

**Source:** [\[KB20200826173039\]](#)

## Annotation

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## Defining the Scale

- The author thinks that the words we use to describe bodies of government are far too oversimplified
  - They think that there are a lot of bodies that fall into the category of being between completely independent, and being one with other bodies.
    - These two absolutes never occur in practice
    - It is convenient to divide up this spectrum to make states more comparable into
      - independence
      - hegemony
      - dominion
      - empire

## How States Move along that Scale

- In all nations there is a struggle between just the right amount of freedom and the right amount of order
  - The desire to autonomous and also the desire to be independent of a greater body is usually the result of too many constraints and commitments
    - Such independence has drawbacks as it requires a nation to be militarily and economically independent
  - An independent nation will eventually make voluntary commitments to make easier the management of external affairs. This will move it further up the spectrum and make it less independent.
    - The more intertwined a state is, the less independent it is.
    - The freedom of a state to do as they please is always limited by the pressure of interdependence.
    - These agreements/rules may start to be created by a hegemony
      - A larger organization agreed upon by these states to help them with external affairs.
        - This organization often begins to be designed to give more political power to a certain state or states
      - An acceptance of sorts is necessary for any hegemony to be considered Suzerain
    - Further along the spectrum we have a dominion
      - A dominion is essentially where there's an authority that to some extent controls the internal affairs of other communities.
        - They still retain their identity as separate states however
    - The most extreme case is an empire
      - In an empire, the greater organization controls the affairs of the smaller communities within it.
    - The amount that people believe in an authority is directly related to its power.