

POLS 329 A
Comparative African Politics

Classes 8 and 9:

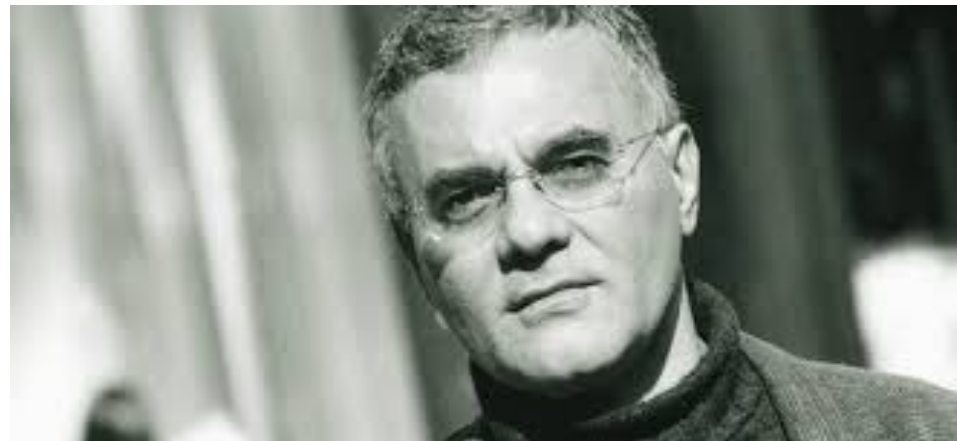
African states and Africa's states-system

Recap

- Effects of colonization
- Late colonial period
- Causes of decolonization
- Decolonization, early postcolonial decisions, and the legacies of colonialism

Recap: colonial state

- Three perspectives:
 - Crawford Young: Bula Matari
 - Mahmood Mamdani: hegemonic, bifurcated state and decentralized despotism
 - Jeffrey Herbst: external sovereignty and administrative weakness of non-hegemonic states



Plan for today

- Formation and nature of Africa's postcolonial states
- Formation and nature of Africa's postcolonial states-system

States and statehood

- Ian Brownlee's definition of state:
 - A legal person, recognized by international law, with the following attributes: (a) a defined territory, (b) a permanent population, (c) an effective government, and (d) independence, or the right "to enter into relations with other states."
- Two aspects of statehood according to Jackson and Rosberg:
 - Empirical:
 - Permanent population
 - Effective government
 - Juridical:
 - Territory
 - Independence

Which aspect of statehood is dominant in Africa according to Jackson and Rosberg?

How has the postcolonial states-system shaped African states according to Jackson and Rosberg?

The impacts of the postcolonial states-system according to Jackson and Rosberg

- Juridical statehood → state weakness
- Illegality of self-determination
- Paucity of interstate military conflict
- Relatively weak militaries (→ prevalence of intrastate conflict?)

What are the differences between Jackson and Rosberg's and Herbst's arguments?

