Territory, Cartography, and Political Calculation

Political Geography (GEOG 329)

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“Political theory lacks a sense of territory; territory lacks a political theory.”

-Elden
“territory is often assumed to be self-evident in meaning, allowing the study of its particular manifestations – territorial disputes, the territory of specific countries, etc – without theoretical reflection on ‘territory’ itself. Where it is defined, territory is either assumed to be a relation that can be understood as an outcome of territoriality, or simply as a bounded space. … In the first, the historical dimension is neglected, since it appears that territory exists in all times and places; in the second the conditions of possibility of such a configuration are assumed rather than examined.”

- Elden
2.

a. Zool. A pattern of behaviour in which an animal or a group of animals defends an area or resource against others of the same species. Cf. TERRITORIALISM n. 7a.

1921 *Brit. Birds* 14 273 Differences...not merely in degree, ought to be recognized between the territoriality of the small [etc.]
1955 *Sci. Amer.* Oct. 92/3 No room was left for doubting...the territoriality of the owls.
1979 *Nature* 20 Dec. 885/1 Territory seems to be rare in bees and wasps, with the exception perhaps of males and their mate search behaviour.
2006 J. T. COSTA *Other Insect Societies* xx. 668 D'Andrea...linked spider sociality to the degree of individual territoriality and colony perenniality.
Pronunciation: Brit. /ˌtɛrɪˈtɒrɪələti/, U.S. /ˌtɛrəˈtɔrɪələdi/
Etymology: < TERRITORIAL adj. + -ITY suffix. Compare TERRITORIALISM n.

b. A pattern of human behaviour characterized by aggressive defence or protection of an area, sphere of activity or influence, etc., against others. Cf. TERRITORIAL adj. 2e, TERRITORIALISM n. 7b.

1967 Social Probl. 15 236 Territoriality, or the attempt to control space, is conceived as a fundamental human activity.
1987 Metrop. Home July 29/1 The suburban territoriality that puts so much grass and macadam between families.
1991 S. J. GOULD Bully for Brontosaurus xiv. 225 The facile interpretation that scientists wouldn’t give Thayer a hearing because he was an ‘outsider’ won’t work either—for contemporary accounts belie such charges of territoriality and narrowness.
2005 P. A. BELL et al. Environmental Psychol. viii. 654 Some researchers consider human territoriality to be instinctive.
**territoriality, n.**

**Pronunciation:**  
Brit. /ˌtɛriərɪˈalɪti/,  
U.S. /ˌtɛriərɪˈælɪdi/  

**Etymology:**  
< TERRITORIAL adj. + -ITY suffix. Compare TERRITORIALISM n.

**1.** Territorial quality or condition; association with a particular territory; the position or status of being a territory.

1771 *Brief for Counsel of Sir Robert Gordon* 24 The territoriality of the peerage in question will cease.

1775 W. BORTHWICK *Inq. Feudal Dignities Scotl.* 51 The same family of Morton affords another example of the territoriality of honours.

1849 *Daily News* 26 July 3/4 There was great doubt whether their territoriality was transferred to England in as far as marriages were concerned.

1894 E. P. EVANS in *Pop. Sci. Monthly* 44 305 The consciousness of what might be called common territoriality tends to bind together.

1906 *Daily Chron.* 17 Nov. 4/4 Lord Rosebery urged that territoriality was of the essence of good recruiting.

1944 *Trans. Grotius Soc.* 30 184 The exclusive territoriality of the criminal law is the fundamental principle which distinguishes the Anglo-American concept of jurisdiction.

2004 *Church Times* 5 Nov. 3/4 It would mean a break with traditional Anglican ecclesiology regarding the territoriality of dioceses.

(Hide quotations)
Territory & Territoriality

“it is territory that is logically prior to territoriality, even if existentially second. Strategies and processes toward territory – of which territoriality is but a fraction – conceptually presuppose the object that they practically produce.”

-Elden
territory, n.1

*Pronunciation:* Brit. /'teəri(ə)ri/, U.S. /'teərərɪ/ 

*Forms:* ME territorye, ME territori, ME terytory, ME–15 territorye, ME–15 territorye ... (Show More)

*Etymology:* < Anglo-Norman territorie (Anglo-Norman and Middle French territoire, French ... (Show More)

*b.* The extent of the land belonging to or under the jurisdiction of a ruler, state, or group of people. Also *fig.*

Often applied contextually to the land or country itself of a state, as *French territory,* etc.

?a1439 Lydgate tr. *Fall of Princes* (Bodl. 263) III. l. 822 (MED), Also in the land of his affeccioun, Ther teritories taugmenten and encrese In all the cuntres abouten.

c1470 tr. R. D'Argenteuil's French Bible (Cleveland) (1977) 89 (MED), Vaspasian..went by alle the Iuwery londis and territories and..destroyed alle theire castellis and forteressis, citées, tovnes, and villagis.

a1513 R. Fabyan *New Cronycles Eng. & Fraunce* (1516) II. f. vi, A Cytie or towne calld menne or meune within the Londe or Territorye of yᵉ Emperour.

