

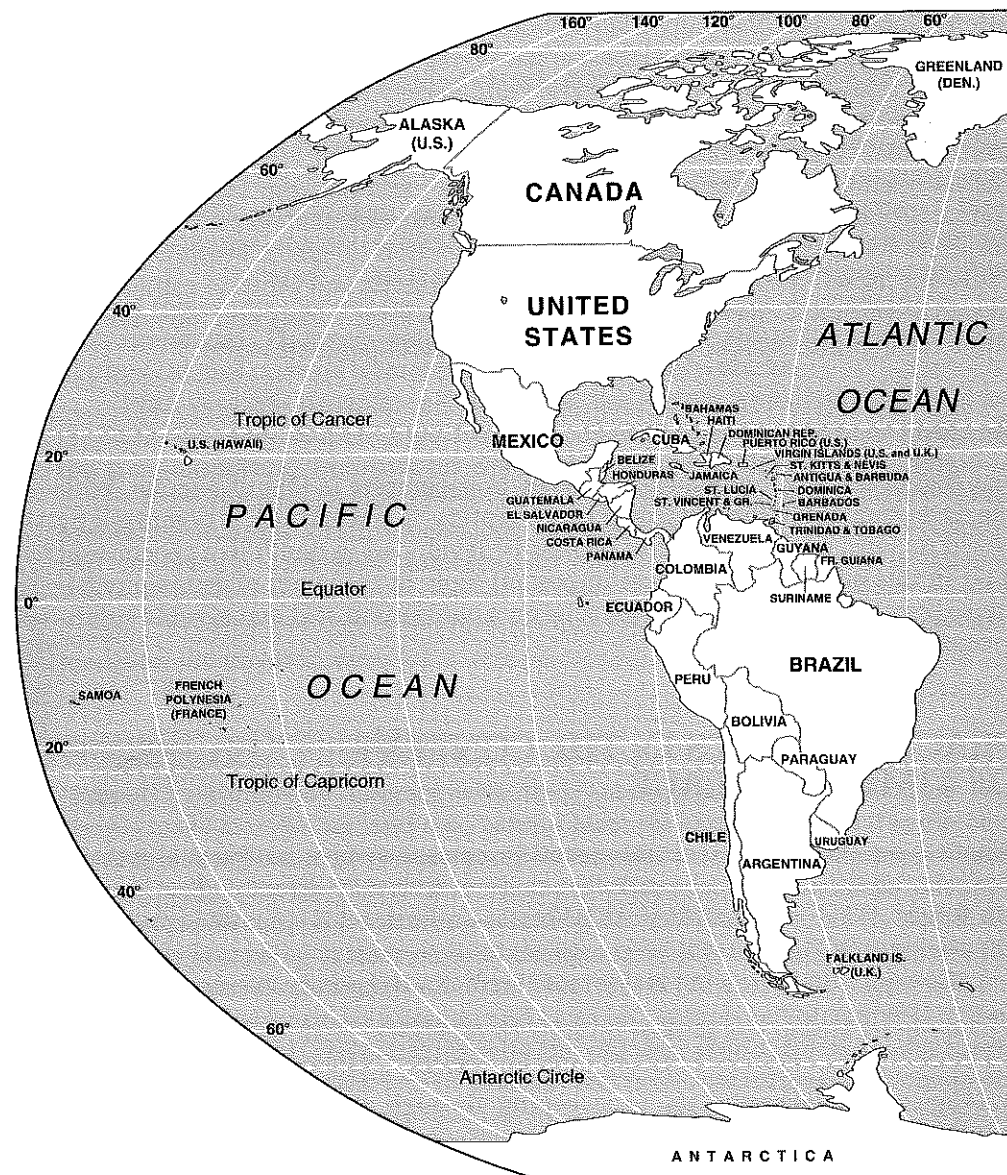


FIGURE 1-1

This political map reveals a highly compartmentalized world. The numerous political entities range in size from Russia to minute but significant countries such as Singapore, Malta, and Grenada. The names of these political entities evoke images of different environments, peoples, cultures, and levels of well-being. However, the political boundaries that segregate Earth's 6.5 billion inhabitants do not clearly reveal the underlying geographic complexities of our world. (*Technical note:* Political boundaries come and go, and this map reflects the independence of East Timor from Indonesia, and the separation of Montenegro from Serbia. At this writing, the sovereignty status of Western Sahara is unresolved; it is currently administered by Morocco.

