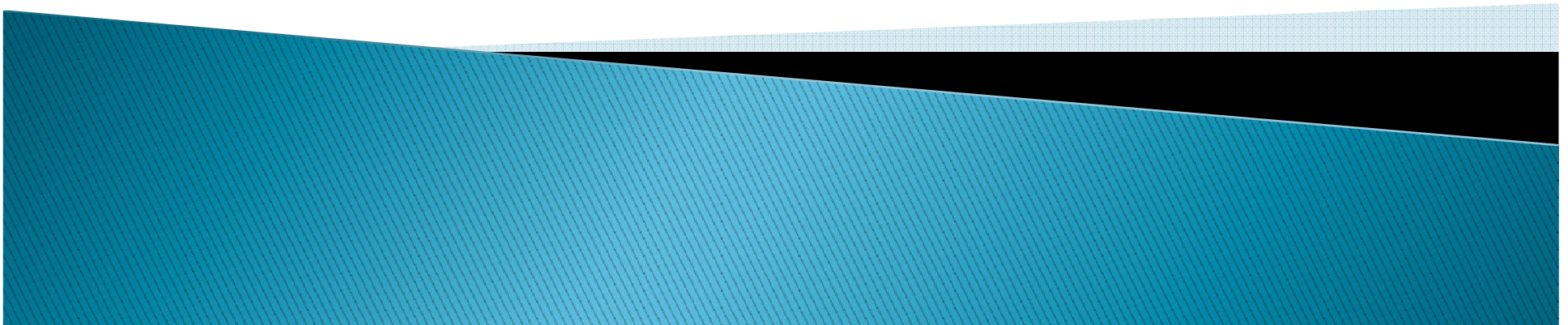


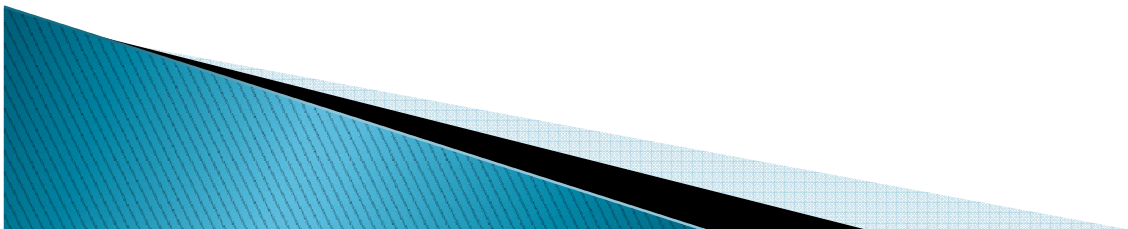
# Political science

Origins of the Field



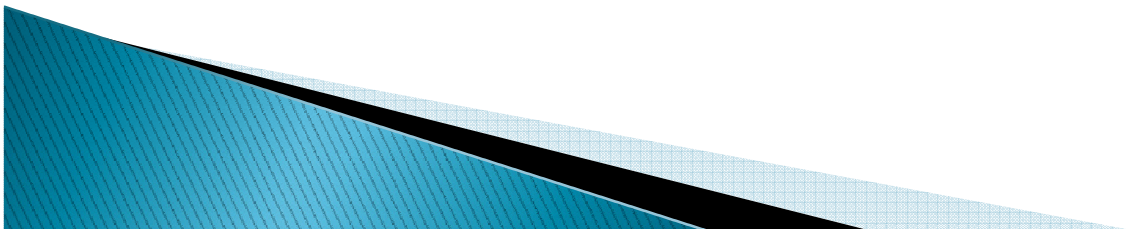
# Origins of Modern Politics

- ▶ From philosophy to legal studies where 17<sup>th</sup> century thinkers like John Locke saw government as established by “contract” and exercising power through laws
- ▶ To enter into contracts individuals had to relate to each other voluntarily or “freely”
- ▶ Modern politics arises parallel to break up of Feudal order with its “great chain of being”