1548 N. Udall et al. tr. Erasmus *Paraphr. Newe Test.* I. Acts xxviii. 86 We came to Rhegium, a citie in ye borders of Italy situate and lyinge within the territory that belongeth to the Brutians.

a1616 Shakespeare *Henry VI, Pt. 1* (1623) v. v. 102 Welcome braue Earle into our Territories.

a1687 W. Petty *Polit. Arithm.* (1691) x. 114 Not being above a sixth or seventh of the whole Territory of England.

1765 W. Blackstone *Comm. Laws Eng.* I. Introd. iv. 93 The kingdom of England, over which our municipal laws have jurisdiction, includes not, by the common law, either Wales, Scotland, or Ireland, or any other part..except the territory of England only.

1789 *Constitution U.S.* iv. §3 Rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property of the United States.

1835 C. Thirlwall *Hist. Greece* I. i. 3 The original Hellas was included in the territory of a little tribe in the south of Thessaly.
Genealogy

Genealogy, understood as a historical interrogation of the conditions of possibility of things being as they are, is helpful for a number of reasons. ... It makes use of the full range of techniques – including etymology, semantics, philology and hermeneutics – that should inform the history of ideas, but pairs them with an analysis of practices and the workings of power. And it is avowedly political, undertaking this work as part of a wider project that aspires to be a ‘history of the present.’”

-Elden
Four Part Conceptualization of Territory

- Political-economic
  - land & resources
- Political-strategic
  - military terrain
- Political-technical
  - cartographic space
- Political-legal
  - space of state
Political-Economic
“Land is a relation of property, a finite resource that is distributed, allocated and owned, a political-economic question. Land is a resource over which there is competition.”

-Elden
“Possession of land is the determinant of power, and conflict over land a key indicator of power struggles. Land, though, is not something that can be created, but is a scarce resource, one whose distribution and redistribution is an important economic and political concern.”

- Elden
“Thinking territory as land, as property, thus gives a political-economic relation. This is an essential part of any analysis of territory. Yet, just as Lefebvre recognizes that analysis of social space must go beyond property relations of ‘earth and land’, to look at the productive process that imposes ‘a form on that earth or land’, this requires an emphasis that goes beyond the economic.”

-Elden
“Terrain is a relation of power, with a heritage in geology and the military, the control of which allows the establishment and maintenance of order. As a ‘field’, a site of work or battle, it is a political-strategic question.”

-Elden
“the politico-strategic term is an indication of how the military and administration actually come to inscribe themselves both on a material soil and within forms of discourse.”

-Foucault
“Achille Mbembe has looked at the kinds of violence upon which colonial sovereignty was founded. The first of this was founding violence, which ‘underpinned not only the right of conquest but all the prerogatives flowing from that right . . . it helped to create the space over which it was exercised.’”

-Elden
The most obvious service to the state and to imperialism was that of Napoleon’s military geographers, the ingénieurs-géographes. These geographers were to be found wherever Napoleon’s forces were engaged in combat, sometimes in advance of the army but most often either alongside or behind the army and employed in mapping operations designed to consolidate French control. Already in existence by the end of the seventeenth century as ingénieurs des camps et armées, under Napoleon they assumed far greater importance in terms of the sheer volume of their production, the manner in which it was coordinated and organized, and the new social scope of their research which gave them a special sense of participation in their state’s imperialism.

-Godlewska
“cartography does not just represent the territory, but is actively complicit in its production. It is no surprise that the key sponsors of advances in cartographic techniques were states.”

-Elden
“Space is viewed as being subdivided into components whose boundaries are “objectively” determined through the mathematical and astronomically based techniques of surveying and cartography.”

-Soja
“there are political-juridical developments in legal codes, in the understanding of the sovereignty-territory relation and the distinction between sovereignty and majesty, all of which determine the question of political rule over space.”

-Elden
“what is calculation, and more specifically how can it provide insight into strategies of territory, appropriations of space and the role of mapping?”

-Crampton
“Hannah argues that calculation is an issue of power/knowledge, and he offers an important genealogy of calculable territory. This is defined as ‘making legible’ for purposes of intervention. ... Hannah suggests a model of calculable territory that gathers together six components: griddings of space; boundary-making; the legible built environment; and three types of knowledge tied to territory – sociodemographic census data; geodemographic; and fleeting, transactional records”

-Crampton
Counter Mapping

Indigenous communities have sought to counter map their own relationships to land as territory, advancing claims in the technical and juridical forms of the colonial state. Counter mapping efforts have, however, occasioned substantial debate, as it is uncertain whether entering state registers challenges the colonial territorialization of space or rather displaces Indigenous ways of relating to space with colonially-inspired cartographic calculations of territory.