

**COMPARATIVE POLITICS**

# The Modern State



DEPARTMENT OF  
**POLITICAL SCIENCE**

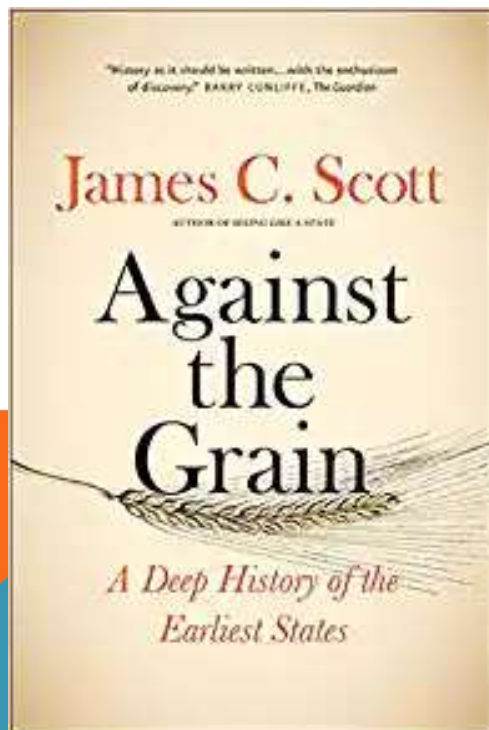
## INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS AND KEY QUESTIONS

Political development  
– the origin and development of the modern state –  
is the starting point for the study of comparative politics.



## COMPARATIVE POLITICS

In everyday language, *state* is often used interchangeably with both *country* and *nation*, but political scientists use the term in a more specific way...



## COMPARATIVE POLITICS

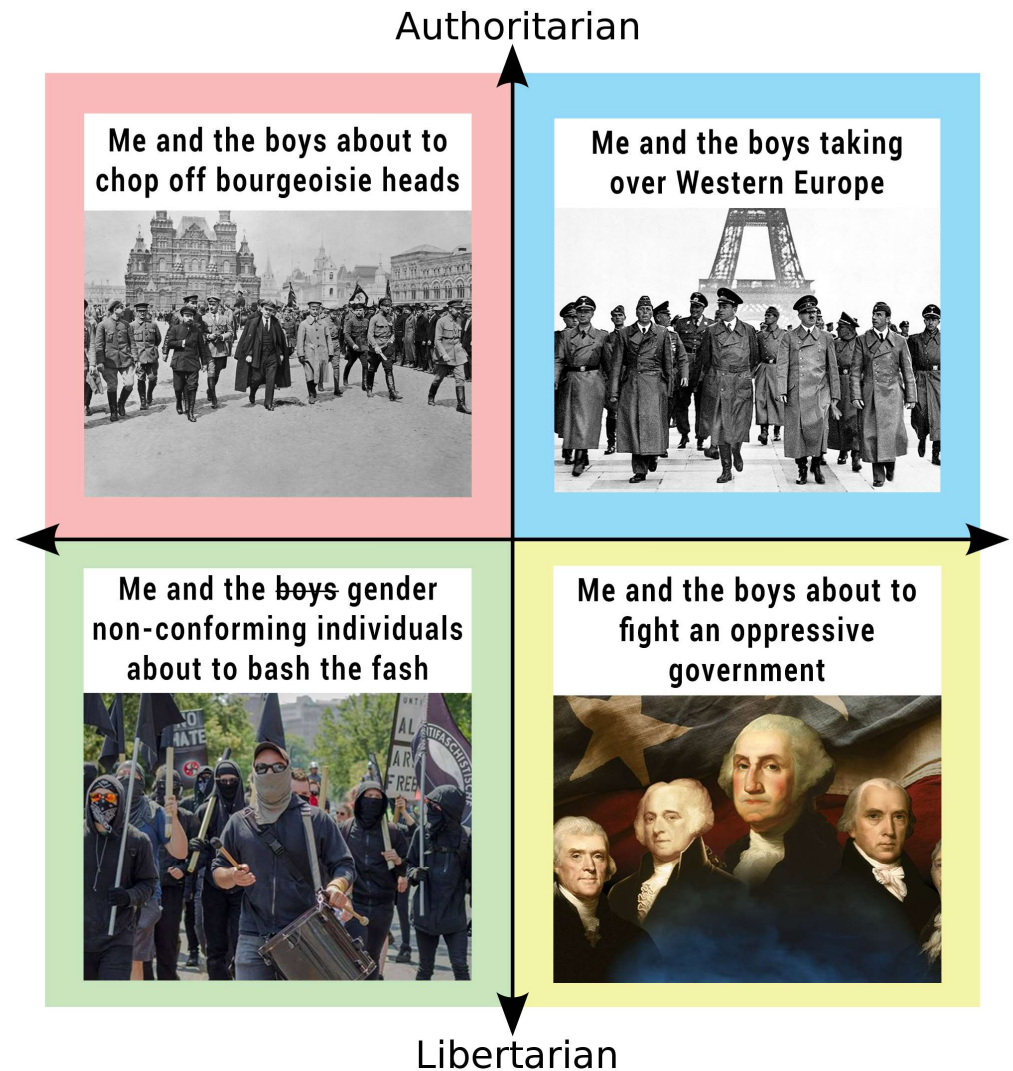
As opposed to the concept of “country” or “nation,” the STATE is an ongoing administrative apparatus that develops and administers laws and generates and implements public policies in a specific territory.





