

POLS 103 A

Comparative Politics

Class 5:

Political order and the state

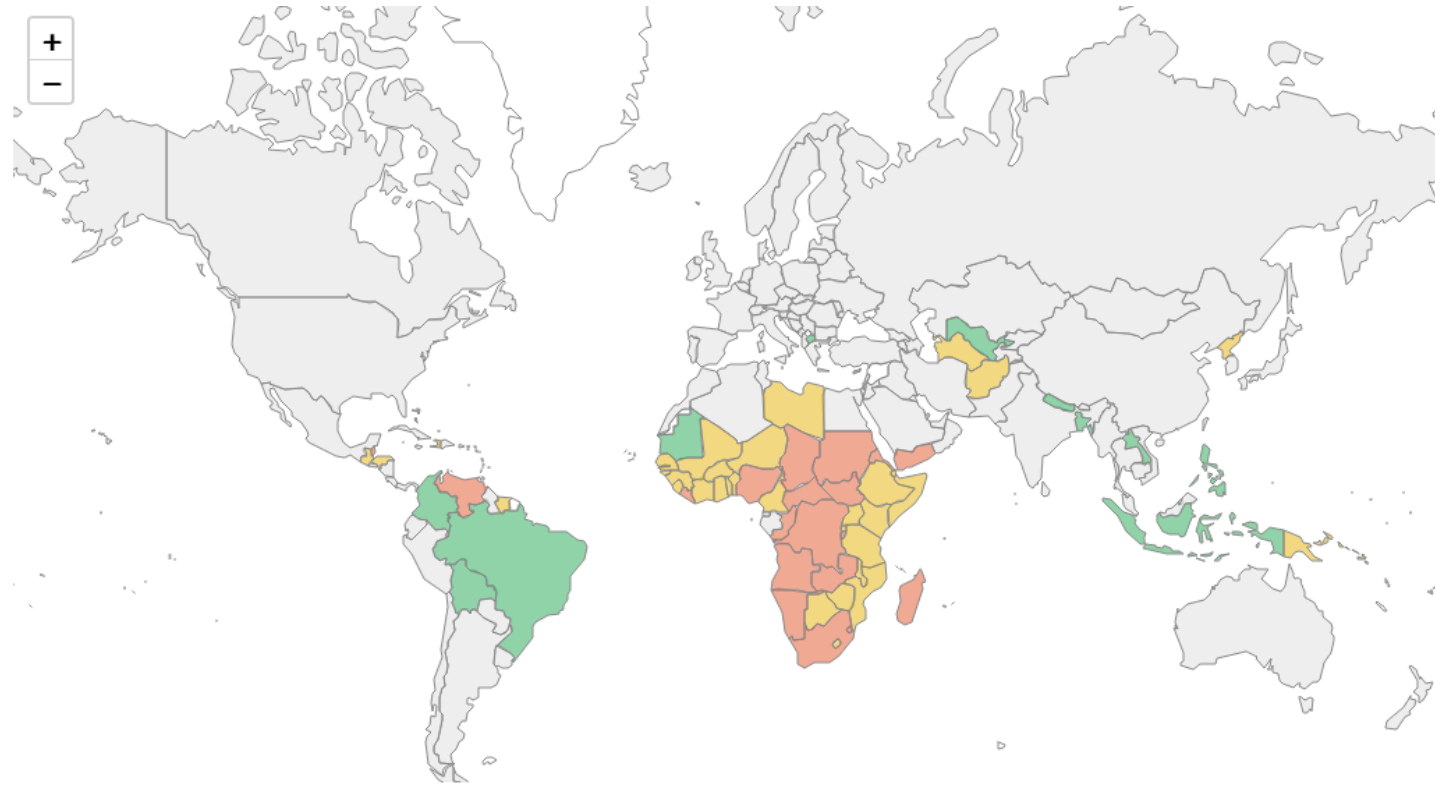
Kahoot!