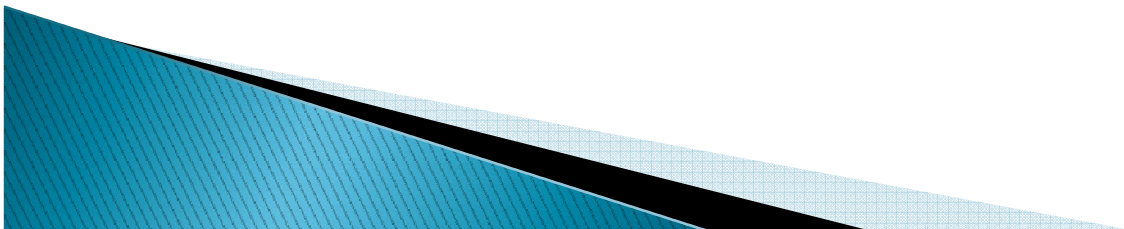
# Possessive Individualism

- ▶ Basis of politics is the individual = “legal subject” as a bundle of action possibilities protected by “rights”
- ▶ Key action of individuals in new capitalist economy is acquisition of private property
- ▶ For Locke: “The reason why men enter into society is the preservation of their property: and the end why they choose and authorize a legislative, is, that there may be laws made, and rules set as guards and fences to the properties of all the members of the society...”
- ▶ Therefore political power exercised through laws + these are “guards and fences” to men’s property



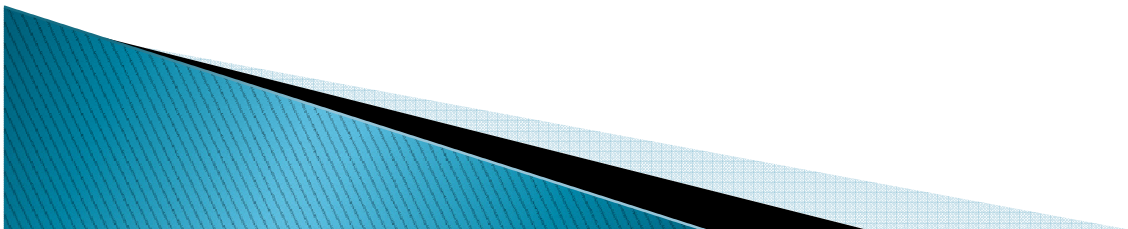
# What /s Politics?

- ▶ Harold Lasswell – politics is about “who gets what, when and how”
- ▶ David Easton – politics is about “the authoritative allocation of values”
- ▶ Mao Zedong – politics is war without bloodshed + political power grows out of the barrel of a gun
- ▶ Politics is the struggle for power in any organization, and comparative politics is the study of this struggle around the world
- ▶ What about politics as a form of human communication about bettering conditions in human society + its forum is what German philosopher Jürgen Habermas refers to as the “public sphere”
- ▶ Extent to which public sphere is inclusive, participatory and efficacious = measure of true democracy



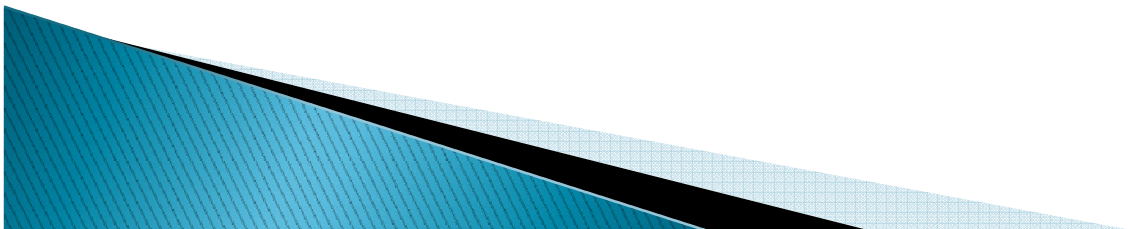
# Origins of Political Science

- ▶ Political Economy of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries combined aspects of what we understand today as politics, sociology, economics and history
- ▶ By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, academia begins to compartmentalize and border off disciplines – particularly in the case of economics which increasingly identifies itself as most “scientific”



