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In this talk we discuss the lattice-theoretical consequences of the authors' recent investigations of forbidden configurations in Priestley spaces. A sample result goes like this. Let \mathbf{D} designate the category of bounded distributive lattices, and for finite $L \in \mathbf{D}$ let $Forb(L)$ designate the class of members of \mathbf{D} which do not have L as a quotient. Insert an annoying technical hypothesis (ATH), namely that the Priestley space of L has a greatest element. Then the following are equivalent. (1) $Forb(L)$ is axiomatizable, i.e., there is a finite set of formulas in the first-order language of \mathbf{D} whose satisfaction is equivalent to membership in $Forb(L)$. (2) $Forb(L)$ is productive. (3) L is relatively normal, i.e., every pair of elements can be disjointified. (4) The Priestley space of L is a tree. The theorem is surely true without the ATH, with requirement (4) replaced by the weaker condition that the Priestley space of L is acyclic. The authors can prove most, but not all, of the general version. (Received September 28, 2005)