

AP Comparative Government and Politics Study Guide Chapter 2:

- ❖ Governments and state of nature
 - Governments
 - Have the power to make binding decisions on behalf of a particular community
 - Have authoritative and coercive powers
 - State of nature: condition of humankind If no government existed
 - Hobbes: conflict of all against all
 - Rousseau: man before corruption of government
 - Locke: favored limited government to protect rights
- ❖ Why government
 - Community and nation building
 - Security and order
 - Protecting rights
 - Promoting economic efficacy and growth
 - Public goods
 - Externalities
 - Social justice
 - Protecting the weak
- ❖ When governments become a problem
 - Destruction of community
 - Clientelism
 - Violation of basic human rights
 - Economic inefficiency
 - Government for private gain
 - Rent seeking behavior
 - Unfair benefits for those who have power
 - Individuals groups corporations
- ❖ Characteristics of a state
 - Population
 - A body of people
 - Territory
 - A defined space
 - Sovereignty
 - Power to make and enforce laws without having to check with any higher authority
 - Government
 - An organization to do all of this
 - Nations will be missing some of these characteristics
 - Implies some common identity
- ❖ Political systems and states
 - Political system has two properties
 - A set of independent parts
 - Boundaries towards the environment
 - Political systems are a particular type of social system

- Make authoritative public decisions
 - Elements within it are institutions of government legislatures bureaucracies courts
- State = a particular type of political system
 - Has sovereignty independent legal authority
 - Molded by domestic and international environments
 - Constraints on external and internal sovereignty
- ❖ The diversity of states
 - By 2010 126 new states joined the 68 states that existed in 1945
 - States share many characteristics but also vary in many ways that shape their politics
 - Big and small states – in population and geography
 - Area and population do not determine a country's political system
 - Geographic location can have strategic implications
- ❖ Types of states
 - Autocracy
 - One person rules
 - Monarchy – familial
 - Mat have power
 - Dictatorship
 - Absolute control
 - Democracy – rule by the people
 - Representative democracy
 - Leaders elected to rule
 - Direct democracy
 - Direct decision making
 - Oligarchy – rule by the few
 - Junta
 - Rule by force (usually military)
 - Theocracy
 - Rule by god
 - Anarchy
 - Rule by none
- ❖ Challenges – building a community
 - Absence of common identity can have severe political consequences
 - Conflict over national ethnic or religious identities can cause political turmoil
 - Basic for some nations not for others
 - Japan ethnically homogeneous common language and a long national political history
 - Nigeria: artificial creation of Britain's colonial rule no common pre-colonial history sharply divided on religion 250 different ethnic groups
- ❖ Nationality and ethnicity
 - Fine line between nations and ethnic groups
 - Ethnic differences can be a source of political conflict

- In many developing countries bureaucracies and come ethnic lines
 - Colonization
 - Forced migration
 - Voluntary migration
- Traits related to political significant ethnicity include
 - Physical differences language norms against marriage religion and negative historical memories
- Multiethnic countries
- ❖ Language
 - Language and social division
 - 5,000 different languages in use in the world today
 - 200 languages are a million or more speakers
 - Only 8 classified as world languages
 - English is the most truly international language
 - Other international languages: Spanish Arabic Russian Portuguese French German
 - Political system cannot avoid committing themselves to one of several languages
 - Conflicts over educational policies or language use in government
- ❖ Religious differences and fundamentalism
 - States vary in religious characteristics
 - May be basis of national identity
 - Rallying point political movements
 - Christianity largest most widely spread
 - Muslims 2nd largest most rapidly growing
 - Religion may be source in tense disagreement
 - Religious groups can coexist peacefully
 - Some may connect violence cruelty terrorism
 - Fundamentalism in all major faiths