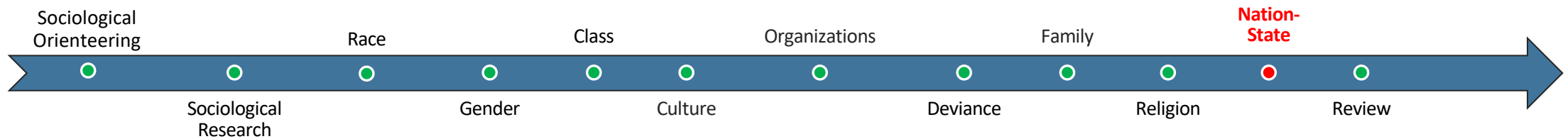


WEEK 11

The Nation-State

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SC1101E Making Sense of Society



What is a Nation-State?

□ is an independent political entity the rules over community of people (**nation**) who live within a defined territory (**state**).

□ Characteristics of a Nation-State

- defined territory
- common history
- common culture (e.g., language, values, belief systems)

■ **Political and Economic Systems**



Types of Societies



Farm Show at Agrodome, Rotorua, New Zealand

- ❑ Hunting and Gathering Societies
 - foraging, fluid leadership
- ❑ Pastoral and Horticultural Societies
 - domestication, subsistence (swidden farming)
 - hierarchical, rule of tribal chiefs
- ❑ Agrarian Societies
 - large-scale farming, creation of surplus
 - development of the state, *mandala system*
- ❑ Industrial Societies
 - mechanization, Industrial Revolution
 - birth of modern nation-states
- ❑ Information Societies (post-industrial)
 - knowledge economy, geopolitics



The Political-Economy



Palacio del Congreso Nacional Argentino
Buenos Aires, Argentina

- ❑ defines how government institutions, an economic system, and a political environment interact and influence each other.
 - distribution of social power based on wealth.
 - the role of the state in wealth distribution.
- ❑ Fundamental assumptions
 - shows how economic theories such as capitalism or socialism play out in the real world.
 - seeks to understand how history, culture, and customs impact an economic system.
 - political economy studies how political forces shape economic interactions.

A. The Political System

- ❑ **Politics** is the institution through which **POWER** is acquired, exercised, and contested by individuals and groups.
- ❑ **Power** – is the ability of individuals or groups to achieve their objectives despite the opposition from others.
 - coercion – use of force and violence
 - influence – use of persuasion
 - authority – institutionalized power that people view as legitimate
- ❑ **Max Weber's Three Forms of Authority**
 - Traditional authority – based on the sanctity of time-honored norms.
 - Charismatic authority – based on the leader's exemplary qualities.
 - Legal-rational authority – based on a system of impersonal rules.

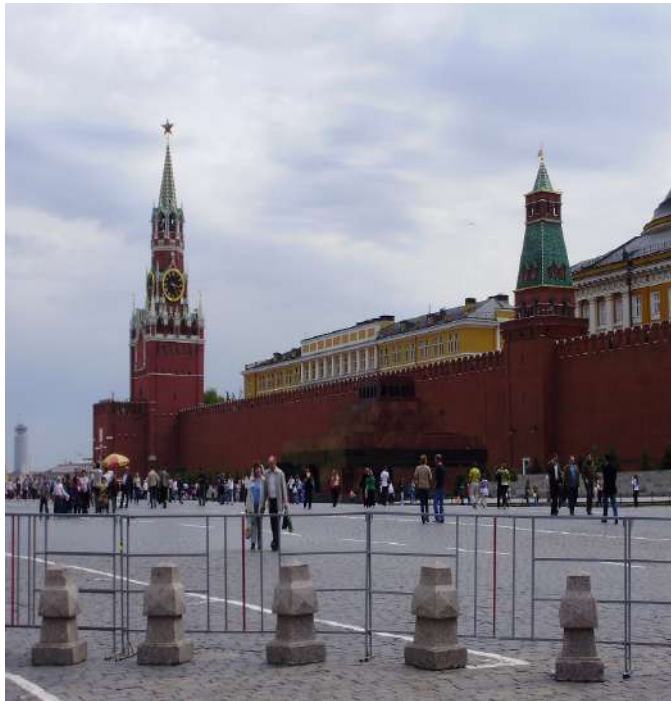


EXAMINING SOCIETY: The Basis of Power

- Think of the current political leader of your home country. Which one of Max Weber's three forms of authority would best describe the basis of his/her power?
 - traditional authority
 - legal-rational authority
 - charismatic authority