Postcolonial state according to Herbst

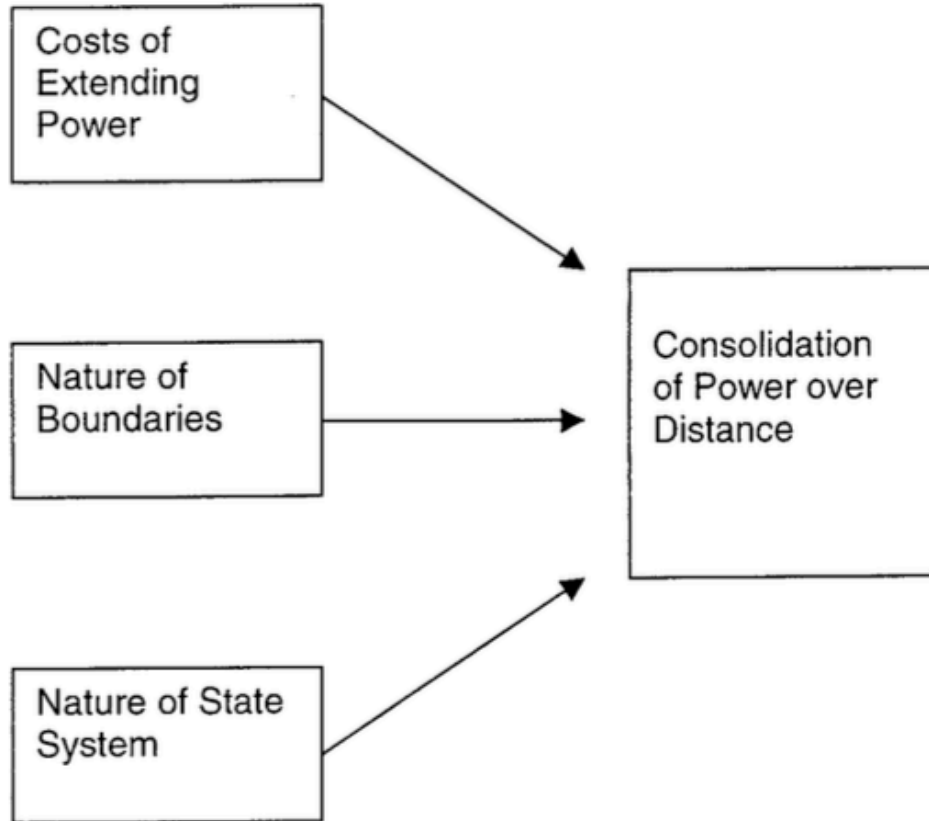


Figure 1.1. Possible