# COMPARATIVE POLITICS

The ongoing nature of the state sets it apart from both *regime* and a *government*. Regimes are types of government such as liberal democracy or fascism. Americans use *government* and *state* interchangeably, but “governments” are transient.



# COMPARATIVE POLITICS

## STATE VERSUS NATION

An independent political entity with fixed geographic boundaries	A large body of people united by common origin, history, culture, ethnicity, or language
Refers to a territory	Refers to a group of people
Has a fixed territory	Doesn't have a fixed territory
A political and legal entity	A socio-cultural entity
Can be created consciously	Cannot be created consciously
Not as stable as state	More stable than a nation
Cannot exist without sovereignty	Can exist without sovereignty
United by laws and regulations	United by bonds and shared histories

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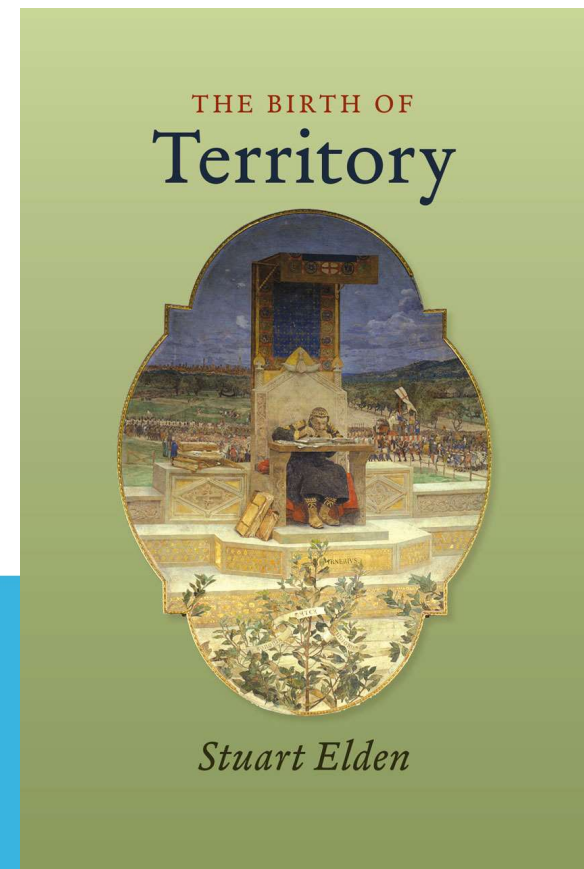
In addition to understanding what the state is and how it operates, comparativists study its origins and evolution: Why did modern states become so universal? Where did they first emerge, and why did strong states develop sooner in some places and later or not at all in others?

