

**Module: Cultural Geography**  
**Topic Content: International Political Divisions**

**International Political Divisions**

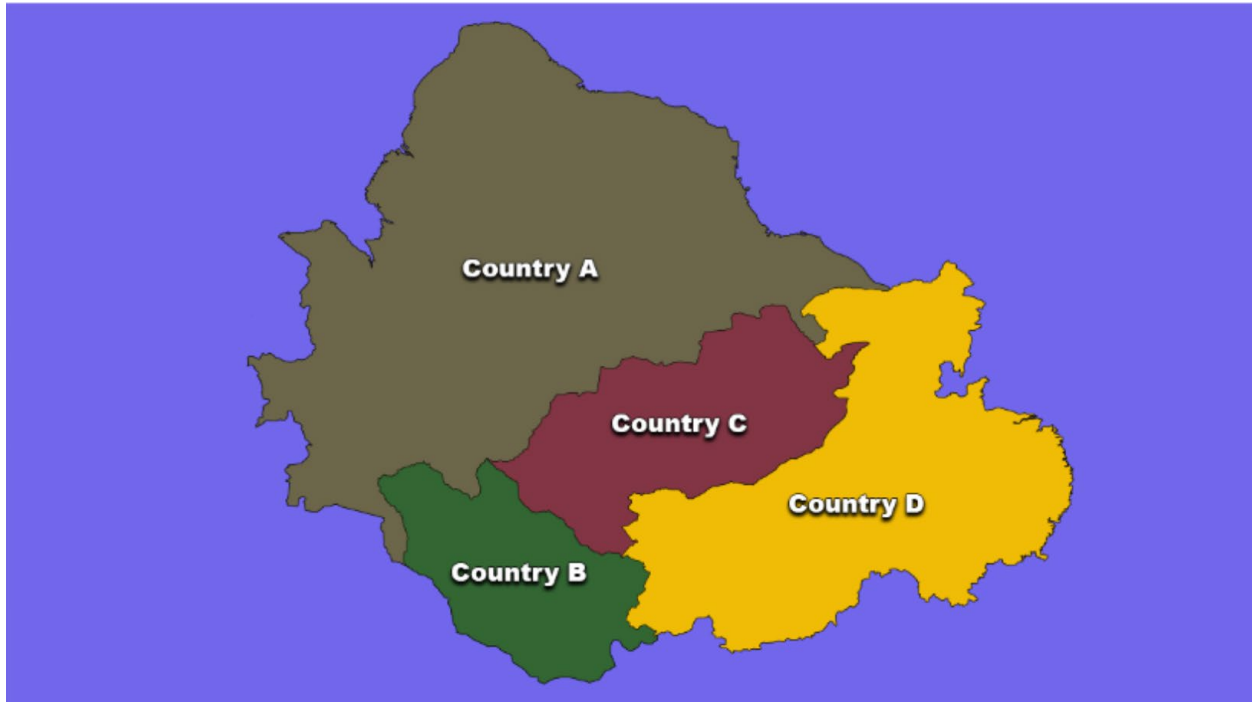


Click next to begin.

# Module: Cultural Geography

## Topic Content: International Political Divisions

### Introduction



A country is the most common political division; however, multiple countries will often form a political alliance. These political alliances are examples of a political division with a much larger jurisdiction. An international political division is typically created to address common issues, such as national defense or economic trade.

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Click on each of the buttons to learn more about different international divisions.

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**African Union (AU)**



The African Union, or AU, is a political and economic alliance of fifty-five African nations. The AU was formed to encourage international cooperation, increase economic development, and promote peace and security on the African continent.

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**Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**

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Economic and political alliance of 10 countries in Southeast Asia