Paths to State Consolidation

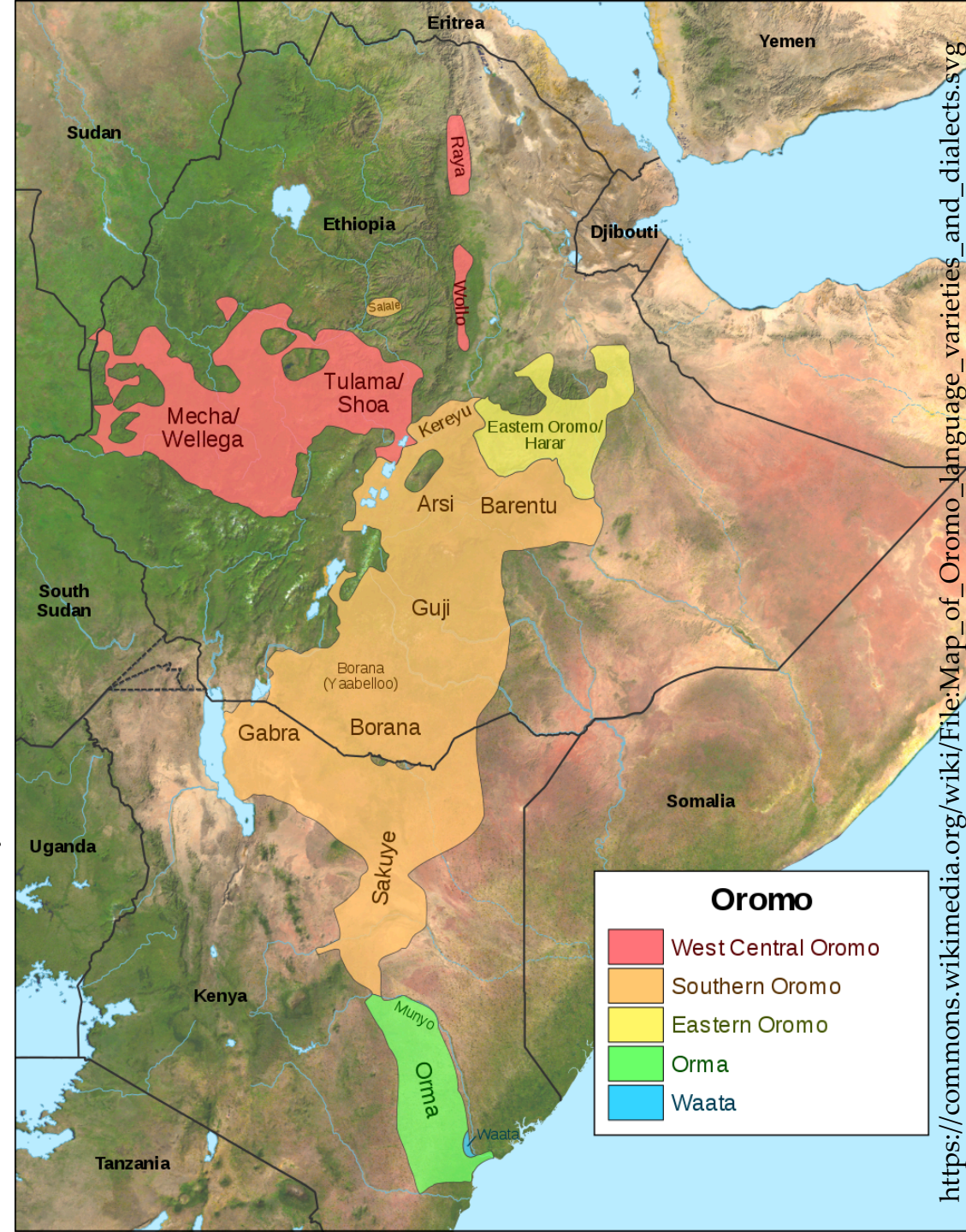


What is Ensminger's
response to Herbst's