# COMPARATIVE POLITICS

## Characteristics of the Modern State

### Territory

An area with clearly defined borders to which a state lays claim.



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## External Sovereignty

Sovereignty relative to outside powers that is legally recognized in international law.



# COMPARATIVE POLITICS

## Internal Sovereignty

The sole authority within a territory capable of making and enforcing laws and policies.



# COMPARATIVE POLITICS

## Sovereignty

Quality of a state in which it is legally recognized by the family of states as the sole legitimate governing authority within its territory and as the legal equal of other states.



# COMPARATIVE POLITICS

## Legitimacy

The recognized  
right to rule



# COMPARATIVE POLITICS

## Traditional Legitimacy

The right to rule  
based on a  
society's long-  
standing patterns  
and practices





# COMPARATIVE POLITICS

## Charismatic Legitimacy

The right to rule based on personal virtue, heroism, sanctity, or other extraordinary characteristics



# COMPARATIVE POLITICS

## Max Weber's Three Types of Authority

	<b>Traditional</b>	<b>Charismatic</b>	<b>Legal-Rational</b>
<b>Source of Power</b>	Legitimized by long-standing custom	Based on a leader's personal qualities	Authority resides in the office, not the person
<b>Leadership Style</b>	Historic personality	Dynamic personality	Bureaucratic officials
<b>Example</b>	Patriarchy (traditional positions of authority)  Patrimony	Napoleon, Jesus Christ, Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King, Jr.	U.S. presidency and Congress Modern British Parliament

## Rational-Legal Legitimacy

The right of leaders to rule based on their selection according to an accepted set of laws, standards, or procedures



# COMPARATIVE POLITICS

## Bureaucracy

A large set of appointed officials whose function is to implement the laws of the state, as directed by the executive.