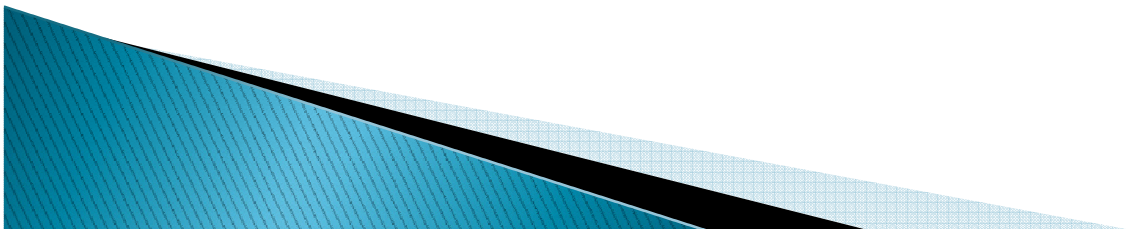
# Divisions in the Field of Political Science

- ▶ Political science as a compartmentalized discipline starts from formal–legal studies of constitutions and government by the 20<sup>th</sup> century grew into a wide–ranging field of study
- ▶ Included in its scope is 1) political institutions, processes and behavior 2) comparative politics 3) international politics 4) political economy 5) political theory 6) public administration
- ▶ Study of political systems combines 1 + 2



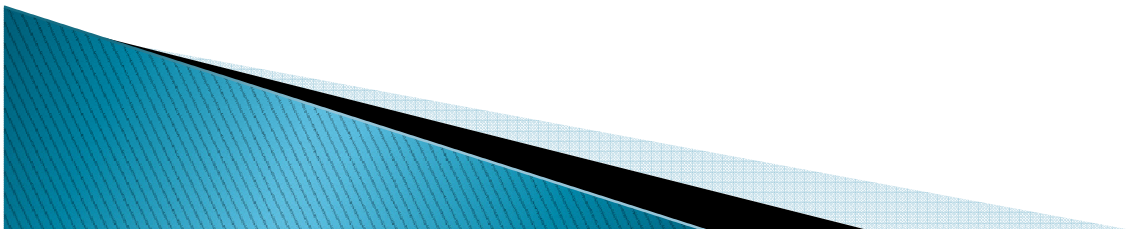
# Natural Science

- ▶ Natural science studies the world “outside” of us. Because it studies a world we did not create, we can never be privy to all its internal secrets.
- ▶ Modern science proceeds akin to peeling an onion where newer theories continually enhance our knowledge.
- ▶ Experiment plays a role in scientific knowledge by creating a “closed system” where we can isolate and observe processes we believe occur or might occur in the natural world.
- ▶ Prediction plays a role in helping us protect ourselves against that over which we have no control



# Social Science

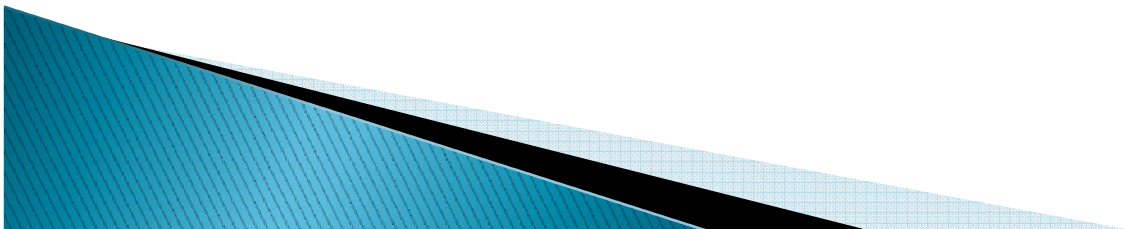
- ▶ Social science studies “us” humans and our purposive activities
- ▶ Because we humans through our purposive activities are the creators of the social world it is possible to have complete knowledge of it – our societies, politics, and so forth.
- ▶ In the social world the study avenue of physical experimentation is closed.
- ▶ Famous German philosopher G.W.F. Hegel said about social knowledge, “the owl of Minerva spreads its wings at dusk”. What he was suggesting is that knowledge in the social world is “post-dictive”. That is, it is like looking out the rear window of a car as we drive by – through disciplined thought we can examine what “we” have done in our societies and assess whether we should keep doing what we are doing or change directions.





