



Introduction to Political Science

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Week 3: The Modern State

Main Concepts

- State: political unit with ultimate sovereignty (i.e. responsibility and right to conduct its own affairs)
- Nation: a large group of people who recognize themselves as bound by culture
- Government: key part of the state, group of people with authority to act on behalf of the state

(Shively 2012)

Development of Modern State

- www.geacron.com
- States existed (and changed) but they were
 - Less important for their people (?)
 - Less powerful (?)
- Modern European states developed since 17 century (Peace of Westphalia)
- Choice and power explanation of the origin of the modern state.

State, Nation, Nation-State

- State and nation are not the same: one is *political* unit, the other one is *cultural*.
 - Why are they so often linked and used interchangeably?
 - What happens when state and nation do not coincide?
- Nationalism
- National self-determination right

ATTENTION: NEW RULE!

Please introduce yourself when making a contribution to class discussion



And please don't get upset if I confuse you at
fists. There are 55 of you and only 1 of me

State-Building and Challenges

- Began in Armenia in 1991
- Can go wrong: failed states
- Challenges from above: international community, terrorism, globalisation
- Challenges from below: separatist movements

Some More Concepts

- Public good: something that benefits all members of community but no one can be excluded from using it.
- Autonomous state
- Civil society

(Shively 2012)

FOR DISCUSSION

- Are states becoming less important in the 21st century?
- Is nationalism good or bad for Armenia? Why good, why bad?