

PSCI 4012

Global Development

State Capacity, Violence and
Development

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Today's Plan

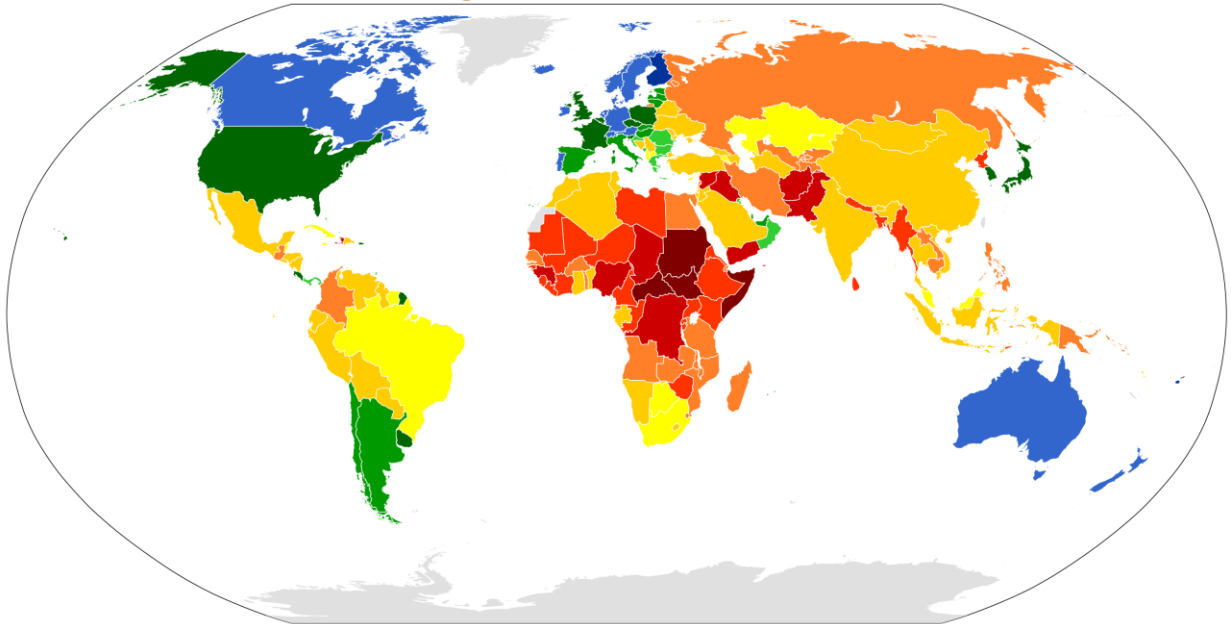
- State capacity and economic development
- Political violence and development
- Critiques
- Documentary

State Capacity and Development

- State Capacity: the extent to which a state can carry out its basic functions such as maintaining public order, national security, and providing basic services
- Max Weber's definition of state: "human community that (successfully) claims the monopoly of the legitimate use of physical force within a given territory."

State Capacity and Development

Fragile States Index 2015



State Capacity and Development

- Does state capacity matter for economic development? If so, how?

Political Violence and Development

- **Political violence:** “physically harmful or coercive organized behavior that is exercised to achieve a political end” (Baker, 2014)
- Two forms of political violence
 - “Interstate violence occurs when multiple states use political violence against one another or when a state uses violence against non-state actors living in a different country” (Baker, 2014)
 - “In intrastate violence, political violence occurs among state or non-state actors living within the same country.” (Baker, 2014)

Political Violence and Development

Collier (2009) : “conflict reduces development into destruction, disruption, diversion and dissaving” (Hegre, 2018)

- Destruction of public infrastructure, production and health facilities, and workforce
- Disruption of social order, and demographic structure
- Diversion of public funds from expenditures that promote growth and public health to military expenditure
- Dissaving and massive capital flight

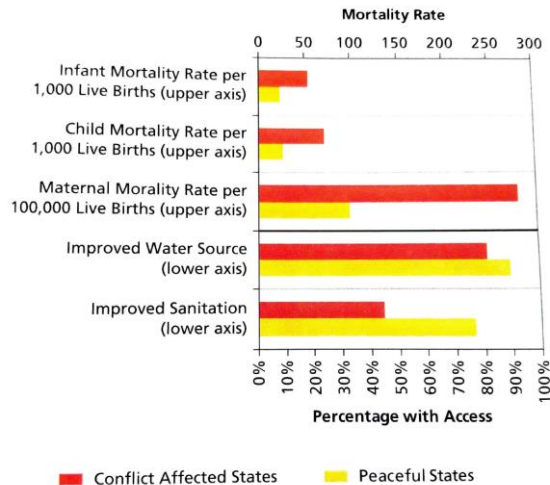
Political Violence and Development

Other consequences of conflict on economic development

- Declining interpersonal trust and increasing cost of economic exchange,
- Long-term debt burden of excessive military spending,

Political Violence and Development

Figure 11.3 Comparing Social Development Outcomes in Peaceful and Conflict-Affected States, 2003–2008



Source: The World Bank, World Development Indicators, <http://data.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/wdi-final.pdf>; and Scott Gates, Håvard Hegre, Håvard Mokleiv Nygård, and Håvard Strand, "Consequences of Civil Conflict," World Development Report 2011 Background Paper, October 26, 2012, https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/9071/WDR2011_0012.pdf?sequence=1.

Critiques

- Underdevelopment/poverty is causally prior to political conflict
- Poor countries lack the resources to build strong state capacity that is necessary to prevent conflict
- Conflict might be bad, but recovery can be quick
- Conflict might even have positive consequences: transformation of institutions for the better
- Wars preceded nation state building in early modern Europe. During wars, states learn how to mobilize resources effectively.

Documentary

