Boundaries, Walls, and Fences

and their applications for messy boundary disputes
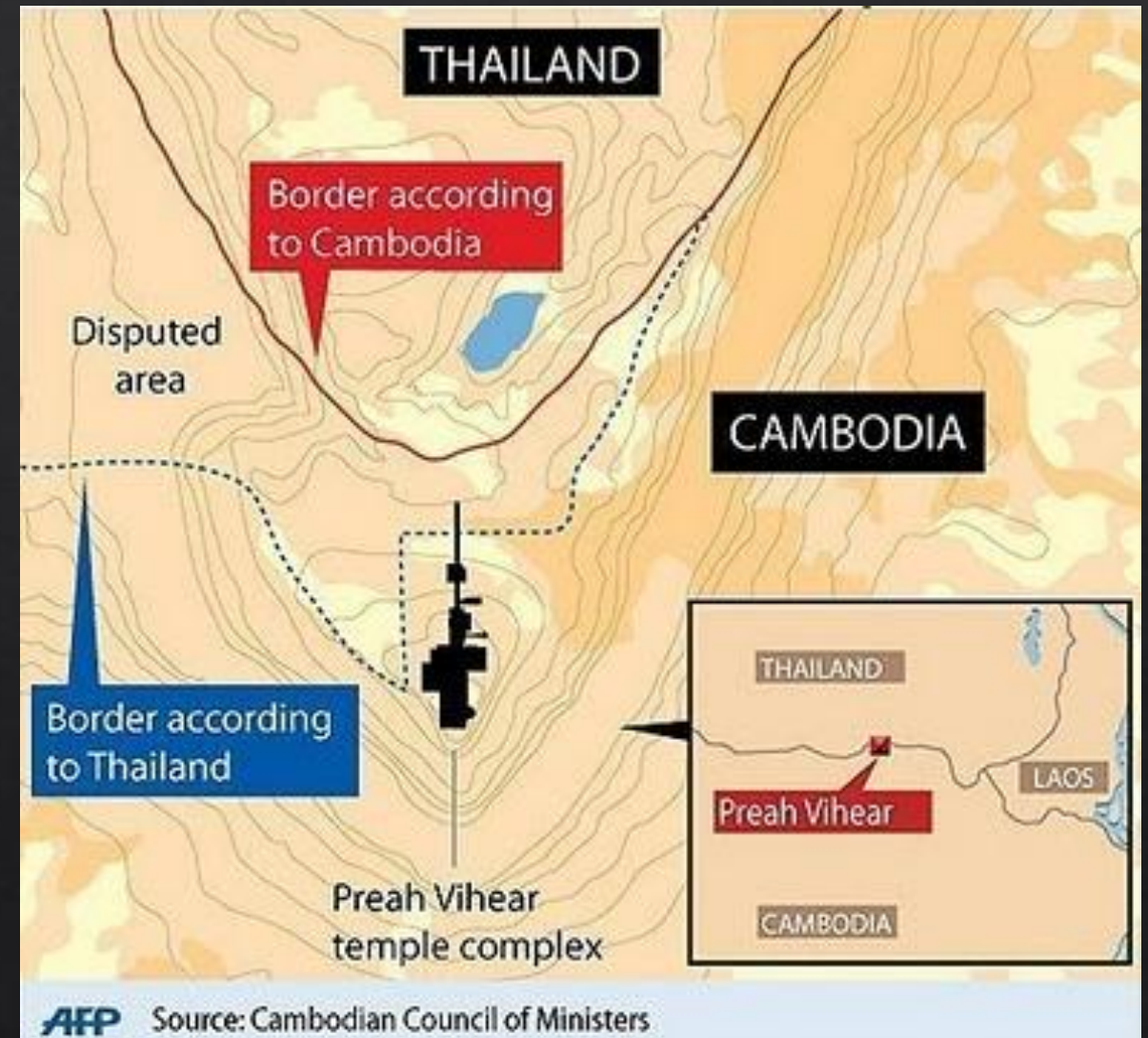
Key Questions

◈ What are the different types of Boundary Disputes?

