

# **Politics of Economic Development**

Section 2

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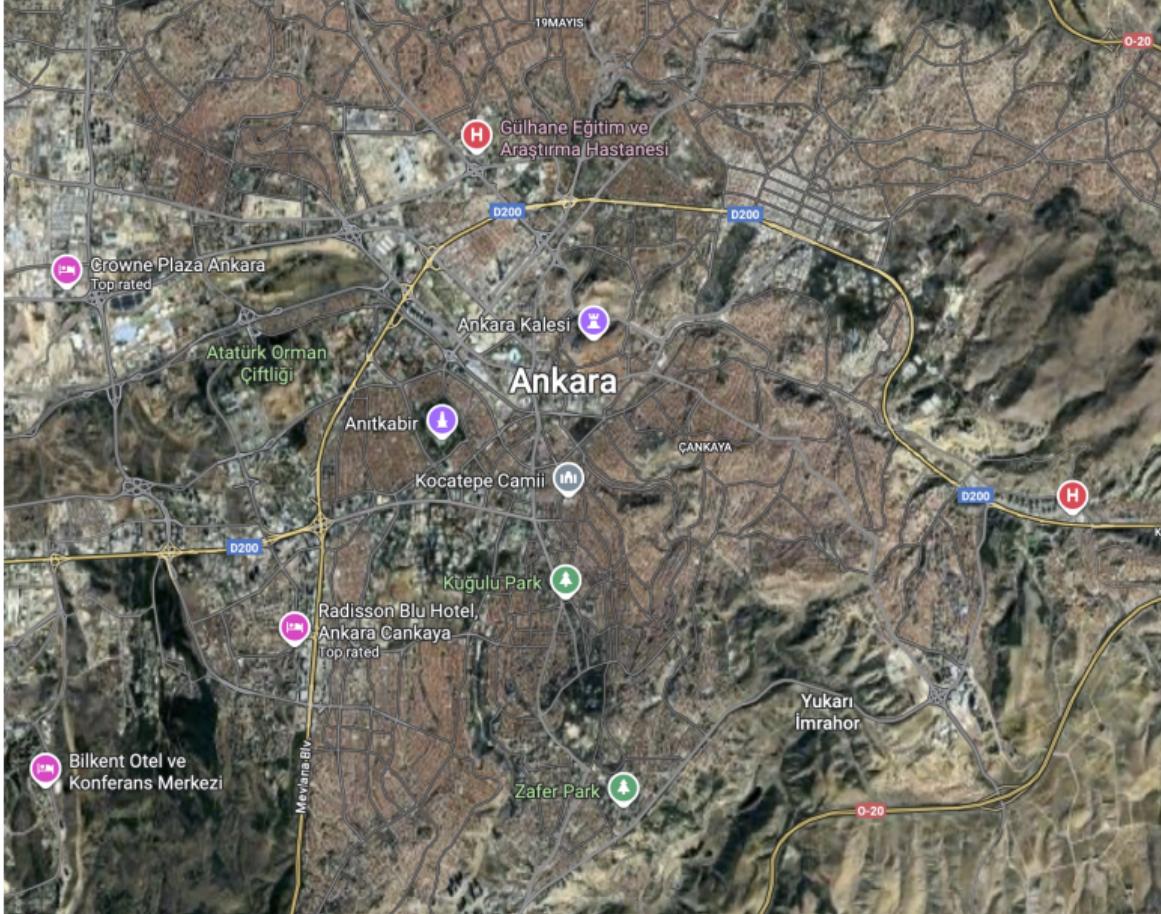
Gov 20: Foundations of Comparative Politics