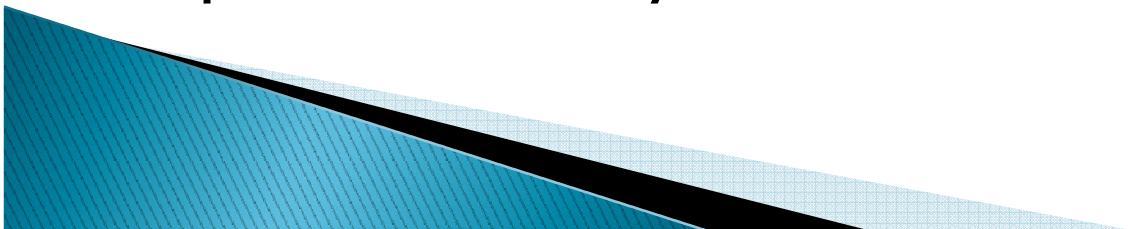
# Is Comparing Political Systems a “Science”

- ▶ Traditional approach = emphasizes describing political systems and their institutions and processes and making comparisons on that basis – favors qualitative analysis
- ▶ Behavioral approach = emphasis on causality, explanation and prediction based on political behavior of individuals – emphasizes quantitative methods over qualitative analysis
- ▶ Critical realism = emphasis placed upon concept formation as first step of science in analyzing the “empirical world” – observation is “theory laden”
- ▶ Postmodernism = rejection of grand narratives/theories – seeks diversity of approaches based on gender, culture, environment



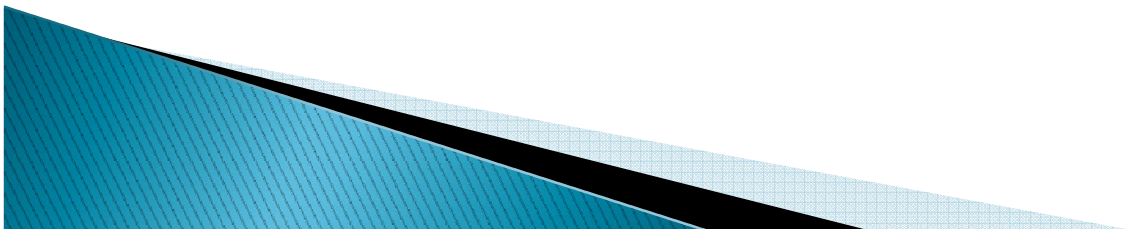
# Political Institutions

- ▶ Organizations or patterns of activity that are self-reinforcing or path-dependent.
- ▶ Embody norms or values considered central to our lives – these are not easily changed
- ▶ Such norms/values set the stage for political behavior by influencing how politics is conducted
- ▶ These vary from country to country
- ▶ Examples include militaries, election systems, parliamentary structures



# The State

- ▶ Sovereignty over a given territory and mutual recognition of this among all states – the state as Locke’s legal subject erecting “guards and fences” to protect “national” property = *rechtsstaat* (rights state)
- ▶ Monopoly of force over a given territory
- ▶ Set of institutions to make and carry out policy
- ▶ Such institutions include army, police, tax systems, legislatures/executives/judiciaries, social welfare/education systems



# Nationalism

## Traditional

- ▶ Peoples brought together through common territory, heritage, language, culture and shared history