Government and Power



The Kremlin
Moscow, Russia

- ❑ **Government** - the formal organization that formulates and enforces laws to guide and coordinate people's involvement in political activities.
- ❑ Forms of government – (**power** is vested on):
 - monarchy (a hereditary ruler)
 - democracy (people)
 - oligarchy (an elite group)
 - autocracy (dictator) – totalitarianism (**ideology** – a vision of a “perfect society”), authoritarianism (**no official ideology**)
 - theocracy (religious leaders)

B. The Economic System



Moscow International Business Center

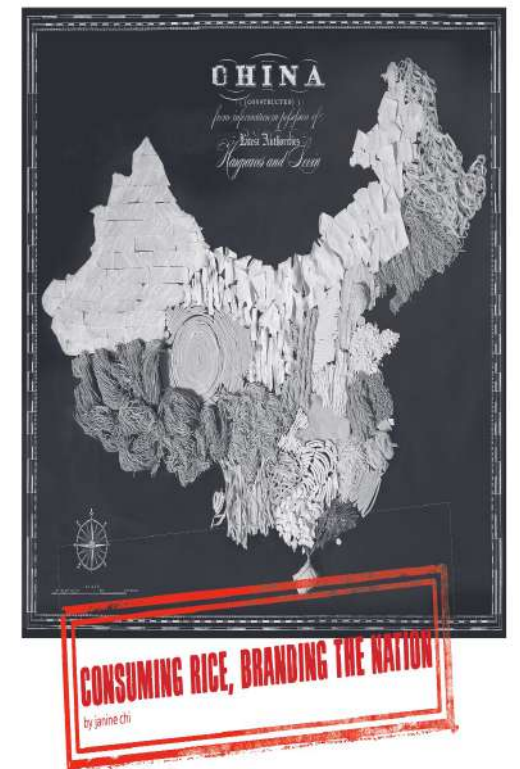
- The institution that coordinates human activity in the effort to produce, distribute, and consume goods and services.
- Major Economic Systems
 - capitalism – profit-driven, means of production is privately-owned.
 - socialism – welfare-driven, means of production is publicly-owned.
 - mixed economies – a hybrid of capitalist and socialist systems. E.g., **welfare state** (public-private partnership, minimal provisions for citizens).



