

## On Boundaries

Boundaries are constructs of human intelligence

Boundaries have histories

Boundaries are passively imposed on landscape features or actively constructed

Boundaries have two attributes, the theoretical cartographically-inspired line and diffuse of reality where mixing occurs over an area diminishing in influence the further one moves away from the boundary.

Linear boundaries, once set, have significant inertia though their importance and reasons for use change over time

Political boundaries are the most ephemeral

The study of boundaries is essential to the study of the territories they enclose

### Random Thoughts Commentary

Over time there has been an exponential increase of boundaries. Originally a territory was the amount of land and resources needed for a community to survive and prosper. Agricultural innovation over time has resulted in less and less land required to fulfil that purpose from the evolving management of more productive resources. The first step was harnessing the power of grasses, followed by pulses.

There followed the spread of food crops between Africa and Asia and Europe in the earliest form of globalisation from at least as early as 3,000 years ago.

The later transition from clan or community land to family land caused further subdivisions of land units and their associated inherited assets. The whole structure and culture of land occupancy, ownership and rights shifted from the community to the individual.

The Industrial Revolution and rapid urbanisation changed the meaning of land use and industry plus related settlement could be concentrated in high density in small areas with complementary depopulation of rurality.

Recently, agricultural innovation and commerce have reversed the diminution process of viable land unit in wealthier areas; now dependent on profitability over self-sufficiency.

The transition to multiple industrial and service income sources is now often the only means of survival for those that haven't migrated to urbanity.

The current electronic global age has blurred and changed again the meaning, use and importance of boundaries and territories, in other words, theoretically, a person only needs an electronic connection; their personal space can be anywhere; stability and mobility are choices. However not many have the capacity or opportunity for free-range living and are tied by the space-related economics of putting food on the table.

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