**State:** often means westphalia state in reference to the peace of Westphalia of 1648.

* **Max Weber’s definition.**

To him state is a human community that successfully claims the monopoly of the legitimate use of physical force within a given territory. Here state is the ultimate depository of power in society.

* **Franz Opprenheimer’s definition.**

State refers to the summation of privileges and dominating positions, which are brought into being by an extra economic power. Here state is equivalent to the apparatus of rule and can be understood as consisting of a group of individuals who work according to the rules within a particular framework.

From the above two definitions we can therefore say that state is:

An organization political community, occupying a territory and processing internal and external sovereignty, which successfully claims the monopoly of the force.

**Origin of Westphalia state**

In late 14th century a dispute over papal succession erupted. The dispute was exploited by secular authorities that increased their power at the expense of the papal rule. Like France.

Started to adapt a more active and independent role in contrast to the traditionally subsidiary role in the early middle ages. The great dynasties of Europe dramatically consolidated power by the beginning of the 16th century. This shift became a major point of controversy in early modern Europe. The bloody conflicts that followed pitied those who asserted the authority of the pope against those who asserted the authority of secular authorities and their sovereign ability to make internal policy when that policy reflected religious affiliation.

The conflicted went on for thirty years. In 1648 powers of Europe signed the treaty of Westphalia which ended the religious violence and which the church was stripped of temporal power and given to the states.

***Major features ratified by the treaty.***

1. Emergence of central bureaucracy within a given area supported by the army that had suppressed all local centers of power and which had also destroyed the authority of the holy Roman Empire and that of the pope in the territory.
2. Population transferred their loyalty to the new centers of power as the army and bureaucracy developed. The people now turned to them for livelihood and solutions to most of their difficult and pressing problems.
3. Transfer of loyalty led to the cohesion within the population and geographical boundaries became culturally, socially, economically and militarily impermeable to other groups and people.

Other than this it also sought to regulate horizontal relationships between state.

* Only sovereign states could engage in international relations.
* To be recognized state had to have geographical territory, definite population and effective military power to fulfill international obligations.
* All sovereign states were equal in international law and international relations.

**Shortcomings of the Westphalia conceptualization of states.**

1. Did not envision the new dimensions of international system. For instance after agencies of the second world war the charter of UN added other functional agencies of the organization as players in the international system. UNESCO, WHO.
2. Only recognized a narrow ruling class as players in politics of a territory.
3. Treaty recognized a state with a narrow class that was supported by mercenary forces. However in modern state citizen armies have replace mercenary armies.
4. States are not equal in power. Evidence with the technological revolution of 18th and 19th century which was uneven.
5. Technological revolution also made it quicker for communications among states more than before. It was easy penetration of states by words and images through mass media and by soldiers through warfare.
6. A state does not need a functional army to exist eg Somalia.

**ELEMENTS OF STATE**

A state is and entity which has a population, government, territory and the monopoly of force within a territory.

* Population: each state has citizens whose number varies from another state.
* Territory: includes land, air and water. Embassies are part of territory. Territory of a state cannot be violated through external aggression as integrity is guaranteed under the UN’s charter.
* Government: institution that states exercises its power over a territory.
* Sovereignty: refers to the capacity of the ruling class to make and implement decisions, which are of interest to it.

Distinctions between the state, government and society.

State and society.

* Society came before the state.
* State is just a part of society.
* State just makes and enforces a legal order so that citizens may lead a life of peace, security and honor. While society has multiple functions in order to meet manifold requirements of man.
* State has sovereignty as it may compel and coerce others by use of force. Society has no such force and whatever force it has it appears in the form of moral persuasion.

State and government.

* State is a bigger entity including all citizens of a country while government is a smaller entity that covers only those who are employed to perform its functions.
* State is an abstract idea while government is a concrete idea. Admins of country sitting at the top level of a political structure.
* Power of state is original and primary it is absolute on account of being a sovereign entity but the government is delegated and derivative that is limited by the constitution.
* State is relatively a permanent institution it survives until sovereign power is destroyed by invasion of some other state. Governments come and go.
* Membership of a state is compulsory by birth else where one may choose not to be a member of the government.

State and nation.

* Nation is a group of people bound together by a common sentiment of nationality like race. State is a political entity constituted by the four elements of state i.e population etc
* Most states are nation-states but those like USSR are multi-national states.
* Nation is just a group of people bound by a common sentiment but do not have a state of their own but state has sovereign and coercive association.

**ORIGIN AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF STATE.**

1. **Divine origin theory**

All the world’s major religions treat authority as a creation of “God”. According to St. Augustine and other church fathers, the state is a remedy for sin. Reason is that state is a moral community it was for this reason that they were convinced that unless the state was for ethical purpose it was no more. Such as state without moral ties is a “highway robbery on a large scale”. State is seen as a corporate body whose membership is a common possession of all its citizens and it exists to supply its members with the advantages of mutual and just government.