argument?



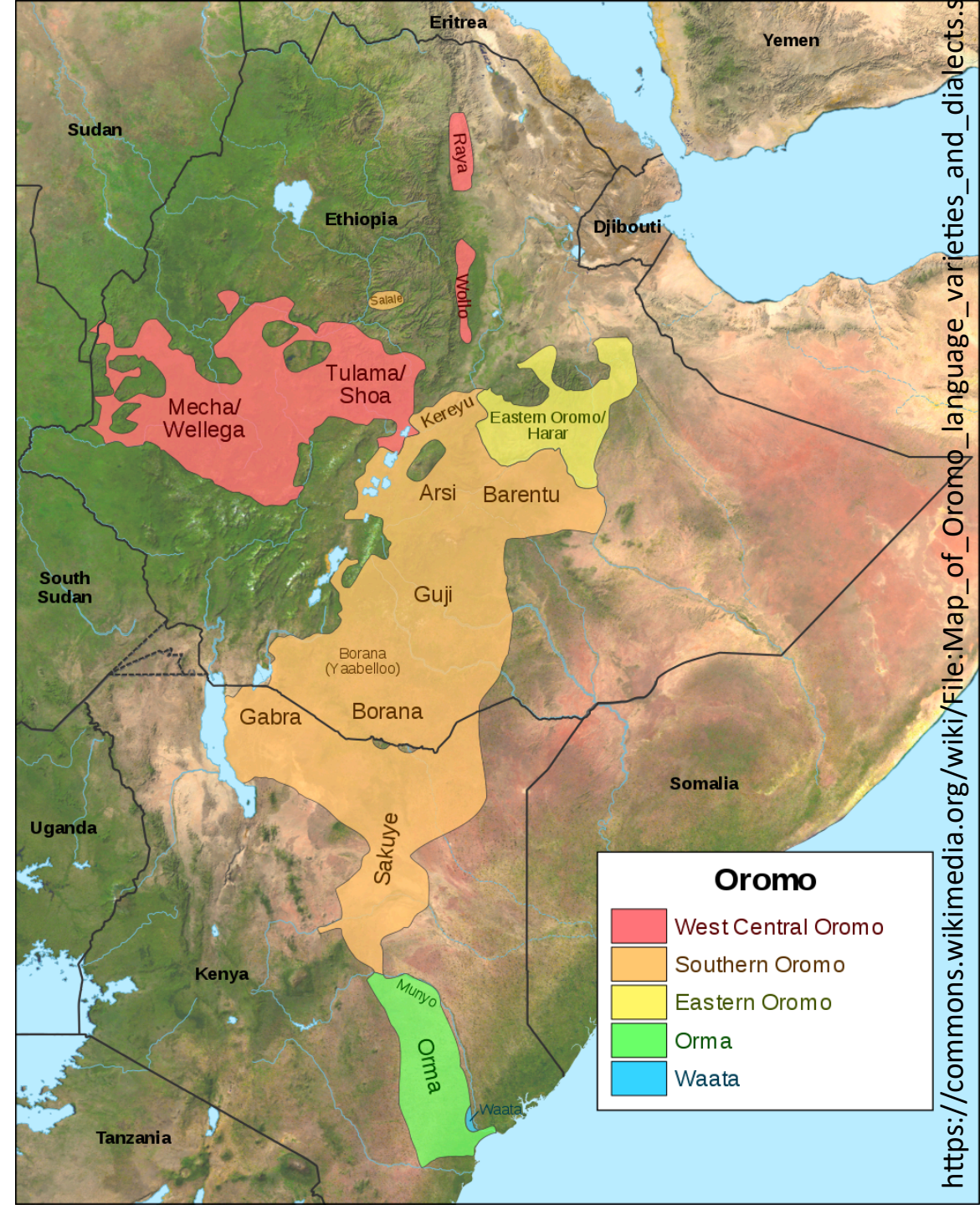
Empirical statehood in postcolonial Africa

