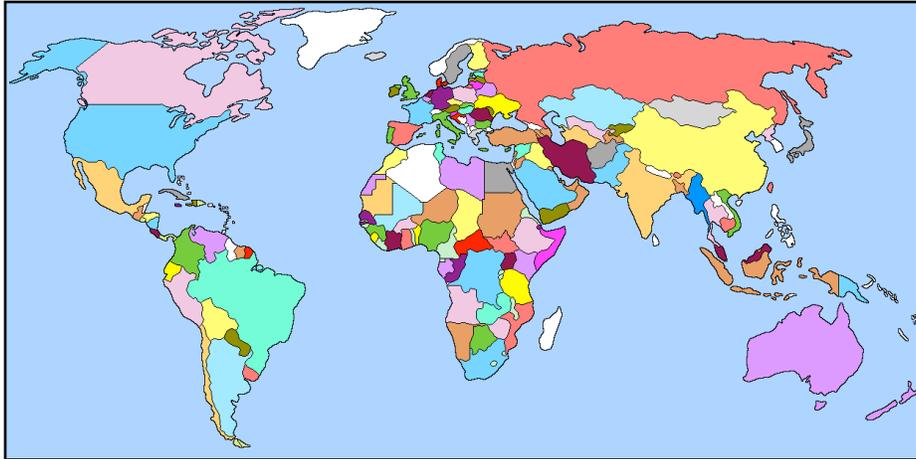


## AMERICA AS THE WORLD POLICE POWER

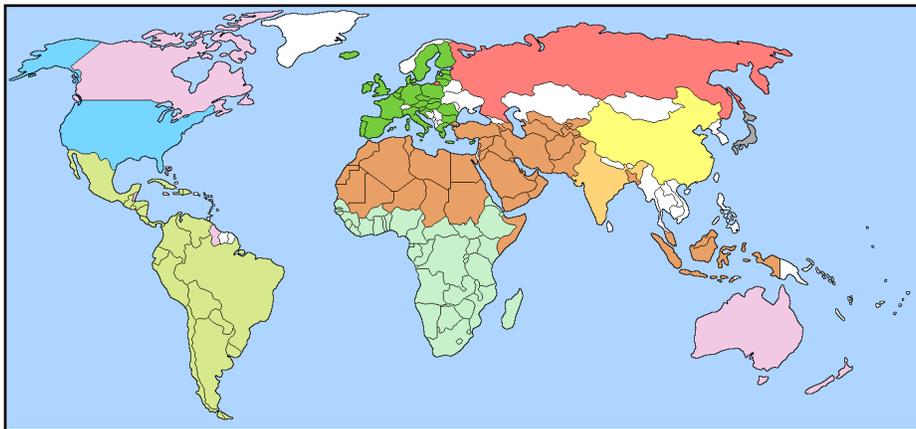
### I. The World We Live In

#### A. The Ten Cultural Blocks of the World

1. There are five especially important countries in the world that America polices:
  - a) **The United States** - It is the world's greatest military superpower by far.
  - b) **China** - "Made in China" is now much more important than anyone imagined just 40 years ago, and China's military is growing rapidly.
  - c) **Russia** - Russia is no longer a communist country, but it is still anti-American and it has the second most powerful military.
  - d) **Japan** - This island nation once tried to create a massive empire, but it is now an American ally in Asia, and a technologically advanced country.
  - e) **India** - This very populous nation follows the unique religion of "Hinduism." It used to be part of the British empire and wants to be independent.
2. Most countries are part of five big groups that can be called "cultural blocks":
  - a) **The European Union** - Germany, France, and Britain used to have empires, but they now want peace through "*supranationalism*" which says they shouldn't be separate nations, but instead a single "United States of Europe."
  - b) **The Islamic World** - Northern Africa, the Middle East, and southern Asia has many countries where the people all believe in the religion of Islam. Most followers of the religion of Islam have accepted a cosmopolitan way of life, which means they accept other cultures, but a modern reaction against cosmopolitanism is called "*Islamism*." America is fighting Islamists around the world in the "War on Terror."
  - c) **The Anglosphere** - Canada, Australia, and New Zealand (along with a few smaller countries) used to be in the British Empire, but now they are allies of the United States.
  - d) **The Iberosphere** - This other group of countries includes Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina, which were once controlled by their mother countries, Spain & Portugal (together known as "Iberia"). They are neighbors of the United States, but want to stay independent from it.
  - e) **Sub-Saharan Africa** - These nations, south of the Sahara desert in Africa, are poor and still struggling to develop stable governments. They are distinct from northern Africa by the wide acceptance of Christianity and influence of European culture upon them instead of Islam.
  - f) Not all the countries of the world fit into a model with ten major blocks. This does not mean they are of no interest. It simply means that they do not affect history on the same scale. They are either entirely within the orbit of some major country or block, or they exhibit strong dependencies upon more than one major country or block. We must always be mindful of the role they might play in affecting how the major blocks act and interact.



The pattern of the world's countries today is too messy if we try to know all the countries. We need to learn to see the world in a more organized way.



Thinking of the world in terms of historical building blocks or “cultural blocks” gives us a much clearer picture. *Please be sure to study your geography handout, if you are not clear which is which.*

## B. Wars Around the World Today

1. Although there are quite a few wars around the world today, we live in a surprisingly peaceful time, because the United States is the “world police power.”
2. In 2019, fewer than 100,000 people died in major wars around the world, which is an amazingly small number in a world with almost eight billion people in it!
3. Almost all the major wars are found in the Islamic world, where the United States is trying to stop terrorism.