

THE POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY
OF SPAIN AND THE WORLD

Unit 6

THE TERRITORIAL ORGANISATION OF SPAIN

- Our country is organised into municipalities, provinces and autonomous communities. The capital of Spain is Madrid.



The Provinces

- The provinces are territorial divisions established by the government that contain various municipalities.
- In 1833, minister Javier de Burgos established 50 provinces in Spain. The majority of these provinces have the same name as their capital with the exception of Asturias (Oviedo), Cantabria (Santander), Álava (Vitoria), Bizkaia (Bilbao), Gipúzkoa (Donostia), La Rioja (Logroño), Navarra (Pamplona) Balears (Palma de Mallorca) and Las Palmas (Las Palmas de Gran Canaria)



Autonomous communities

- Spain is divided into 17 autonomous communities and two autonomous cities. These provinces have common historic, cultural and economic characteristics.
- The size of each autonomous community and the number of provinces in each vary and make up three different groups:



Single province community

- These are formed by only one province. There are seven of these type of autonomous communities.

COMUNIDADES UNIPROVINCIALES

Son las que están formadas por una sola provincia

ASTURIAS

MADRID

CANTABRIA

MURCIA

LA RIOJA

ISLAS
BALEARES

NAVARRA

Multi- province community

These are formed by two or more provinces. There are 10 of these.



Autonomous cities

- Ceuta and Melilla are two cities in Northern Africa which have been part of Spain since the start of the Modern Age.



INTRODUCTION

- Europe is a small continent, with little more than 10 million km, it has 720 million inhabitants.
- Europe's long history and geographical formations (many mountain ranges which form natural boundaries) has created a large number of different countries, up to 44.
- Each country has very different characteristics, languages and cultures, though many share common demographics. Their low birth and high percentage of citizens over the age of 65 mean that these countries have ageing populations. Europe can be divided into four different regions according to the location and characteristics of each country.

NORTHERN EUROPE

- Northern Europe is made up of 10 countries, the most populated is the **United Kingdom**. Next to it is **Ireland**, which form part of the British Isles. The rest of northern Europe incorporates Scandinavia, including **Finland**, **Norway** and **Sweden**, and those countries situated on the Baltic sea: **Estonia**, **Latvia**, **Lithuania** and **Denmark** and **Iceland**.
- Northern Europe is the least populated of all its regions, 102 million inhabitants, due to its proximity to the Arctic Circle and difficult natural conditions, which also affects its economic activity and means that most of the population live in cities, 79%.

WESTERN EUROPE

- This is the smallest region in Europe and consists of **nine** countries, but it also the most densely populated ratio. The two countries with the largest populations are **Germany** and **France**. The other countries are smaller in size and population: the **Netherlands**, **Belgium**, **Austria**, **Switzerland**, **Lichtenstein** and **Monaco**.
- **Western Europe** has one of the highest economic and technological levels in the world and has a predominantly urban population

EASTERN EUROPE

- This is the largest region of Europe and consists in 10 countries. **Russia** is the largest country both in Europe and in the world. The other countries in this region are **Ukraine, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Slovakia** and **Moldova**. The total population of this area is 265 million. The largest city is Moscow, with more than 10 million people.

SOUTHERN EUROPE

- Southern Europe is made up of 15 countries, many of them relatively small in size. The largest in size and with the biggest population are **Spain** and **Italy**. The others are **Portugal**, **Greece**, **Serbia**, **Croatia**, **Slovenia**, **Bosnia-Herzegovina**, **Albania**, **Montenegro** and **Macedonia**. The four smallest are **Andorra**, **Malta**, **San Marino** and the **Vatican City**.

TEST

EXERCISE

- Make a table of the four European regions. List the country, the capital and the most important characteristics of each.

