

WEEK 3

Nation and the State

- **What is Nation and what is State?**
- **State, its types and arrangement: unitary and federal**

State vs Nation:

- *Some may believe that **the state** and **nation** are the same..., or quite similar concepts...*
- *In political science, we have to be careful in making the difference between the two*

State(s):



The State and states:

- *Meaning of the “state”*
- I a state – a) a country; b) as a unit /subject of international relations
- II the State – (more abstract) as a national “meta” institution
- (III a state – as a unit of internal subdivision of a state /country - e.g. states comprising the U.S.A.)

State(s):

- **state** (*a general definition*):
- a complex political organization
and
- the combination of people, territory, & sovereign government
 - *for more specific characteristics, see next slides*

The State (optional):

- *That means that **the state***
 - *can be defined*
 - *(a) by its internal attributes & functions*
- and /or*
- *(b) by its external attributes, based on its relationships in the international system*

Attributes of the state:

- most important internal attributes (characteristics) of the state:
- 1. **a territory** (bounded by the **internationally recognized border**)
- 2. **population** (permanently settled)
- 3. **constitution & government** (the political system & central administration)
- 4. organized **economy & some services** provided by the state
- 5. unified **communication** /transport **infrastructure**, *serving the above*

International attributes of the State:

- 1. international **border** recognized by other states
- 2. **sovereignty** (independence) in the international system (& recognition of this sovereignty)
- 3. **external relations** (& diplomacy), *and*
- 4. **national defense**
- **States are historical creations!**

The rise of the modern State:

- What do you know about **the rise of the modern State** (i.e. state as we know it today)?
- the evolution of the **European model** had its milestone when “Westphalian” Treaties were signed at the end of the **Thirty Years' War**
 - these states contained fundamentals of statehood and nationhood
 - developed established central administration, standing armies, fixed borders; rules of international relations

The State vs. Nation:

- How the **State** differs from **Nation**?
- a **nation** is usually defined in **cultural terms**: it is a larger group of people with common language, culture, religion, and unifying perception of their unique history and origins...
- While the state is defined rather in the **political and administrative** terms...

The State vs. Nation:

- **ethnic vs. civic nation**

- ethnic n. based on ethnicity (Japan)
- civic n. based on citizenship (American)

The State vs. Nation:

- How the **State** differs from **Nation**?
- a nation may be larger than a state
- countries that are states but not nations (?)
- many nations do not have their state

[examples]

Nations without the state – the Kurds:



The State vs. Nation (optional):

- *problems with definitions of some concepts:*
- **ethnicity, nationality... identity...**
- these are not completely objective categories... the role played by self-identification
- often depends on how the person feel about it (self-identification)

X

- **citizenship** – a more objective category: relates to the state of which a person is a citizen

The Nation-State:

- *There another important concept: **the nation-state***
- (= fusion of 2 different principles of state and nation)
- = 1. state with a single predominant national identity
- = 2. the principle on which modern states are built
- the nation-state became the world model some time in the 17-18th c. the notion of the nation-state took hold
- *even in best cases, states are only approximation to an ideal nation-state...*
- **we are now living in the age of the nation-states** , but
 - declining importance of nations-state in the era of globalization (?)

Classifications of states:

- **classifications of states** – are many:
- *i.e. we can classify states by:*
- geographic location, shape, size, population, economic power, etc.
- *We will mention only some characteristics by which we may classify states... Be able to provide examples for all of we mention!*

Types of states (I):

- **different classification of states:**
 - a) by **location**
 - b) by **age** (compare France vs. Slovenia)
 - c) by **size** (large vs. ‘ministates’)
 - d) by **# of population**
 - e) by its **economic power**
 - f) by **level of development** (developing x developed)
 - g) by its **political system / arrangements**

Types of states (II):

- by **political system / arrangements:**
- *States are organized differently...*
- *they may have different political systems...*
- *different forms of governments....*
- *different territorial arrangements...*

Types of states (II):

- *thus, there may be:*
- **democracies** or non-democracies
- **republics** vs. **monarchies**
- **unitary** (e.g. France) vs. **federal** states (Germany, U.S., India)
- *also:*
 - parliamentary vs. presidential systems (semi-presidential: France)
 - different electoral systems (“majority” vs. “proportional”, + many variants)

Forms of State:

- **Forms of State** (formal distinction):
- **monarchy** – hereditary rule by one person (king, queen, czar...): many European states are “modern constitutional monarchies” (e.g. U.K., Spain, Sweden, Netherlands)
- **republic** – a political system without a monarch (most of the world’s countries)



Images of Britain:
The Queen Elizabeth
II – she is liked by
most of the
population but has
almost no political
power...



Classifications of states:

- *By different political –territorial arrangements...*
- **unitary vs. federal states [vs. confederations?]**
 - How they differ?
- *Be able to tell whether major states are unitary states or federations!*

Unitary states & federations:

- **unitary vs. federal systems**
- **unitary** - a system of government in which a single sovereign government rules the country, which is not divided in (semi) autonomous units
- **federal** - sovereignty is decentralized /divided between a central (or national) government and several provincial or state governments with many self-governing policies
 - these provinces often run their own education, health-care, social systems, etc. – as determined by the constitution

Optional



*Especially in democracies,
federal arrangements have
many political implications...*

Federal Republic of Germany – Bundesländer

Each of the 16 federal
subjects has its own
constitution and
parliament...

