

# The State and State Building

## Section 4

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Sima Biondi

Fall 2024

Gov 20: Foundations of Comparative Politics

# Overview

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- 1 Recap
- 2 Discussion: dimensions of the state?
- 3 Discussion: why do states become stronger?
- 4 Build-a-state

## Reminders

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- Paper due 10/8, prompts are going to be released on Monday (10/1)
  - Find and answer the prompt's main question
  - Support your argument with the readings, not anything outside that
  - Cite! I don't care about style just please cite!
- Come to office hours! Sign up:  
<https://tinyurl.com/sima0H>
- Writing tutor (Julia) slots goes live at 3 pm on Friday
- Next week I'll have additional office hours on Tuesday (10/1) from 12-2pm

Last week: finished discussions of patterns of economic development, many that focused on the state

In this section, we look at the state's:

1. dimensions
2. growth in Europe
3. applications

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**Comparative advantage:** an economy's ability to produce a particular good or service at a lower opportunity cost than its trading partners

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→ the way that countries benefit from trade and become economically competitive

# Recap of important concepts

**Import-substituting Industrialization (ISI):** industrialization through an economic policy that favors developing domestic industries and reducing reliance on manufactured foreign imports



**Export-Oriented Industrialization (EOI):** the industrialization process governed by economic policies that are aimed towards enhancing the export sector of a country





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## Discussion: dimensions of the state?

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According to Fukuyama:

- (a) scope: the degree to which the government pursues an ambitious range of policies, and
- (b) power: the ability to enforce institutional decisions

## Discussion: dimensions of the state?

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According to political scientists, how do states change over time?

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Through a process of **state building** which creates new governmental institutions or strengthens existing ones.

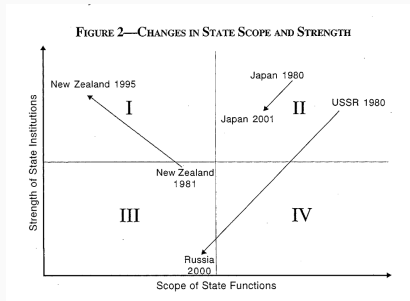


Figure 1: Fukuyama (2004)

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## Discussion: why do states become stronger?

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Why do states become stronger?



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Why and how do states become stronger?

Tilly's bellicist or *weightlifting* theory of state development: governing elites convinced to develop long-term extractive institutions

- Inducement mechanism for governing elites: long-term threat of existential war

## Discussion: why do states become stronger?

Why and how do states become stronger?

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- Inducement mechanism for governing elites: long-term threat of existential war
- To increase their chance of survival: governing elites invest in extractive institutions and maximize capital accumulation to fight future wars more effectively

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- To increase their chance of survival: governing elites invest in extractive institutions and maximize capital accumulation to fight future wars more effectively

All else equal, the more costly the action in terms of marshalling extractive capacities, the greater the state building opportunity.

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- Centeno: how you fight

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- Centeno: how you fight
- Herbst: what you fight over

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- Herbst: what you fight over
- Slater: role of contentious politics
- Dinecco and Wang: geography matters
- Suryanarayan: social hierarchy shapes state building

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No thanks to Elon Musk, Mars' citizens have decided to appoint me president of part of the planet. I named you all to my political council and asked you to put together a plan for a strong state.

## Discussion: build-a-state

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No thanks to Elon Musk, Mars' citizens have decided to appoint me president of part of the planet. I named you all to my political council and asked you to put together a plan for a strong state.

Mention **three things** we should do to foster a strong state according to the pieces you just analyzed.

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1. dimensions
2. historical growth in Europe
3. applications

Reminder: paper due soon and extra office hours!

Focus on these readings: Dahl, Lipset, Berman, Teele

- Email: [sbiondi@g.harvard.edu](mailto:sbiondi@g.harvard.edu) + "Gov 20"
- Office hours: <https://tinyurl.com/sima0H>
- Section website:  
[https://simab.github.io/gov20\\_fall24.html](https://simab.github.io/gov20_fall24.html)