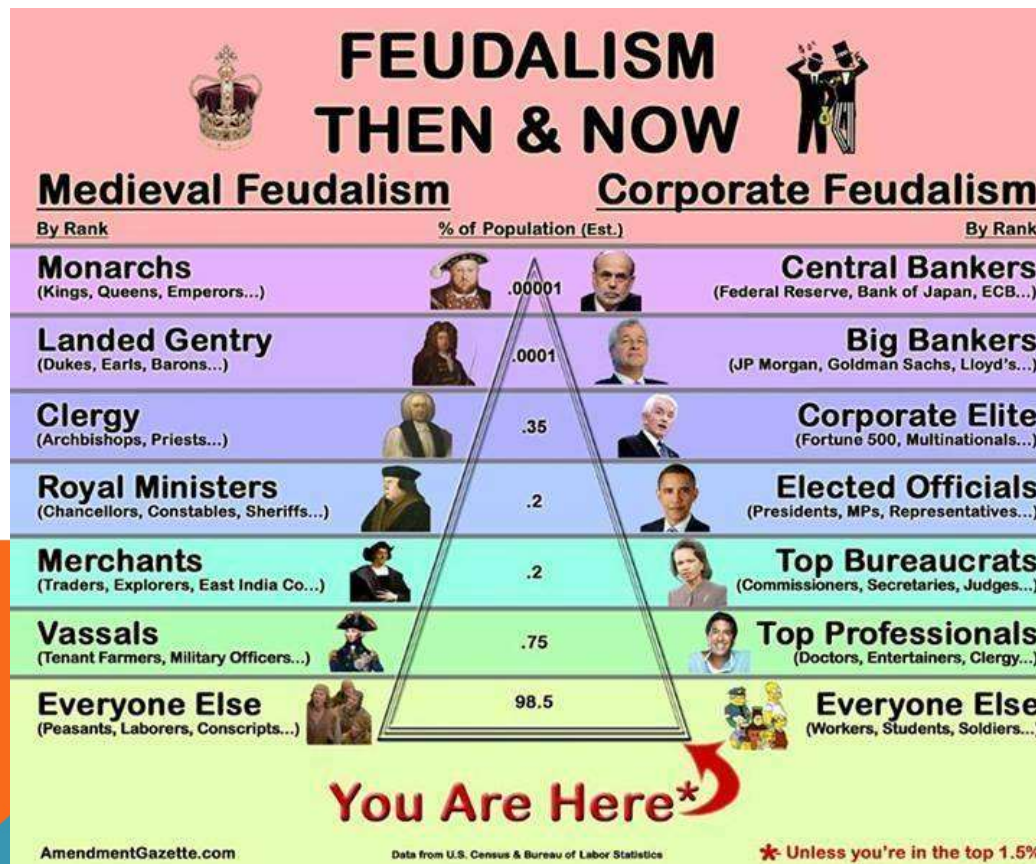


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## Historical Origins of Modern States

## Feudal States

Premodern states in Europe in which power in a territory was divided among multiple and overlapping lords claiming sovereignty.





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## Absolutism

Rule by a single monarch who claims complete, exclusive power and sovereignty over a territory and its people.



# COMPARATIVE POLITICS

## Strong, Weak, and Failed States



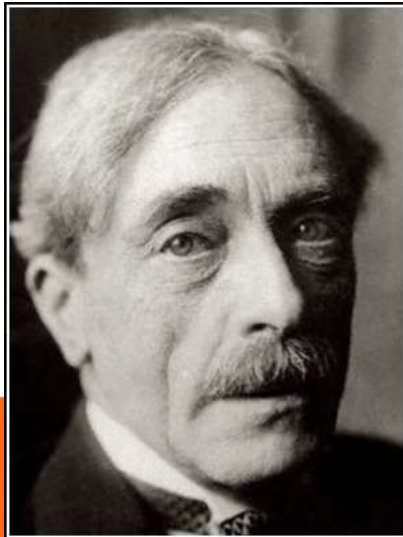
## Ideal Type

A model of what the purest version of something might be.

# COMPARATIVE POLITICS

## Strong State

A state that is generally capable of providing political goods to its citizens.



If the state is strong, it crushes us. If  
it is weak, we perish.