The individual
Bundesländer have
fundamental
responsibility for
education, the media,
internal security & order
(police), etc.

State and devolution (optional):

- *State and devolution*
- What is **devolution**?
- a process by which more autonomy / power is granted to individual regions within a state
 - for instance, the U.K. government is giving increasing powers to Scotland & Wales...

Devolution in the U.K.:



State and devolution (optional):

- *Other examples of devolution / devolved Government:*
- **Spain:** greater autonomy desired by & granted to Basques and province of Catalonia

Confederations: Switzerland - a special case:



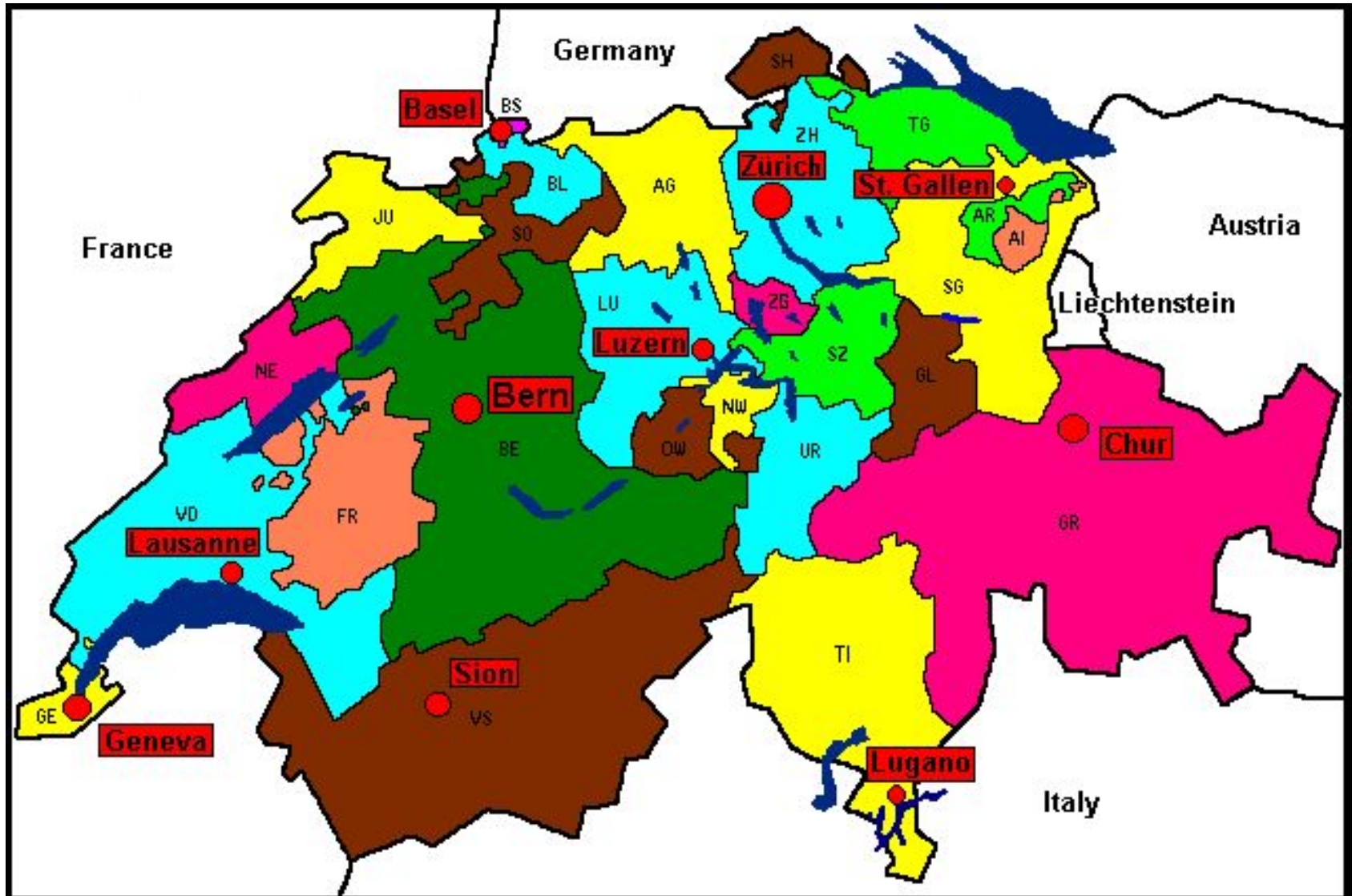
Switzerland is often
called
a “**confederation**”

Confoederatio Helvetica

Switzerland – a confederation:

- Switzerland has some unique features of the political system...:
 - **1. significant regional autonomy of cantons**
 - 26 cantons (some very small); all have their own constitution
 - each canton enjoys virtual sovereignty over most issues, incl. taxation

Map of Switzerland – cantons:



Switzerland:

- **2. participatory (semi-direct) democracy**
- there are many mandatory referenda each year on proposed laws (or bylaws) for approval or disapproval by the citizens...

Unitary!



Seminar (optional):

- *What kind of federation is Russia?*
- [a very asymmetrical one, and changing...]

Russia – a very asymmetrical federation (optional):