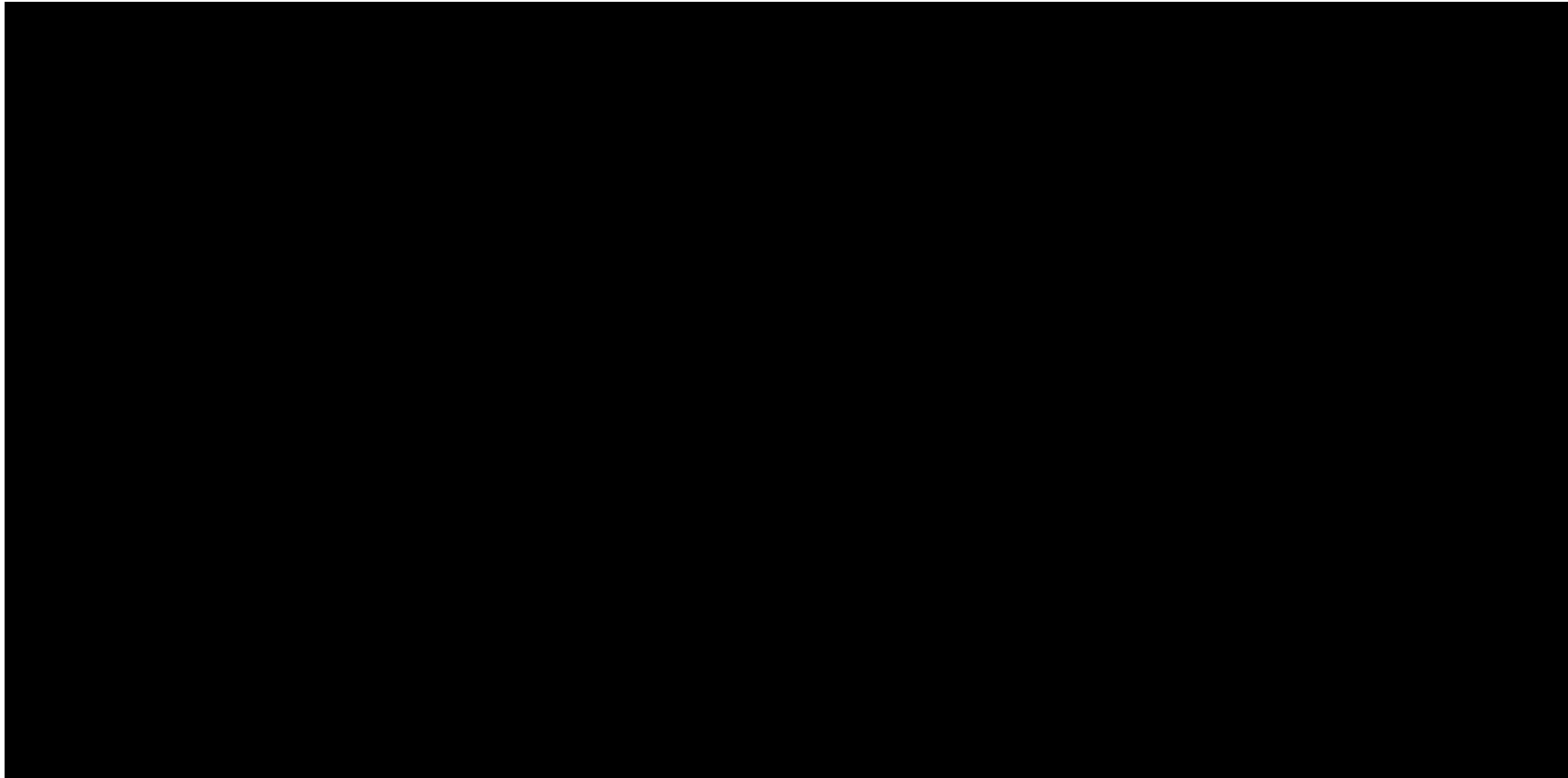
<https://youtu.be/kMyPUDSBSYo>

Image and Imagining the Nation

- ❑ The “image” of a nation is not limited by its global political standing or economic productivity.
- ❑ This “image” is meticulously constructed through diplomacy, tourism, or the promotion of “iconic products”.
- ❑ **Nation branding** - application of marketing strategies to promote a distinct image and reputation to serve national goals and interests.
- ❑ Rice: Consumption and the Branding of Nations (Chi 2014)
 - **food cosmopolitanism** – changing food preferences, global palate.
 - **culinary tourism** – favor local cultures (exotic & authentic), food as heritage, tradition, and identity.
 - **gastronationalism** – food are tied to a place and becomes a marker of identity and nationhood.



Branding the Nation



<https://youtu.be/agWYoEjCdJA>

Understanding the Nation-State

❑ Nation and Nationalism (Ernest Gellner)

- nationalism came to fill the void caused by the decline of religion and the feudal system.
- education, mass production, and the growth of cities saw the emergence of common ideals and sentiments that unite people.

❑ Imagined Communities (Benedict Anderson)

- a nation-state “is imagined because the members of even the smallest nation will never know most of their fellow members... yet in the mind of each lives the image of their communion.”
- highlighted the importance of education, literacy, and the rise of print capitalism in the emergence of the nation-state.

❑ Mapping the Nation (Thongchai Winichakul)

- modern geography and cartography produced the territory, practices, and values (“geo-body”) that served as the framework of Thai nation.
- defining “we-self” vs “the other” are necessary to demarcate and enforce the existence of the nation-state.

The End of the Nation-State?

❑ The Impact of the Digital Revolution

- decline of the bureaucracy, privatization of public services, declining influence in technological, economic, and social advancement.

❑ The Impact of Globalization

- national sovereignty is challenge by international agreements, foreign investments, migration, and the influence of MNCs.
- decentralization (rise of local governments), flexible citizenship

❑ Resilience and Resurgence

- new nation-states continue to emerge
- global crises such as the Covid-19 pandemic have proven the importance of nation-states



A protest in Moscow

Conclusion



When people believe that power differences are legitimate, those with power possess authority.



The world's economic system fall along a continuum, with capitalism and socialism in their most pure as endpoints.



The “image” of a nation is not limited by its global political standing or economic productivity.