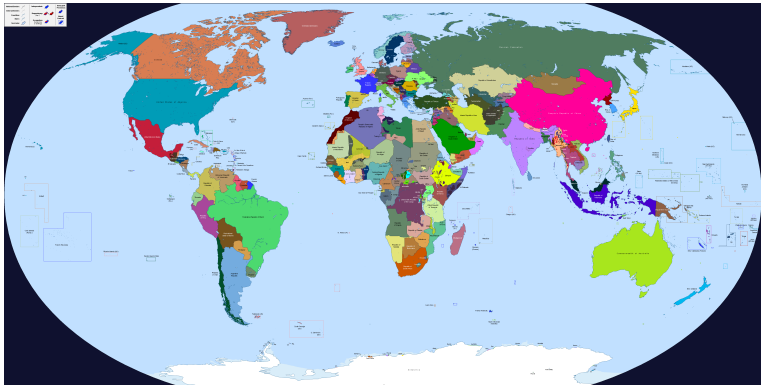


# The State

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# Objectives

- ▶ Define “state.”
- ▶ Compare state vs. government and state vs. nation.
- ▶ Understand different explanations of state formation (i.e. How and why states are formed).
- ▶ Compare different explanations of state formation.
- ▶ Analyze consequences of state fragility.

# Definition

From the textbook:

The state is a political-legal unit with sovereignty over a particular territory and the population that resides within its borders.

## Another definition

Charles Tilly:

Relative centralized, differentiated organizations the officials of which more or less successfully claim control over chief centralized means of violence within a population inhabiting a large, contiguous territory.

# Definitions of Nation and Government

## Nation

Nation: a grouping of individuals who associate based on collectively held political identity.

## Government

The organization that has the authority to act on behalf of the state and the right to make decisions that affect everyone in the state.

## Success of the State Depends on:

- ▶ **Legitimacy:** We accept that the state has the sovereign authority to use force.
- ▶ **Sovereignty:** Ultimate responsibility for and legal authority over the conduct of internal affairs.
- ▶ **Efficiency:** Ability of states to maintain effective order.

# Individual and Collective Choices Sometimes Clash

Successful states efficiently solve a **Collective Action** problem.



What happens when problems of collective action are not solved?

The state of nature is **ANARCHY**.





# Theories of State Formation 1: Social Contract

- ▶ Proposed by Thomas Hobbes.
- ▶ Everyone limits their ability to do as they please in order to achieve some collective benefit.
- ▶ The state and its institutions: guarantors of the social contract.

## Theories of State Formation 2: Predatory States

- ▶ Proposed by Charles Tilly.
- ▶ Rulers fight wars with external rivals. So, they need resources to do it.
- ▶ To get resources they do 2 things: (i) eliminate internal rivals, and (ii) create institutions that help them to administer and use those resources. Together, they result in “state-making” capacity.

# Functions of the State (Tilly)

- ▶ **War making:** Eliminating or neutralizing their own rivals outside the territories in which they have clear and continuous priority as wielders of force.
- ▶ **State making:** Eliminating or neutralizing their rivals inside those territories.
- ▶ **Protection:** Eliminating or neutralizing the enemies of their clients
- ▶ **Extraction:** Acquiring the means of carrying out the first three activities.

**“War made the state, and the state made war” (Tilly)**

# Early State Formation

## Military Context

- ▶ A vicious cycle: increase in warfare led to increase in military expenditures and to an increase in taxation extraction needs, best achieved from a larger territory.

## Economic Context

- ▶ Increase in agricultural productivity.
- ▶ The growth of industry, trade and commerce, as well as cities.
- ▶ The exploitation of overseas territories and empires.

## Political Context

- ▶ Individual self interest replaces notions of predestination.
- ▶ Protestant Reformation.
- ▶ The Age of Enlightenment.

# Late State Formation 1

## Military Context

- ▶ Post 1945: few interstate wars.
- ▶ High incidence of civil wars.
- ▶ Lack of military pressure = lack of incentive for the creation of a strong state.

## Economic Context

- ▶ The legacy of European colonialism.
- ▶ Lack of experience with independent economic development.