Generally benign

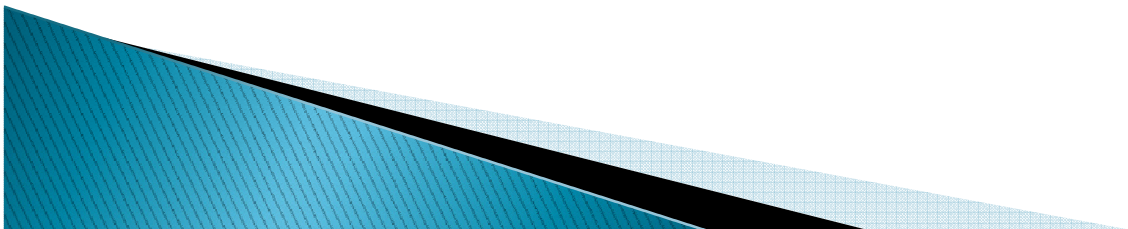
## Modern

- ▶ The identification of peoples in a given territory with the foreign policy of the state
- ▶ Inculcated via symbol and ritual particularly through mass education

Possibly bellicose

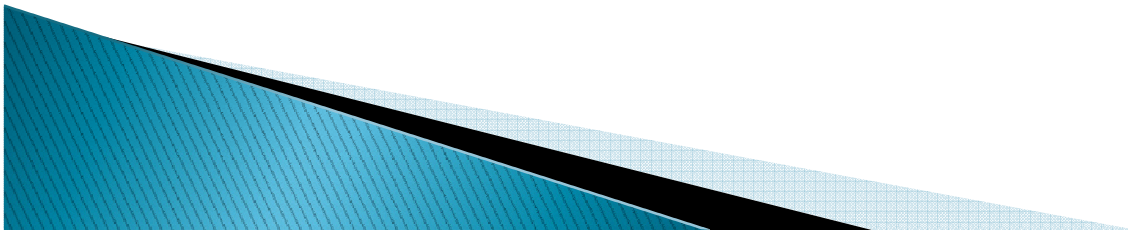
# Regime

- ▶ Norms and rules regarding freedom, power, use of power, the “good” society, so on
- ▶ Institutionalized order yet changeable through decisive electoral contests or revolutions
- ▶ Categorized at a fundamental level as democratic or authoritarian
- ▶ Embodied in constitutions or constitution-like practices