POLITICAL MAP OF NORTH AMERICA

North America is made up of three countries: Canada, the United States and Mexico



Russia

GREENLAND
(DENMARK)

ALASKA
(US)

CANADA

UNITED STATES
OF
AMERICA

MEXICO

Bahamas

Cuba

Dominican
Republic

Haiti

Jamaica

Belize

Guatemala

Honduras

Salvador

Nicaragua

Costa
Rica

Panama

Venezuela

Colombia

<http://www.freeworldmaps.net>

CANADA



- Canada is the largest country in North America and the second largest country in the world. Its capital is Ottawa
- Canada is 10 million km², which is equivalent to all of Europe. It stretches from the Atlantic Ocean in the east to the Pacific Ocean to the west. To the North it is bordered by the United States.
- It has the one autonomous region called Nunavut (2 million km²) which is governed by the indigenous Inuit people.

UNITED STATES



- The United States is the fourth largest country in the world, covering 9,4 million k 2, a similar size to China. It has the third largest population in the world. It is made up of 50 states and its capital is Washington D.C.
- Like Canada, it stretches east to west from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans. To the South it is bordered by Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico. The state of Alaska is in the extreme northwest of the continent between the Arctic and Pacific Oceans, geographically disconnected from the rest of the country.

The population of the United States is concentrated in four main areas.

- **Atlantic coast.** This is the area where the British first settled and where most of the north American population lives, specially around the big ports. The major cities are New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Miami.
- **Pacific Coast.** This region has the state with the highest population density. Its major cities are Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego and Seattle.
- **Great Lakes Region.** This is one of the most industrialised areas of the country. Its cities are closely tied to industry. Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland Milwaukee.
- **Gulf of Mexico.** Although this is not a highly populated area of the country, there are very large cities in Mississippi and Texas: Atlanta, Memphis, New Orleans, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio

MEXICO

- Mexico is about two million km² and has the largest population of all the Spanish-speaking countries. Its capital is Mexico city.
- Geographically, Mexico is located between the gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean. It has three different regions
 - **The gulf of Mexico coast.** This is a popular tourist destination and includes traditional cities like Veracruz and Merida, and the resort of Cancun.
 - **Pacific coast.** The well-known tourist city of Acapulco is located in the south of this coast; Tijuana is in the North, it's the town that borders the United States
 - **Central Mexico.** Ciudad de Mexico, the capital, is located in the centre of the country one of the biggest cities in the world with, more than 20 million inhabitants. Guadalajara and Puebla are also located in this area.



POLITICAL MAP OF CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

This area is divided into three different geographic zones, Central America, the Antilles and South America. The Hispanic or Portuguese culture predominates in these areas.