Venezuela: 'plunged into anarchy'



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

Venezuela: 'plunged into anarchy'



● Poverty is rising ● Off-track for SDG target ● On-track for SDG target ● Poverty below 3% ○ No data

on/off track to meet sdg1

poverty relative to the world

poverty relative to the country



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

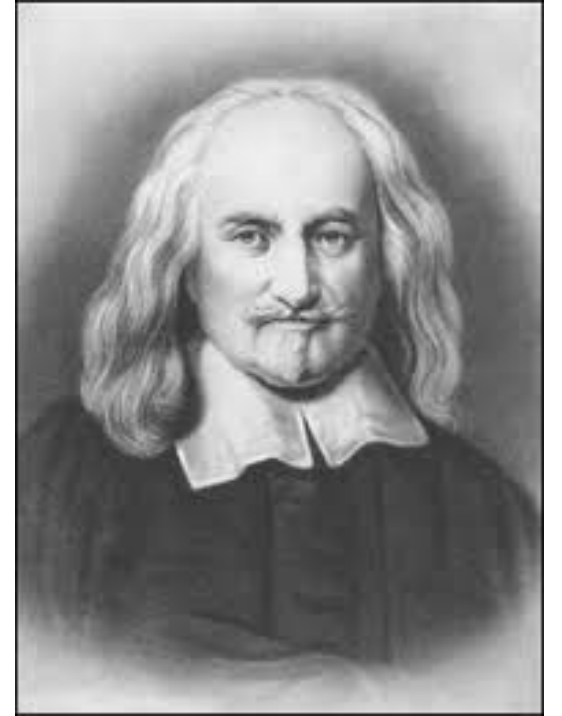
- “Hereby it is manifest that, during the time men live without a common power to keep them all in awe, they are in that condition which is called war, and such a war as is of **every man against every man.**”

- 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 →
- Anarchy:
 - Uncoordinated competitive theft by 'roving bandits' →
 - Destruction of incentives to invest and produce →
 - Little benefit to either the population or the bandits



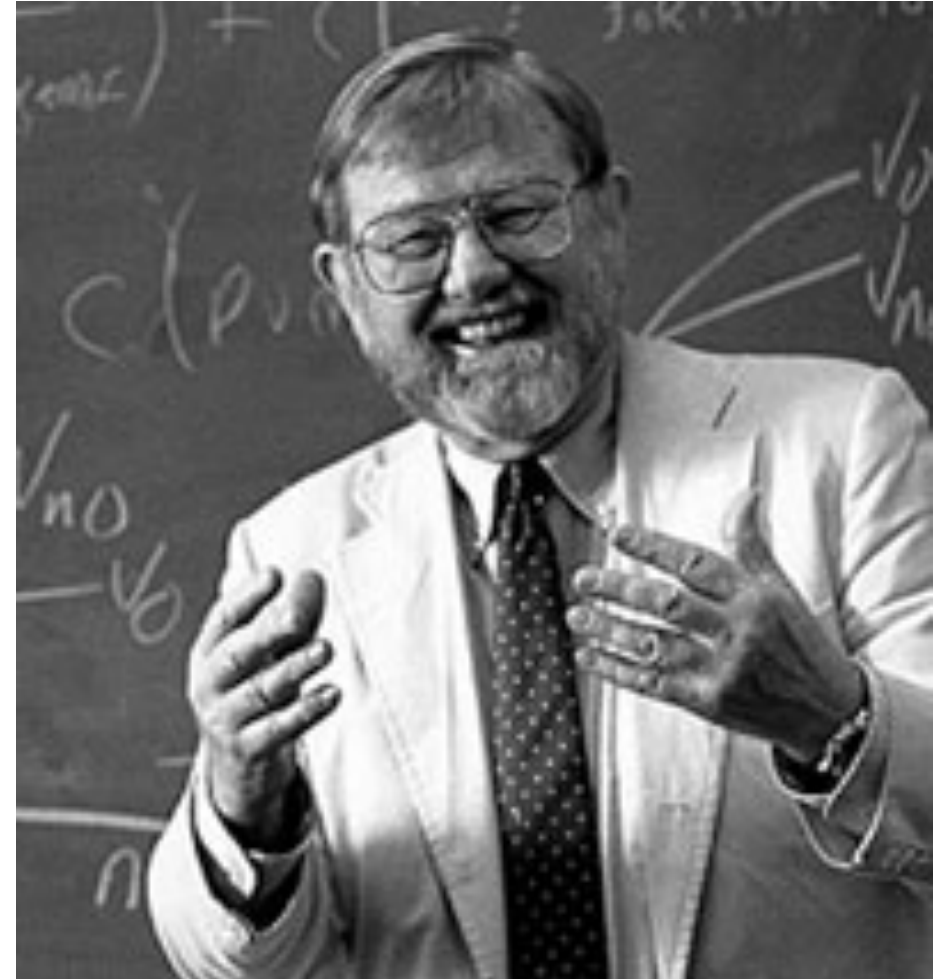
- Olson, Mancur. 1993. "Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development." *American Political Science Review* 87 (3): 567–76.

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?

