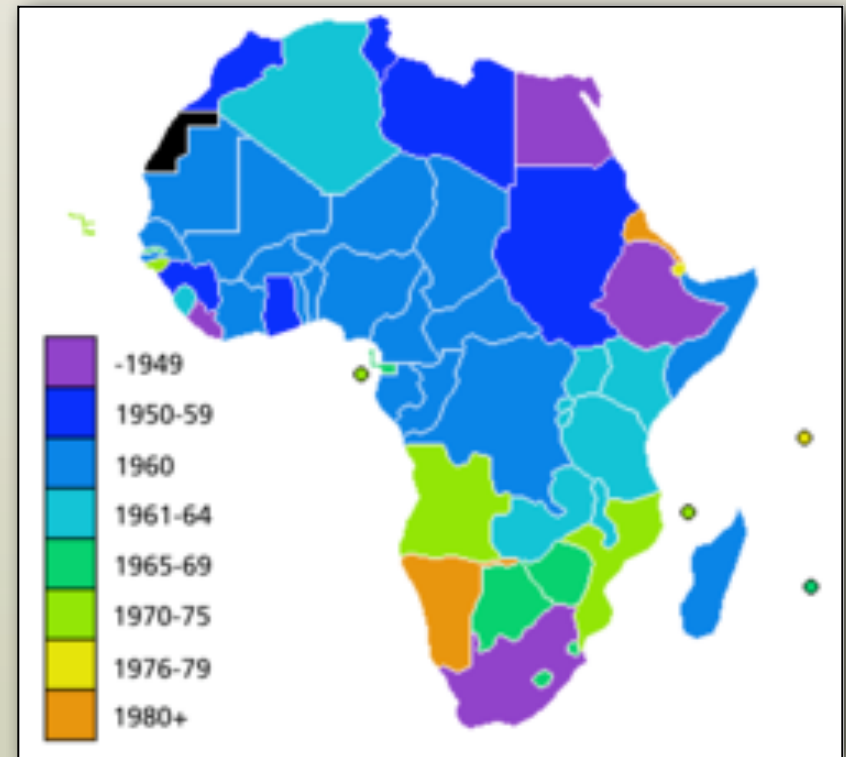
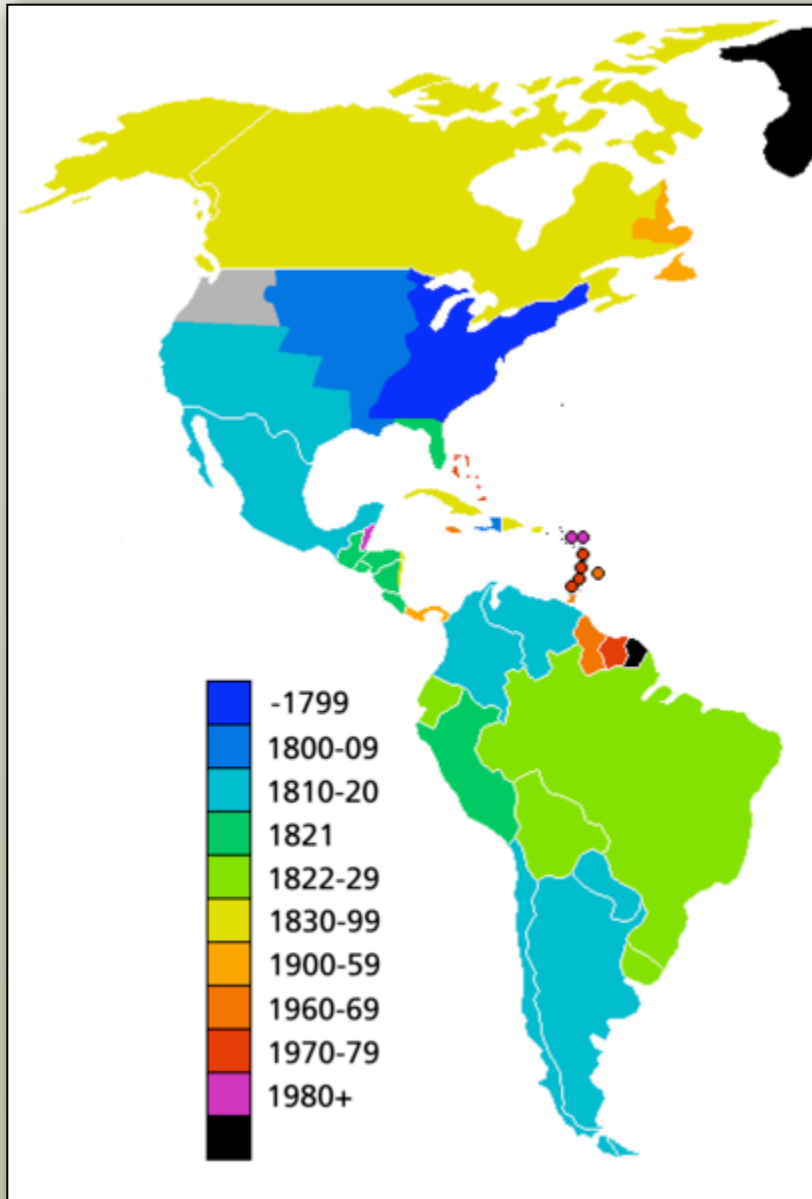


