

**CSS 230 – Sophomore Government Tutorial:
State and Society in the Modern Age**

CSS Library
Friday 2:00 – 4:00 pm

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Office hours: Tue 3:00-5:00 pm,
Wed 4:00 – 5:00 pm & by appointment

Course Description

This course examines the rise and the evolution of the modern state. While many of the readings focus on Western Europe and the United States, the course draws on cross-regional comparisons to tease out theoretical propositions, compare historical processes across different parts of the world, and consider different understandings of the body politic. We start by exploring what factors account for the rise and consolidation of the nation state in the Western context, after which we consider how the process of state-building occurred in the Middle East and North Africa, and explore some of the challenges the sovereign state model faces outside the European context. We then move on to discuss the emergence of different systems of governance and some of the challenges to the state. We will consider whether there are certain paths that lead to democracy, and whether there is something unique about American democracy. We will take into account the challenges posed by modernization, and evaluate what factors best explain the rise of communism and fascism. We will then consider how the communist and fascist past impacted the rise of the social democratic model in Europe, and compare the European and Japanese approaches to welfare provisions. We conclude by considering yet another model for organizing the political community: the religious state. We will examine when, how and why the notion of the Islamic state emerged, reflect on the extent to which the concept of an Islamic state challenges Western notions of the nation-state, and investigate how the discourse on Islam and the state has changed over time in Indonesia, the largest Muslim majority country.

Requirements

Every week you are required to write a five page double-spaced essay (12 font, 1 inch margins). The essay should offer a critical reflection on the readings for the week. The questions included in the syllabus are suggestions for what points to address as you compare and contrast the main arguments of the different authors, and they will also serve as starting points for class discussions. In your essays, you may choose to focus on one of these questions, or integrate multiple questions into your discussion of the readings. The essays are due in hard copy at the start of class. In addition to the essays, please prepare two discussion questions on the readings each class.

Readings

The following is a list of books that will be most extensively used. They are all available for purchase at Broad Street Books, and also available on reserve at Olin. Please note that the library might have different editions of these books. All other readings will either be uploaded on Moodle or available as Ebooks or via EReserves.

Ayubi, Nazih. 1995. *Overstating the Arab State: Politics and Society in the Middle East*. New York: I.B. Tauris.

Berman, Sheri. 2006. *The Primacy of Politics: Social Democracy and the Making of Europe's Twentieth Century*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Dahl, Robert. 1971. *Polyarchy*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Huntington, Samuel. 2006. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Moore, Barrington. 1966. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. Boston: Beacon Press.

Tilly, Charles. 1993. *Coercion, Capital and European States, AS 990-1990*. Cambridge, MA: Basil Blackwell.

Tocqueville, Alexis de. 2010. *Democracy in America*. Edited and abridged by Richard Heffner. Signet Books.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Wesleyan University is committed to ensuring that all qualified students with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from its programs and services. To receive accommodations, a student must have a documented disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and provide documentation of the disability. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact Disability Resources as soon as possible. If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Dean Patey in [Disability Resources](#), located in North College, room 021, or call 860-685-5581 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations.

Week 1. The Emergence of the Modern State

What is a state? Why did the state emerge? What logic drove state formation, and what factors shaped the process of state-building in Europe and in the U.S.? What was the impact of state formation on the population at large?

Tilly, Charles. 1993. *Coercion, Capital and European States, AD 990-1990*. Cambridge, MA: Basil Blackwell. Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4.

Pollack, Sheldon. 2009. *War, Revenue and Statebuilding: Financing the Development of the American State*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Chapter 4 “The Origins of the American State.” [Available as Ebook through library website.](#)

Olson, Mancur. 1993. “Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development.” *American Political Science Reviews* 87: 567 – 576.

Week 2. State Formation and State-building Outside the Western Context

How did the state formation process differ in the Middle East and North Africa from the European experience? What are some alternative views on the body-politic in the Arab world, and how do they challenge the European conceptualization of the state? How can we understand the fact that many post-colonial and Arab states are simultaneously too strong and too weak - oversized in some respects, but fragile and underdeveloped in others? Why do we see a gap between the de jure and the de facto sovereignty in many post-colonial states? Is a rethinking of the sovereign state model necessary in the African and Middle Eastern context?

Ayubi, Nazih. 1995. *Overstating the Arab State: Politics and Society in the Middle East*. New York: I.B. Tauris. Chapters 1, 3, 4.

Ghani, Ashraf, Clare Lockhart and Michael Carnahan. 2005. “Closing the Sovereignty Gap: An Approach to State-building.” Overseas Development Institute, Working Paper 253.

