

SOCIOLOGY

POLITICS AND SOCIETY-STATE, POWER, ELITE etc.

SOCIOLOGY LECTURE-34

POLITICS AND SOCIETY-THEORIES-ELITE-BUREAUCRACY,PRESSURE GROUPS etc.

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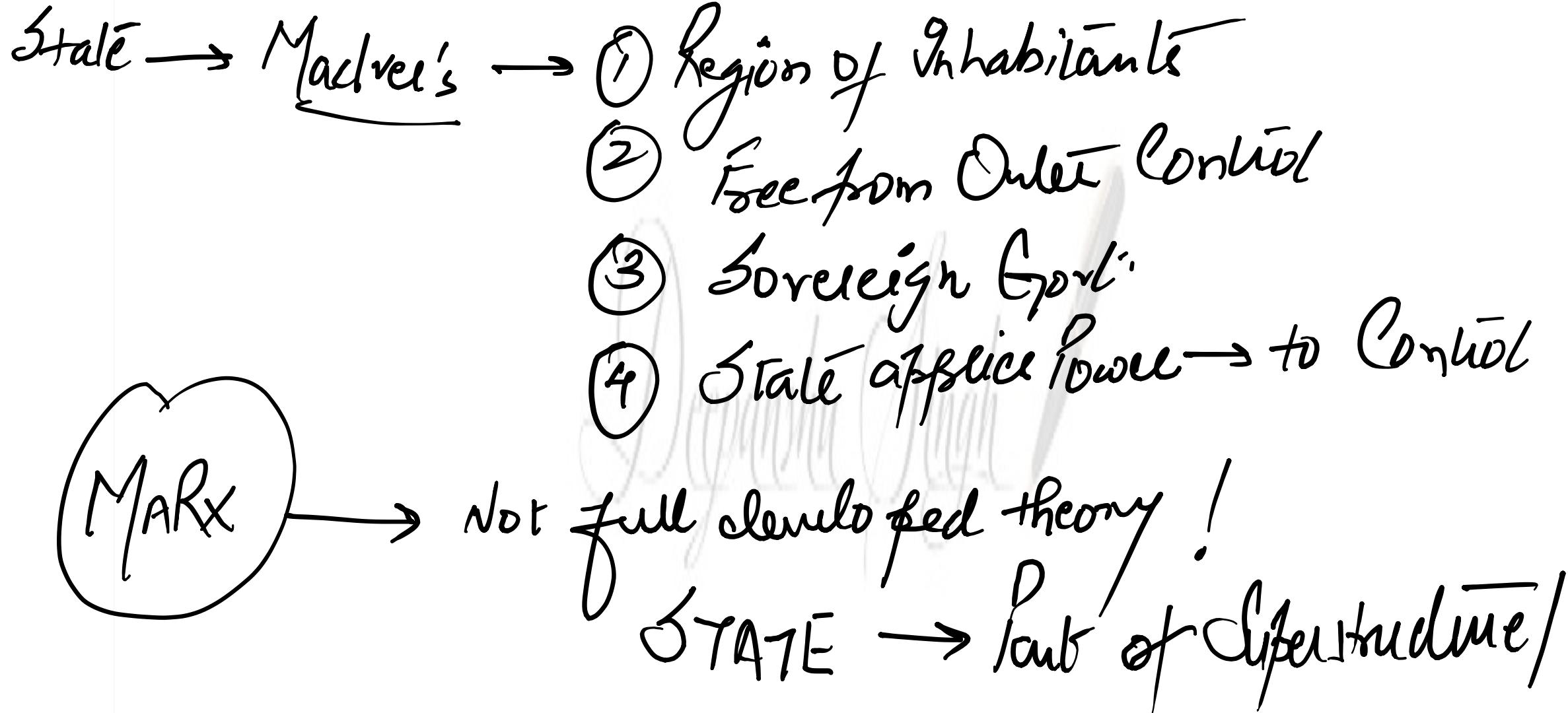
STATE

- The term ‘state’ is commonly used as a synonym for nation, government, society or country.
- **Aristotle** defined state: a union of families & villages having, for its end, a perfect & self-sufficing life.
- **Das and Chaudhary-** when a group of people are permanently settled on a definite territory and have government of their own, free from any kind of external control, they constitute a state.
- **State uses power as a mechanism to keep society bound together. State vs society:** The state is the agency which performs the political function in society and as such is a sub-system of the society

Greek philosophers have viewed the state as a natural & necessary institution coming out of the needs of human beings as a political animal. **Marxists** have viewed the state as an instrument of exploitation in the hands of the ruling class. **Sociologists** have defined the state as an association which legally maintains social order within a community. The state has also been viewed as society, divided into government and subjects, within the allotted physical area, a supremacy over all other institutions.