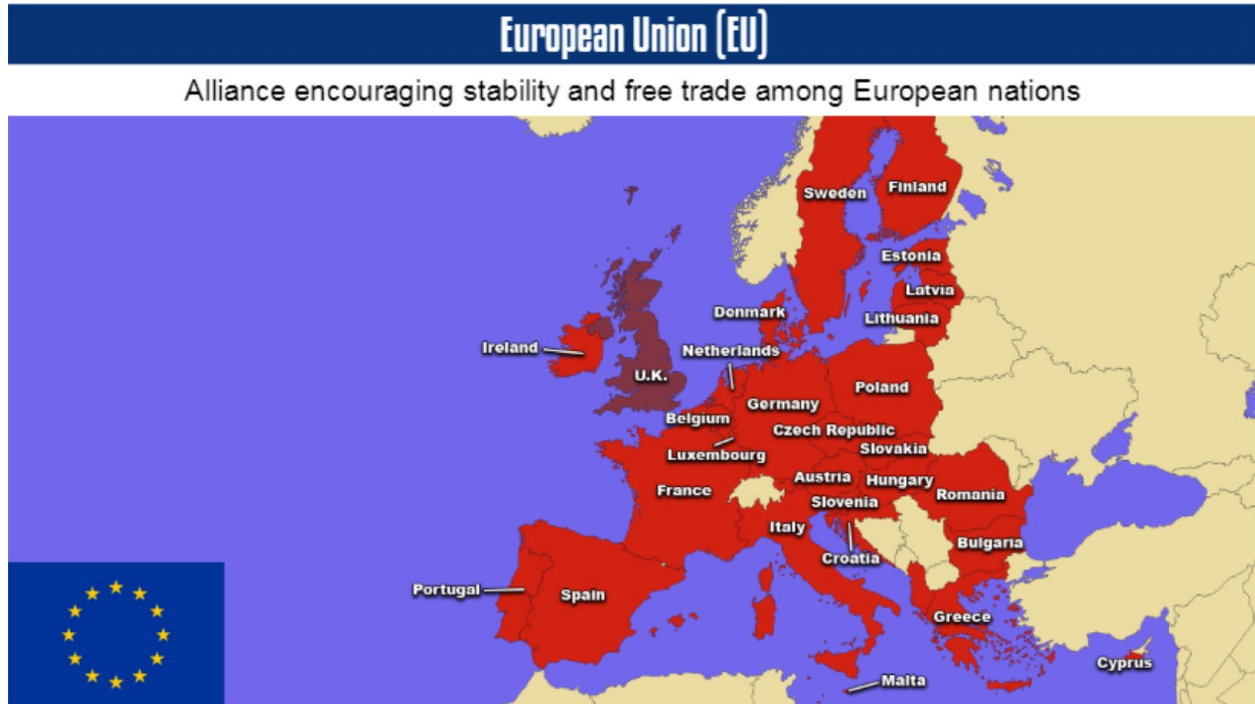


ASEAN, which stands for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, is an economic and political alliance of ten countries in Southeast Asia. The purpose of ASEAN is to promote cooperation and economic development among its member nations.

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### European Union (EU)



The European Union, or EU, is a political and economic alliance created to encourage stability and free trade among European nations. As of 2018, there are twenty-eight member nations; however, the UK is currently scheduled to withdraw from the EU by 2020.

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#### League of Arab States

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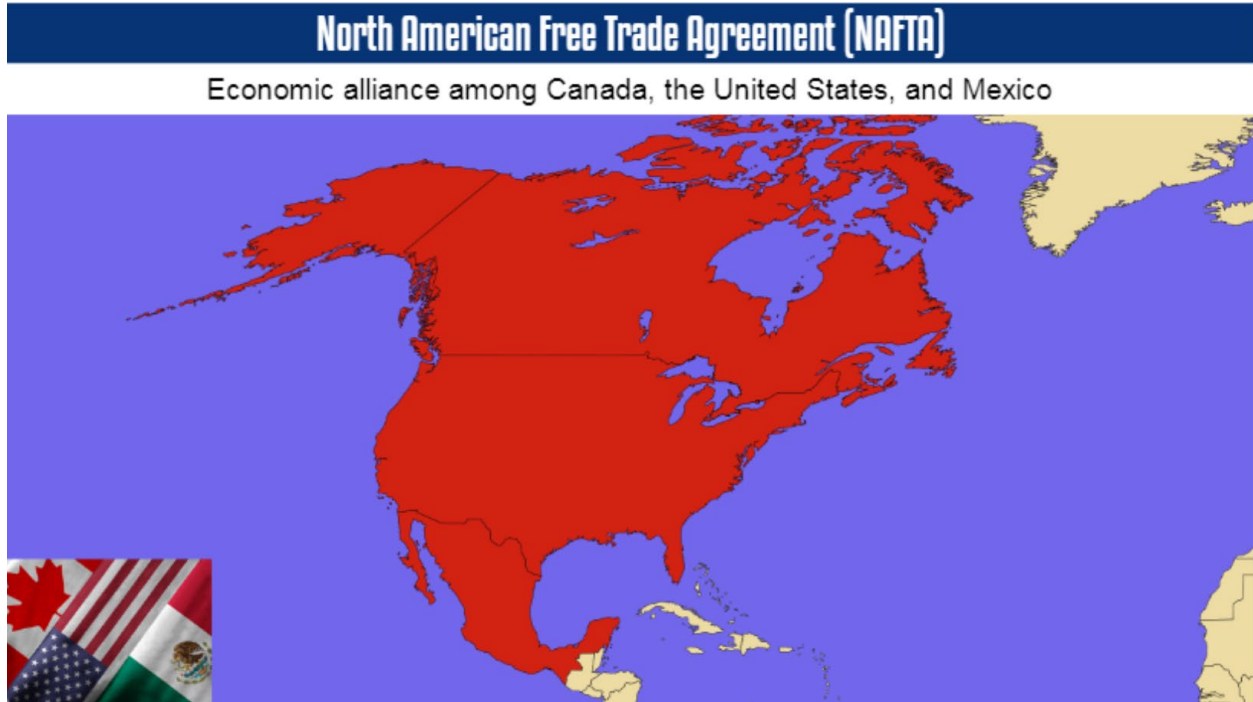
Member nations are a cultural region composed of Arabic-speaking countries



