

LECTURE / DISCUSSION / DEBATE
THE STATE AND FREEDOM

Terms and concepts to know:

The five attributes of states
Modernity argument
David Easton
Sovereignty
Positive vs. negative liberty
J.S. Mill

Force argument
Behavioralist argument
Linguistic and radical argument
Globalization
Unfreedom vs. inability
Paternalism

Study and discussion questions:

1. Do you agree with the argument that the state is essentially a modern institution? What is the best way of defining the state?
2. Is it possible to differentiate government from the state, and if so, how?
3. Do you see the notion of state sovereignty as irrelevant in the contemporary world?
4. Why do people physically harm one another?
5. If the protection of a person's interest is so important should the state permit a person to harm himself or have consent to be harmed by someone else? (the boxing and sadomasochism example).
6. Should the fact that someone finds an expression or action offensive be a reason for banning that expression or action?
7. Are some activities 'intrinsically bad' and therefore can they be justifiably be banned?
8. What are thoughts on Madar's article on the national security state? How does the existence of such a 'state' effect our freedom as citizens?
9. In the AFAQ, there is a discussion of the state and its relationship to freedom. What are your thoughts on this section?
10. What is the "deep state" and do you agree (via Lofgren) that it exists and is a problem that needs to be addressed?

Readings:

Hoffman and Graham: Chapters 1 and 2 and WEB.

Video:

Why Are Finland and Denmark Happier Than the US?