PLS 140 Introduction to comparative politics

Week 2 – August 24 State autonomy and capacity

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State structures in the developing world

- Failed transposition from EU models?
- Colonizers never acted ex nihilo.
- States are not entirely artificial, their boundaries not entirely seen as arbitrary.
- They did not cease to exists after the Europeans left.

In the developing world

- Heterogeneous social structures
 (web-like societies) make the
 <u>penetration of society</u> and the
 establishment of political order difficult.
- In Central Asia, clans parasite the political system and undermine the efficiency and stability of systems.

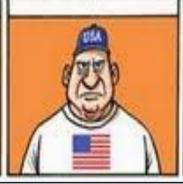
State autonomy vs capacity

- Capacity: ability of the State to carry out basic functions of providing security and reconciling freedom and equality.
- Autonomy: exercise power independently of the public or international actors.
 - > Ex: corruption in Ukraine, clan politics.
- Low levels in one of them is not necessarily problematic, ex: Canada, Switzerland.

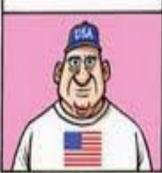








LOVE GUNS?



Difference between Africa and FSU

- Different plural societies.
- In Africa, ethnic divisions lead groups to compete for the control of the State.
- Opposite dynamics in FSU where conflicts emerge for political autonomy (secessionism) not for the control of the State.
- Subject to surveillance by former colonial powers.
- In case of conflicts, neighboring States are affected in the FSU. Russian influence still strong.

State capacity and violent conflicts 1

Many studies reveal that <u>state</u> <u>weakness</u> is the most important factor in the eruption of violent conflicts.

 After controlling for per capita income, more ethnically or religiously diverse countries have been no more likely to experience violence.

State capacity and violent conflicts 2

- Factors that explain civil wars are <u>not</u> ethnic or religious characteristics but rather the <u>conditions</u> that favor insurgency.
- These include <u>poverty</u>—which marks financially and bureaucratically weak states t—<u>political instability</u>, <u>rough</u> <u>terrain</u>, and <u>large populations</u>.

"Fragile" State definition

- The loss of physical control of its territory or a monopoly on the legitimate use of force;
- The erosion of legitimate authority to make collective decisions;
- An inability to provide reasonable public services;
- The inability to interact with other states as a full member of the international community

Failed/fragile States

- Term appeared in the 1990s.
- Controversial term: Implies that something needs to be "fixed" or "saved" – of course by liberal external forces.
- Ex: Afghanistan, Somalia, <u>Libya</u>, <u>Yemen</u>, <u>Pakistan</u>, Rwanda.
- And...Haiti marked by <u>poverty</u> and <u>instability</u> but not violence.

Country	2015 score	Change from 2014 ^[6]	Change from 2013 ^[7]	Change from 2012 ^[8]	Change from 2011 ^[9]	Change from 2010 ^[10]	from 2009 ^[11]	Change from 2008 ^[12]
South Sudan	114.5	▲ 1.6	▲ 3.9	▲ 6.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Somalia	114.0	▲ 1.4	▲ 0.1	▼ 0.9	▲ 0.6	▼ 0.3	▼ 0.7	▼ 0.2
Central African Republic	111.9	▲ 1.3	▲ 6.6	▲ 8.1	▲ 6.9	▲ 5.5	▲ 6.5	▲ 8.2
Sudan	110.8	▲ 0.7	▼ 0.2	▲ 1.4	▲ 2.1	▼ 1.0	▼ 1.6	▼ 2.2
Democratic Republic of the Congo	109.7	▼ 0.5	▼ 2.2	▼ 1.5	▲ 1.5	▼ 0.5	▲ 1.0	▲ 3.0
Chad	108.4	▼ 0.3	▼ 0.6	▲ 0.8	▼1.9	▼ 4.9	▼ 3.8	▼ 2.5
Yemen	108.1	▲ 2.7	▲ 1.1	▲ 3.3	▲ 7.8	▲7.4	▲ 10.0	▲ 12.7
Syria	107.9	▲ 6.3	▲ 10.5	▲ 13.4	▲ 22.0	▲ 20.0	▲ 18.1	▲ 17.8
Mfghanistan Afghanistan	107.9	▲ 1.4	▲ 1.2	▲ 1.9	▲ 0.4	▲ 0.6	▼ 0.3	▲ 2.5
Guinea	104.9	▲ 2.2	▲ 3.6	▲ 3.0	▲ 2.4	▲ 3.3	▲ 0.3	▲ 3.1
Haiti Haiti	104.5	▲ 0.2	▼ 1.3	▼ 0.4	▼ 3.5	▼ 5.4	▲ 2.7	▲ 5.2
Iraq	104.5	▲ 2.3	▲ 0.6	▲ 0.2	▼ 0.3	▼ 0.5	▼ 4.1	▼ 6.1
C Pakistan	102.9	▼ 0.1	- 0.0	▲ 1.3	▲ 0.6	▲ 1.7	▼ 1.2	▼ 0.9
Nigeria	102.4	▲ 2.7	▲ 1.7	▲ 1.3	▲ 2.5	▲ 2.2	▲ 2.6	▲ 6.7