POLS 103 A Comparative Politics

Class 5: Political order and the state

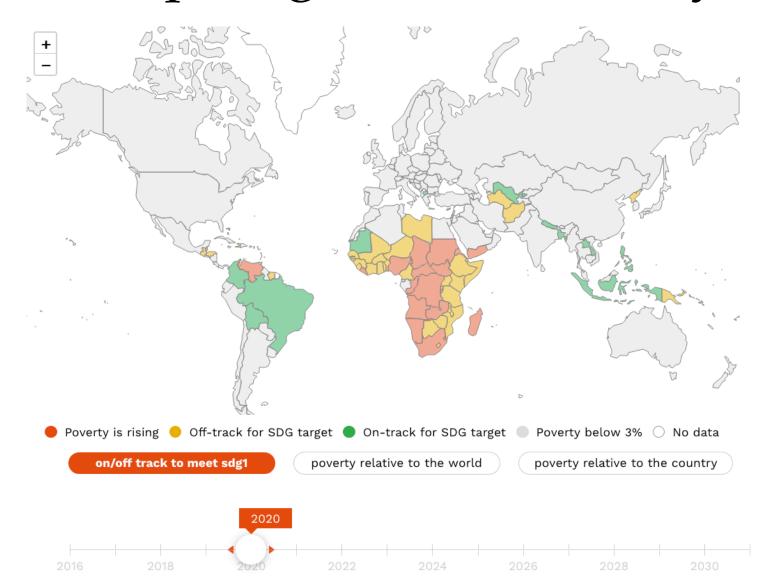
Kahoot!

Venezuela: 'plunged into anarchy'



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7h4sq-WO8Ac

Venezuela: 'plunged into anarchy'



Why has Venezuela been plunged into 'anarchy'?

Venezuela on the brink: a journey through a country in crisis

The oil-rich South American nation should be prospering. Instead it stands on the edge of an economic and humanitarian abyss

by Jonathan Watts

'Anarchy' in Venezuela: symptoms

- Money supply
- Prices
- Health
- Violence

'Anarchy' in Venezuela: causes

- Lack of political order
- State fragility
- Limited state capacity

Anarchy according to Hobbes

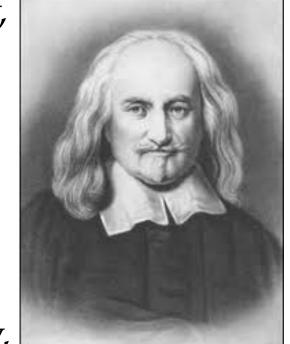
• "Hereby it is manifest that, during the time men live without a common power to keep them all in awe, they are in that condition which is called war, and such a war as is of **every man against every man**."

• Hobbes, Thomas. 1651. Of Man, Being the First Part of Leviathan. Chapter XII.



Anarchy according to Hobbes

- "In such condition there is no place for industry, because the fruit thereof is uncertain, and consequently no culture of the earth, no navigation nor use of the commodities that may be imported by sea,
 - no commodious building, no instruments of moving and removing such things as require much force,
 - no knowledge of the face of the earth;
 - no account of time, no arts, no letters, no society,
 - and, which is worst of all, continual fear and danger of violent death, and **the life of man solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short**.



• Hobbes, Thomas. 1651. Of Man, Being the First Part of Leviathan. Chapter XII.

What produces anarchy according to Olson?

Anarchy according to Olson

- Small-scale societies: voluntary agreement sufficient to enforce order
- Larger societies: freeriding \rightarrow
- Anarchy:
 - Uncoordinated competitive theft by <u>'roving bandits</u>' →
 - Destruction of incentives to invest and produce →
 - Little benefit to either the population or the bandits



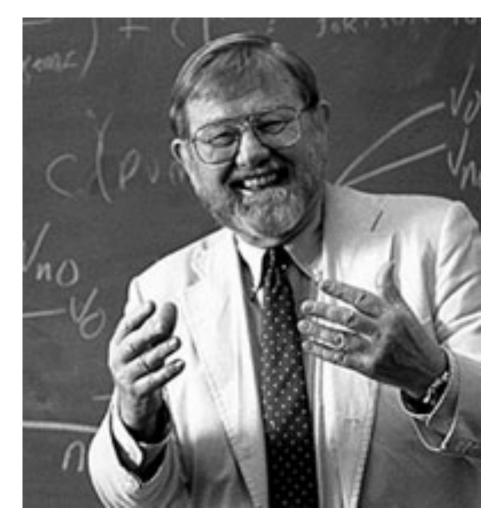
• Olson, Mancur. 1993. "Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development." American Political Science Review 87 (3): 567–76.

How does political order emerge?

Emergence of political order according to Olson

- Benefits of 'stationary banditry'
- Monopolization and rationalization of theft in the form of taxes
 - Olson, Mancur. 1993. "Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development." *American Political Science Review* 87 (3): 567–76.





What types of stationary bandits are there?

Stationary bandits

- Private:
 - Organized crime
- Political organizations:
 - Bands
 - Tribes / ethnic groups
 - Chiefdoms
 - States

Why are states the dominant type of stationary bandits?

What is the state?

The state

- Max Weber:
 - "Human community that (successfully) claims the monopoly of the legitimate use of violence within a given territory"



What types of states are there?

What are the characteristics of modern states?

