



Core area refers to (1) the nucleus of a state, and/or (2) its area of greatest development and wealth, densest populations, and clearest sense of national identity.

The concept has little relevance in modern times except and nodal points for possible future stateless nations like the Basques and the Kurds.

CAPITAL. A city that serves as the seat of a country's government. It also is usually the seat of foreign embassies and in many cases is a country's most cosmopolitan (demographically diverse) city.

In many countries the capital city is a **primate city**.

PRIMATE CITY

A city that has at least twice the population of any other city in its country.

and/or

A city that overwhelmingly dominates the commercial and political life of a country.

[This is not a universal phenomenon. Some countries have a primate city. Other's – including the United States – do not.]

Types of Capitals

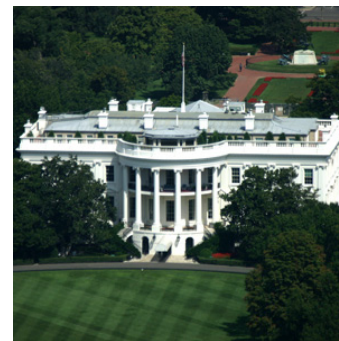
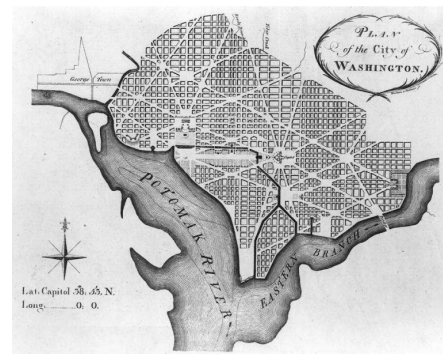
- **Permanent**. Ones that have always served as their country's capital. (Rome, Paris, Madrid)
- **Colonial**. One's created by a colonizing country, and usually located specifically to serve the needs of the colonizer.
- **Introduced**. Ones that reflect relocation of government in order to serve one or more objectives. (Often located within a specially created "federal district" so as not to favor an existing civil division, and within which special conditions may apply.)
- **Divided**. Different branches of government are headquartered in different cities.

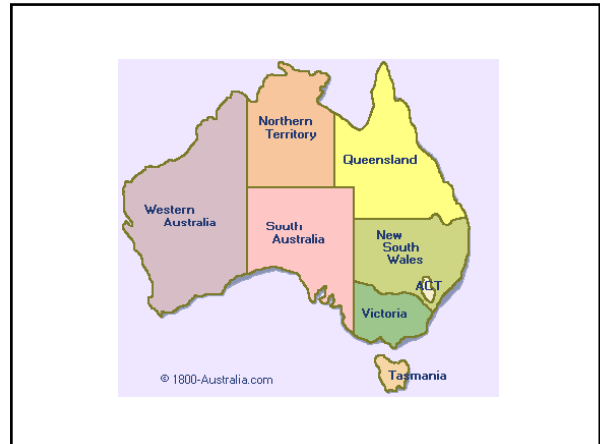
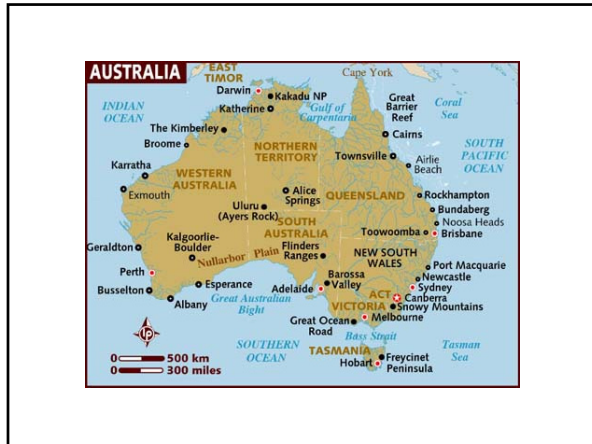


The typical colonial capital is a coastal city with a decent harbor (to facilitate communication and trade with the colonizer) and access to the interior.