◈ What are some examples of government created walls and fences in contemporary world history, and their consequences?

Positional, Definitional & Locational Boundary Disputes:

Can arise when there is disagreement over:

- ◇ **Definitions** within a border agreement
- ◇ **Location** of a boundary
- ◇ **Interpretation** of a mutually accepted border definition

Contributing factors include conflicting historical records, translation errors, inaccurate maps, changing physical geography, etc.
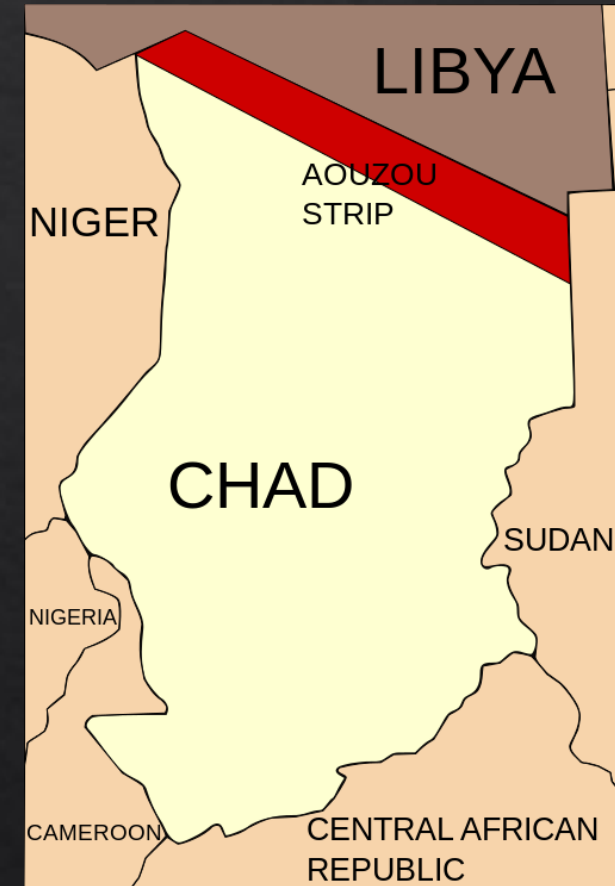
Territorial Boundary Disputes

⬥ Arise over the control of a region, usually with mutually-agreed borders.

