

PLS 140
Introduction to
Comparative Politics

Week 2:

Political order and the state

Recap

- Comparative Politics
- Comparative method

Plan for this week (and today)

- Anarchy
- Political order
- The state

Anarchy and (political) order in Kazakhstan

World Asia Political unrest

‘Complete anarchy’: Kazakhstan cabinet resigns as rioters torch presidential palace

By Olzhas Auyezov, Jim Heintz and Nariman Gizitdinov
Updated January 6, 2022 – 12.00pm, first published at 6.41am

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Almaty: Russia and its allies said they would send troops to help Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev quell protests after anti-government demonstrators seized official buildings and a major airport in the biggest challenge to the Central Asian country’s leadership in decades.

The announcement, made in the early hours of Thursday, came after Kazakh authorities imposed a nationwide state of emergency and sent military units to fight what Tokayev called “terrorist bands”. In the country’s largest city and former capital, Almaty, demonstrators had seized the international airport and set fire to the presidential residence and city hall. Authorities later said the airport had been retaken, Interfax reported.

Kazakhstan's president says order restored after crackdown on protests

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev says Russian troops will leave soon.

By Patrick Reeve
January 10, 2022, 4:55 PM • 8 min read



Constitutional order restored after last week's protests, Kazakhstan's president says
At least 160 people were killed and nearly 8,000 arrested, according to authorities.
EPA via Shutterstock

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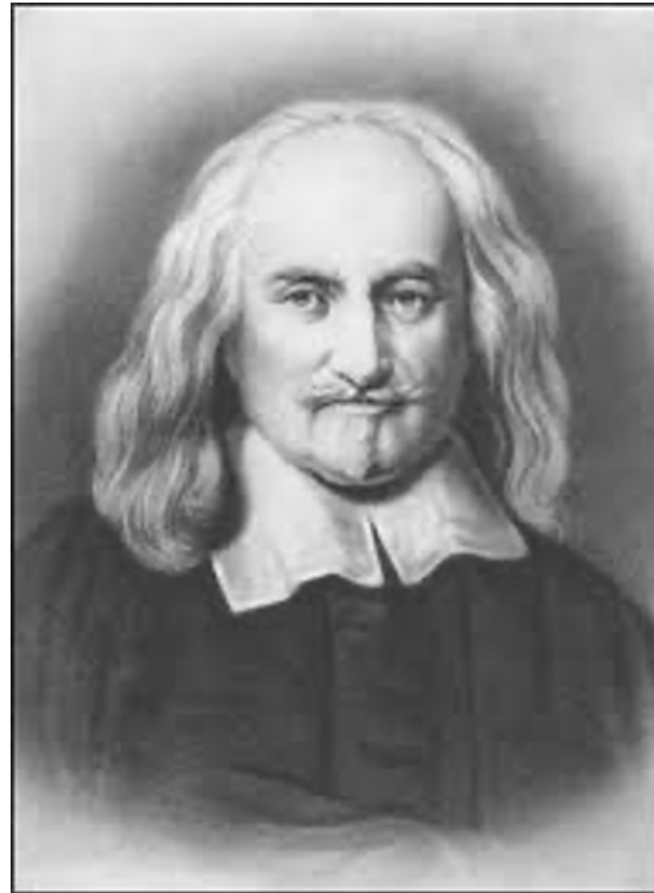
<https://www.smh.com.au/world/asia/complete-anarchy-kazakhstan-cabinet-resigns-as-rioters-torch-presidential-palace-20220106-p59m7c.html>

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/kazakhstans-president-order-restored-crackdown-protests/story?id=82175066>

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.