INTRODUCED CAPITALS

- Washington, D.C.**
- Canberra, Australia**
- Brasilia, Brazil**
- Abuja, Nigeria**
- Belmopan, Belize**
- Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast**
- Naypyidaw, Myanmar**





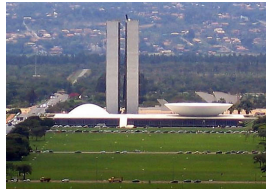
Canberra, Australia



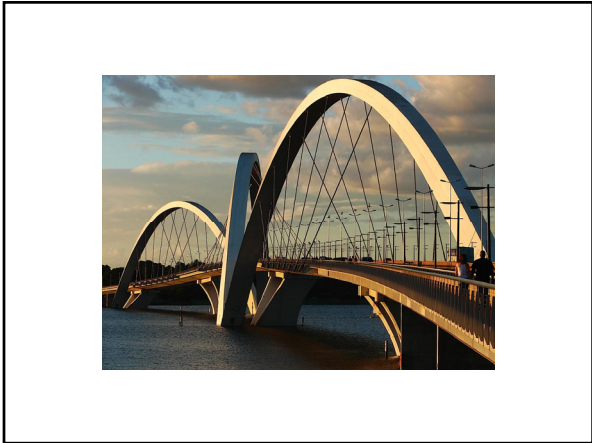
- A planned city with Parliament at the center.
- Site selected in 1908 as a compromise between Sydney and Melbourne, the country's two largest cities.
- Constructed 1913-1927.



Brasilia, Brazil

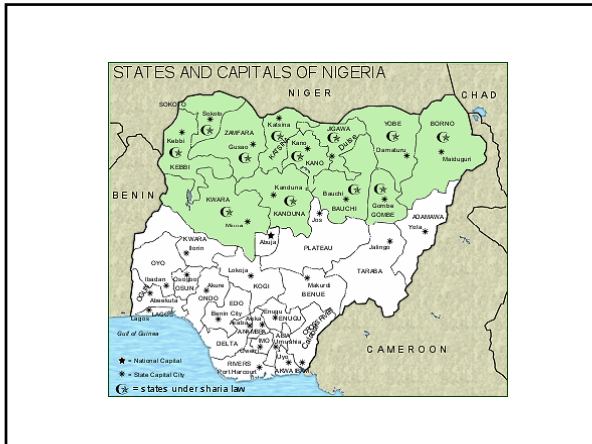


- Planned capital built between 1956-60.
- Noted futuristic architecture and design.
- Replaced Rio de Janeiro as capital.
- Intended to stimulate development of the country's interior.




Abuja, Nigeria

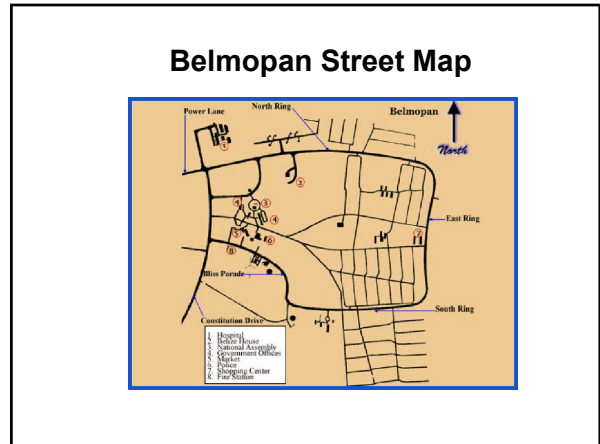
- Planned city that in 1991 replaced Lagos (a cramped and highly malarial port city) as the capital.
- Central location in a newly created Federal Capital Territory.
- On the border between predominantly Christian and Muslim areas.

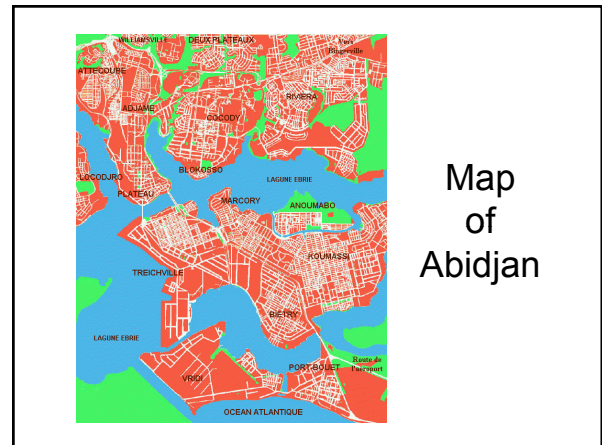
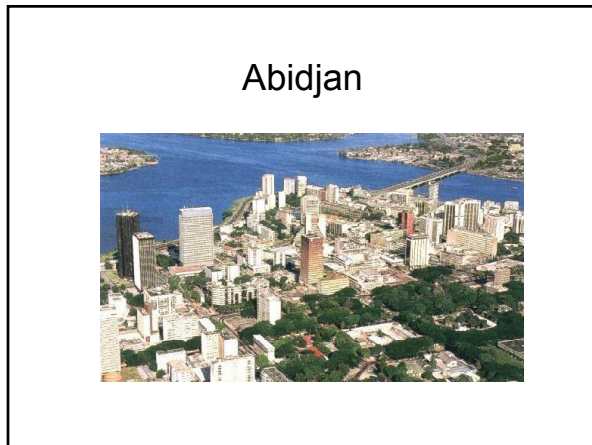
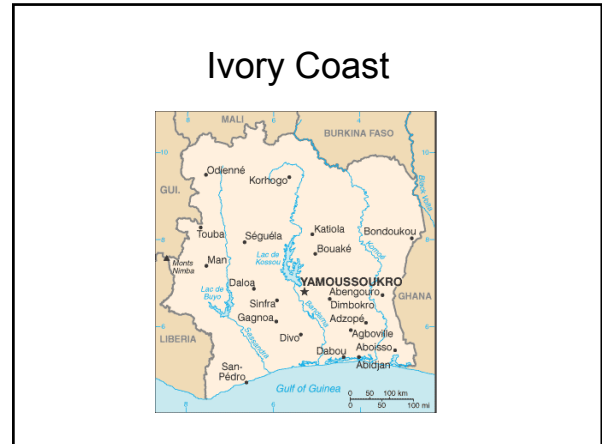


