

all advanced societies" (Kula 1986: 18).

Discussing the position of the state in a more general perspective in his writing on anarchy, Graeber (2004: 65–68) calls states „imaginary totalities“, that are at the same time utopian in the sense of ideas as how to control social order, and on the other hand „forms of institutionalized raiding or extortion“. He argues that one should „reanalyze the state as a relation between a utopian, imaginary, and a messy reality involving strategies of flight and evasion, predatory elites, and a mechanics of regulation and control“ (ibid. 68).

Bureaucracy as a tool can serve governments to mask policies as mere regulations hiding the actual political agenda behind a regulation. Especially when trying to exclude certain groups of a population from legal processes, benefits, etc. regulations to processes can serve hitting minorities disproportionately. A recent example from the US are voting restrictions in republican states that disproportionately target African-American voters in the 2018 midterm elections. Especially the state of Georgia is interesting in that discourse, as Georgia this year for the first time introduced an „exact match“ system that came to be known as „disenfranchisement by typo“. It means that the voter's name on the voting registration form has to exactly match the name in the state system. Even if just a hyphen is missing the form is being blocked. An NPR article states that people of color are disproportionately impacted by the law, as it is largely white officials running the elections in Georgia that are unfamiliar with names of people from African-American, Latino, or Asian-American descent. Some journalists argue that such a voting suppression is being used by Republicans to get an advantage in close races between Republican and Democrat candidates (Gross 2018). It is furthermore worth examining a law passed by Syrian President Bashar Al Assad in April 2018. In the context of the beginning of the reconstruction of Syrian cities, the so called „law no 10“ on land and housing property claims has been issued. In order to claim their property, no matter if damaged