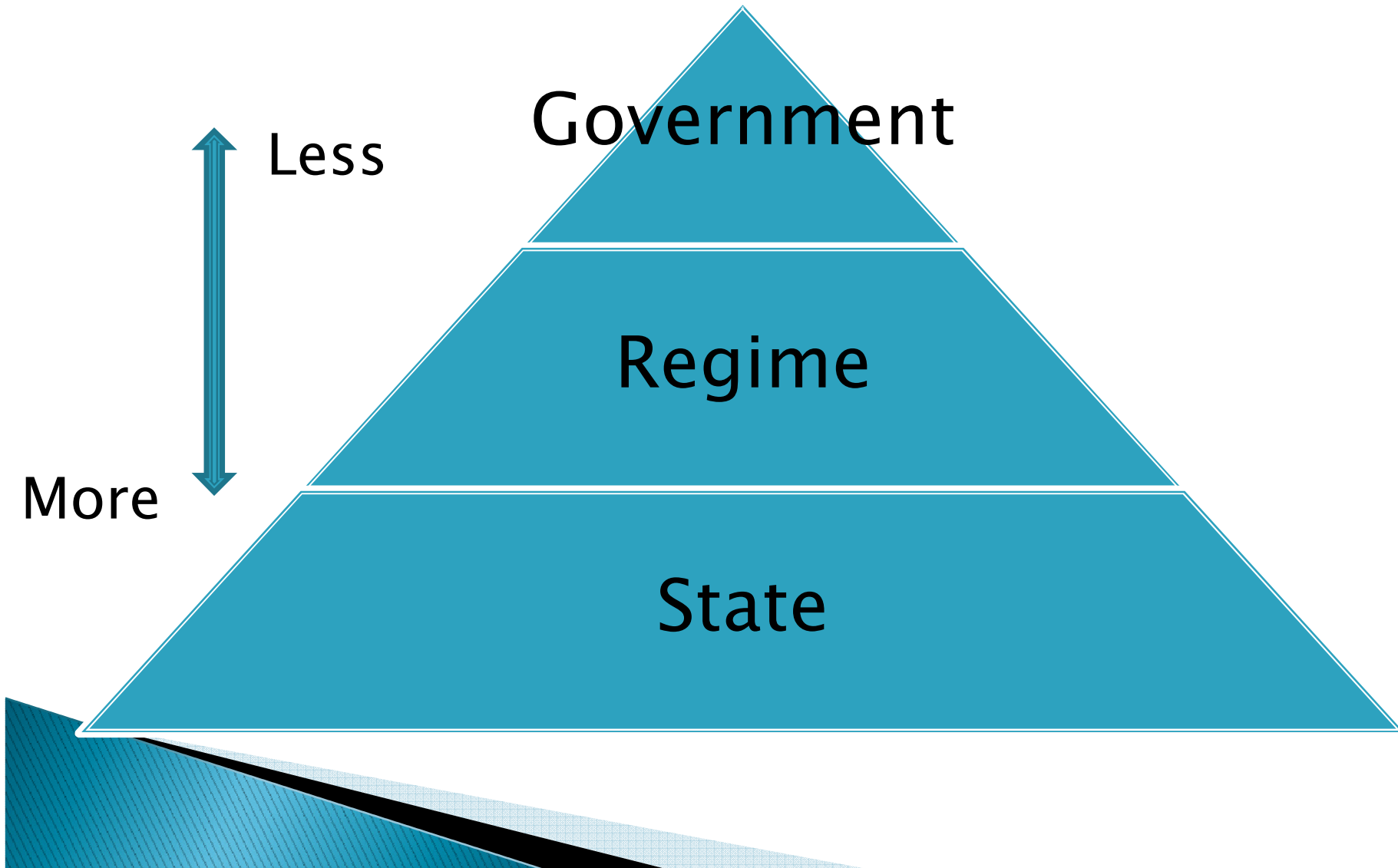


# Government

- ▶ Leadership or elite in charge of ruling the state
- ▶ Characterized by elected officials such as presidents, prime ministers or unelected officials in authoritarian societies
- ▶ Government bounded by the existing regime