From the above definitions certain essential properties of the state emerge, viz., (i) a population, (ii) a territory, (iii) a government and iv) sovereignty

MARX ON STATE



MARX ON STATE

- Marx traces the development of the state to the division of labour in the society.
- becomes more and more complex and there arises some central organising agency to control.
- exercises power and authority for promoting the interests of the dominant class and suppressing and exploiting the weaker classes who are collectively called as proletariat.
- The super structure of any form of society is affected by its infrastructure i.e., the economic activities of the society.
- Marx distinguished five historical epochs in the development of humanity each depicting its characteristics and state.
- Those who own means of production control the state. He sees as a bourgeois design to keep class antagonisms in check.
Thus, 90,000 Athenians were able to control 4 lakh slaves.
- Marx believed the state to be a sort of conspiracy against the working class, or that the wealth of the bourgeoisie could be used to ensure that whoever is in power pursues its interests
- When the classless society is established and there is no suppressive function for the state, it would be required only to perform the economic functions and state would wither away

WEBER on STATE

State claims Monopoly → legitimate use of force
within a territory.

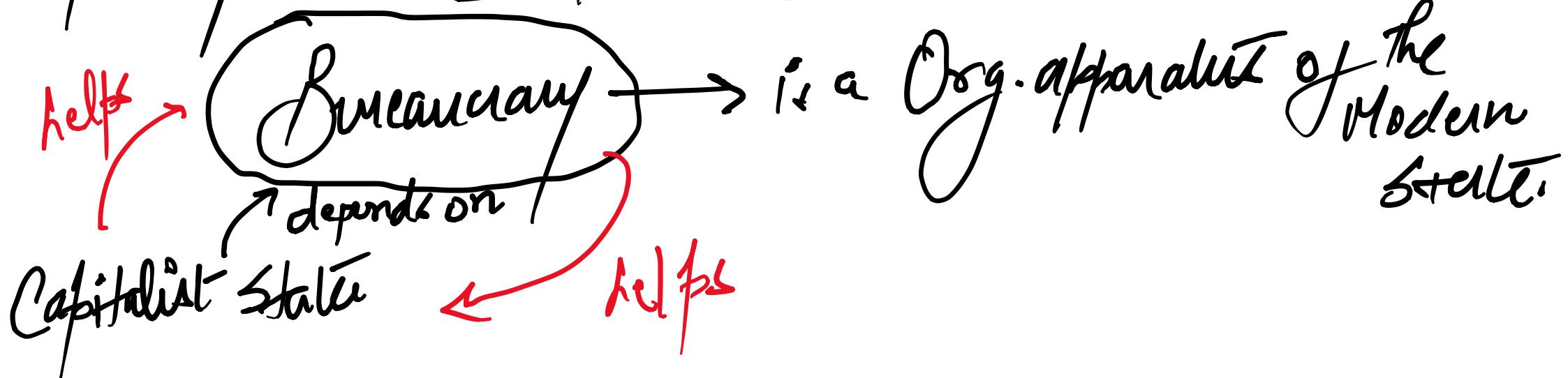
four characteristics

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graph TD; A[ ]; A --> B[ ]; A --> C[ ]; A --> D[ ]; A --> E[ ]
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legislation (legal Order)
Binding authority
Membership by birth
Use of force legally prescribed

Weber → Political Organiz. ^{Secured} → State

- ① Emp. office bearers
- ② People obey laws & not office bearers.