Merits

* Theory explains a historical reality where in most cases authority is seen as having divine origin.
* Can also explain the presence of some modern states that can be regarded as exposing a theoretic system of governance. Where distinction between state and religion was blurred.
* St. Augustine’s ideas can explain why there is a crisis in the modern state Africa.
* Explains a scenario in the past when men obeyed authorities in circumstances when they were not ready to govern themselves.

Demerits

* Superstitious and not appealing to modern times with advancement in new learning and enlightenment. Leader must achieve their position.
* Current generation are not ready to accept the fallacy that they have no part in the creation of their political organization.
* It blurs the boundary between state and religion.
* It is reactionary and cannot be appreciated by the people in the present age.

1. **Genetic or Naturalistic theory**

Based on social or group dynamics. State is an eventual extension of the family. State is a kind of community. A society of many families forms a village under a king. Association of many villages on the other hand constituted a state which was an end in itself and a perfection of government because of equality of citizens. Aristotle describes a community as union of unlike persons because of their differences are able to satisfy their needs through exchange of goods and services.

Also sir Henry says family consists of male, wife and children. But other families kept breaking away still practicing the same tradition it is this that a clan comes about. And state emerged from the tribe.

Merits

* Can explain presence of such political societies as nation.
* Aristotle’s ideas the state is one where differences in the citizenry lead to diverse goods in the state satisfy the needs of citizens. Mirrors that the division of labour is crucial.
* Explains why states carry out national integration so that cultural differences do not impact the co-existence of its citizens. Form of social control.

Criticism

* Cannot explain multi-ethnic and multiracial states.
* Stands on social rather than political hypothesis that is no recognition of that some humans beings want to conquer and dominate others.

1. **The conquest or force theory of the state.**
2. **Marxist theory**
3. **Charismatic theory.** Adolf hitler. Superior being or group enforces their will over the other people.
4. **Sportive theory.**
5. **Social contrast theory.**

Political systems

**Liberal – democratic**

* Popular participation and ultimate control over government by citizens.
* Presence of pressure groups. Trade unions.
* Recognition of civil liberties. Freedom to form voluntary associations is defended by the recognition of civil liberties such as freedom to speech, religion and association.
* Separations of powers. Executive, legislature and judiciary.
* Limited political control over social and economic spheres. Number of children etc.
* Ruled by civilians who compete with each other for political power in an open non-violent manner.

**Totalitarian state**

* Regulation of all aspects of individual and social life.
* One dominant political party.
* Official ideology upheld by the ruling single party.
* Judiciary and mass media are rigidly controlled by the government and the media are expected to indoctrinate the people to the official ideology.
* Terror is used where necessary to enforce obedience and suppress anticism.

**Autocratic state**

* Lack of effective ideology.
* Resort to open force to enforce political obedience.
* No mass political participation.
* Political power is less institutionalized.
* Rule is arbitrary and often highly personalized with little respect for law or legal rights.

DEFECTS OF MODERN TYPOLOGY OF POLITICAL SYSTEMS.

1. Biasness towards the UN and other western countries. It ignores the questions of economic equality.
2. Exaggeration with regard to participation. Effective and meaningful political participation in favor of liberal-democratic countries.
3. Ignores the fact that harassment is also present in liberal-democratic states. Allowed if it is within the official ideology.
4. Alleged independence of the judiciary in liberal- democratic system is farfetched. Senior judges are appointed by the government in power and are expected to conform to the dominant ideology.
5. The typology is not collectively exhaustive. Third world countries are considered autocratic which is excessively considered Eurocentric perspective because it implies that the European political system is better than those of other systems in developing world.

**HOW STATE INFLUENCES DEVELOPMENT.**

1. Changes in institutional framework. This are habitual practices in society. Economic development can take place faster if there is rapid change in social attitudes and values entrenched in these societal institutions. Eg FGM.
2. Social and economic overheads. Large service investments beyond the means of private entrepreneur so the government must invest in them. They facilitate connectivity and hence makes it conducive for investors to locate investments in certain places that would have been passed.
3. Enactment of fiscal policy. Focus on government taxation and expenditure. Crucial for macro-economic stability hence provides a conducive environment for development. Tax concession where there are tax incentives like exemption or consideration for private investors. Mobilization of financial resources to finance public expenditures.
4. Enactment of development blueprint. Guide to the development process in the said country into the future.
5. Social development. Type of development that creates harmony the long run between the citizens of a country. Bridging vertical distances that is income groups and bridging horizontal distances that is differences in ethnicity, religion and geographical areas.
6. Engaging in international relations. Benefits include

* Facilitate trade between two countries.
* Enhance partnership in combating terrorist acts.
* Combat ecological degradation and global warming.

1. Legal framework. Through legalization.
2. Provision of social welfare. Aimed at the underprivileged in the society.

**NEGATIVE INFLUENCES OF THE STATE.**

1. Skewed distribution of resources.
2. Exclusion in governance.
3. Corruption.

**GOVERNMENT AND DEMOCRACY.**

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

1. Total authority over involuntary membership. Now one is above the rule in democratic governments.
2. Authoritarian rule. Government rules are superior to all others within or even outside its territorial confines.
3. Monopoly of life and death. Government can imprison, punish or execute law offenders.
4. Overwhelming force. Can use legitimate force to compel obedience to its rules and laws. Force is security machineries.
5. Legitimacy. Through elections, referendums etc.