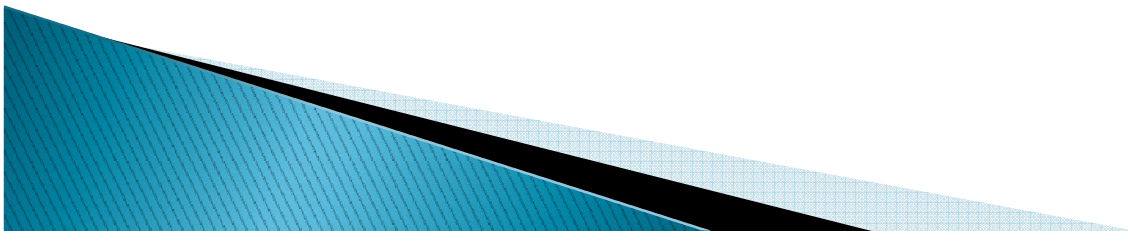


# Institutionalization in State, Regime and Government



# Strong State – Weak State – Failed State

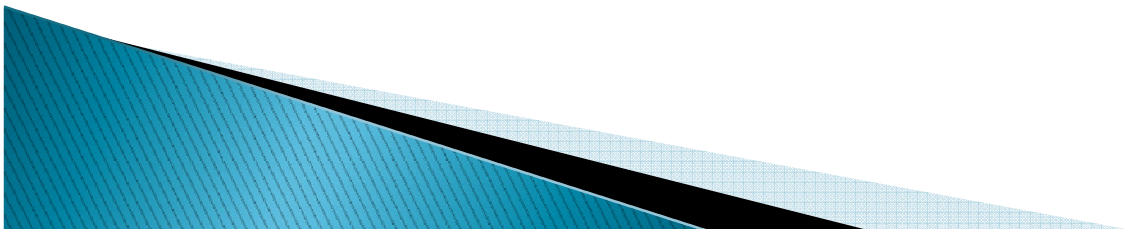
- ▶ Strong State = ability to fulfill basic tasks – defend territory, make and enforce rules and rights, manage economy, collect taxes, etc.
- ▶ Weak State = haphazard application of rules, widespread tax evasion and other forms of public non-compliance – armed rivals to state like rebel movements, organized crime, other states controlling parts of economy/territory
- ▶ Failed State = state structures becoming so weak that they breakdown





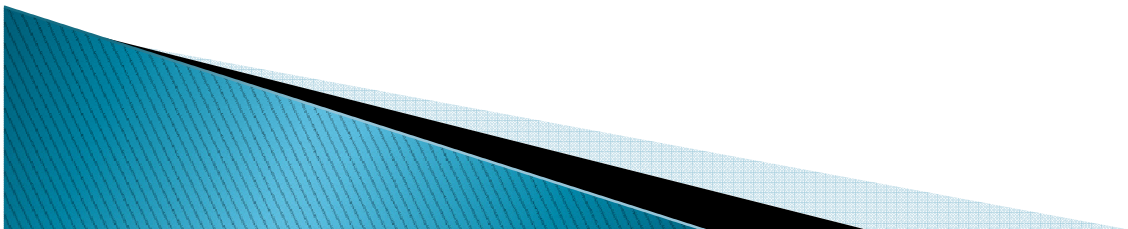
# Failed States

- ▶ [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/failed\\_states\\_index\\_2012\\_interactive](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/failed_states_index_2012_interactive)



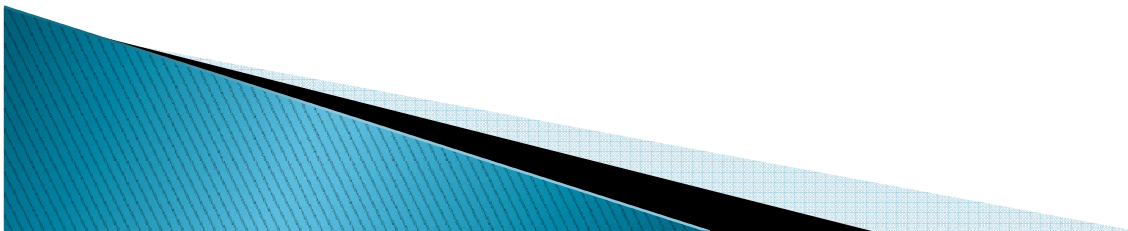
# State Capacity

- ▶ Ability of state to wield power to carry out basic tasks – provide security , balance freedom and equality, etc.
- ▶ State with high capacity – enact fundamental policies and provide security for itself and citizens – requires wealth, organization, legitimacy, effective leadership
- ▶ State with low capacity unable to do the above