Dukheim on State

associated with

↳ Dir. of labor

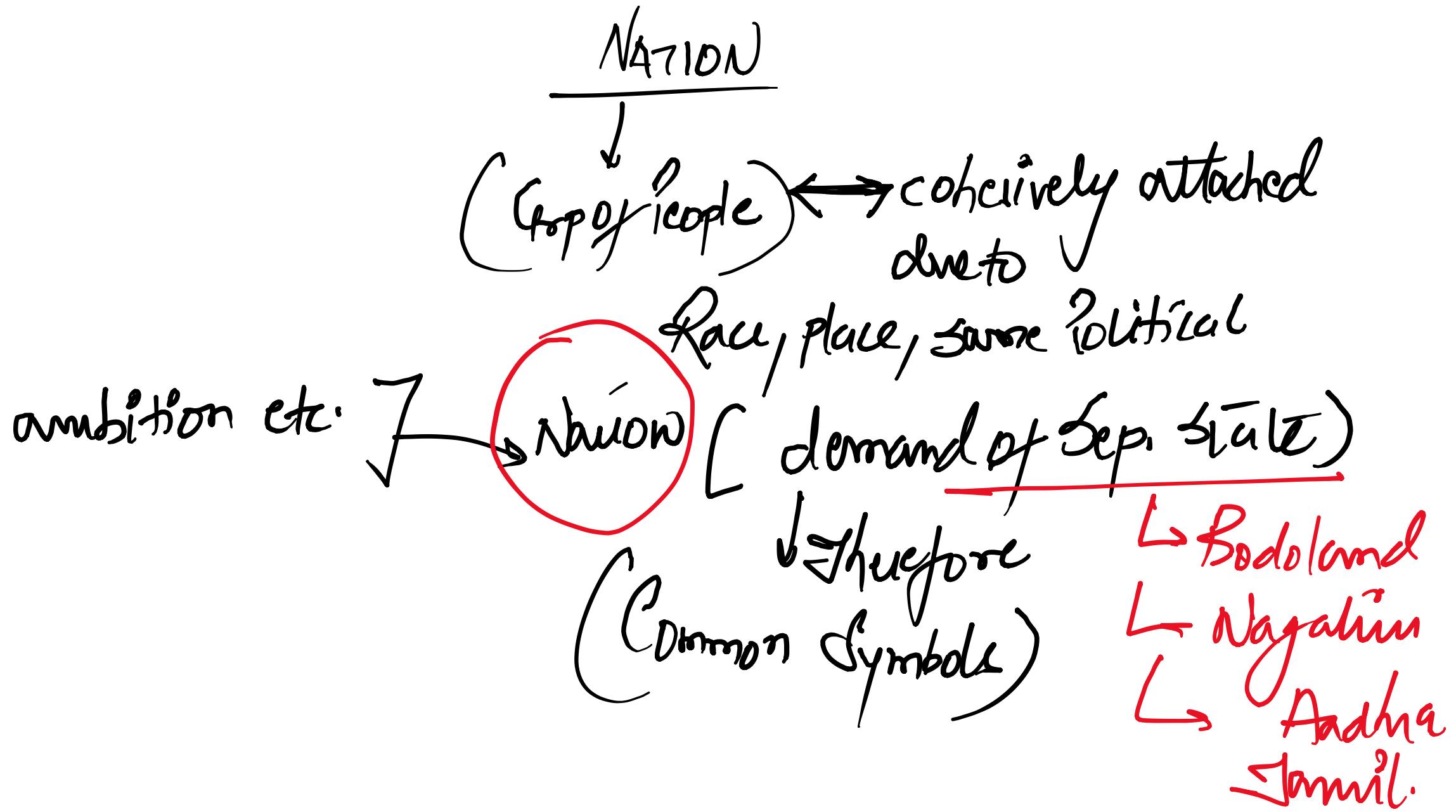
State → Mediate between different interests → balance
of Indiv. & Group interests (Minority Rights!)