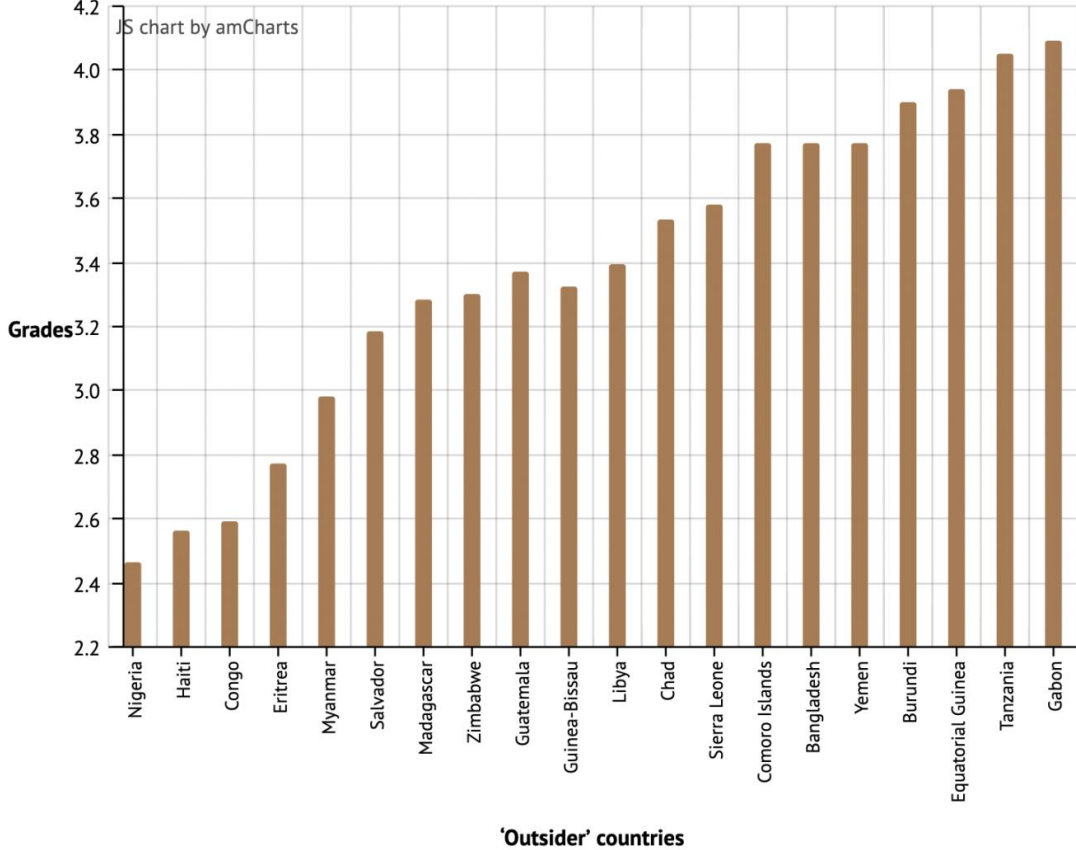
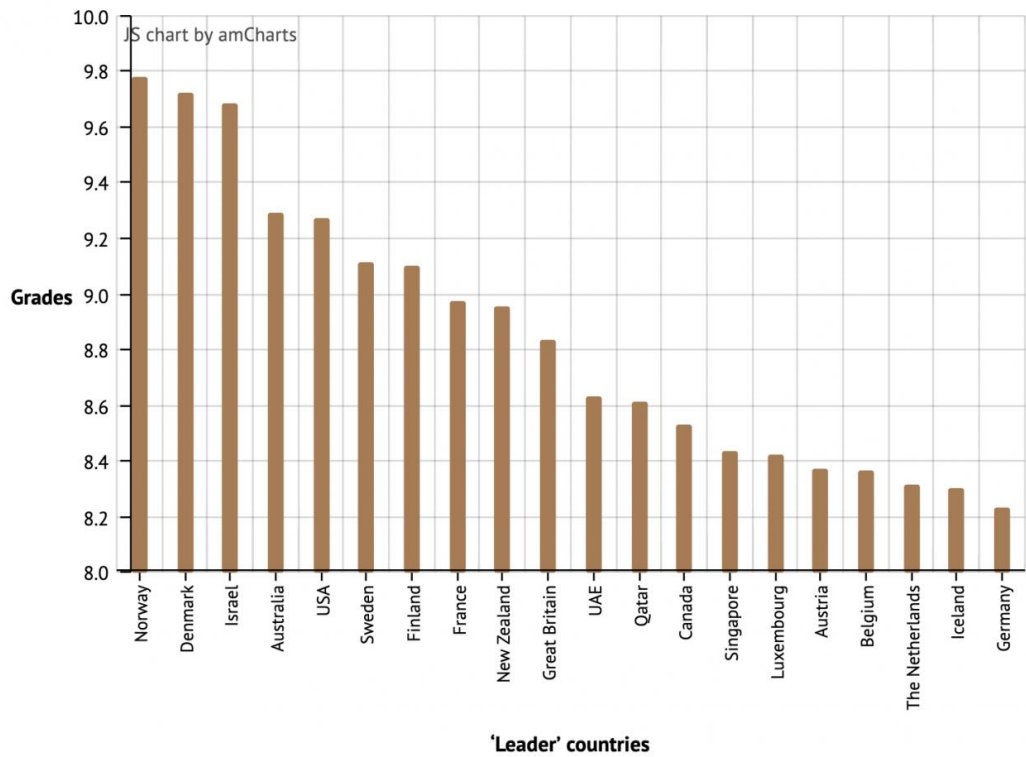
Some functions of states