⬥ Conflicts arise if people of one state want to annex territory whose population is ethnically related to them.
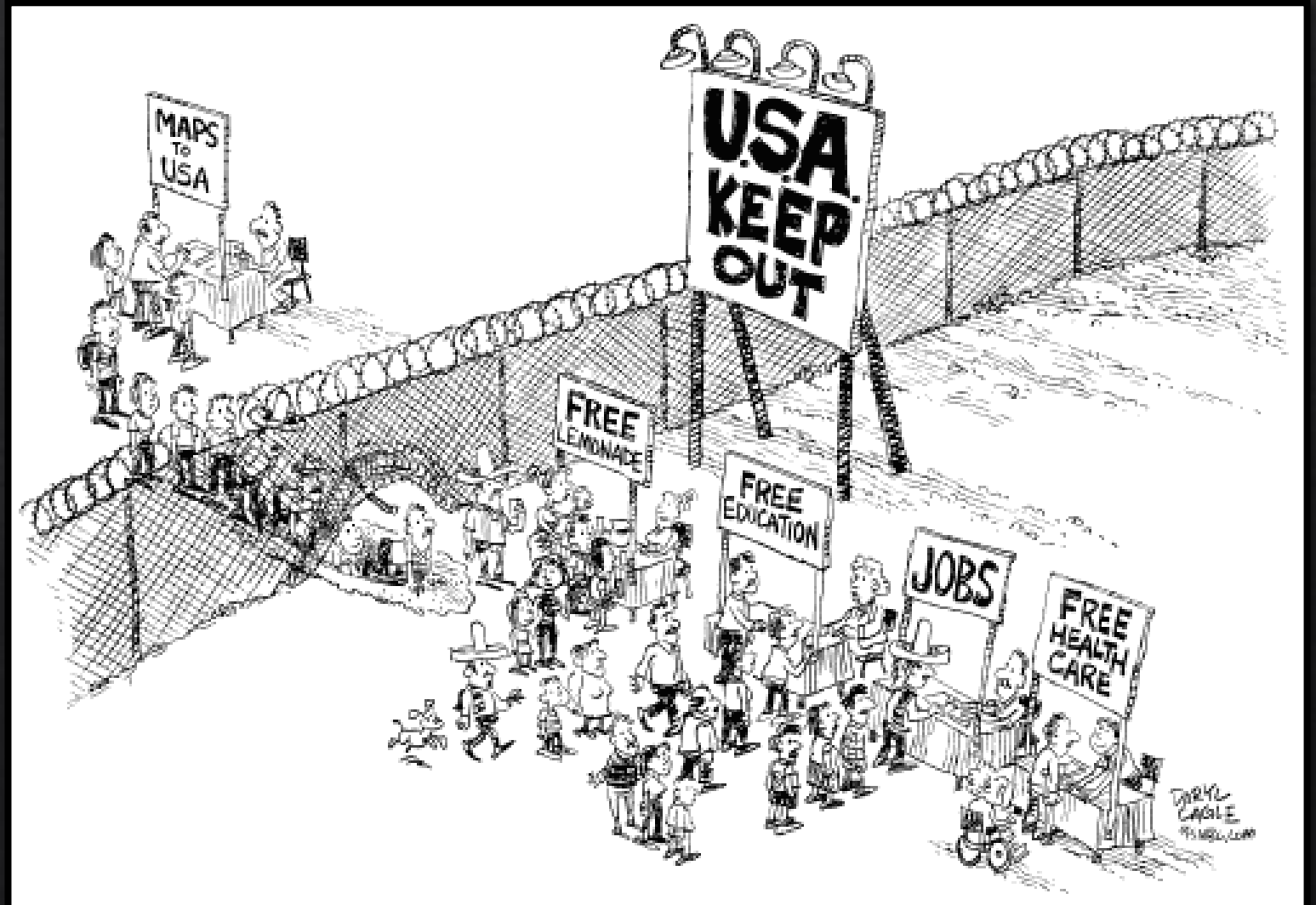
What is this?

Irredentism!

Resource (Allocation) Disputes

⬦ These disputes involve natural resources that lie in border areas.

⬦ mineral deposits
⬦ fertile farmland
⬦ rich fishing groups

Functional (Operational) Disputes

◇ These arise when neighboring states cannot agree on policies that apply in a border area.

◇ **Example:** the ongoing immigration debate between the U.S. and Mexico

Walls of the World

Using *Walls and Fences Notes* create a bullet-point list of potential consequences for Social/Political, Economic and Environmental categories

- **N. Ireland**: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j48XwoTeFC4 (11 minutes)

- **Berlin Wall** : **http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZCwlKiiZrs** (11 minutes)

- **N. Korea / S. Korea (DMZ)** : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGzcxG2gBIE (4 minutes)

- **Israel / Palestein :** http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhHLsl5ntU0   (4 minutes)

Social / Political Consequences:

- Increased tension between neighboring countries or among citizens within a "walled" country (e.g., East Berlin)
- **Increased isolation** (reduction in the diffusion of culture)
- Promotes **nationalism**, reduces foreign influences, increases **xenophobia**
- Separation of families, friends, relatives, and cultural groups
- International censure
- Increased protection/security from either real or perceived threats
- Reduced face-to-face interaction between people of neighboring countries
- Generates increased creativity in terms of how to get past the barriers

Economic Consequences:

- Cost of construction, maintenance, and staffing

- Creates jobs: construction, maintenance, and staffing

- Reduction in flow of illegal goods (or increased?)

- Loss of job opportunities for those excluded, less money earned/sent home, reverse remittances

- Loss of cheap labor

- Increased cost of smuggling (humans, drugs, other goods)

Environmental Consequences:

- **Interrupts** the **migration** of various species (plants or animals or both)
- **Impacts** on **natural habitats** as a result of barrier construction or new smuggling routes thorough pristine areas.
- **Visual scarring** on the landscape (natural and culture)