

stimulation, identity and security that we discussed in Chapter 2. Malmberg, in his study of human territoriality, lends his support to Ardrey's thesis. Through the competition between neighbours, whether in the street or the nation, we are kept permanently stimulated. As we shall see later, more complex forms of human territoriality as realized through sport provide substantial quantities of stimulation and entertainment. Football, perhaps the archetypal territorial game, generates the largest television revenues worldwide of any form of live broadcast. The importance of football and the supporters' allegiance to the team is now a global phenomenon. As the great Liverpool manager Bill Shankly is reported to have said, 'football is not a matter of life or death, it's far more important than that!' Through the social arrangements of the territory, whether pairs, families, tribes or nations, the occupants are given order and security in their lives. It is hard to imagine a human society without such a structure surviving and thriving, and none has ever been found. Life would simply be so confusing and the levels of anxiety so high that members of the society would be unable to devote time and energy to more progressive matters.

### **The national territory**

The territory provides a place and symbol of identity uniquely locating us in the world both individually and socially. One of the first questions one is asked when abroad is 'where are you from?'. I find that often in the Far East the assumption is that I might be Australian, whereas in the Middle East I might be thought to be American. It is clear that foreign strangers frequently seem to find my national identity a useful tool in beginning the process of interacting with me. Indeed, when under such interrogation I have to admit my Britishness, it is often quite noticeable that the attitude and conversational style change. The extent to which we all rely upon our clothes, cars and houses as extensions of ourselves to express to others our identity is evident in daily life. To disregard the importance of territory in our lives is to miss one of the most basic elements of human existence.

Whilst there are instances of behaviour in the animal world which resemble national characteristics, the nation as we know it is a uniquely human phenomenon. However, many animal species do exhibit a form of territorial behaviour that we might recognize as having the basic qualities of nationhood. Even some very primitive creatures, such as ants and termites, defend a location and co-operate on a nationwide scale in the communal cause, but it is amongst primates that most of the nation-like forms of behaviour can be found. Some lemurs, baboons, chimpanzees and many species of ape operate in societies based on nations. In essence, these societies thrive on external animosity and have strong internal amity. Adults will show an interest in and sense of responsibility for the young of other families, for example. A