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

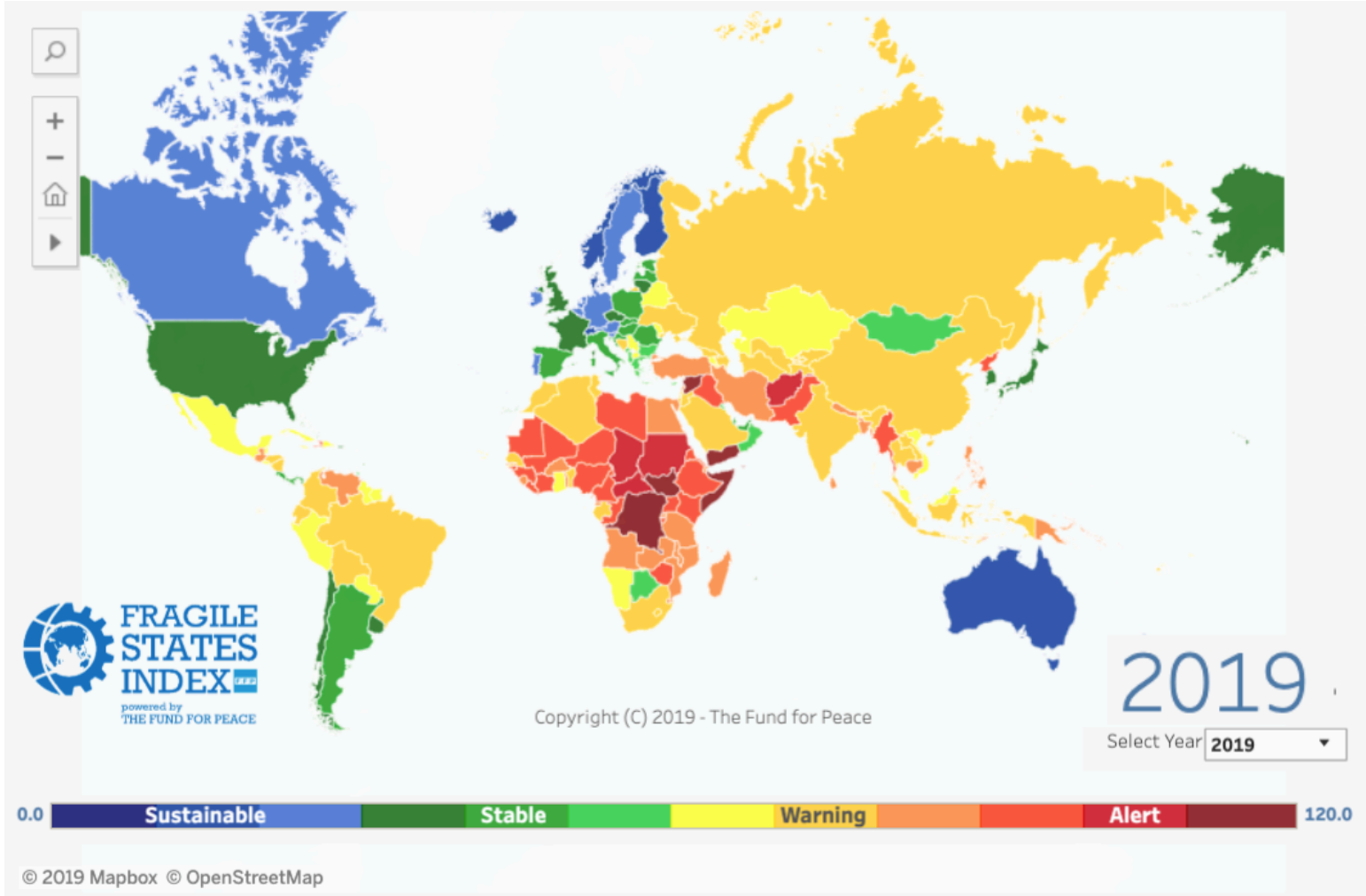
Why does states' ability to perform these functions vary?