The League of Arab States, also called the Arab League, is an example of a cultural alliance that has developed into a political alliance. Its member nations are from the Arab world, which is a cultural region composed of Arabic-speaking countries. The alliance was formed to unify and protect the region. It has twenty-two members as of 2018.

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**North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)**



The North American Free Trade Agreement, commonly referred to as NAFTA, is an economic alliance among Canada, the United States, and Mexico. The purpose of NAFTA is to encourage the open exchange of goods and services among the members.

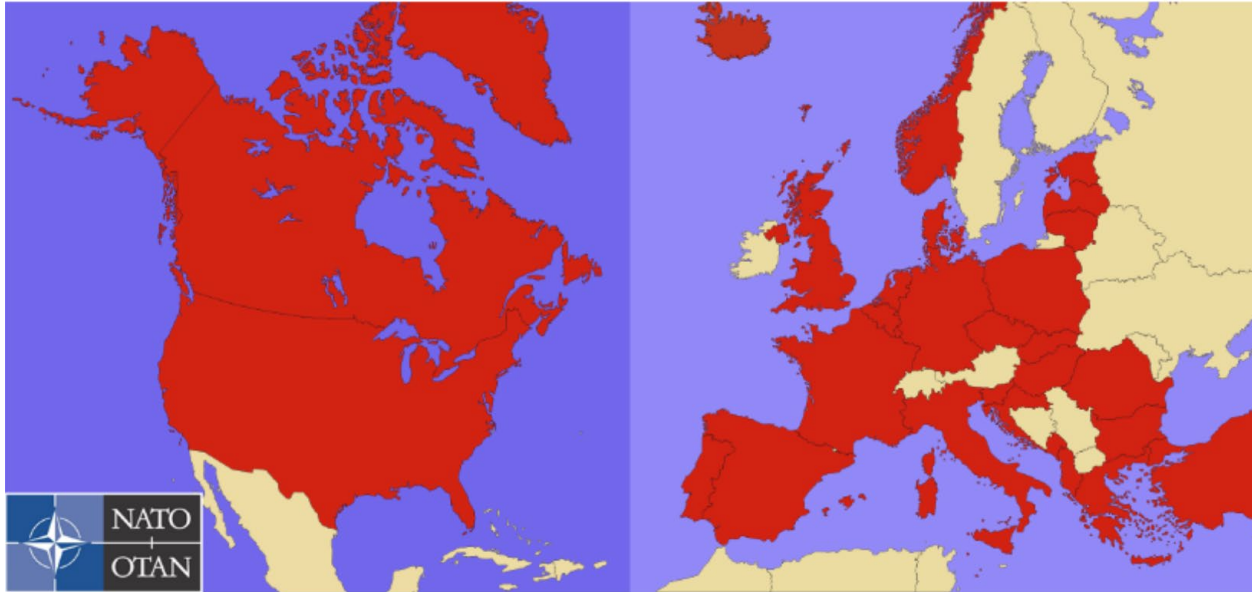


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**North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**

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Defense alliance formed during the Cold War