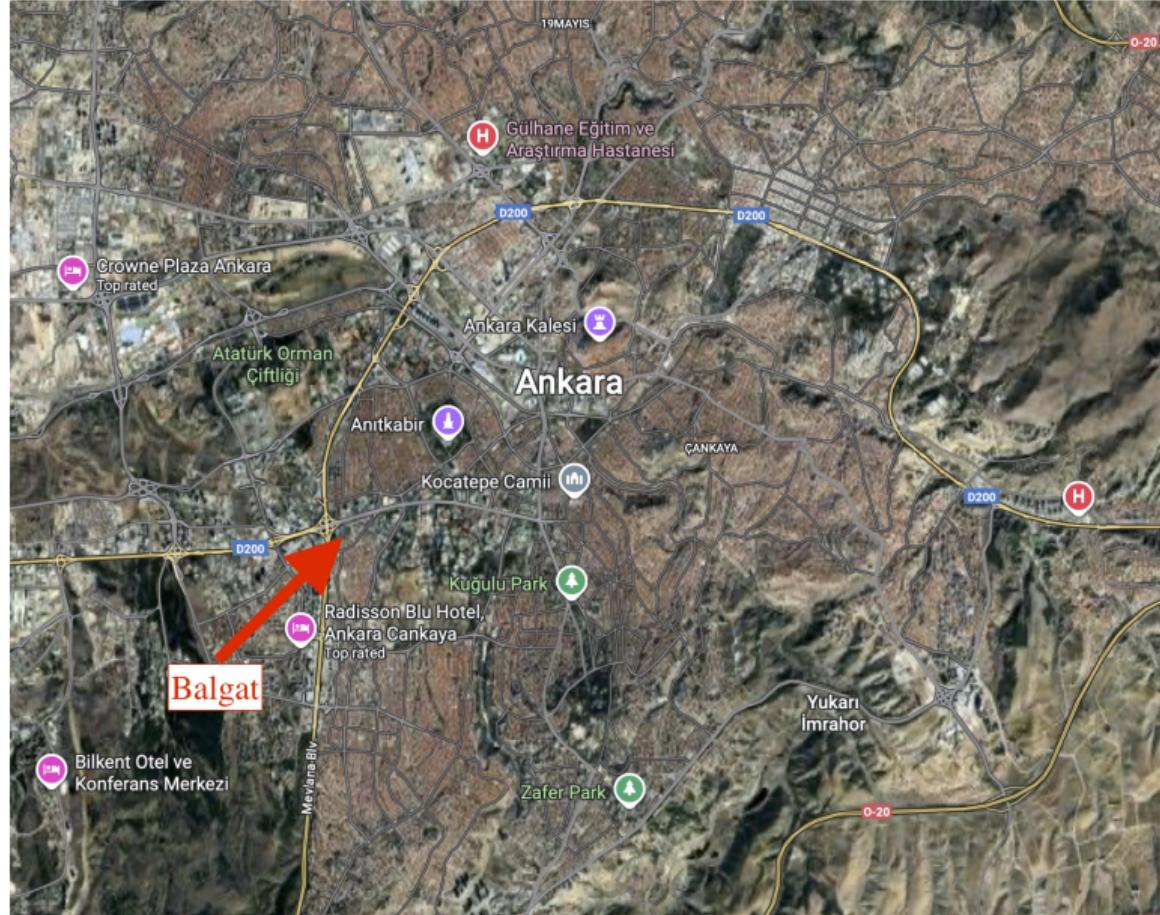
Fall 2025

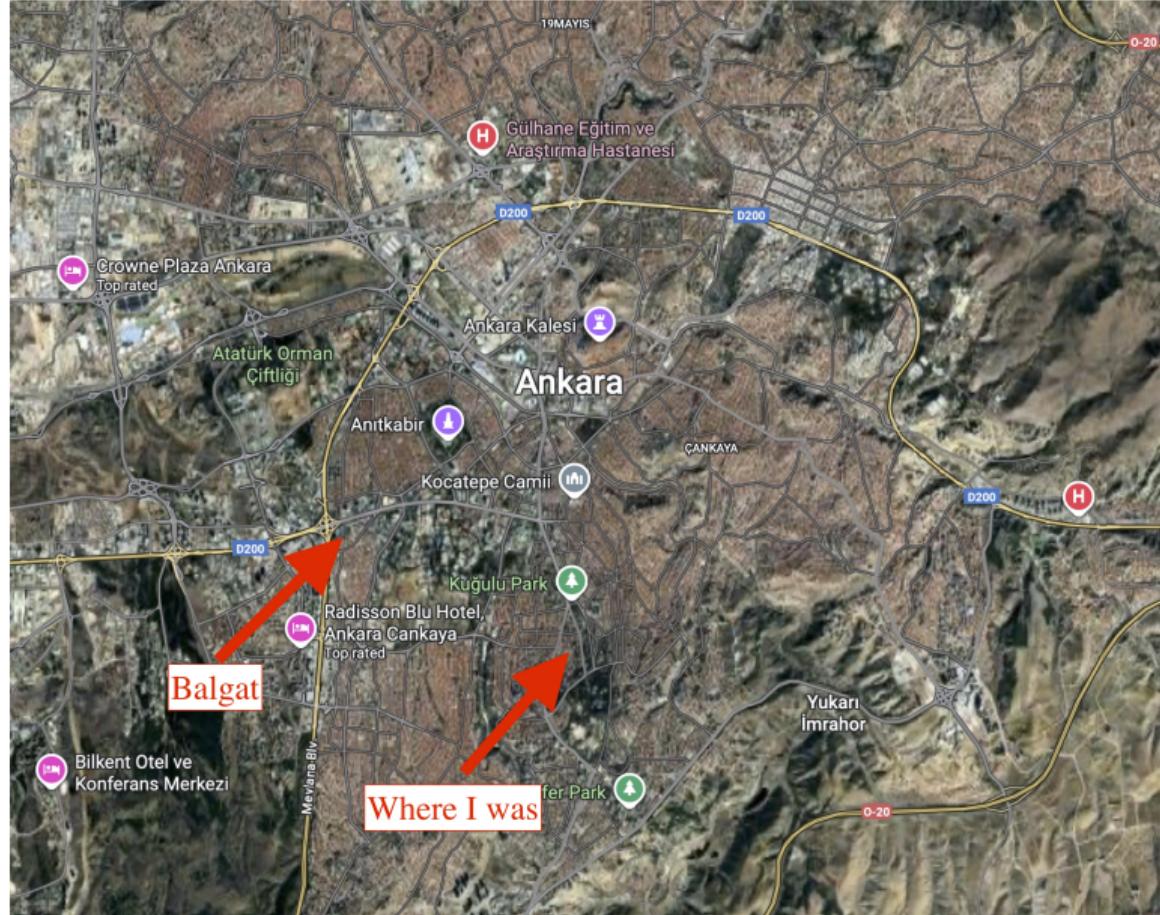
1. Housekeeping
2. Discussion
3. Questions

