International Boundaries

- Making boundaries
  - historical boundaries
    - edge of 1 state, start of another
    - marks the limit of state sovereignty in the modern world
    - Egypt
      - King was the centre of the world
      - boundaries fluid / moved
    - westphalian system exported all over the world
  - definitions
    - boundary
      - legal line of no width
      - only exists as a legal entity on maps
    - march
      - an 'edge'
        - zone of political semi-autonomy
      - e.g. Bishops of Durham were 'Marcher lords'
    - frontier
      - zone of fading formal sovereignty
      - often a meeting place of 2 weak sovereignties
    - border
      - region influenced physically, economically and socially
      - presence of a current or past boundary
        - e.g. fences, lookouts
    - borderland
      - suggestion of observable landscape
      - e.g. Haiti / Dominican republic
        - v. different land use / vegetation
  - key terms
    - delimitation
      - 2 states agree on where their common boundary lies
      - legal map with exact co-ordinates
        - signed by leaders of both states
      - e.g.
        - Treaty of Riga
          - 1920 between Latvia and USSR
          - boundary shall extend "as far as the letter v of the word Kalov" and "to the curve of the river Lja"
            - inexact
              - didn't even state what map was to be used
        - Beaufort Bay
          - boundary dispute between US & Canada
          - began in 1974
          - important fishing area
          - may have oil
      - proving title to land
        - official documents
          - no concept of absolute property in international law
            - need to persuade you have more right to land than anyone else
        - acts of sovereignty
          - schools, postal service, hospitals etc.
        - state visits
          - right to sovereignty
        - photographs
        - socio-cultural
          - historic land use
      - using a river as a boundary
        - what part of the river do you use?
        - rivers change
          - e.g. Rio Grande between US and mexico
      - straight lines and semi circles
        - cut settlements in half
        - e.g. the geometric boundaries of Gambia
      - which maps do you use?
        - Mercator or Gnomic projection?
    - demarcation
      - previously delimited boundary identified on the ground
        - indicated by permanent physical markings
  - Blake (2000)
    - borderland stress
      - borderlands more difficult and dangerous to live in than ever before
      - peoples desire to move v govts desire to prevent them doing so
      - a powerful argument for the breaking-down of barriers between states and the integration of borderland peoples
    - territorial questions settled
      - border accepted and unambiguous
      - fomally agreed
      - demarcated
      - maintained and managed
        - river boundaries must be monitored for change
    - transboundary integration legally is easy
      - borderlanders wish to cross and recross boundary for social and eco activity
        - min delay and inconvenience
      - EU exemplifies the ideal
    - border a sense of security
      - to citizens of the state
        - particularly borderlanders
      - protection from
        - unwanted people
        - unwanted goods
          - e.g. weapons, drugs, pornography
        - hazards to health and envt
    - resource exploitation
      - ideal border
        - formal agreements and practical arrangements for resource management
      - e.g.
        - oil
        - aquifers
    - local admin coordinated
      - efficient and effective local govt shouldn't end at boundary
      - transboundary coordination essential for stress free borderland
    - suppressed nationalisms
      - hundreds of people divided by international boundaries
        - seek political alternative
          - independence
          - autonomy
      - borderlands under stress when govts seek to prevent cross-border interaction
        - stop people forming links with people on other side
    - refugees
      - generate borderland stress
        - increased demand for resources
        - health hazards
      - borderlands inevitably become difficult to administer
  - making boundaries work
    - respecting local land use patterns
      - not disturb settlements
        - e.g. Ghana / Burkina Faso boundary
    - enclaves
      - special agreement to create geographical solutions to a problem
    - Beagle channel dispute
      - Chile / Argentina
        - 1971
          - summit to arbitration at ICJ
        - 1978
          - Argentina reject ruling
            - brink of war
        - Pope intervenes
        - 1984
          - final agreement
- theorising boundaries
  - era of ascendency
    - drawing the boundaries of the empire
      - e.g. Captain Kelly
        - 1913
        - Sudan-Uganda boundary commission
    - Lord Curzon of Keddleston
      - boundary commissions of India
      - world is shrinking
        - vacant spaces filled by Europeans
        - need to draw lines between empires
        - before ideas of globalisation
      - empire calling universities to defend frontiers of empire
      - boundaries began as an imperial vision
  - state retreat led to rise in functionalist approach
    - less scientific approach
      - what is the function of boundaries?
        - to protect the state
    - antecedent vs subsequent
      - antecedent
        - political boundaries established before significant settlement of an area
      - subsequent
        - political boundaries established after settlement in an attempt to accomodate cultural differences
    - critique
      - Prescott, 1965
        - to much time devising classifications and generalizations about boundaries and frontiers
          - little or no progress
  - borderland approach
    - borderland
      - region influenced by the presence of a current or past boundary
        - physically
        - economically
        - socially
      - dynamic
        - always changing
      - US-Mexico borderland Rio Grande
        - John House
        - landscape
        - economic disparity
        - culture
          - USA
          - Mexicans
          - Chicanos
        - illegal flows
          - prostitution
          - drugs
        - divorce
          - until 1971
          - boundary tourism
        - environmental
          - pollution
          - irrigation
        - migration
        - border markets
          - dental care cheaper in mexico
          - electrical goods cheaper in US
        - political control
          - regions
          - business
  - quantitative approach
    - new boundaries / borderlands
      - e.g. bridge linking Denmark and Sweden
        - apparently not economically worthwhile?
          - differences in positions in urban hierachies
          - Sweden and Denmark develop along 2 different national cycles not compatible with each other
        - expectations
          - new powerful cross-border region competing in a knowledge based economy
          - shaped more by wishful thinking than through analysis of the economy of the area
          - possibilities for exploiting eco potentials created in two national settings
          - only a limited part of devt in Oresund region can be linked to effects of eco integration
  - postmodern approach
    - US
      - 1994
        - NAFTA
          - liberalised movement of goods
          - promoted eco growth
        - 'operation gatekeeper'
          - growth in boundary controls
          - restrict number of people coming through
          - strengthens US boundary with Mexico
      - security on the mexican border
        - history
          - US policy decisions to securitize the frontier
            - began in late 70s
            - escalated in 90s
            - continues in post 9/11 era
        - suggests the force identity, fear and image can have as political projects
        - presents an image of order and control of the defined and perceived threat
          - migration
          - terrorism
        - security a relative idea
          - some policy and discourse changes occurred despite threats from terrorism being wide, and not simply limited to the US's fairly porous borders
          - fully sealing any US land or sea border not truly possible, practical or even desirable
    - politics of nationalism
      - boundary at the edge of the state, but the heart of its politics
      - strengthen external boundaries while seeking to elominate internal ones
      - US
        - need to protect racial purity of the US
        - Clinton govt enhancing who the US is
      - the state's power and it's citizens rights and duties are theoretically homogenous within the the state's geographical limits
      - capitalism part of a much larger set of processes that challenged traditional notions of space and time and the relationship of people to their rulers
      - modern state requires nationalism and absolute boundaries to facilitate the construction and maintenance of unity and difference
        - essential pre-requisite for the alien
- conclusions
  - no good or bad boundaries
    - made to work for or against interests of different groups of people
    - boundaries as much political performance as legal
- state power at its rawest / most explicit
  - strip searches
  - personal questions