The State

Definitions

Nation:

- Any large-scale mass group of people, bound by common characteristics and traits
  1 Such characteristics are often based on geography, ethnicity, language, religion, culture, political ethos
  2 Political Ethos: A shared set of common political values and ideas held by a broad consensus of the nation, or population – regardless of any differences in specific ideology

State:

  2 Modern state established by the Peace of Westphalia (1648)
  3 The treaty established the essential criteria and features of a state:
  4 (A) Population; commonly a nation of people with similar culture, political ethos, language, geography, religion, etc.
  5 (B) Territory; land with legal and definitive boundaries that enclose the population
  6 © Governing body with legitimate authority; legitimate authority = that authority which is accepted as proper and recognized by a broad consensus of the population (nation)
  7 (D) SOVEREIGNTY: Most important and critical feature of a state; Sovereignty= absolute legal supremacy that the governing body has over a territory and the population living within the territory
  8 Each and every contemporary nation-state has an equal and absolute amount of sovereignty in and of itself – legally

Primary Rationale Behind the Creation of the State

Social Contract Theory

32 The state was created out of need
33 Creation of the state was a reaction to the instability and chaos of Feudalism
34 The agreement was made between rulers and subjects (the masses); a single ruler would create a single set of definitive laws over a single population
35 This created much needed stability and definitive legitimate rule that was missing in Feudalism
Approaches to International Relations

- There are various ways of analyzing and assessing the behavior of nation-states (countries).
- This is known as international relations theory (IR Theory);
- The attempt to determine, evaluate and predict why nation-states behave the way they do with regard to foreign policy decision making, the use of force, diplomatic, peaceful settlements, military and economic aid, etc.
- IR Theory not only evaluates past state behavior, but also tries to predict state behavior.

- We shall examine three specific and competing approaches to the analyzing and predicting of state behavior.
  - Based on the book, "Man, the State and War";
  - These approaches are known as the "IMAGES" AND LEVELS OF ANALYSIS.

(1) Individual Level of Analysis (The "First Image")

- Foreign policy and state behavior is determined by the individual leader (or sometimes leaders) of that particular state.
  - The most common "first image" questions asked: What political ideology is the leader? What political party affiliation is that leader? What is the personal and/or psychological history and background of that leader? Does the leader have any personal motivation from their life experiences that can explain or predict the leader’s foreign policy choice?
  - "First Image" questions and examples for thought and discussion:

(A) Would Germany have pursued an aggressive and expansionistic conquest of Europe from 1935 through 1945 (Pre-WWII and WWII era) if Adolf Hitler had not been in power?
(B) Would the Soviet Union after WWII have pursued a policy of expansion and control over Eastern Europe and other "Third World" countries had Joseph Stalin not been in power?
(C) Would the United States increased and expanded its involvement in Vietnam after 1964 if Lynden Johnson not been in power?
(D) Would Iraq have invaded Kuwait in 1990 had Saddam Hussein not been in power?
(E) Would the United States have invaded Iraq in 2003 had GW Bush not been President?
Cognitive Conceptual Model: A leader will pursue a foreign policy choice or strategy on the basis of what their cognitive perception of the country's national interest

(2) Unit (State) Level of Analysis (The "Second Image")

- Foreign policy and state behavior is determined by the domestic features and qualities of a state
- One has to look inside the "black box" of govt. and analyze the political processes of law making and policy making within the govt.
- One has to determine what type of political system a country has and the way in which laws and policy are decided upon
- Is the state a democracy? If so, what type of democracy? Parliamentary system? Presidential system?
  - Is the state considered a Majoritarian democracy or is it classified as a Consensus Democracy?
  - If the state is a Presidential democracy, then is there divided govt. between the executive and legislative branches?
  - Does the legislature have influence over the foreign policy process?
  - Is the leader very much influenced by policy advisors surrounding him/her?
  - Is this the result of an influential military? Bureaucratic structure? A particular bureaucracy?

- "Second Image" Arguments:

  (A) Germany and the Soviet Union would have each pursued aggressive foreign policies, with or without Hitler or Stalin, due to the "iron-fist" autocratic regimes that existed in these countries. Both regimes consisted of and would have been led by leaders of a Fascist/Leninist Socialist regime and, thus, each of these regimes had ideologies justifying and supporting military expansion

  (B) The United States would have pursued a greater involvement in Vietnam due to the strong presence of policy advisors within the White House and Dept. of Defense (DOD) advising whomever the President was to increase force deployments in Vietnam
(C) Iraq would have invaded Kuwait, regardless of who the leader was, due to the Baathist (Arab Socialist) ideology calling for pan-Arabic nationalist unity

(D) The U.S. would have invaded Iraq not because of GW Bush, but rather because of the advisors surrounding Bush from within the White House and DOD - aka, the "Neo-Cons"

(3) **System Level Analysis ("Third Image")**

- This is also known as REALISM