

INTRODUCTION TO THE ADVANCED STUDY OF POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Michaelmas 2009, Week 1
State and Society in Politics and International Relations
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1. The vocabulary of the modern state

Words and ideas: Skinner and the 'Cambridge school'

A lexicon of the state: estate, status, statecraft and statistics

Three key moments:

The Renaissance moment: the prince's state

The Republican moment: the prince vs. the people

The Hobbesian moment: the persona of the state

Alternative ways of expressing political community: empire, union, commonwealth...

Why did 'state' become so ubiquitous, and with what implications?

2. Stories about the process of state-formation

An inside-out story

Domestic consolidation: from feudalism to absolutism

Lots of absolutist sovereigns --> the modern inter-state system

The nationalist bias of modernist historiography?

An outside-in story

Changing dynamics of international conflict (Reformation, military revolution, capitalism, colonialism/imperialism) --> domestic consolidation; sense of national identity; modern conception of sovereignty as independence.

3. Five dimensions of the modern state

Territory: boundaries and the mapping of political space

Sovereignty: independent, absolute and indivisible?

Community: embodying and creating the nation

Majesty: the symbolic display of the state persona

Violence/Protection: the fiscal-military, disciplinary and welfare states

4. The state/society complex and social power

The distinction between state and society

Where is the state? Above society, in society, or around society?

Where is the society? International society and domestic politics

One way in: theorising social power

Mann: the unitary conception of society, and its problems

The organization of power networks: the IEMP model

Social power, political community and international politics

5. So what?

The importance of words and the need for conceptual reflection

Lessons from Marx, Weber and Habermas

The un-naturalness of politics and the role of historical interpretation

The relationship between politics, international relations and social theory

Further reading

- T.C.W. Blanning, *The Culture of Power and the Power of Culture: Old Regime Europe, 1660-1789* (Cambridge University Press, 2002). See also Hamish Scott and Brendan Simms (eds.), *Cultures of Power in Europe during the Long Eighteenth Century* (Cambridge University Press, 2007).
- John Brewer, *The Sinews of Power: War, Money and the English State, 1688-1783* (Unwin Hyman, 1989).
- Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol (eds.), *Bringing the State Back In* (Cambridge University Press, 1985).
- Fred Halliday, *Rethinking International Relations* (Macmillan, 1994).
- Edward Keene, *International Political Thought: A Historical Introduction* (Polity, 2005).
- Richard Ned Lebow, *A Cultural Theory of International Relations* (Cambridge University Press, 2008).
- Michael Mann, *The Sources of Social Power*, 2 vols. (Cambridge University Press, 1986 and 1993).
- Robert Oresko, G.C. Gibbs and H.M. Scott (eds.), *Royal and Republican Sovereignty in Early Modern Europe* (Cambridge University Press, 1997).
- Andreas Osiander, 'Sovereignty, International Relations and the Westphalian Myth', *International Organization* (Vol. 55, No.2, 2001), pp. 251-87.
- Quentin Skinner, *Visions of Politics*, volumes 2 & 3 (Cambridge University Press, 2002).