Herbst, Jeffrey. 1996/1997. “Responding to State Failure in Africa.” *International Security*, 21(3).

Week 3. Democracy and Democratization

What is democracy? Are there certain paths towards democracy? If so, are these paths unique to each case or are there generalizable patterns of democratization? How did democracy emerge in England? What lessons can we learn from the more recent waves of democratization?

Dahl, Robert. 1971. *Polyarchy*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapters 1 – 7.

Moore, Barrington. 1966. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. Boston: Beacon Press. Chapters 1, 7.

Bunce, Valerie. 2000. "Comparative Democratization: Big and Bounded Generalization." *Comparative Political Studies*, 33 (6/7): 703-734.

Week 4. Civil Society, Democracy and American Exceptionalism

What are the origins of the American democratic mindset according to Tocqueville? What are some disadvantages (or even dangers?) of the American democracy in Tocqueville's view? How do you evaluate Tocqueville's observations on American society? Are there any aspects that are still relevant today? Is there a uniquely American civic vitality? Is the American social capital in decline? What are the implications for the quality of democracy in the U.S.?

Tocqueville, Alexis de. 2010. *Democracy in America*. Edited and abridged by Richard Heffner. Signet Books. Part One: all, Part Two: Book II chapters 26 – 31.

Skocpol, Theda. 1997. "The Tocqueville Problem: Civic Engagement in American Democracy." *Social Science History*, 21(4): 455-479.

Skocpol, Theda. 2004. "Voice and Inequality: The Transformation of American Civil Democracy." *Perspectives on Politics*, 2(1): 3-20.

Putnam, Robert. 1995. "Bowling alone: America's declining social capital." *Journal of Democracy*, 6(1): 65-78.

Week 5. The challenge of modernization

What prompts traditional polities to "modernize"? What does the process of modernization entail, and why are there differences across countries? When and why does modernization lead to violence and political instability? What steps can be taken in order to avoid political decay and instability? In which ways do Lipset and Huntington see the process of modernization similarly or differently?

Lipset, Seymour Martin. 1959. "Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy." *American Political Science Review*, 53 (1): 69 – 105.

Huntington, Samuel. 2006. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapters 1, 2, 3, 7. Read Foreword last.

Week 6. Communism and Fascism

What are revolutions and why do they occur? What factors led to the rise of communism and the rise of fascism? What is the role of the state in the communist and in the fascist ideology?

Huntington, Samuel. 2006. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Ch. 5

Moore, Barrington. 1966. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. Boston: Beacon Press. Chapters 8, 9.

Mann, Michael. 2004. *Fascists*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1, 2, 10. Available as Ebook via library website.

Week 7. The Welfare State

How can we understand the rise of the social democratic model in Europe? In which way is the Japanese model of welfare provisions similar or different from European models of coordinated market economies? What explains the emergence and development of the Japanese model? On which grounds should we compare different models of the welfare state?

Berman, Sheri. 2006. *The Primacy of Politics: Social Democracy and the Making of Europe's Twentieth Century*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Estevez-Abe, Margarita. 2008. *Welfare and Capitalism in Postwar Japan*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Introduction and Chapter 1.

Week 8. The Religious State

When, how and why did the notion of an Islamic state emerge? Why do Mawdudi and Khomeini see the need for the implementation of Islamic law? How do Khomeini & al-Turabi envision the Islamic state? Is an Islamic state compatible with the concept of nation-state? What are the different models of religious polity in Indonesia? Why did the "Islamist" model never take hold in Indonesia?

Ayubi, Nazih. 1991. "The theory and practice of the Islamic State." In *Political Islam: Religion and Politics in the Arab World*. New York: Routledge.

Euben, Roxanne and Muhammad Qasim Zaman. 2009. *Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Ch. 3 (Sayyid Abu'l-A'la Mawdudi), Ch. 6 (Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini), Ch. 8 (Hasan al-Turabi).

Zubaida, Sami. 1988. "An Islamic State? The Case of Iran." *Middle East Report*, 153 (July-August 1988): 3-7.

Assyaukanie, Luthfi. 2009. *Islam and the Secular State in Indonesia*. Singapore: ISEAS. Chapter 1 (“Islamic Ideology and Utopias”).

Kunkler, Mirjam and Alfred Stepan. 2013. *Democracy and Islam in Indonesia*. New York: Columbia University Press. Chapter 1 (“Indonesian Democratization in Theoretical Perspective”) and Chapter 3 (“How Pluralist Democracy Became the Consensual Discourse Among Secular and Nonsecular Muslims in Indonesia”). Available as Ebook via library website.