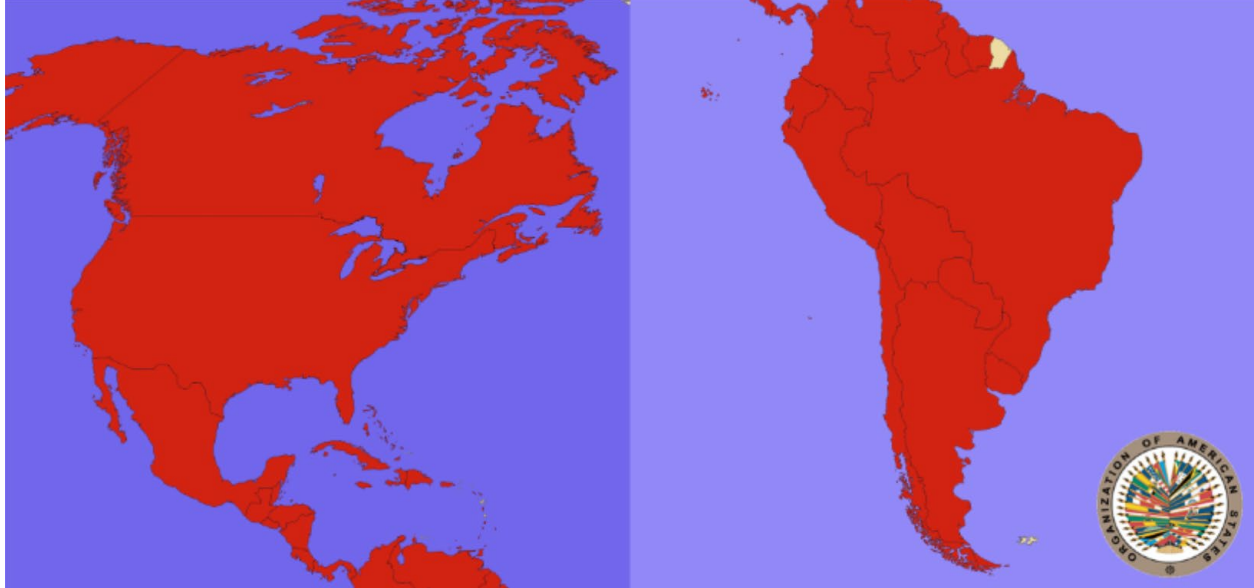
NATO stands for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. NATO is a defense alliance that was formed during the Cold War. Although the political alliance began with only twelve members in 1949, it has continued to grow to twenty-nine members as of 2018.

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**Organization of American States (OAS)**

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Created to promote cooperation and help resolve disputes among members



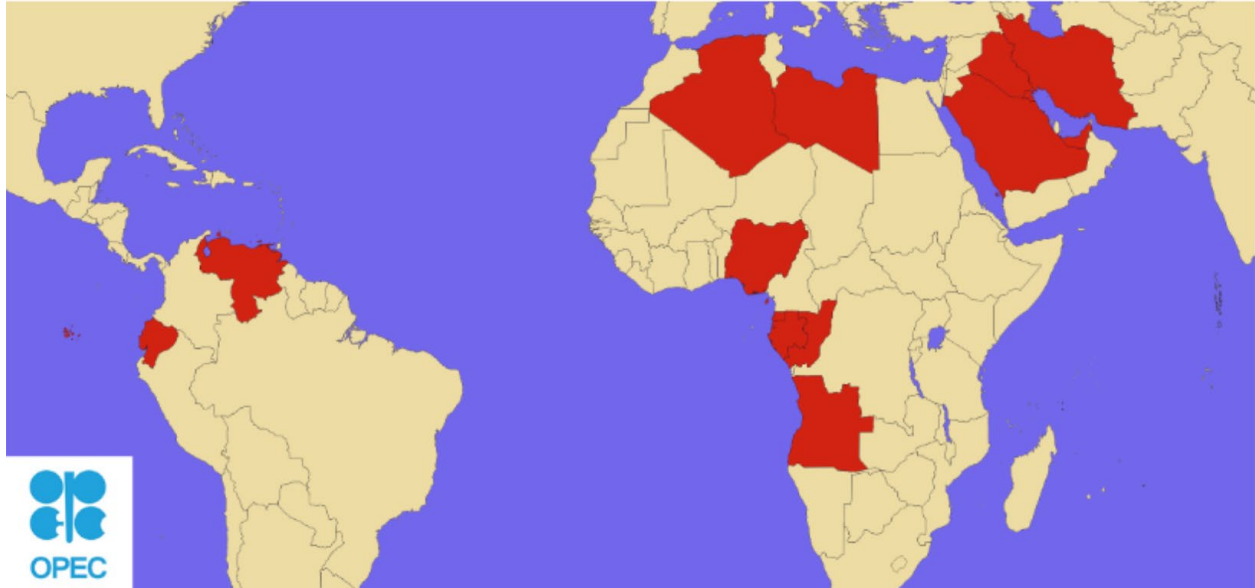
The Organization of American States, or OAS, was created to promote cooperation and help resolve disputes among member nations. As of 2018, all thirty-five independent countries of the Americas are members.