— *Paul Valéry* —

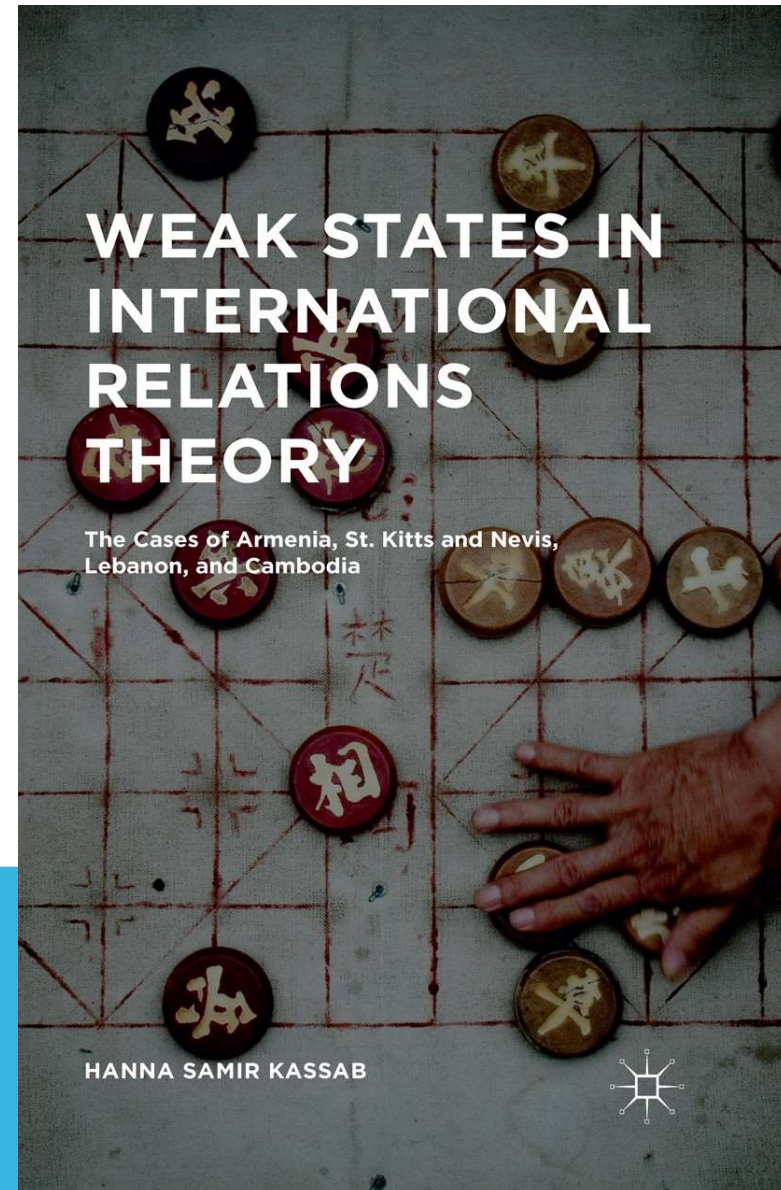
AZ QUOTES



# COMPARATIVE POLITICS

## Weak State

A state that only partially provides political goods to its citizens.