- Transformation of the consensus-based political system of the Orma:
 - Economic diversification and inequality → need for property rights enforcement +
 - Erosion of social institutions → erosion of the basis of elders' political power +
 - Collective action problems (private vs. communal benefits of well sales, population growth and free-riding) →
- State incorporation



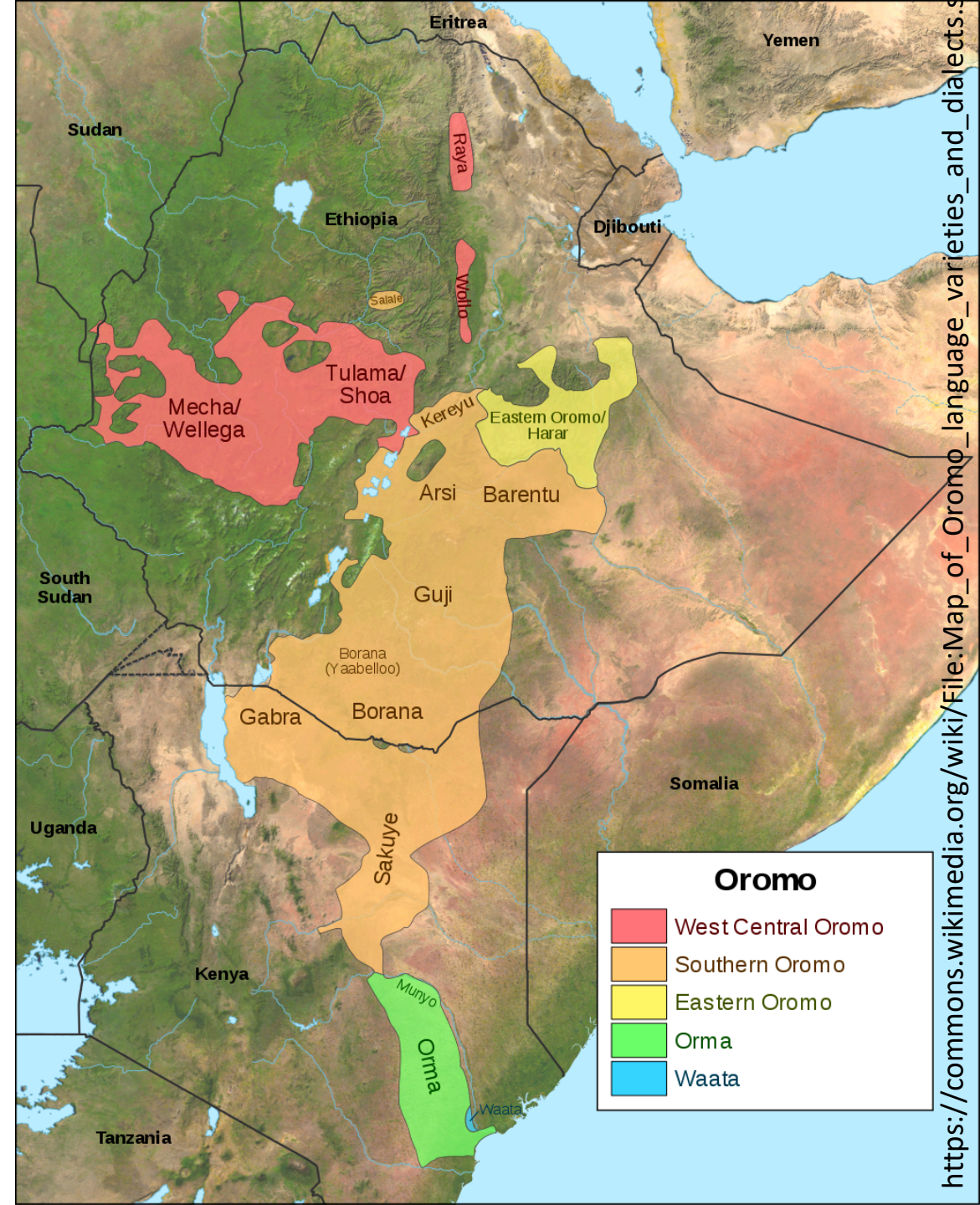
Empirical statehood in postcolonial Africa

- Timing of state incorporation
- Drivers of state incorporation



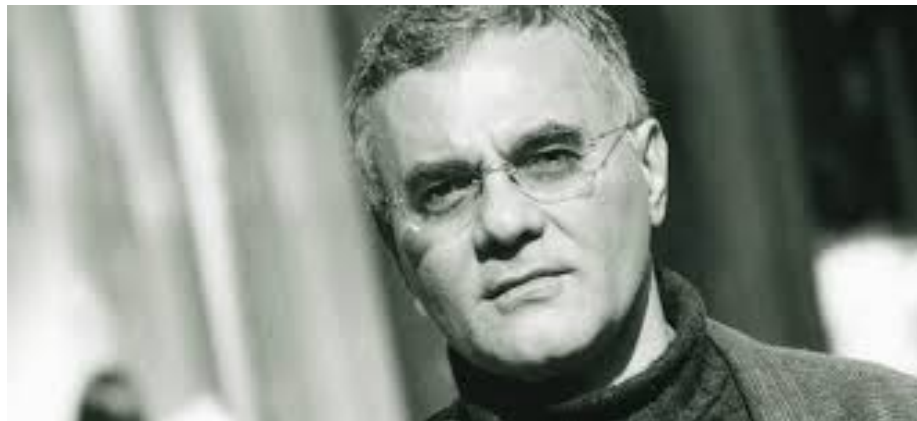
Empirical statehood in postcolonial Africa

- Benefits of incorporation:
 - Economic alternatives to pastoralism
 - Education and healthcare provision
 - Infrastructure and market access
 - Security
 - Famine relief



So, who was right?

- Theories of African state:
 - Bula Matari
 - Decentralized despotism
 - Projection of state power
 - State incorporation



How have African states changed over time?

