

# PLS 140 Introduction to comparative politics

Week 2 – August 24  
State structure

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# Centenno vs Tilly

- Centenno questions Tilly's theory: War → Fiscal capacities (penetration, army, bureaucracy) → State.
- The model does not work in Latin America where State structures did not reach a minimum threshold.
- State precedes war.
- LA States unable to collect taxes.. not enough wealth!
- Income from extraction did not require bureaucratic development (customs revenues and international loans).
- The authorities met stiff resistance from powerful landowners.

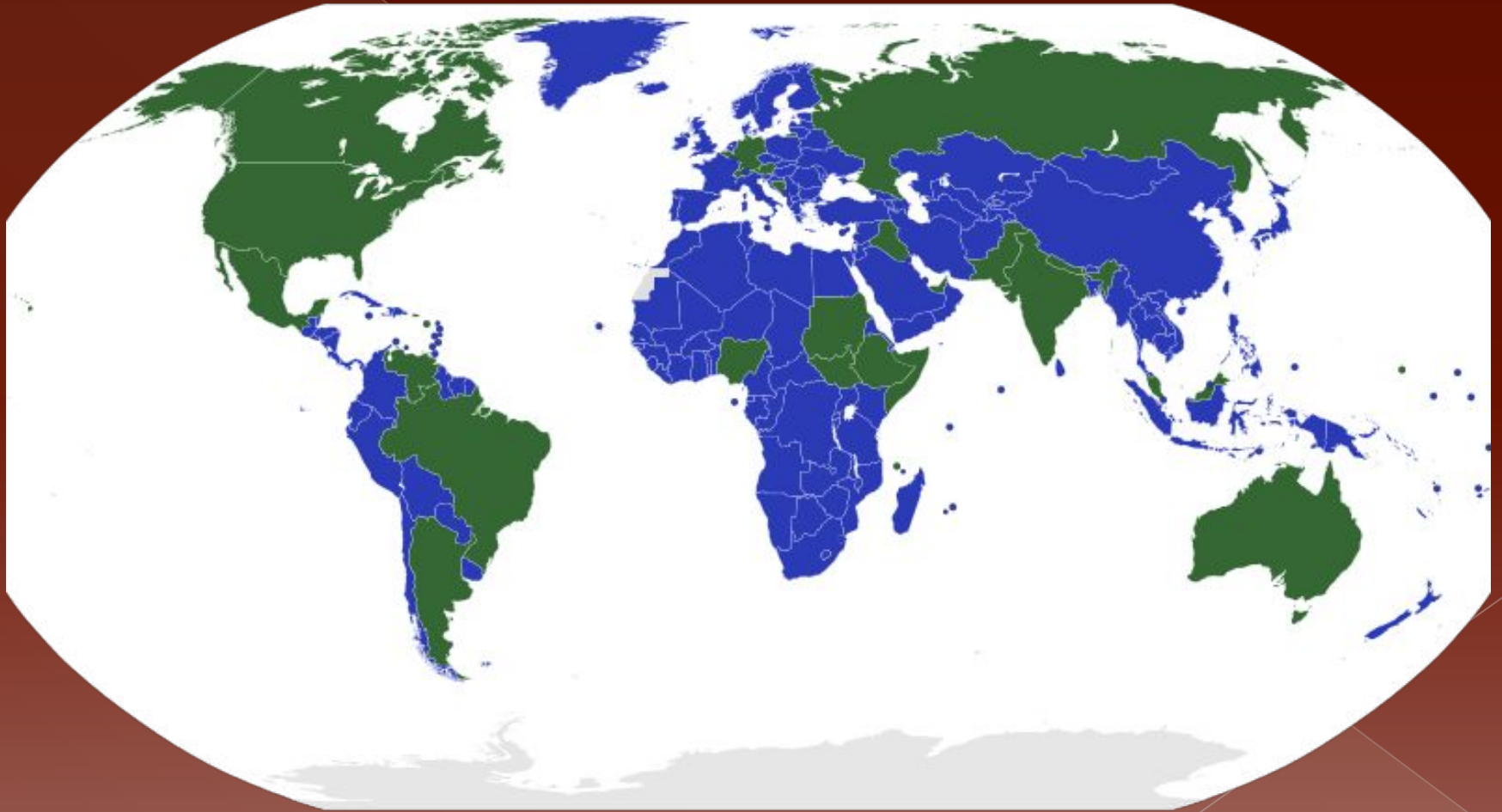
# Modern State power - Legitimacy

- When someone or something is recognized and accepted as right and proper.
- Confers authority and power so that people abides by laws.
- Reciprocal responsibilities.
- Without it, the State would have to constantly use force. Examples?

# Max Weber's typology

- **Traditional:** based on historical myths and continuity, institutionalized. Ex: British monarchy.
- **Charismatic:** based on the charisma of the leader and his/her ideas, +- institutionalized. Ex: Lenin, Gaddafi, Trump?
- **Rational-legal:** Based on neutral rules and procedures, highly institutionalized. Ex: elected presidents and parliaments.

# Centralization vs Decentralization



# Devolution of power

- ◉ Negotiated regional autonomy an effective antidote for ethnopolitical wars of secession in Western and Third World States.
- ◉ Provides religious, ethnic, and cultural minority groups with a political base in which they can control cultural and educational policies.

# Devolution of power

- **Federalism:** a system of government in which the same territory is controlled by two (or more) levels of government.
  - > Ex: Germany, United States, Mexico, India.
- **Asymmetric federalism:** Power is divided unevenly between bodies.
  - > Ex: Canada, Spain, Russia.





# Canada's asymmetric federalism

- 10 provinces, 3 territories.
- Provinces have their own elected parliaments and prime ministers.
- Separate spheres of competences.
- Taxation power.

# Canadian and provincial prime ministers



# Federal jurisdiction include:

- citizenship
- trade and commerce
- direct and indirect taxation
- currency
- the postal service
- national defence
- navigation, fisheries
- Aboriginals and Indian reserves
- official languages within the federal sphere,
- foreign affairs
- emergency powers in peace and war

# Provincial competencies

- Healthcare
- Education
- Culture
- Environment
- Transport
- Social security/care
- Sports
- For Québec only: international relations, immigration, pension plans.

# Problems with CA`s federalism

- Basic level: some administrative complications for citizens.
- Division over the allocation of resources: who gets what from the federal government?
- Blurred lines of respective competences.
- Endless constitutional debates.
- Political rivalry and resentment between provinces.
- Undermines national unity?

# Devolution gone wrong

- ◉ Political entrepreneurs can use the resources of the administrative unit and the bureaucracy to advance a nationalist cause.
  - > Ex: Québec, Catalonia, Scotland.
- ◉ Easier when they receive external support.
  - > Ex: Ossetia, Abkhazia, Kosovo.

# Unitary systems

- Central/national government has complete authority over other political divisions or administrative units.
- Local governing bodies serve as administrative arms of the central government.
- Of the 193 UN member states, 165 of them are unitary States.

# KZ`s unitary State

- 14 Provinces and 2 municipal districts (Almaty and Astana).
- Akim is appointed by the president. Municipal Akims are appointed by Province Akims.



# Pro et contra

## ○ Pro

- > Clear rules → Efficiency and promptness.
- > Political unity.

## ○ Contra

- > Potential absence of local democracy.
- > Likelihood of local interests not represented.
- > Risks of authoritarian practices.