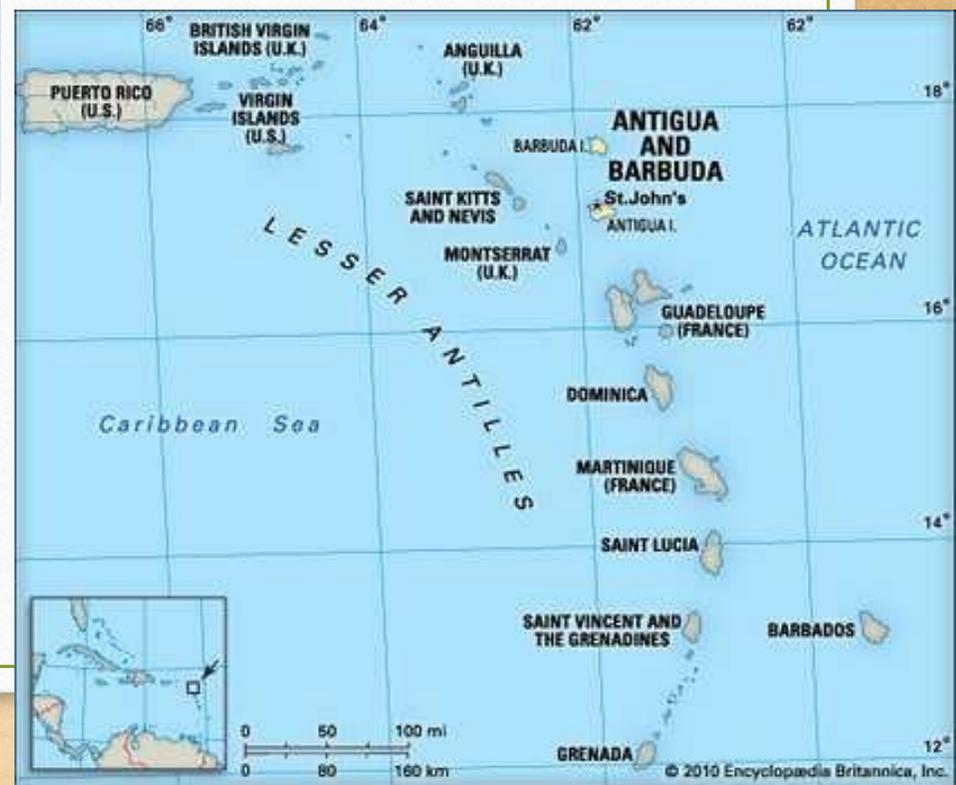


CENTRAL AMERICA

- Central America is a long isthmus that joins North and South America, and its made up of seven small countries: Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama

THE ANTILLES

- These groups of islands to the east of Central America are divided into two groups:
 - **Greater Antilles.** These are the larger islands to the North. They include Cuba, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.
 - **Lesser Antilles.** These islands form an arc to the south-east and reach the northern coast of South America
- The island nations are Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago.



South America

- South America is made up of twelve sovereign states with a population of 400 million people.
 - **Andean America.** This area is situated around the Andes Mountains and stretches from the Pacific Ocean to the Amazonian jungles. The countries in this region include: Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile and Bolivia.
 - **Atlantic coast.** These countries are located on the Atlantic Coast: Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay.



ASIA

Asia is the most populated continent in the world with 4.350 million inhabitants, which is 60% of the world's population. It is also the most densely populated continent and has the two most populated countries in the world: China and India.

Asia



NORTHERN ASIA

- Northern Asia is made up of Eastern Russia, Mongolia and several countries that became independent in the 90s, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.
- Northern Asia is the largest area in Asia, but because of the extreme cold in this region its also the least populated

Central Asia

400 km
400 miles



MIDDLE EAST

- **Mediterranean.** These are countries which border the Mediterranean sea, such as Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Israel, Palestine, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.
- **The Arabian Peninsula.** These countries include Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Yemen, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait.
- **Mesopotamia to Indus.** The third group stretches from the Mesopotamian region to the valley of the Indus River. Its is made up of Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan.
- The Middle East is characterised by the majority of countries being followers of the Islamic region. Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia are sacred cities to Muslims, Jerusalem is sacred to three major religions: Jews, Christians and Muslims.