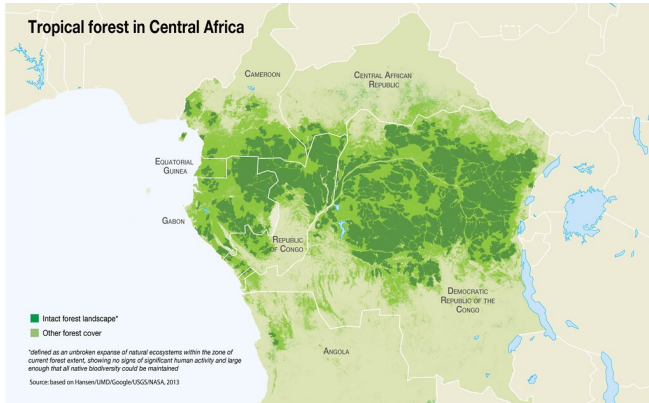
## Political Context

- ▶ Borders established arbitrarily.
- ▶ Weak national identity.
- ▶ Weak connection between state and nation.

# Late State Formation 2

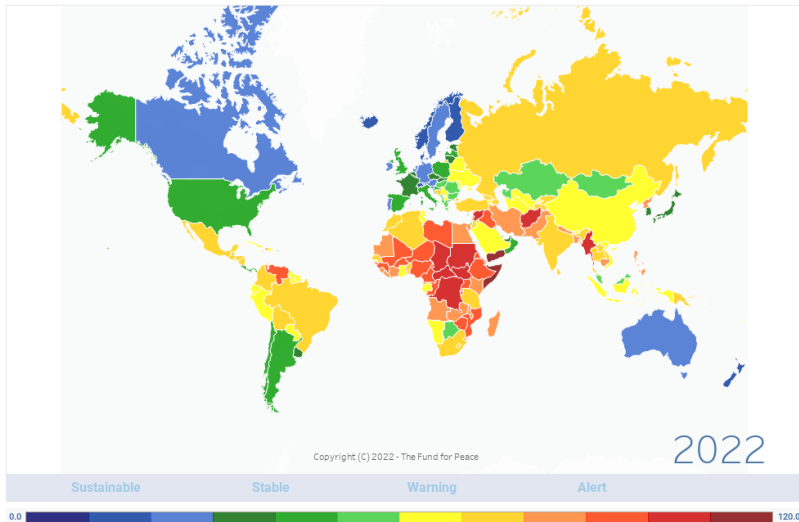
## The Natural Environment

- ▶ Difficult territories make the reach of the state more expensive and less efficient.



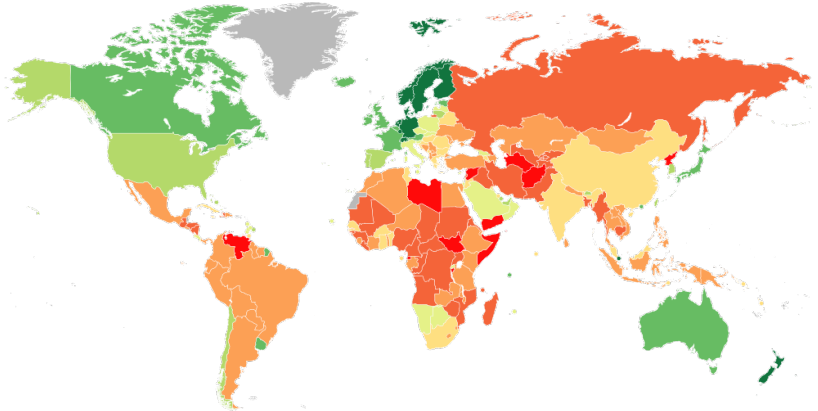
# Consequences of Late State Formation 1

## Weak or failing states



# Increased likelihood of corruption

## Perception of Corruption Around the World, 2021





# Increased likelihood of Conflict

## Where are the conflicts in the world?

Around **80%** of the world's current conflicts are concentrated in **Asia and Africa**.



The most prevalent forms of conflict today are **civil wars** and **territorial disputes**.

### Territorial Dispute

East China Sea Disputes

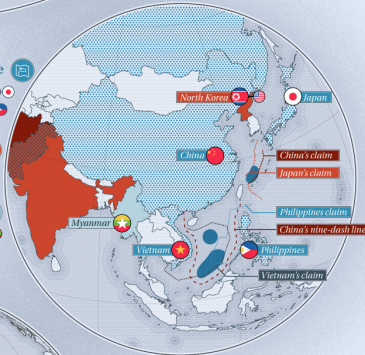
South China Sea Disputes

### Interstates

North Korea Crisis

### Sectarian

Rohingya Crisis



### Criminal Violence



Mexico

### Political Instability



Venezuela

Around the **Mexican** midterm elections, 89 politicians were killed during the campaigning period.