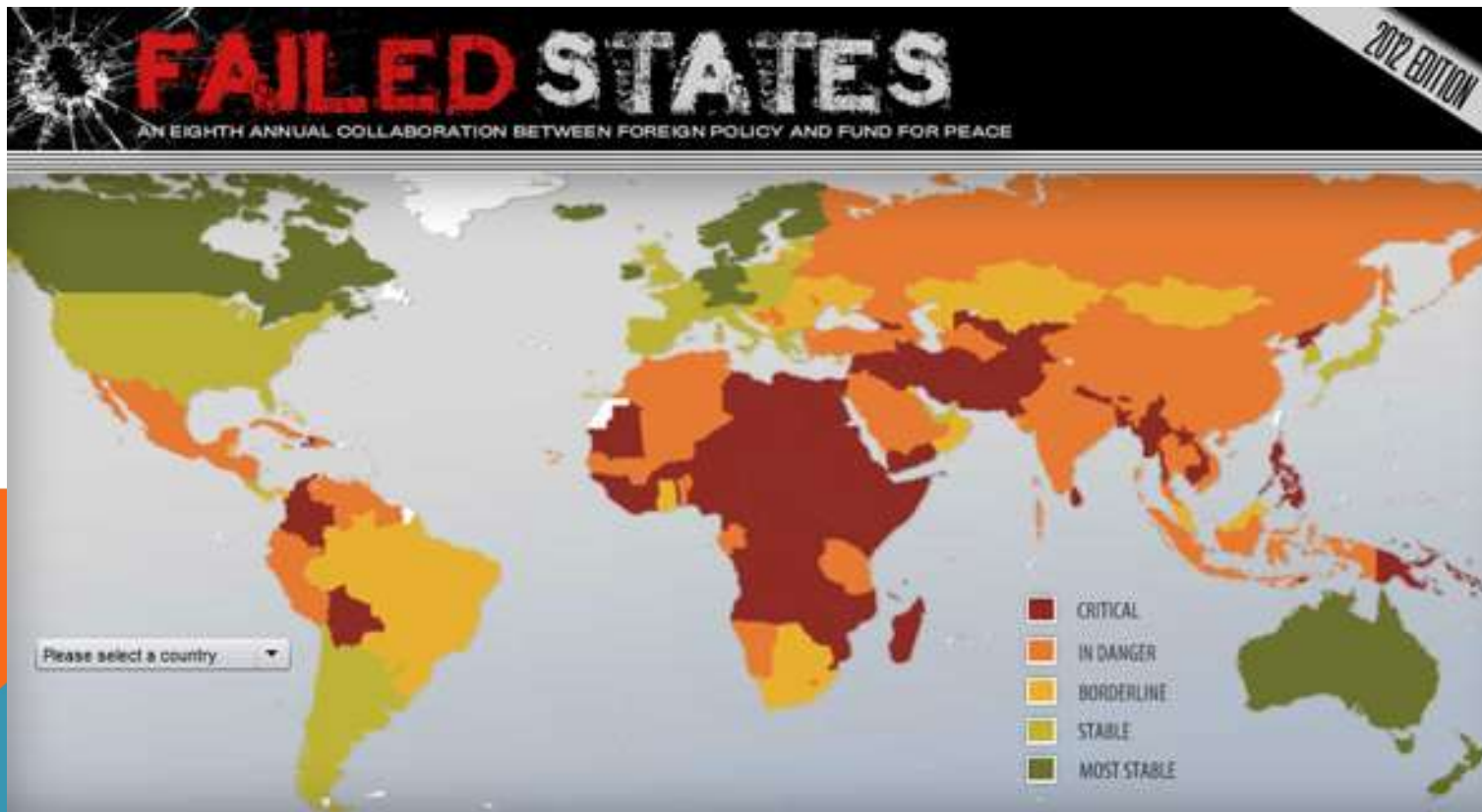




# COMPARATIVE POLITICS

## Failed State

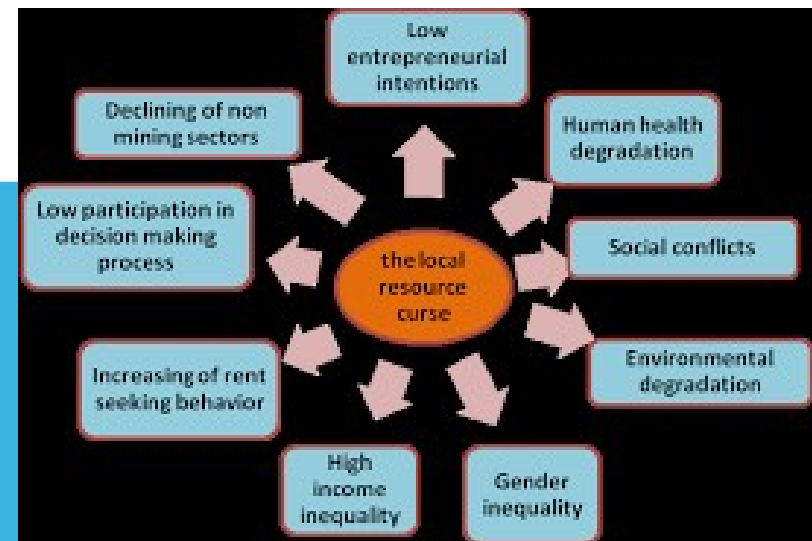
A state that is so weak that it loses effective sovereignty over part or all of its territory.



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## Resource Curse

Occurs when a state relies on a key resource for almost all of its revenue, allowing it to ignore its citizens and resulting in a weak state.



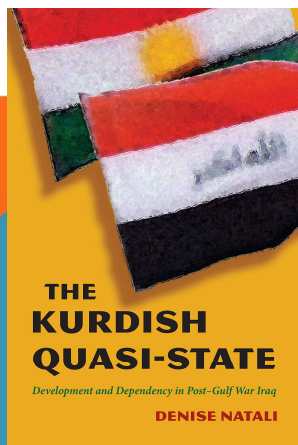
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## Quasi-States

States that have legal sovereignty and international recognition but lack almost all the domestic attributes of a functioning state.

### Quasi-States

- States who possess almost all of the attributes of states (land, population, territory, recognition) BUT
- Are missing/lacking an attribute
- **Palestine, Vatican City, Taiwan, Greenland**
- **Former Quasi States: Andorra, San Marino**



# COMPARATIVE POLITICS

## Concluding thoughts and questions...



Karl Marx

The executive of the modern state is but a committee for managing the common affairs of the whole bourgeoisie.