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 population and bandits

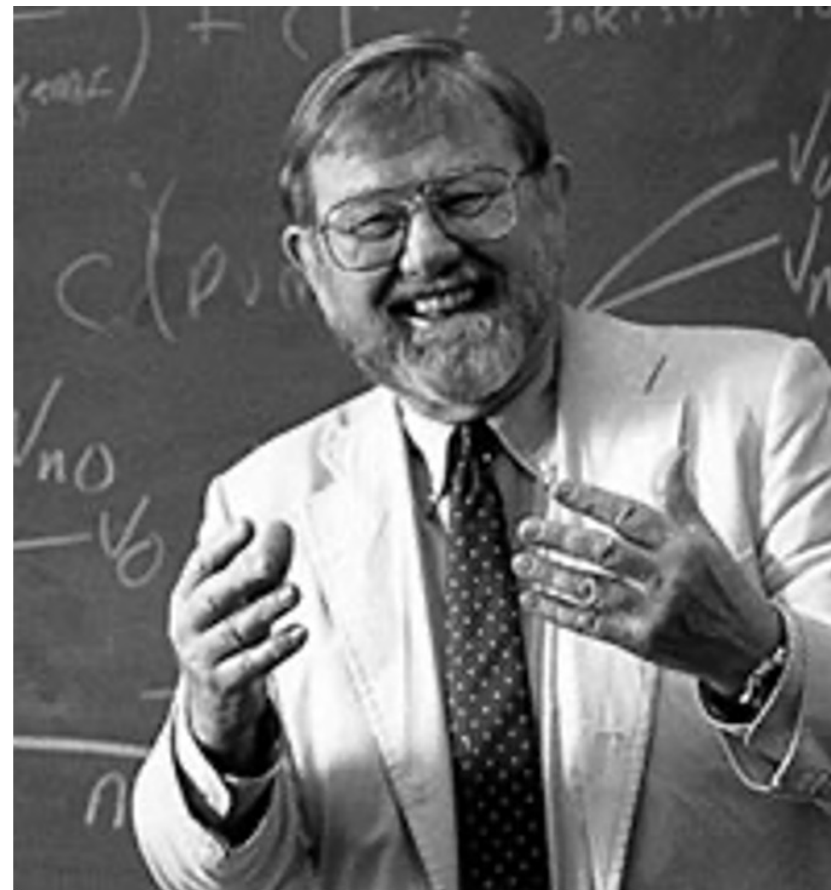


- Olson, Mancur. 1993. "Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development." *American Political Science Review* 87 (3): 567–76.

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.



The state

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



Characteristics of modern states

- Monopoly on the legitimate use of force
- Bureaucracy
- Impersonality and rule of law
- Sovereignty

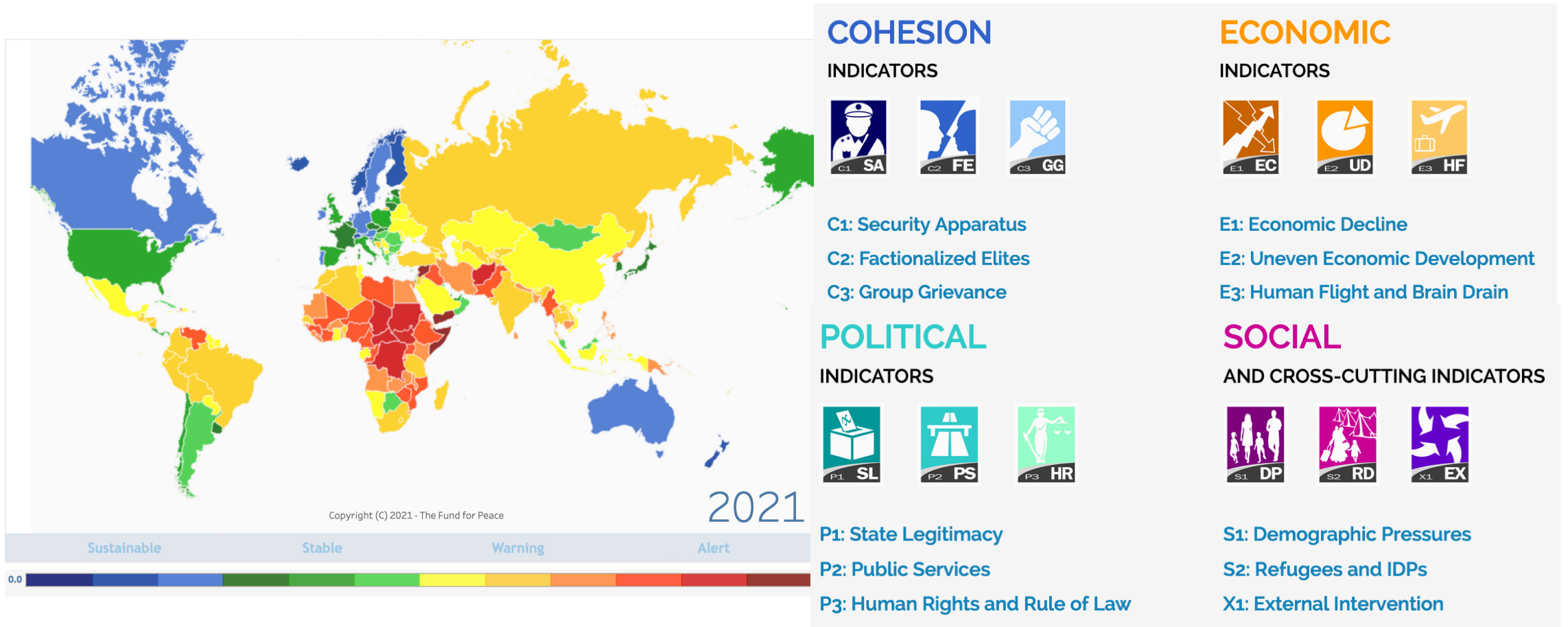
The state, government, nation, and society

