

Politics and the State

- Politics can influence everywhere in our lives
- The state is a central political organisation
- The EU isn't a state but performs state like actions
- The state has:
 - Territory (defending borders)
 - Sovereignty (dt. die Oberherrschaft)
 - Domination
 - Public
- You have to adapt to the rules of each state
- The state has monopoly on legitimate use of physical force by army & police (but not license to kill)
 - If there is a mass demonstration against the government it isn't legitimate to use force -> too many different reasons for the protest

BUT: The state is also there to protect (if it doesn't other states can interfere)

- **Everything the state does is public** = provides its public good
- **Legitimation** = to do something the common good, not only for a certain group
- You cannot have a state if nobody lives on its territory

Definition Sovereignty

- Within the state's own territory it has the highest power and governs itself
- Not all states are recognized by other states (Scotland not being recognized as a state by the UK)
- A state can also give up some of their sovereignty like becoming a member of the EU -> they take decisions together and can no more decide on their own what to do

Debating the State

- The state appeared first in Europe
 - In the 14th century it consisted of many small entities (often war)
- **Peace of Westphalia** = treaty for territorial sovereignty (1648)
- Every state had another road to become a state
 - Italy & Germany: the entities decided to become one

Pluralist state (no detail learning)

- **Pluralist state** = one state is equal to one another in legal terms (not politically)
- The state protects the society
- Different interests can conflict (like car drivers & bicycle drivers)

- The state regulates the conflict (like an impartial referee)
- **Social contract** = agreement between all the people to form a state
 - Give up a part of their liberty so the state can create order
 - Compromise interest
- **State of nature** = nasty life, people constantly trying to get their way
- Leviathan state creates a state and abandons the nasty life
 - Follow the rules
 - Give up some liberty but you get order in return

!Pluralist state isn't leviathan state!

- the pluralist state is there to manage problems and create a state of order and protect our ideals

Capitalist state

- the state is **not** a neutral referee
 - works in favour of the elite
 - panama papers: the state did not really act upon it (holds hand over the rich)
- **Hegemony** = dominance by one state or social groups over others

The leviathan state

- The state becomes a self-serving monster
 - Too much power
 - *"big brother is watching you"*
- Negative state which interferes too much with our rights
- Cameron thought of the state from a more Leviathan view

The patriarchal state

- The state isn't neutral because it works in the favour of men
- Fewer rights for women

The role of the state

All political thinkers have regarded the state as something worthwhile (dt. erstrebenswert)

Minimal states

- Only 3 core functions:
 - 1) Domestic order
 - 2) Ensure contracts are enforced
 - 3) Provide protection against external attacks
- Popular in the 20th century
- No ministers of social affairs, ... -> not their job