

Chapter 4: States

- **Definition of the State**
 - A political-legal entity with sovereignty over territory and people.
 - Functions: maintain order, provide security, deliver services, represent internationally.
- **Types of States**
 - *Strong states*: effective institutions, monopoly of force (e.g., UK, Japan).
 - *Weak states*: limited authority, corruption, inefficiency (e.g., Nigeria).
 - *Failed states*: collapse of authority and sovereignty (e.g., Somalia, Afghanistan).
- **Unitary vs Federal**
 - Unitary: centralized authority (France, Japan).
 - Federal: power shared between central & regional governments (USA, Germany, India).
- **Electoral Systems**
 - Majoritarian (FPTP): simple but can distort representation (UK, US).
 - Proportional Representation: reflects voter preferences but risks fragmentation (Israel, Netherlands).
 - Mixed systems (Germany, New Zealand).

Case Studies

- Somalia (failed state) → collapse of central government led to warlordism, piracy.
- India (federal democracy) → federalism helps manage diversity but creates tensions.
- UK (unitary with devolution) → Scotland and Wales have devolved parliaments but not sovereignty.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do some states fail while others succeed?
2. Is federalism a better system than unitary government for diverse societies?
3. Should proportional representation replace majoritarian systems in more democracies?

Chapter 5: Rights

- **Constitutionalism**
 - Limits on government power through constitutions.
 - Protects rights, ensures accountability.
- **Types of Rights**
 - Civil rights --- speech, religion, assembly.
 - Political rights --- vote, run for office, form parties.
 - Economic/social rights --- welfare, education, health.
 - Human rights --- universal, UN Declaration of Human Rights (1948).
- **Judicial Role**
 - Judicial review = courts strike down unconstitutional laws.
 - Judicial activism vs restraint.

Case Studies

- **United States** --- Marbury v. Madison established judicial review.
- **South Africa** --- post-apartheid constitution protects social and economic rights explicitly.
- **China** --- constitution lists rights, but Communist Party supremacy limits enforcement.
- **USA Patriot Act (2001)** --- expanded surveillance powers, curtailed civil liberties for security.

Discussion Questions

1. Are human rights truly universal, or culturally relative?
2. Should courts be allowed to overturn laws passed by elected representatives?
3. Do societies have to sacrifice rights for security during crises?

Chapter 6: Regimes

- **Definition of Regime**
 - Rules and norms about how power is acquired and exercised.
- **Types of Regimes**
 - *Democracy*: elections, pluralism, rights.
 - *Authoritarianism*: concentrated power, limited freedoms.
 - *Totalitarianism*: complete state control, ideology-driven (Nazi Germany, North Korea).
 - *Hybrid regimes*: mix of democratic and authoritarian features (Russia, Turkey).
- **Democratization**
 - “Third Wave” since 1974 → Southern Europe, Latin America, Eastern Europe.
 - Factors: economic growth, middle class, global pressures.
- **Challenges**
 - Illiberal democracies: elections without rights (Hungary).
 - Authoritarian resilience: China’s state-led growth challenges democracy’s appeal.

Case Studies

- **Chile (transition)** --- Pinochet dictatorship gave way to democracy through referenda.
- **South Korea** --- authoritarian development state → democratization in 1987.
- **Russia** --- post-Soviet democratization reversed into hybrid/authoritarianism.
- **Tunisia vs Egypt (Arab Spring)** --- Tunisia sustained democracy, Egypt reverted to authoritarianism.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do some transitions to democracy succeed while others fail?
2. Is “illiberal democracy” really democracy?
3. Can authoritarian regimes deliver stability better than democracies?