Characteristics of modern states

- Rule of law
- Bureaucracy
- Impersonality
- Sovereignty

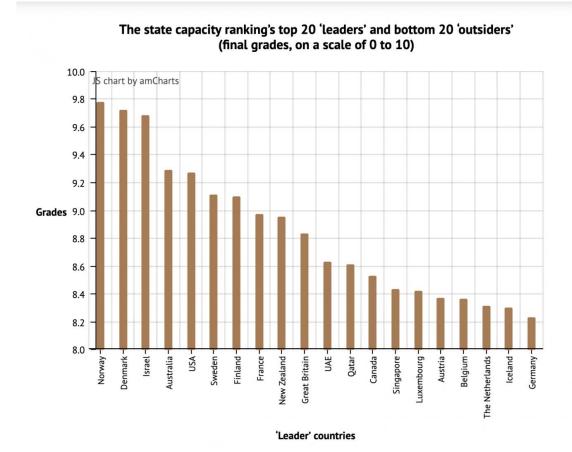
What are some of the functions of states?

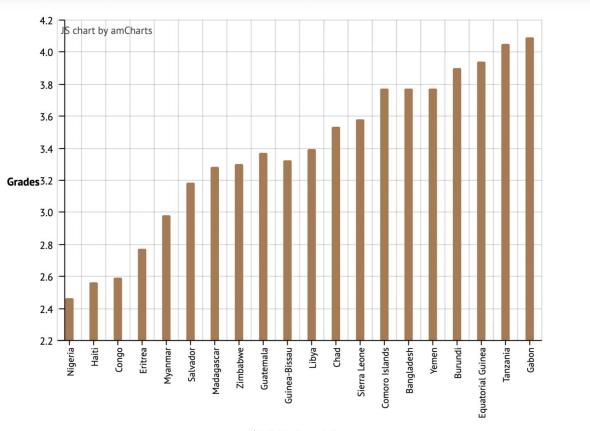
Some functions of states

- Defense
- Provision of (internal) order
- Administration
- Provision of public goods
- Taxation

Why does states' ability to perform these functions vary?

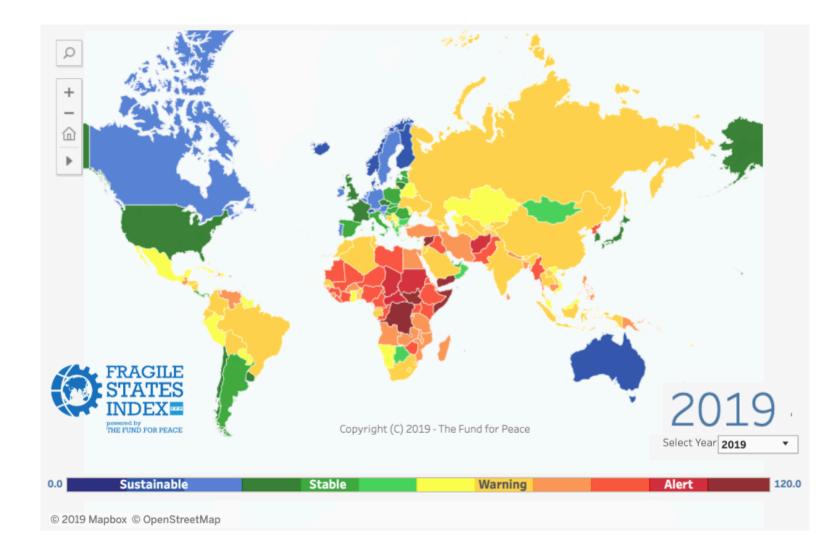
State capacity





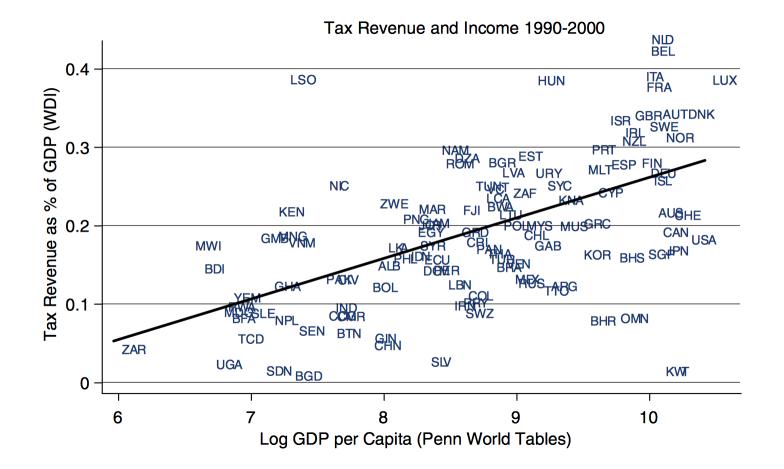
'Outsider' countries

State fragility



How would you operationalize state capacity?

State capacity and taxation



Acemoglu, Daron. 2005. "Politics and Economics in Weak and Strong States." Journal of Monetary Economics 52 (7): 1199–1226.

International organizations

• International = interstate / intergovernmental

$\langle \cdot \rangle$	ATS		Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation	Assembly of European Regions	8	*
African Union	Antarctic Treaty Secretariat	Arab Maghreb Union	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation	Assembly of European Regions	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America
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Caribbean Community	Central American Integration System	Collective Security Treaty Organization	Commonwealth of Independent States	Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf	Council of Europe	Council of the Baltic Sea States
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European Space Agency	European Union	Global Environment Facility	Indian Ocean Commission	Intergovernment al Authority on Development	International Atomic Energy Agency	International Union for Conservation o Nature
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Nordic Council	North Atlantic Treaty Organization	Organization of American States	Pacific Islands Forum	Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East	Secretariat of the Pacific Community	South Atlantic Peace and Cooperation Zone

Supranational organizations