# Housekeeping

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## Modernization Literature

- What is our outcome variable?

The central question that emerges is "What drives what?"

- What are the interactions between social, political, and economic factors?
- What role is given to agents?

## Group Exercise

Assignment to one of the following groups:

1. Weber
2. Lerner + Rostow
3. Gerschenkron
4. Inglehart and Welzel

Pretend you are the author and defend their positions.

Now discuss the following:

1. Summary of the approach (what matters for development?)
2. How are tradition and modernity defined?
3. Why have some countries developed and others have not?
4. What evidence does the author provide for the approach?
5. What are the advantages of the approach?
6. What are the prospects for developing countries today?

## Criticisms

Now we raise the different criticisms that we have.

## Peasants into Frenchmen (Eugen Weber)

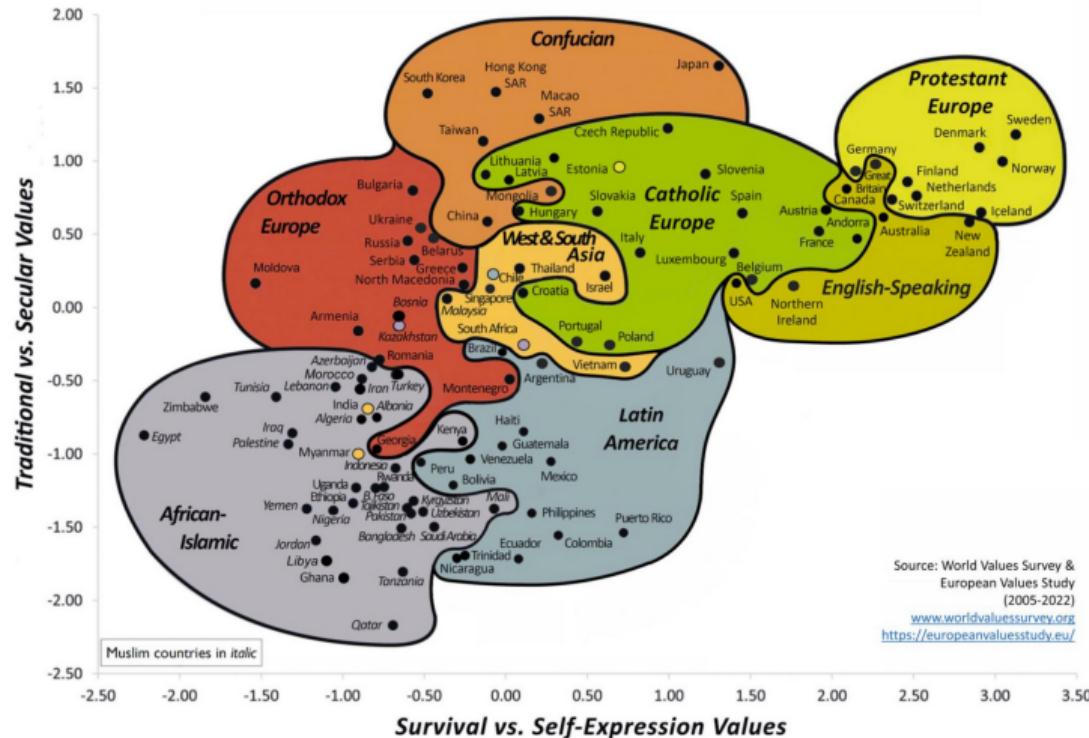
Describing the nineteenth century:

- "In Ariège families ate grass, hungry peasants were "eager to get into prison," mendicancy was chronic, armies of beggars descended into the plains, and . . . travelers were beset by legions of children seeking alms" (p. 17)

Describing the early twentieth century:

- "Old folk . . . had no fond remembrance of the old days. For them . . . , the past was a time of misery and barbarism, the present a time of unexampled comfort and security, of machines and schooling and services, of all the wonders that are translated as civilization" (p. 478)

The Inglehart-Welzel World Cultural Map 2023



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# Questions