

#reading: GHMW Unit 1.pdf ## Watson ~ The Evolution of International Society; a comparative, Historical Analysis

Classification words of civilizations are not descriptive enough. Way too broad.

Empires fall along a spectrum from absolute independence to absolute empire. The absolutes are theoretical and do not occur in practice.

## 1 | Four Broad Categories:

- Independence
- Hegemony
- Dominion
- Empire

Order -> peace / prosperity, less freedom

Rules *expected to* benefit all members of system

commitments to a collective security

**Freedom of action in an independent states is limited by the pressures of interdependence in a system**

Hegemony = Being able to exert a *\*law\** above the operations of the system

^ Sometimes thought of as only one person

Broader: Hegemony = Being able to determine the relations between the members of an international society

Suzerainty = One state holds total political power over another

shadowy overlordship

hegemony requires tacit acceptance

Dominion = Imperial authority determines the internal government of other communities, but retain their identity as separate states and some control over their own affairs

Empire = direct administration of different communities from an imperial centre

=Continuum!=

Community bound by: - custom - ethnic descent - religion - language

^ the importance of these fluctuates drastically over time

## 2 | Pendulum Theory

Hegemony on one side, dominion on the other, swings between and over corrects.

### 3 | Examples

- Suzerainty / Dominion?
  - UK's control over India
  - "the thing that happened with Russia a few years ago"
  - China with Taiwan?
  - China with Hong Kong
- Empire
  - Differentiate from "bloated state" with
    - \* Core + periphery
      - Provinces with separate rights, but not independent on paper
  - Holy roman empire
    - \* Weird mix of empire + hegemony. Like feudalism

Are there patterns in world history?

Takeover -> split -> slow reforming

### 4 | The State

What is a state? > a state is a human community that (successfully) claims the monopoly of the legitimate use of physical force within a given territory

Where do states come from?

**Social contract theory:** > The state rises from the cumulative experience of a populations...

Basically, the need for a leader / social contract arises with size.

**Bellicist theory:** with Charles Tilly > war makes states and states make war

#### 4.0.1 | Four Functions of a state

Think of the state as like the mafia

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- War Making
  - Created taxes
    - \* Leads to protection
- State Making
- Protection
- Extraction
  - Want rich people to stay and not be dangerous
    - \* Solution: Legal system

## 5 | Bellicist theory group work

With your group, brainstorm the following:

What hypotheses might you generate from the bellicist theory of the state? (i.e. "If I change variable X, then Y will happen.")

Using history as your data, how might you test your hypothesis?

Bonus: Can you think of any specific examples in history (regions, events, states/empires) that might be used to test your hypothesis?