

The State

Sovereignty

- **Sovereignty is the defining feature of state.**
- **Jean Bodin's Thought on Sovereignty**
 - ❑ Sovereignty is the “absolute and perpetual power”, resides not in an individual but in a state, and is perpetual.
 - ❑ Sovereignty is limited by divine law or natural law, by the type of regime, and by covenants and treaties.

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Sovereignty

- **The Realist View of Sovereignty**
 - ❑ The state is sovereign in two senses:
 - ❑ There is no authority higher than the state in international relations. (absolute)
 - ❑ The state has exclusive jurisdiction over the land and people within it. (indivisible)

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Sovereignty

- **The Liberal View of Sovereignty**
 - ❑ Sovereignty is not absolute either internally or externally and divisible.
 - ❑ sovereignty can be divided, shared and pooled.

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Sovereignty

- **The Constructivist View of Sovereignty**
 - ❑ Sovereignty is an idea.
 - ❑ The centerpiece of the understanding of sovereignty is the idea of “recognition”.
 - ❑ A state is sovereign because it is recognized as sovereign by the other states in the international system.

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The State and the Nation

- **Four fundamental conditions of a state**
 - ❑ First, a state must have a territorial base, a geographically defined boundary.
 - ❑ Second, within its borders, a stable population must reside.
 - ❑ Third, there should be a government to which this population owes allegiance.
 - ❑ Finally, a state has to be recognized diplomatically by other states.

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The State and the Nation

➤ **A nation is a group of people who share a set of characteristics: history, heritage, language, customs, lifestyles.**

❑ At the core of the concept of a nation is that people having commonalities owe their allegiance to the nation and to its legal representative, the state.

❑ Nationalism is the belief that nations should form their own states.



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The State and the Nation

➤ **The relations between nation and state**

❑ One nation, one state: Denmark and Italy

❑ One nation, many states: Germans, Kurds, and Somalis

❑ Many nations, one state: India, Russia, South Africa, and China

❑ The United States and Canada present another form.



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The State and the Nation

➤ **Disputes over state territories and the desires of nations to form their own states have been the sources of many conflicts among states and groups.**

❑ EG: the conflict between Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs

❑ Should Israel and the Palestinian territories be divided into two separate, independent states?



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Contending Conceptualizations of the State

➤ **The Realist View of the State**

➤ The state is:

❑ An autonomous actor.

❑ Constrained only by the anarchy of the international system.

❑ Sovereign, that is the authority to govern matters that are within its own borders.

❑ Guided by a national interest that is defined in terms of power.



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Contending Conceptualizations of the State

➤ **The Liberal View of the State**

➤ The state is:

❑ A process, involving contending interests.

❑ A reflection of both governmental and societal interests.

❑ The repository of multiple and changing national interests.

❑ The possessor of fungible sources of power.



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Contending Conceptualizations of the State

➤ **The Radical View of the State**

➤ The state is:

❑ The executing agent of the bourgeoisie.

❑ Influenced by pressures from the capitalist class.

❑ Constrained by the structure of the international capitalist system.



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The Nature of State Power

- Power is the ability not only to influence others but to control outcomes so as to produce results that would not have occurred naturally.

❑ Power is the currency of international relations.

❑ Power is the means by which international actors deal with each other.

- Ingredients of state power potential

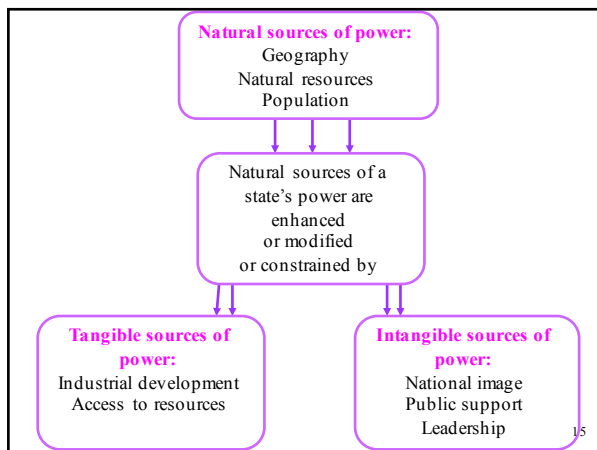
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The Nature of State Power

- Elements of Power

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| ❑ Military capability | ❑ Technological level |
| ❑ Economic size | ❑ Industrial level |
| ❑ Trade volume | ❑ National character |
| ❑ Population size | ❑ Ideology |
| ❑ Territorial size | ❑ Education level |
| ❑ Geographic position | ❑ National morals |
| ❑ Raw materials | ❑ Internal solidarity |