Belmopan, Belize




- Capital moved in 1970 from Belize City, a coastal city that was virtually destroyed in 1961 by Hurricane Hattie.
- Chosen for its relative "storm safety."
- Located near the geometric center of the country.



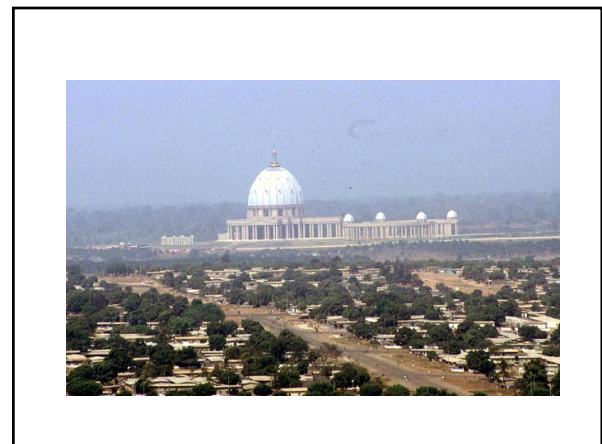


Map of Abidjan

Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast



- Relocated to the interior from the port city Abidjan, 1983.
- The founding president's birthplace.
- Personal legacy.
- Site of the world's largest Christian church.

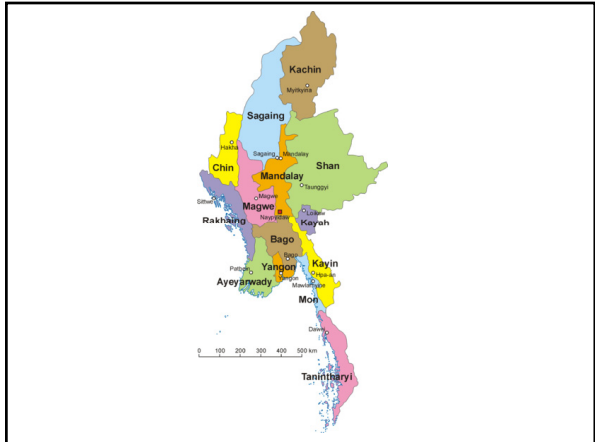




Presidential Palace, Yamoussoukro



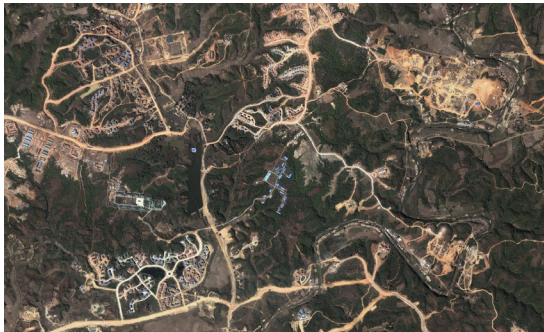
Rangoon postcard, late 19th Century (Note ships in harbor)



Naypyidaw, Myanmar



- Planned city that replaced Yangon (Rangoon) in 2005.
- A more central location.
- Possibly meant to insulate and protect the military dictatorship from the people.
- Designed to be revolution-proof.



Parliament



Bolivia: A country with a divided capital



**Sucre:
The Constitutional Capital of Bolivia
(where the Supreme Court sits)**



**The Netherlands:
Another country with a divided capital**



The Hague (Den Haag)

- The seat of the Dutch government, parliament, and royal court
- The location of all government ministries
- All foreign embassies are located there
- Also the judicial capital of the United Nations.
- BUT the Dutch constitution specifies Amsterdam as the official capital.