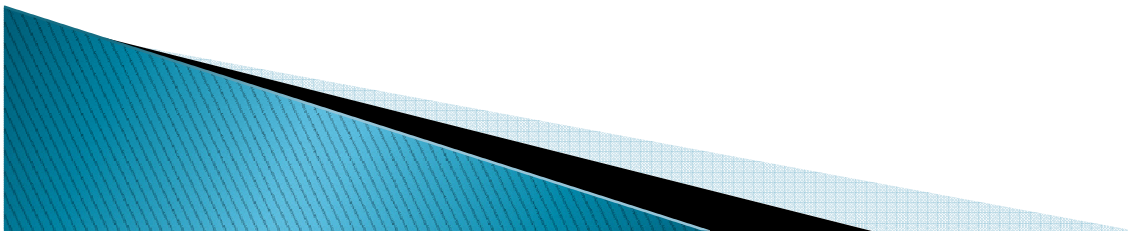
# State Autonomy

- ▶ Ability of state to wield power independently of domestic public or international actors + forces
- ▶ Autonomous state – acts without worrying about strong public or international opposition forcing it to reverse its position
- ▶ High degree of autonomy – state may act on behalf of public believing that in best interests of country, irrespective of public opinion
- ▶ Low degree of autonomy state will act at behest of powerful individuals or groups/classes or other states – unable to disobey public/power brokers



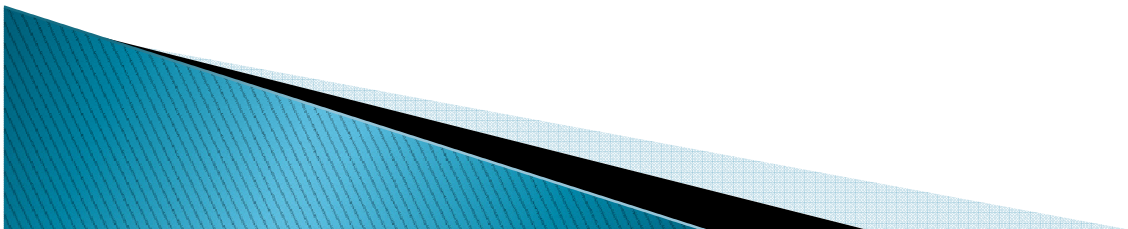
# Democracy

- ▶ Citizens enjoy civil and political rights and freedoms
- ▶ Leaders elected in “free and fair” elections where contestation for power is “open” process
- ▶ Government and society governed by “rule of law”
- ▶ Literal meaning = “government by the people”



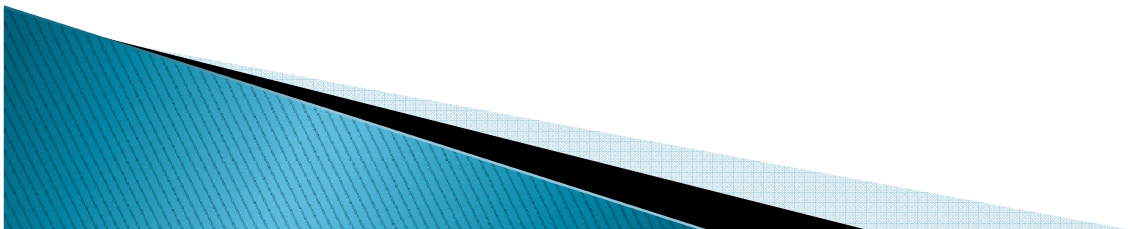
# Forms of Democracy

- ▶ Direct democracy = all citizens to participate in political decision making and vote on issues where majority rules
- ▶ Representative democracy = people choose representatives through elections – representatives constitute government which rules and legislates on peoples' behalf
- ▶ Guided democracy = forms of autocratic rule sanctioned by elections



# Separate Spheres

- ▶ Public Sphere = locale of political and authoritative decisions – these impact our lives in many ways – governed by law
- ▶ Private Sphere = “personal” domain of actions and decisions within families, social groups, among friends
- ▶ “Personal is Political” = slogan of the 1970s that rejected “separate spheres” and demanded private sphere be opened to public scrutiny and democratic governance



# Authoritarian Rule

- ▶ Lacks elements of democracy such as competitive elections
- ▶ Officials chosen by military, hereditary families, dominant political parties
- ▶ Citizens pressed into acceding to choice of ruler and government
- ▶ Shades of authoritarian rule = totalitarianism (North Korea), military rule (Myanmar), personal dictatorship (Mubarak, Kaddafi), party dictatorship (CCP, China)...