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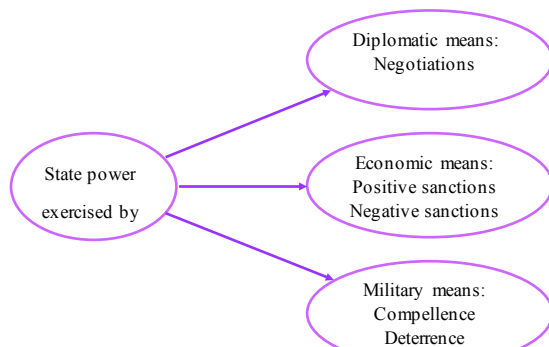
Using State Power

- All states use the techniques of statecraft:

- ❑ Diplomacy
- ❑ Economy
- ❑ Force

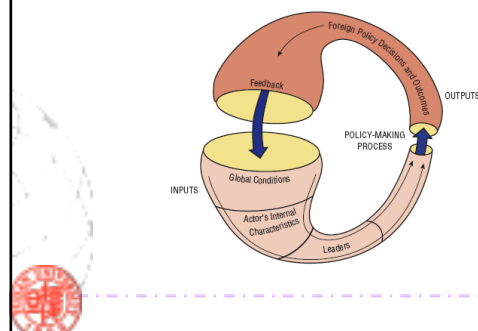
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Techniques of Statecraft



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A "Funnel Vision" of the Influences on International Decision Making



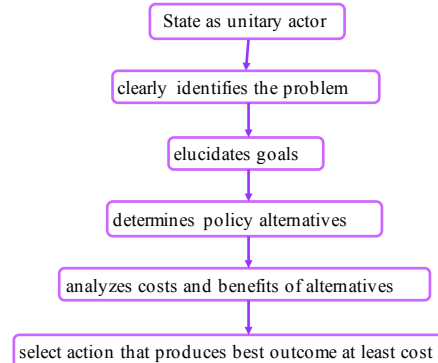
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Models of Foreign-Policy Decision-making

- ❑ The Rational Model
- ❑ The Bureaucratic/Organizational Model
- ❑ The Pluralist Model

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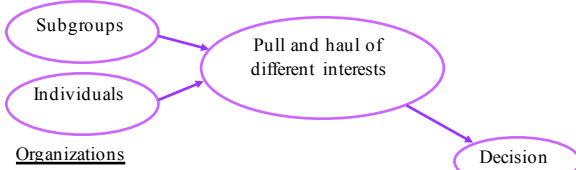
The Rational Model



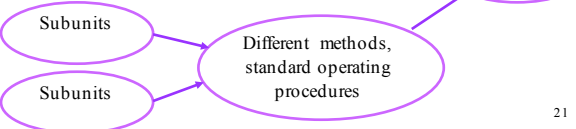
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The Bureaucratic/Organizational Model

Bureaucracies

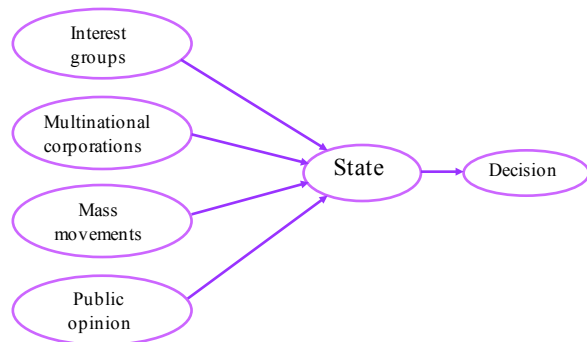


Organizations



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The Pluralist Model



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Challenges to State Power

Globalization – political, economic, cultural	Undermine state sovereignty; interferes with state exercise of power in economics, politics, and culture.
Transnational movements based on religion or ideology	Attempt to usurp state identity; seek loyalty and commitment of individuals beyond the state; want to transform the ideology of the state; undermine the legitimacy of the state.
Ethno-national movements	Seek own state; attempt to replace current government with one representing groups interests.

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PARADIGM IN BRIEF

Contending Perspectives on the State Power and Policy

	Realist	Liberal	Radical
Nature of state power	Geography, natural resources, population	Multiple sources; tangible and intangible	Economic power organized around class
Using state power	Coercive techniques of power; use of force acceptable	Broad techniques; preference for non-coercive alternatives	Weak having few instruments of power

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PARADIGM IN BRIEF			
Contending Perspectives on the State Power and Policy			
	Realist	Liberal	Radical
How foreign policy is made	Rational model; unitary state actor	Organizational/bureaucratic and pluralist models	Decisions dictated by economic capitalist elites
Determinants of foreign policy	Largely external/international determinant	Largely domestic determinant	Largely external determinant

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In Sum: The State and Challenges Beyond

- ❑ The centrality of the state in international politics cannot be disputed.
- ❑ There are challenges to state sovereignty and to the stability of the international system.
- ❑ It is, after all, individuals, including both elites and mass public, who lead these challenges.

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