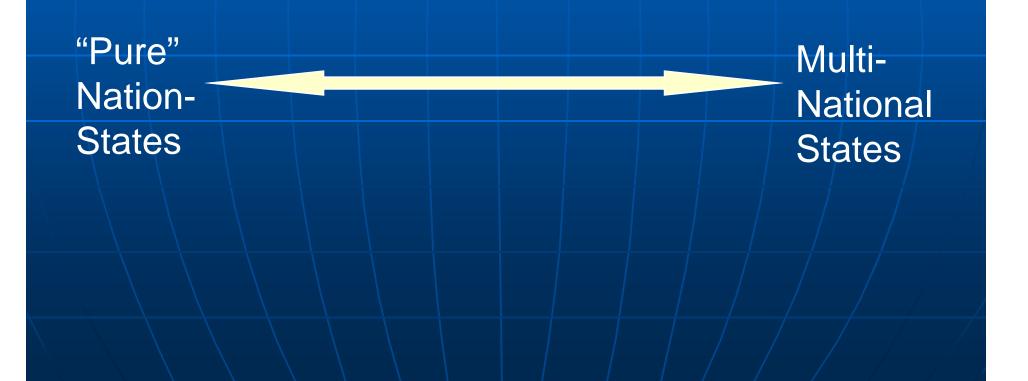
#### States and the State System

I. States, Nations, Nation-States
II. State Power
III. The State System
IV. Historical Development of the State System

I. States, Nations and Nation-States STATE: A political actor with four traits (1) territory (2) population (3) government (4) sovereignty Nation: A group of people who feel a common bond because of shared history, language, culture, religion, ethnicity or race, etc. Nationalism: General sentiment or political ideology linking nation to state Nation-State: Idea that geographic area of state and nation should correspond.

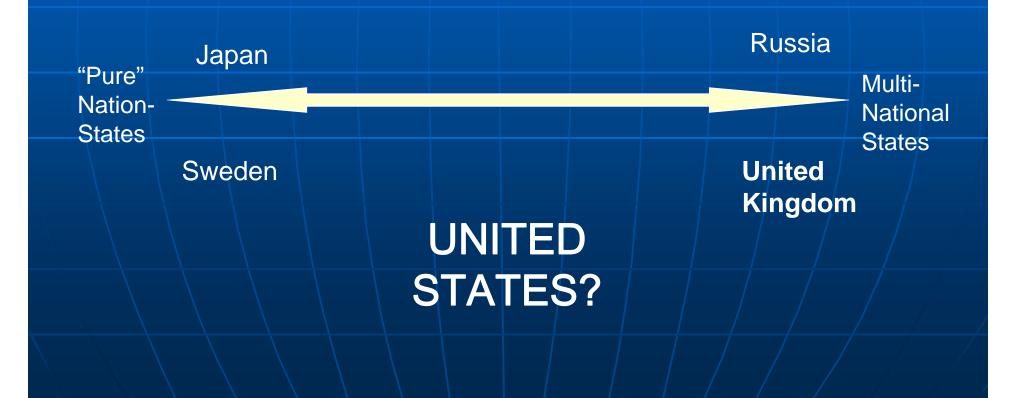
## **Nation-States**

#### Think of as a continuum between 'Pure Nation-States' and 'Multinational States'



## **Nation-States**

#### Examples of 'Pure' and Multinational Nation-States



### II. State Power

POWER: the ability of an actor to get another actor to do what they want, even against their will
A function of:
Capabilities or 'Hard Power' (population, military, economy, resources, geography, etc)
NOTE: Nau's definition of power limited to this.
Influence or 'Soft Power' (values, reputation, credibility, trust)
Situational and Relational

## III. The State System

- System = (1) interrelated units (or "Actors") and (2) patterns of interaction (or how IR works)
- STRUCTURE and PROCESS
- Sovereignty implies ANARCHY
  - lack of a higher authority (no 'world 911')
  - Anarchy increases importance of power
  - Hence interaction in anarchic international system largely determined by BALANCE OF POWER

## III. The State System

- Melian Dialogue (Thucydides' History of the Peloponnesian War): 'The strong do what they can, the weak suffer what they must'
- 'International State System' = ANARCHIC system of STATES (Structure) that is largely guided by the BALANCE OF POWER (Process)

#### **FEUDAL ERA:**

- Catholic Church and Holy Roman Empire
- Two Revolutions and a Reformation
  - Commercial Revolution
  - Gunpowder Revolution
  - Protestant Reformation
- Thirty Years War (1618-48) and Peace of Westphalia (1648)
- The Strength of Weak States

ERA OF MONARCHS (1700s)

Absolutist Monarchies

Wars among Kings

- Ultima Ratio Regnum ("The final argument of Kings")
- Wars of Limited Scope and Goals
- Professional, Mercenary Armies
- Era of European Expansion
- PROBLEMS: Challenge of Democracy & Rise of Nationalism/Popular Sovereignty

#### ERA OF NATIONALISM (1800s)

- Napoleonic Wars
  - HEGEMONY: The primacy of one state over all others either globally, within a particular region, or within a particular area of activity (i.e., economic hegemony; cultural hegemony)
- Wars of Nation against Nation
  - Napoleonic France's levee en masse (draft)
- Congress of Vienna (1814-15) and 'Concert of Europe'
- Problems: Nationalism, Democracy, Industrialization and Unification of Germany

IV. Historical Development of the State System IDEOLOGY AND SUPERPOWERS (1900s)World War I and 'Total War' Treaty of Versailles (1919) World War II – 'Total War Continued' Cold War • Bipolar (US and USSR) Problems: Internal Weakness of USSR

- TRAITS OF THE CURRENT SYSTEM
- STILL State-Centered and Anarchic
- 'Unipolar' Distribution of Power trending toward Multipolar with New Actors (China, India, Brazil)
- Vast Increase in the Number of Actors (States, IGOs, NGO's)
- Decreased Salience of Ideology?
  - 'End of History' or 'Clash of Civilizations'?
- Increasing Emphasis on Norms & Values that Transcend Sovereignty (i.e., Serbia and Ethnic Cleansing)