Global governance

These articles were published in the journal, Geography, an internationally renowned academic journal which publishes high-level research. These articles have been selected as they offer subject knowledge for teachers on global governance.

The articles can also be useful for use in the classroom, as they not only provide insight to how geographical enquiry is undertaken at the highest level, but also can provide nuanced case studies relevant to the ‘Global systems and global governance’ A-level topic, explain the basics of a topic, and help to stretch the most able in the classroom.

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   This article considers why we should teach 'the global'. It looks at two main issues: what is meant to address 'the global' and what 'payoff', conceptually, can be gained from teaching it.

   Antarctica is not owned by any country, but is managed through the Antarctic Treaty System, in which the legal status of all land and resources is subject to the Antarctic Treaty. A number of measures exist to protect the Antarctica’s environment from potentially damaging commercial activities such as mining. However, tourism is allowed in Antarctica and recently a number of countries with territorial interests there have shown an increasing desire to expand tourism activities on the continent. However, this is causing concern in relation to the unique physical environment of Antarctica. In this article the unusual political context and the rising fears about the environmental effects of tourism is explored.

   This article takes a broad view in selectively tracing geography's coverage of international boundaries and territorial concerns. The first section makes the point that international boundaries and the territorial reach of the state have remained very much in the media over the past two years - in Ukraine, Gaza, Iraq and Syria. This article presents a series of case studies throughout the world to demonstrate that the time has come for the discipline of geography to contribute more fully to the study of inter-state disputes over boundaries and territories- including those in the maritime realm.

   The term empire is generally taken to mean a territory or territories over which one power has overall and supreme political control. It can be used to refer to States which have domination over other States or territories, or States which are characterised by the domination of one ethnic group
over a number of other ethnic groups. While the term is generally associated with European countries and the era of colonisation, it can also be applied to non-European countries, some of which are explored in this article.


In an era of globalisation, it might be thought that the age of the nation-state is dead and that conflicts surrounding national identity will be of less and less importance in the 21st century. However, it is argued here that concerns over national identity are by no means a thing of the past. Competing nationalist claims lead to conflicts which have significant repercussions for those living in the contested territories and beyond. Using examples from the former Yugoslavia, it is argued that territory continues to be a huge significance and remains an integral component of the national imagination. Both generic ‘national’ landscapes and specific places carry with them huge symbolic meanings and form essential elements in ‘nationalising’ strategies.