AZ QUOTES

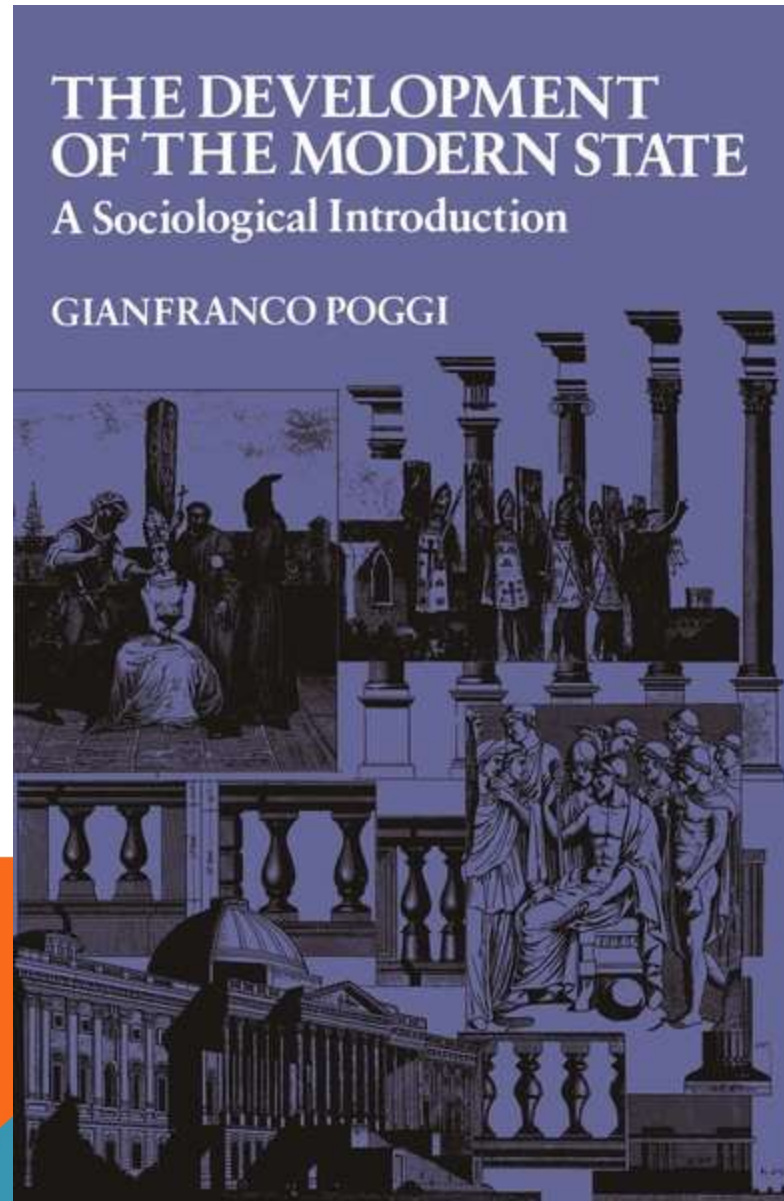


## COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Arising approximately 500 years ago, the modern state as a political form has been singularly successful, according to Orvis and Drogus.



# COMPARATIVE POLITICS



Strong states are almost always democracies, based on notions as treating all citizens equally and limiting what the state can do.

# COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Most everyone prefers a strong state. But lack of wealth or the resource curse (in combination with the legacy of colonialism), often produces weaker states.

## Strong Versus Weak States

- Strong states are able to carry out basic tasks expected of them: security, public policy, basic goods and services
- Weak states less able to fulfill tasks, and may face rivals (organized crime, guerrilla movements, other states)
- Failed states have lost most of their ability to monopolize force and provide services



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## Marxist Theory of the State

They reflect the power of the ruling class or a particular epoch (i.e. slave, feudal, capitalist).





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## Rational Choice and Institutional Theories

States emerge in response to the rational incentive of the emerging international state system, rewarding rulers who developed effective sovereignty, military force, and taxation.



## COMPARATIVE POLITICS



**"Actually, the american  
civil war was about  
state rights"**



**"State rights to do  
what?"**