State capacity

The state capacity ranking's top 20 'leaders' and bottom 20 'outsiders' (final grades, on a scale of 0 to 10)

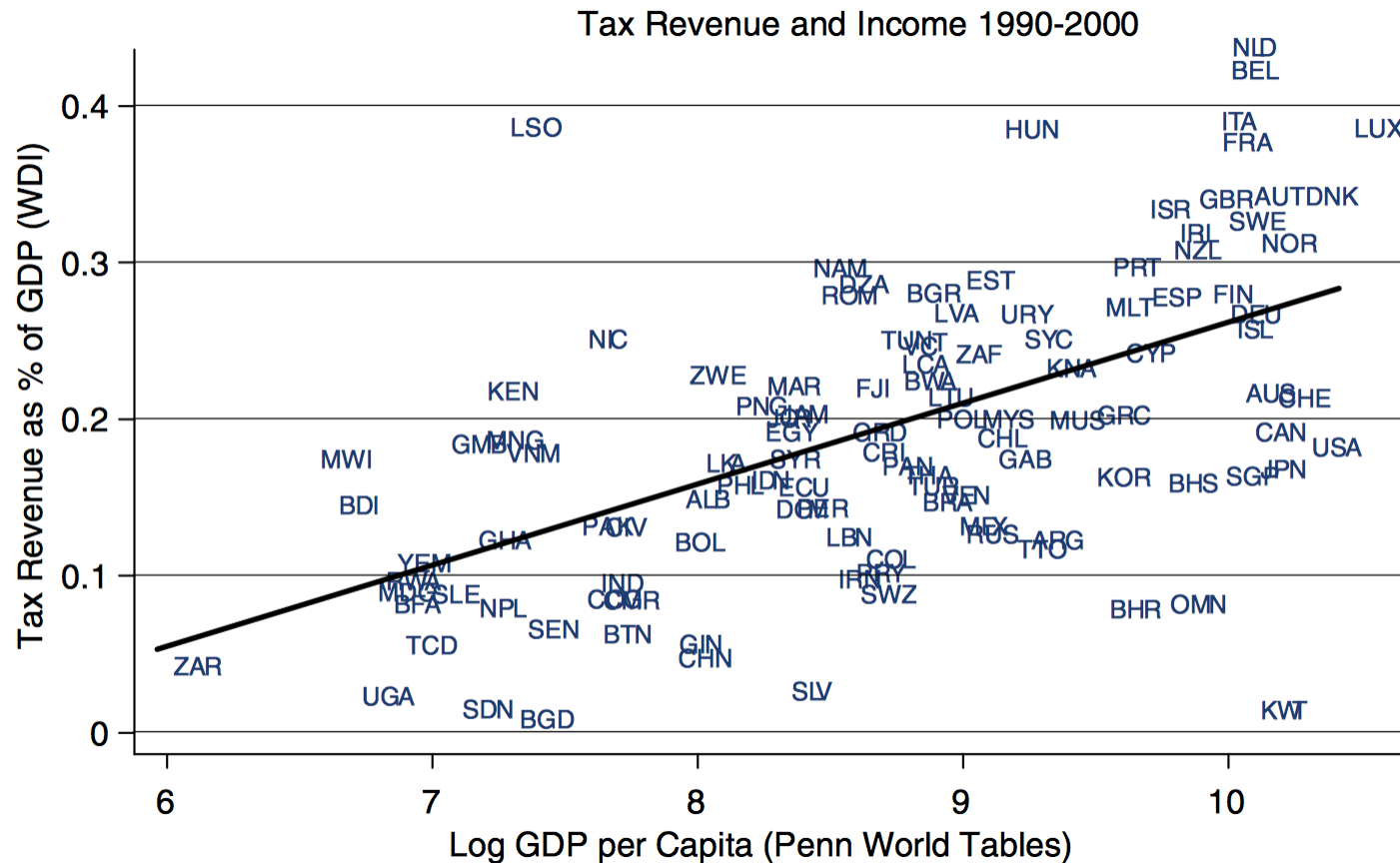


State fragility



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



Supranational organizations

