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## 1 09.02.20

### 1.1 State Development

- Europe v the New World
  - Compare the state development of European, "old-world" countries and "new world" countries"

- \* Old world countries tend to be more imperialistic while new countries have a common exp of being colonies
- \* New world countries were composed of different types of people while Old world countries had a shared history
- Feudalism: Geographic proximity and increasing power of feudal lords -> challenges between feudal properties were likely, so organization of resources and capabilities was key to survival
- Feudalism led to increased collectivism, translating to:
  - large, active labor organizations
  - large, state-provided social welfare
  - emphasis on production of higher quality goods instead of new innovation

## 2 Module 3

### 2.1 Institutions and States

#### 2.1.1 Institutions

- Institution: Institutions are formal and informal rules that structure the relationship among individuals
- Can have legal or social forces
- Institutions are resistant to change but can change as a
  - response to outside forces
  - response to internal pressures
  - response to effects of other institutions

#### 2.1.2 The State

- An organization that maintains a legitimate monopoly of force over a certain territory and its population
- A set of political institutions sets policies for the territory and its population
- Sovereignty: The ability for a state to carry out actions/policies within a territory independently from external actors or internal rivals/challengers

- Issues of autonomy and capacity:
  - Autonomy: the ability for the state to wield its power independently of the public
  - Capacity: the ability for the state to accrue and utilize sufficient resources to carry out basic tasks and responsibilities

### 2.1.3 Definitions

#### 1. General

- State: governing structure's legitimate expression of sovereignty/main political organization of a country
- Regime: Informal institutions that guide how a state operates
- Government: Collection of actors in charge of carrying out political decisions of the regime and in the interest of the state
- Country: More generic; refers to the political collectivity of a sovereign territory
- Nation: Refers to a group of people bound together by some trait who seek to establish to establish and express political interests
- Nation != Country

#### 2. Strength of States

- Institutional Capabilities
  - Strong States: Has good institutional foundations; these institutions function well
  - Weak States: Does not have good institutional foundations, its institutions do not function well
  - Failed States: Institutions so weak that they basically collapse and have no sovereignty
- Organizational Structure
  - Strong states maintain a fair amount of centralized control
  - Weak states hand down authority to local institutions and are decentralized

## 2.2 Legitimacy & Sovereignty

- Legitimacy: a value whereby something or someone is recognized and accepted by a large portion of the population as right and proper (is highly subjective)
- Types of legitimacy:
  - Traditional legitimacy: embodies historical myths/legends and continues from past to present
  - Charismatic legitimacy: Built on the force of ideas and appeals embodied by a leader
  - Rational-Legal legitimacy: Based on a system of laws and procedures that are institutionalized
- Sources of Legitimacy:
  - Conferred by the ruler to a ruler, government, or state
  - Ascribed to a state or ruler by other states or rulers (prerequisite for intl. cooperation)
  - Ascribed to a state or ruler by organizations/non-state actors
- Legitimacy can often be used to push for change

## 3 08.26.20

### 3.1 Defining a Good Society

- Although observable, empirical assessments may differ from person to person, depending upon factors that may distort individual observation.
- Multiple factors contribute to whether a society is "good" or not, critical to comparing countries and political systems

## 4 Module 2

### 4.1 Video 1

#### 4.1.1 "Traditional Approach"

- Focus on a "formal-legal" aspects of political institutions

- Mostly a categorizing exercise with little analysis
- Many European ex-pats were these scholars

#### **4.1.2 Modern Era (1960s-1980s)**

- Scholars stop describing, start comparing
- Behavioral Revolution - emphasis on individual, group behavior, not static institutions
- Gave rise to "developmentalism" or "modernization theory"
  - Proposed that a state develops economically, political and social development follows
  - Functionalism (functions of differently societal elements lay foundation for growth)

#### **4.1.3 Development (1960s-1980s)**

- 5 stages each society goes through for development:
- Traditional society (no mass production)
- Preconditions for economic take-off (advent of industrialization and mass production)
- Take-off (dynamic economic growth)
- Drive to maturity (long era of econ growth, modern tech usage)
- Age of high mass consumption (everyone is within driving distance of McDonalds (most places))

#### **4.1.4 Critiques of Behavioralims/Developmentalism**

- Enthocentric and ideologically driven
- Creates dependency: capitalism creates a situation where underdeveloped countries depend on developed countries
- Developmentalist theories tried to be a one-size-fit-all theory which wasn't bale to be applied to all individual case studies

#### **4.1.5 Post-Behavioralism (1990s-Present)**

- Development of middle-range theories instead of one single theory
- Diversity of approaches (qualitative, quantitative, case studies)
- Takes culture and historical context into consideration
- Rational choice theory applied
- Political economy: the state can have a varying role in economic matters

#### **4.1.6 New Institutionalism (Past 25 years)**

- Institutions are the nexus of political action
- Institutions are dynamic that interact over time w other variables
- Institutions comprise the surrounding environment & sentiment

### **4.2 Video 2**

#### **4.2.1 The Study of Comparative Politics**

- Comparative politics implies a method of study or an approach to an analysis, not a single theory
- greatest challenge is that events occur in real time with unreplicable environments
- events in politics can not be replicated to test for validity

#### **4.2.2 Goals**

- Goal: To assess which factors cause a certain outcome by comparing or contrasting cases
- Cases: One of the group of things (events, states, actors, etc.) to be studied
- Variable: a factor that changes over time or in different cases
  - Independent var: causal var
  - Dependent var: outcome var

- Causal relationships can be shown as:
  - Cause -> effect
  - Independent var -> dependent var
  - Explanators var -> outcome
  - x var -> y var
- Hypothesis: a possible answer that explains a causal effect

#### 4.2.3 Challenges

- Goal: to determine causality, not just correlation
- In comparative politics, the researcher may not be able to:
  - have a constant
  - measure certain variables
  - anticipate certain events
  - disentangle one variable from others
  - Access to cases & information
    - \* Language barriers
    - \* Time & funding
    - \* Sufficient cases (and selection bias)
    - \* IRB (Institutional Review Board)
- Correlation: when var A occurs with var B, one is not caused by the other
- Endogeneity: when it cannot be determined whether an outcome was caused by another factor or the outcome caused that factor to occur

### 4.3 Video 3

#### 4.3.1 Most Similar Systems Design (MSS)

- A method in which as many independent vars as possible are held constant to explain a political outcome: similar cases, different outcomes can help isolate a variable
- Special Variation of MSS: Within-Case Comparison
  - Single case analyzed over time or in different geographical areas
  - Breaks up a single case into subparts and allows for comparison

#### **4.3.2 Most-Different Systems Design (MDS)**

- Looks at cases that are different from one another and observes why the same political outcome is observed as a method of understanding how to isolate a single causal variable

#### **4.3.3 Overview**

- Probable causal explanations (hypotheses): goal of these comparative approaches
- Theories can be built from the strongest hypothesis
- Theories can further be generalized based on the case