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**Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)**

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Economic alliance to stabilize the oil industry and ensure steady profit for members

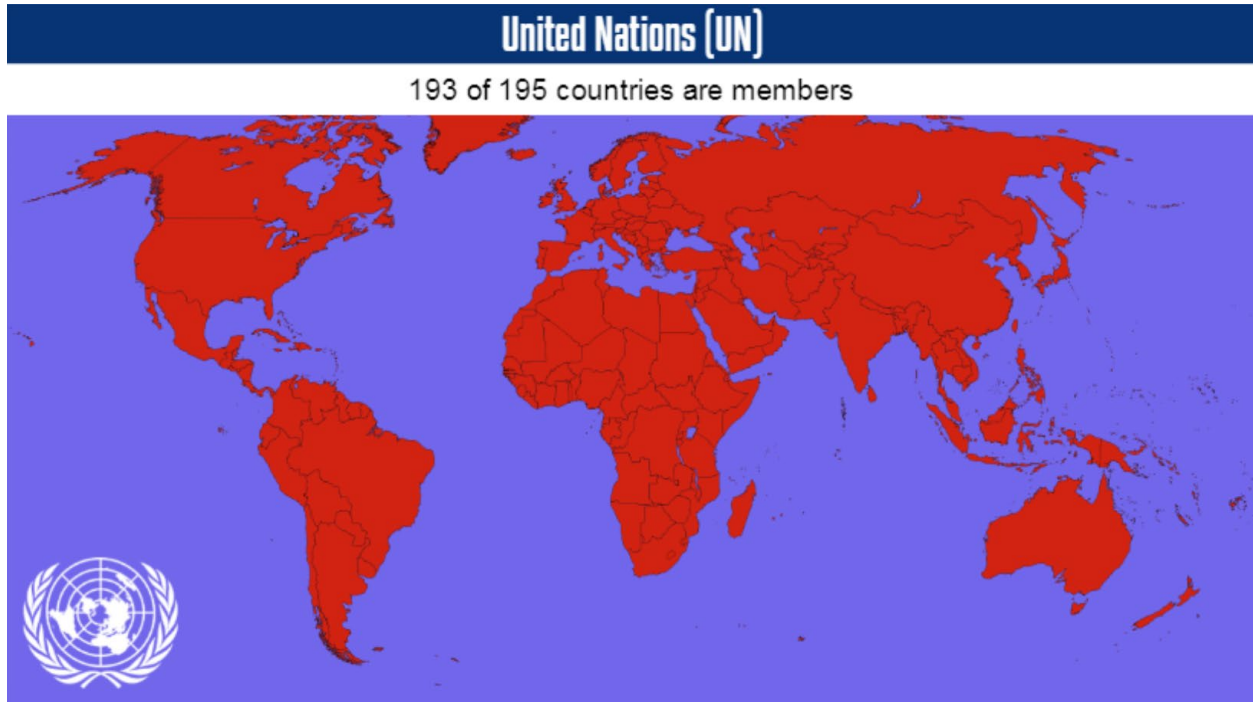


The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, or OPEC, is an economic alliance that was formed to help stabilize the oil industry and ensure steady profit for member nations. As of 2018, OPEC has fifteen members located across the globe.

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#### United Nations (UN)



The United Nations, commonly called the UN, is an international organization that was created to help maintain international stability and order. Since its creation at the end of World War II, the UN has played an important role in encouraging peaceful resolutions. As of 2018, out of 195 countries, 193 are members of the organization. The other two, the Vatican and Palestine, are non-member observer states.