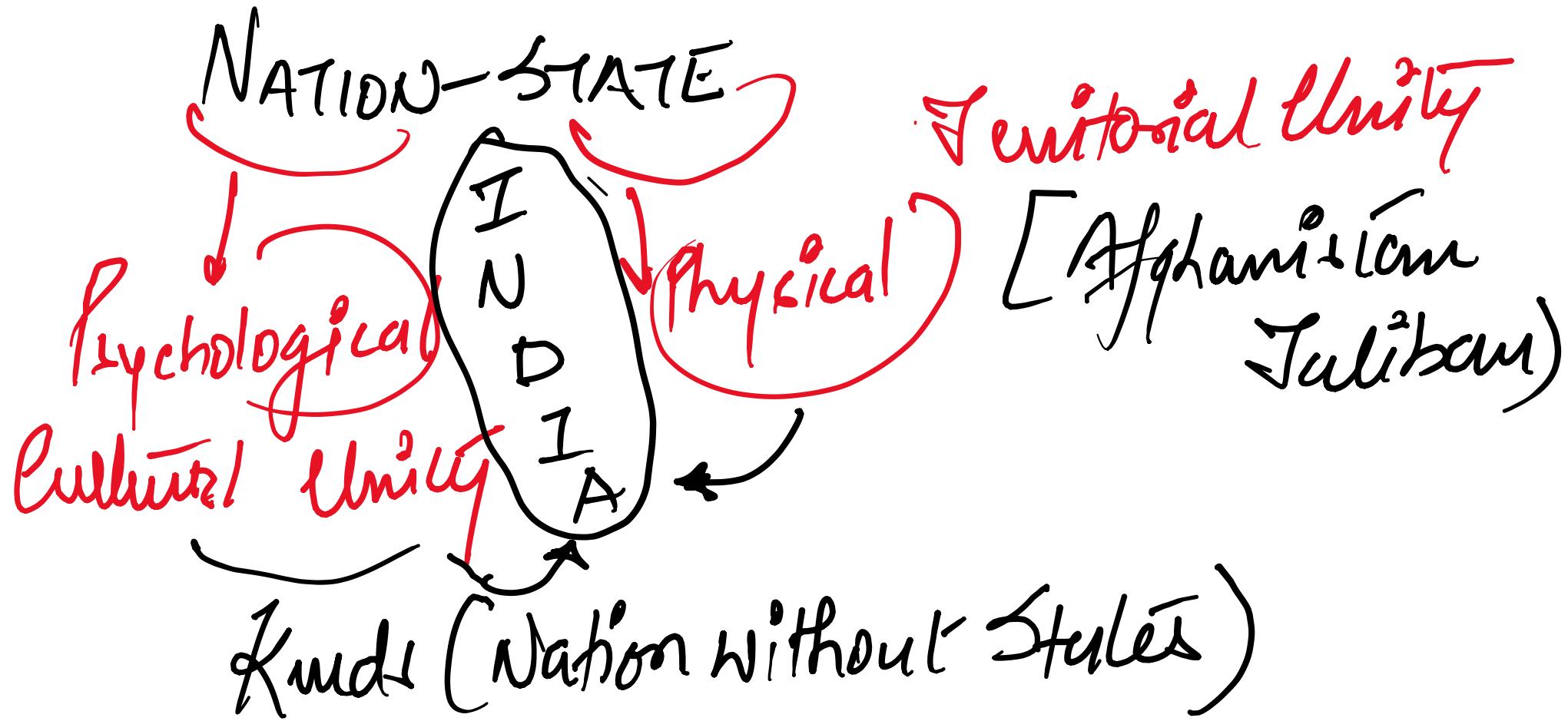
No state → Informal Societies (Mech Solidarity)