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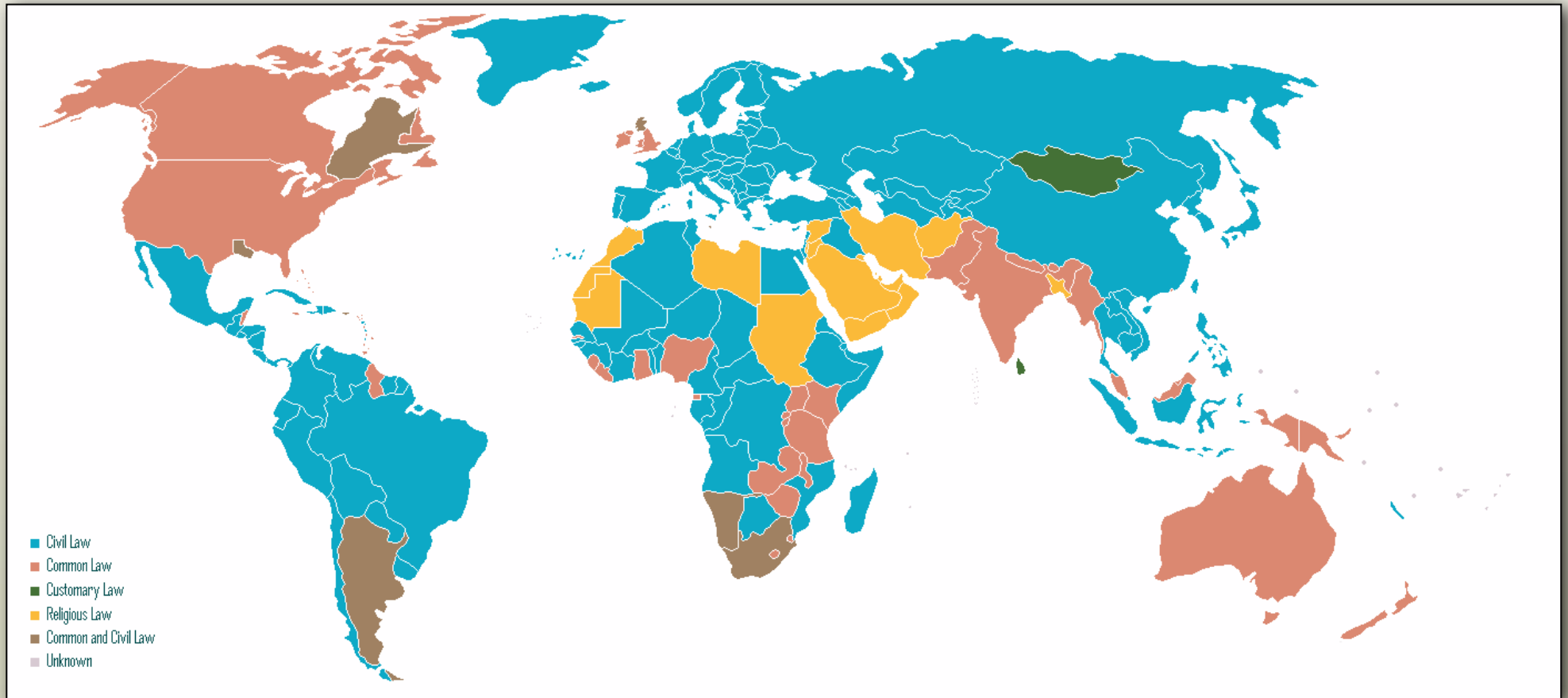


## Decolonization





## Rule of Law





## Major Legal Systems of the World

Source: Wikipedia (2010)

	Common law	Civil law	Socialist law	Islamic law
<b>Other names</b>	Anglo-American, English, judge-made	Continental, Romano-Germanic	Communist	Religious law
<b>Source of law</b>	Case law, legislation	Statutes, legislation	Statutes, legislation	Religious documents, case law <sup>[8][10]</sup>
<b>Lawyers</b>	Control courtroom	Judges dominate trials	Judges dominate trials	Secondary role
<b>Judges' qualifications</b>	Experienced lawyers	Career judges	Career bureaucrats, Party members	Religious as well as legal training
<b>Degree of judicial independence</b>	High	High; separate from the executive and the legislative branches of government	Very limited	Ranges from very limited to high <sup>[8][10]</sup>
<b>Juries</b>	Provided at trial level	May adjudicate in conjunction with judges in serious criminal matters	Often used at lowest level	Allowed in Maliki school, <sup>[10]</sup> not allowed in other schools
<b>Policy-making role</b>	Courts share in balancing power	Courts have equal but separate power	Courts are subordinate to the legislature	Courts and other government branches are theoretically subordinate to the Shari'a. In practice, courts historically made the Shari'a, while today, the religious courts are generally subordinate to the executive.
<b>Examples</b>	Australia, England, Hong Kong, Ireland, USA (except Louisiana), Canada (except Québec), Pakistan, India, Malaysia	All European Union states except UK and Ireland, USA (Louisiana), Brazil, Japan, Mexico, Québec, Switzerland, Turkey	Soviet Union	Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Gambia, Iran, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Sudan, Yemen