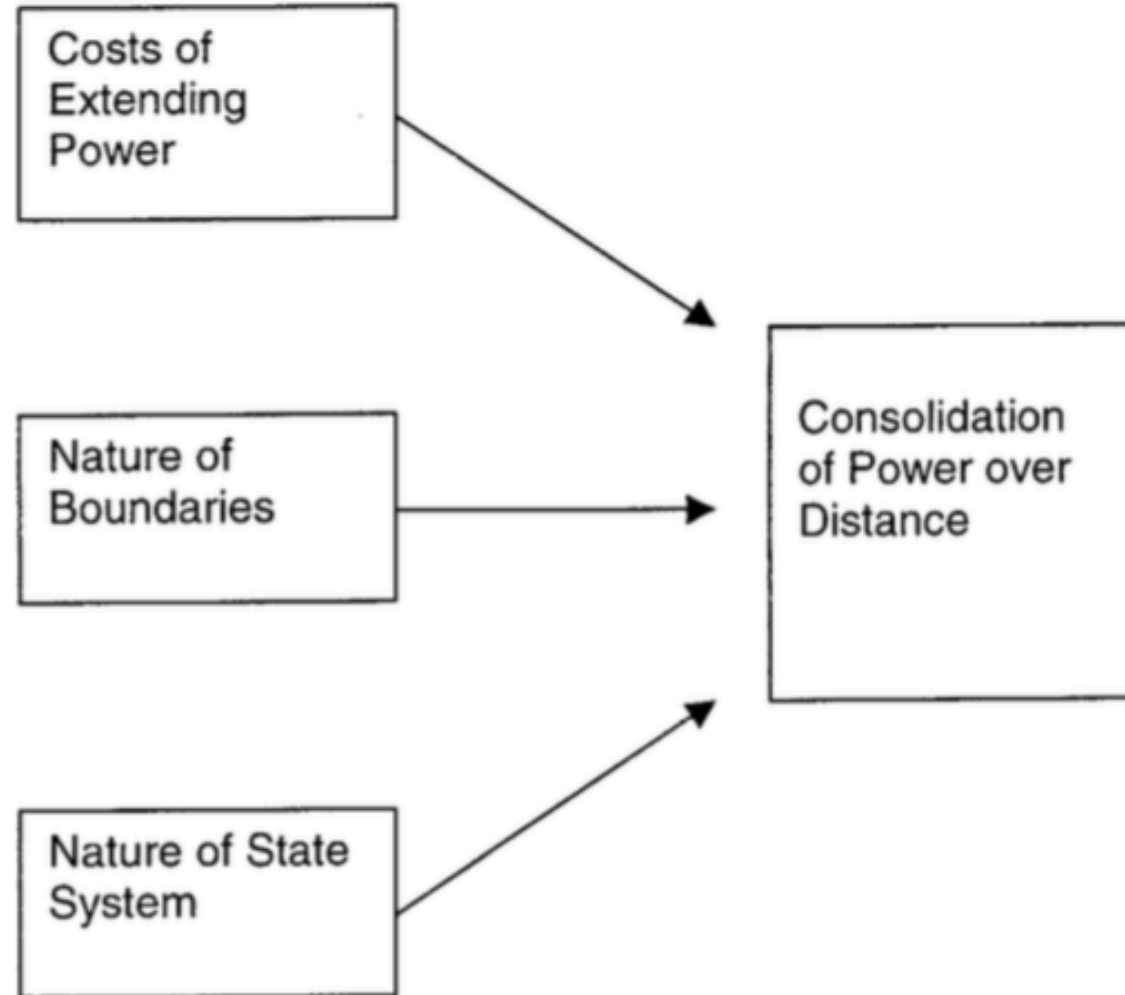


Figure 1.1. Possible Paths to State Consolidation

Competing accounts of African statehood

- Hegemonic vs. non-hegemonic states
- Uniform vs. uneven (bifurcation, continuum) projection of state power
- Juridical vs. empirical statehood
- Emphasis on historical continuity vs. transformative effect of colonization