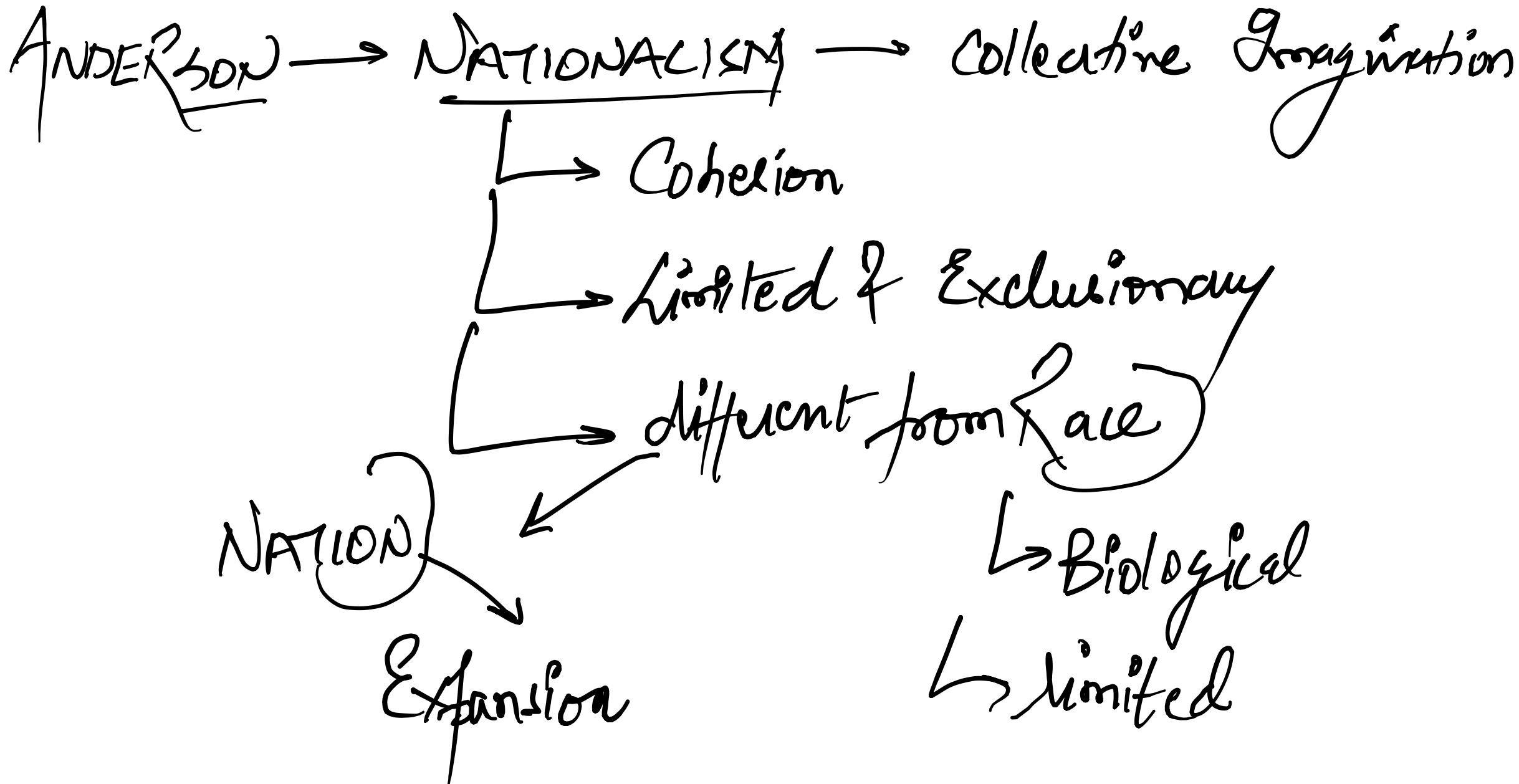
State → Specialized Institutions (Functionalism)

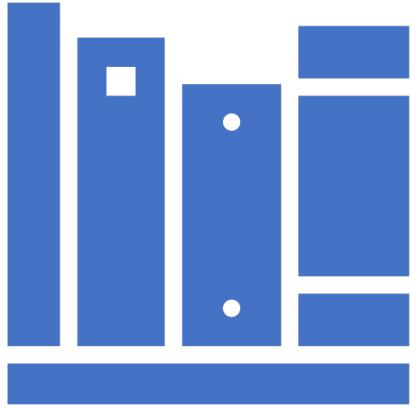
NATION

- The word nation is derived from the Latin word nation which means “born”.
- This means that nation is of people descended from common stock
- Culturally see themselves one (thus cultural nationalism)
- A nation is people's consciousness of **unity**
- The United Nations Organisation (UNO) is a union of sovereign states and not of nations
- **It has following characteristics:**
 - O. Nation is a psychological concept unlike state which is territorial
 - O. Nationhood is a subjective concept
 - O. Nationhood is not enforceable by law unlike state
 - O. A state may consist of one nation or many nation. Similarly nation may be split.
- Thus, has 3 dimensions- **political** (having political unity); **cultural & psychological**
- **Two traditions in social sciences of nationalism:**
 - O. Objective- german** Nation as seen as cult identity as they share common language, religion, history etc
 - O. Subjective- French** Nations as political communities. Most modern nations like this. Have invented traditions and are imagined nations.
- **Marx** criticized nationalism for hiding reality. Today, trans-nationalism, long-distance nationalism.









THANKYOU