**Types of government.**

* Traditional government include monarchies, aristocracy, oligarchy, theocracies, dictatorship.
* Democratic governments.

Characteristics of democratic governments.

* Adherence to democratic principles such as protection of fundamental rights.
* Being responsible for the welfare of the people.
* Accountability within the states institutions, political parties and private and civil society organizations.
* Have ways in which citizens can take part in the decision making process.

Republican government- head of state is elected person.

Unitary government- governmental authority is concentrated in a single central body.

Federal government- power is divide between the national government and certain local government units.

Parliamentary government.

Presidential system of government.

Coalition government- political parties share positions in the government.

Government of national unity- comprises of different political parties representing different interest. Formed when there is a crisis such as breakdown of constitutional machinery.

DEMOCRACY

Theories

1. Minimalism theory: conceptualizes democratic government as one in which citizens give teams of political leaders the right to rule through democratic elections.
2. Aggregate theory: government should produce laws and policies which should be as close as possible to the views of the average voter.
3. Deliberative theory: democracy is government by consensus.
4. Direct theory: holds that for democracy to exist the citizen should participate directly in making laws and policies and not through representatives.

**POWER AND INFLUENCE OVER RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION.**

INSTRUMENTS OF POWER.

1. **Condign power:** based on coercion to win submission. Has an ancient and established relationship to physical punishment, detention and other imaginative torture or death techniques.
2. **Compensatory power:** wins by submission by the offer of affirmative of value to individuals submitting. One foregoes pursuit of his own preferences to seek reward instead.
3. **Conditioned power:** aims at winning submission through changing belief, education or social commitment which causes the individual to submit. Fact of submission is not immediately recognized.

**Source of power.**

* Personality. Wins submission by persuasion. Personality is the behavioral and mental characteristics that makes one unique or attracted to other people. More on condign power but also found in the others.
* Property. Access to property provides the means to purchase submission. Compensatory and conditioned power. What the rich believes attracts the beliefs of others.
* Family backgrounds. Source of conditioned power. Family name accords one willing submission.
* Intellectual or academic sources. Attainment of high learning in a certain field gives the holder conditioned power and willing submission.

**SOCIETY AND SOCIAL STRATIFICATION.**

**SOCIETY.**

Means a community. Concerned about people. Society is there for a group of people with particular organizations and shared custom’s, laws, aims etc.

**SOCIAL STRATIFICATION.**

Hierarchical ordering of people in a society differentiated according to their power, prestige and privilege.

Systems of social stratification.

1. **Open system:** allows social mobility though the degree of mobility may differ from place to place.
2. **Closed system:** social mobility is virtually or totally impossible. Caste system in India.
3. **Class system:** allows social mobility and does not involve endogamy. A class is a group of people who have the same typical chance for the supply of goods, external living conditions and personal life experiences. Possession of wealth, power and prestige.
4. **Elites:** people who have managed to rise above the rest of the population in terms of wealth, power, prestige and privilege. Defined as

**(A corporate group which is exclusive and aware of its status and group character, but is not necessarily fully organized or closed to new members.** Have high superiority complex based on special skills or talents acquired or inherited which is rewarded by deference).

**NATION AND NATIONALISM.**

A nation is an imagined political community. Imagined since most members never meet one another but feel they belong and limited since nations include some people who are regarded as belonging while excluding others as outsiders.

Characteristics of a nation.

* **Common history:** popularized by myth, folklore and legend. People of a particular nation are conscious of being part of a continuous historical past.
* **Common Language:** either vernacular or a lingua franca. Bridges ethnic and cultural differences.
* **Common culture:** citizens in a nation conduct their lives according to their manner generally accepted and approved in their own society. Age old traditions, rites and rituals create a sense of nationalism and patriotism.
* **Definite territory:** some do not have but each nation is located in particular areas of the earth’s surface and has definite and generally recognized boundaries.
* **Government:** seeing that its machinery is in place.
* **Sovereignty:** independent in as far as it relates to other nations.

Types of nationalism.

* **Western society nationalism.** Development of nation state in western society. Began to emerge with the decline of dominant religious thinking and a greater acceptance to secular authority. It is also connected with the break up of empires.
* **Nationalism in colonies and post colonial societies.** Those opposed to colonial rule would appeal to a national identity in trying to mobilize opposition to colonial powers.
* **Neo nationalism.** Refer to nationalist independence movements in western stateless societies. Occurs when a set of circumstances coincide and areas where people have multiple national identities. Also associated with new parties. Tends to occur in nation states which are part of larger super national organizations such as the European union.
* **Post communist nationalism.** Occurred after the collapse of communist in the USSR. Some states disappeared, countries like Poland regained independence, east and west Germany were divided, new states emerged like Ukraine.