

THE STATE

“You may not be interested in the state, but the state is certainly interested in you”

The word ‘state’ derives from the Latin word *Stare* (*to stand*) and more specifically from *Status* (*a standing or condition*).

Modern States is the monopoly over the legitimate use of force within a common territory. Three more important elements: territoriality, monopoly of the means of physical violence, and legitimacy.

The state has the authority to ensure that its laws are obeyed and the power to punish those who disobey. The three arms of the modern state are the judiciary, the executive, and the legislature.

Niccolo Machiavelli, who is often credited with first using the concept of the state-*Stato*-to refers to a *territorial* sovereign government in his work *Il Principe* or *The Prince*, which was published in 1532. The modern state is characterized by its impersonal standing. The modern state is a public order distinct from and located above both the ruler and the ruled. The modern state is territorially based.

THE STATE IS DEFINED IN TERMS OF FIVE ATTRIBUTES:

1. A Public institution separated from the private activities of society.
2. The existence of sovereignty in unitary form.
3. The application of laws to all who live in a particular society.
4. The recruitment of personnel according to bureaucratic as opposed to patrimonial criteria.
5. The capacity to extract revenue from a subject population .

The state is sovereign, separated from society, can protect all who dwell within its clearly demarcated boundaries, recruits personnel according to bureaucratic criteria and can tax effectively. These are seen not merely as the features of a modern state but of the state itself.

THREE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE TO UNDERSTAND THE STATE:

- ✘ ***The Idealist Perspective*** : This perspective reflected in the writings of G.W.F. Hegel , he identified three ‘moments’ of social existence : the family, civil society and the state. Hegel conceived of the state as an ethical community underpinned by mutual sympathy- ‘universal altruism’.
- ✘ ***The Functionalist Perspective***: This Perspective focuses on the role or purpose of state institutions and the central function of the state is invariably seen as the maintenance of social order, the state being defined as that set of institutions that uphold order and deliver social stability.
- ✘ ***The Organizational Perspective***: This view defines the state as the apparatus of government in its broadest sense : that is, as that set of institutions that are recognizably ‘public’ in that they are responsible for the collective organization of social existence and are funded at the public’s expense.

FIVE KEY FEATURES OF THE STATE:

- ✘ The state is sovereign
- ✘ State institutions are recognizably '*Public*', in contrast to the '*Private*' institutions of civil society.
- ✘ The state is an exercise in *legitimation*
- ✘ The state is an instrument of *domination*.
- ✘ The state is a territorial association.

THE STATE AND CIVIL SOCIETY:

Not only is the state separate from civil society, but it is also internally differentiated, containing various branches or sections. The most important distinction, however, is that between the 'state' and the 'government', two terms that are often used interchangeably. State represents coercion, while the latter is said to be based on voluntary participation.

State	Civil Society
Apparatus of government	Autonomous bodies: business, trade unions, families, clubs and so on.
Realm: Politics, commerce, work, art, culture and so on.	Personal Realm: Family and domestic life.

STATE AND GOVERNMENT:

State	Government
More extensive than government.	Part of the state.
State is a continuing, even <i>permanent</i> , entity.	Temporary.
Government is the <i>means</i> of the state.	Government is <i>the brains</i> of the state and it perpetuates the state's existence.
Exercises impersonal authority	Real executive
The state represents the permanent interests of society.	Government represents the partisan .

RIVAL THEORIES OF THE STATE:

1. The Pluralist State
2. The Capitalist State
3. The Leviathan State
4. The Patriarchal State

Pluralists hold that the state is a neutral body that arbitrates between the competing interests of society. Marxists argue that the state maintains the class system by either oppressing subordinate classes or ameliorating class conflict. The New Right portrays the state as a self-serving monster that is intent on expansion and aggrandisement. Radical feminists point to patriarchal biases within the state that support a system of male power.

THE ROLE OF THE STATE:

- The Minimal State
- The Developmental State
- The Social-Democratic State
- The Collectivized State
- The Totalitarian State

Minimal states merely lay down the conditions for orderly existence. Developmental states attempt to promote growth and economic development. Social-Democratic states aim to rectify the imbalances and injustices of a market economy. Collectivized states exert control over the entirety of economic life. Totalitarian states bring about all-encompassing politicization and, in effect, extinguish civil society.

According to **Post-modernists** the state is the result of the practices of the government. State as a condition for *ordering life* into structures. Governmentality as a rationale of governing that takes the form of series of mundane, daily practices of social ordering .

THE STATE IN A GLOBAL ERA :

Modern States have been profoundly affected by the rise of economic and political globalization, although there is debate about the extent to which this has weakened state power. Emergent **market states** are concerned less with the provision of 'economic goods' and more with maximizing the opportunities available to citizens. Nevertheless, some weak **postcolonial states** barely function as states, having a negligible capacity to maintain order.

The rise of globalisation has stimulated a major debate about the power and significance of the state in a globalized world. Three contrasting positions:

- A) Post-Sovereign Governance
- B) Supraterritoriality or Borderless World or Pooled Sovereignty
- C) Multilevel Governance

CONCLUSION:

The role of the state has been changed with the times and is changing with the circumstances . In this scenario the debates has raised, first: The state still matters : but it may no longer do the things it did and Second: What would a more sophisticated conceptualization of the state look like?. State is in decline or not in the present day world, this is really a big question. But it is true that in this time international organisations have played their increasing role , be they part of a putative global civil society, transnational business groups and international bodies. We would argue that such a view reflects the fact we live and work within global governance . The relationship between international organisations and developing states is a rather different one , these remain areas for future exploration.