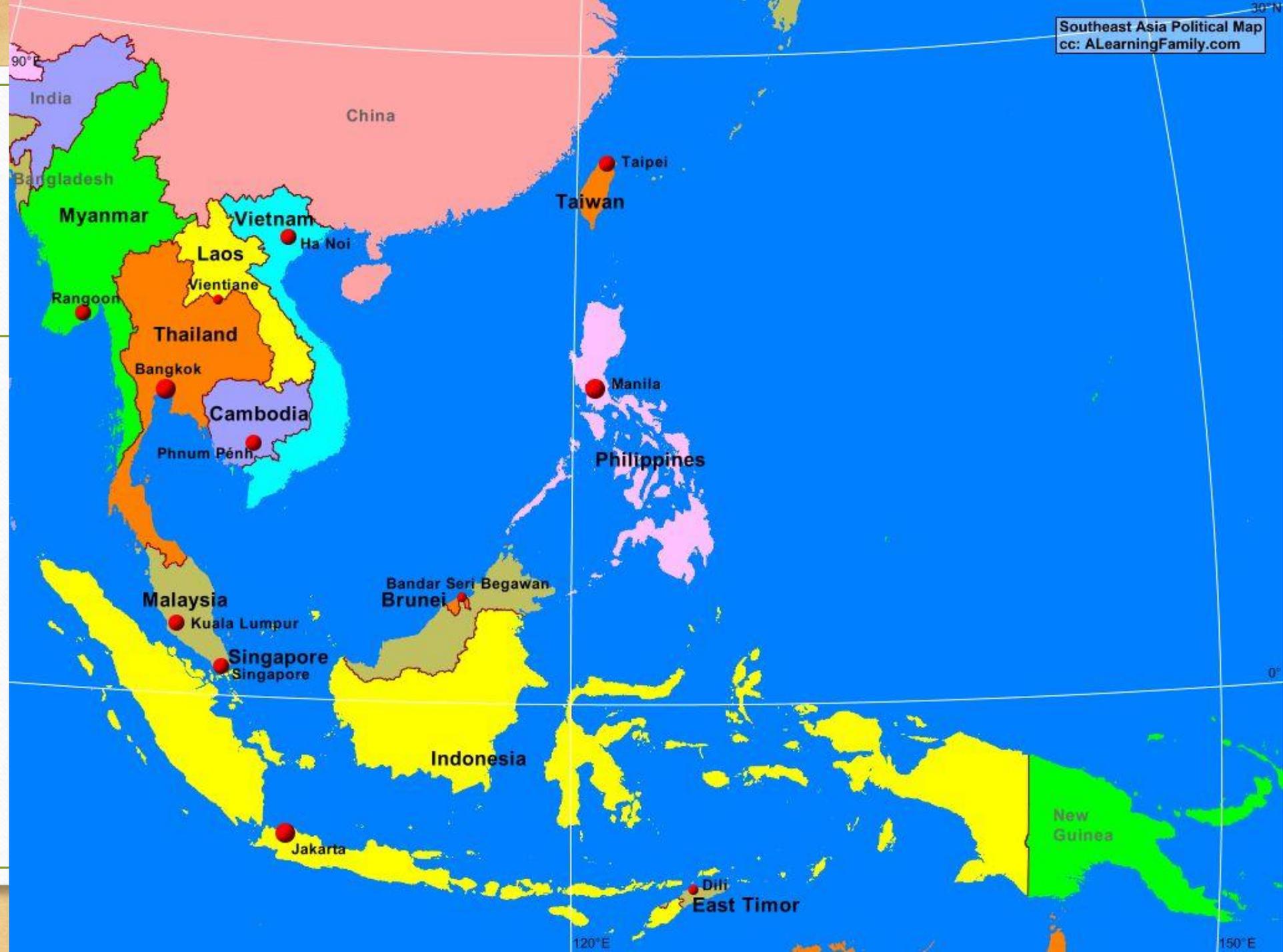
SOUTH ASIA

- South Asia is made up of the following countries: Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. The predominant religions in these countries are Buddhism, Islam and Hinduism.
- South Asia is the smallest region but it has the greatest population density.



EAST ASIA

- East Asia is made up of Japan, North Korea, South Korea, China, Taiwan, Philippines, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia and East Timor.
- China and India together hold one third of the worlds population.
- In China´s case the population is stable but it will probably decrease in the future, while the India´s population is increasing and it is estimated that by 2025 it will have more than 1440 billion inhabitants.



AFRICA

POLITICAL MAP OF AFRICA

- Africa has the greatest differences in population densities and growth rate in the world. In 200 it was calculated that there were more than 800 million inhabitants on the continent today there are 1.136 million. By 2025 is estimated that there will be 1.450 million people living on the continent.
- The desert regions of Africa occupy more than on third of the continent. In the Equatorial zone there are large areas of virgin forests that are essentially unpopulated by people. The most heavily populated area are Nile Valley, the Mediterranean Coast, the coast of the Gulf of Guinea and the areas surrounding the mines of South Africa.

Northern Africa

- This region includes Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. It stretches from the Mediterranean coast to the interior of the Sahara desert and has a wide variety of climates and landscapes.
- The population of Northern Africa is almost exclusively Muslim and their populations are concentrated mostly on the coastal areas and in the Nile Valley.

Sahara and Sub-Saharan Africa

- The countries in this region are Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad and Suda.
- This region extends from the Mediterranean to the interior of the Sahara desert; therefor, there are big contrasts in climate and landscapes
- The population of this region is small and includes many nomadic tribes. The people are almost exclusively Muslim and the economy is based largely on livestock farming.

Equatorial Guinea

- The countries of this region are Cape Verde, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, Liberia