- Government: organization—and individuals therein—with the authority to act on behalf of a state
- Nation: cultural grouping united by a political identity based on shared descent or historical association with a territory
- Society: individuals, groups, and movements that (attempt to) remain autonomous from the state

Some functions of states

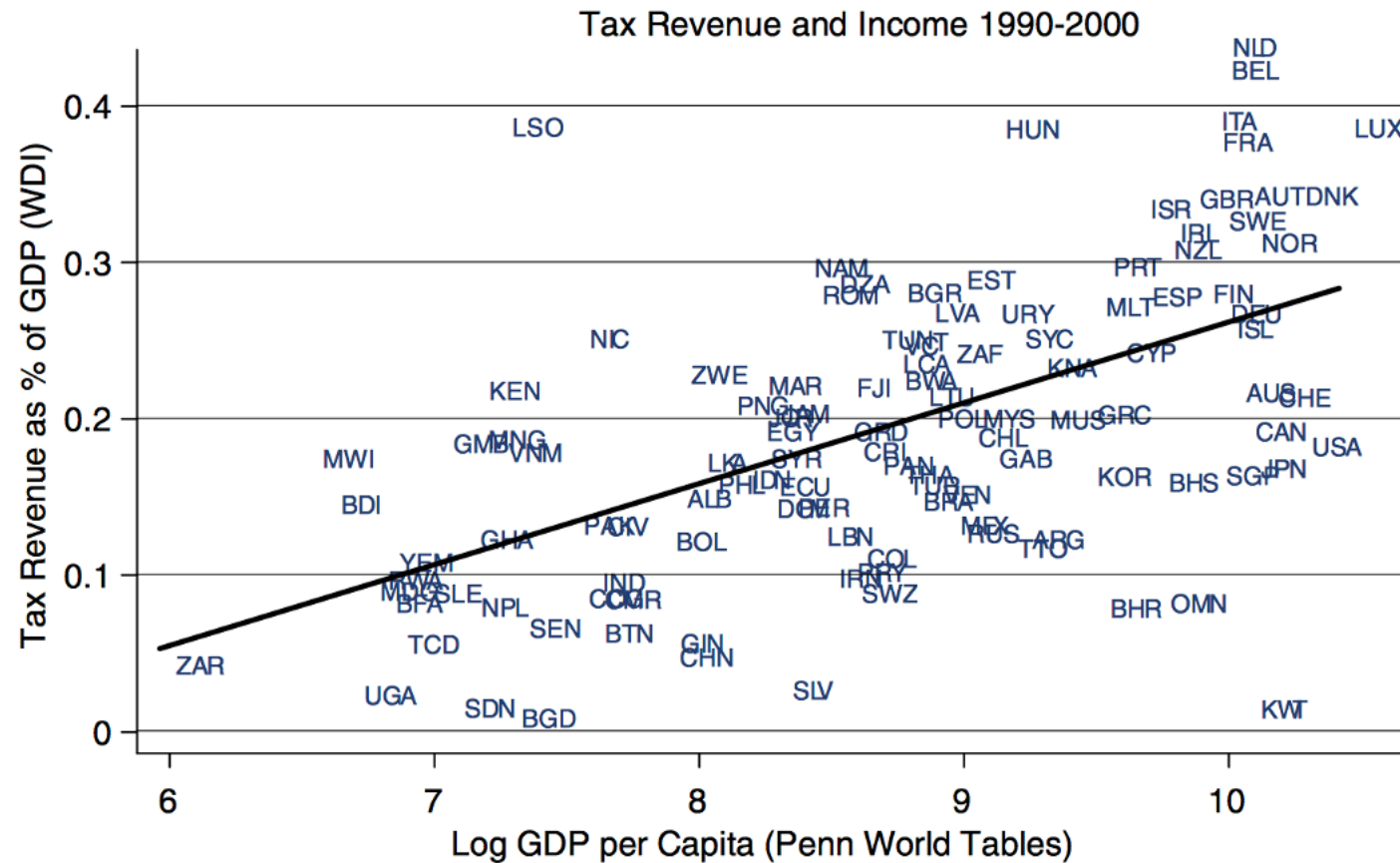
- Defense
- Provision of (internal) order
- Administration
- Provision of public goods
- Taxation

State capacity—and fragility



Source: <https://fragilestatesindex.org/>
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State capacity, taxation, and prosperity



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

Takeaways

- The state as the primary provider of political order and public goods