

**States**  
Prof. Marie-Eve Reny  
Thursday, 13:25, room 1146

This seminar introduces graduate students to the concept of the state, theories of modern state formation, theories of variation in state capacity, and perspectives on the impact of globalisation on the state.

**Course requirements**

Our sessions will centre on discussions on assigned weekly readings. Readings are meant to speak to each other, either by building upon each other's theories or contradicting one another. Students will be asked to identify scholars' arguments and talk about how they support their argument empirically. Seminars are meant at developing students' ability to think critically about the material they read. They are thus strongly encouraged to think about readings' main contributions and the limits of their theories, where applicable.

Students are required to do all the readings before attending class. Active participation is essential to doing well in this course.

**Final Grade**

*Two assignments*

Students are required to write a critical review of weekly readings of their choice twice. Each review is worth 45% of the final grade. All weekly readings listed on the syllabus should be reviewed in one essay. Essays should not exceed ten double-space pages. Reviews should: 1) summarise scholars' argument; 2) emphasise their empirical, theoretical and/or methodological contributions and limits; and 3) say how readings relate to one another. They might for instance build upon each other's argument or challenge one another. If so, in what way?

*Presentations*

Every week, students should team up to present the material to be discussed in class. Presentations should be no more than 20 minutes, and should introduce scholars' research questions, arguments, and talk about the strengths and weaknesses of their contributions.

*Participation*

Participation is worth 10% of the final grade. Students should attend every class and actively take part in weekly discussions.

### **The state: 7 March**

Nettl, J. P. 1968. "The State as a Conceptual Variable", *World Politics*, vol. 20, 559-592.

Nordlinger, Eric, Theodore Lowi and Sergio Fabbrini. 1988. "The Return to the State: Critiques", *American Political Science Review*, vol. 82, 875-885.

Mitchell, Timothy. 1991. "The Limits of the State: Beyond Statist Approaches and Their Critics", *American Political Science Review*, vol. 85, 77-96.

### **Wars and state-making: 14 March**

Tilly, Charles. 1985. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime", in Peter Evans, Dietrich Ruschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol (ed.), *Bringing the State Back In*. Cambridge University Press, 169-191.

Rodriguez-Franco, Diana. 2016. "Internal Wars, Taxation, and State-Building", *American Sociological Review*, vol. 81, 190-213.

Kiser, Edgar and Yong Cai. 2003. "War and Bureaucratization in Qin China: Exploring an Anomalous Case", *American Sociological Review*, vol. 68, 511-539.

Levi, Margaret. 1996. "The Institution of Conscription", *Social Science History*, vol. 20, 133-167.

### **Critiques of wars as state-making: 21 March**

Gongora, Thierry. 1997. "War Making and State Power in the Contemporary Middle East", *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, vol. 29, 323-340.

Lu, Lingyu and Cameron G. Thies. 2013. "War, Rivalry, and State Building in the Middle East", *Political Research Quarterly*, vol. 66, 239-253.

Herbst, Jeffrey. 1990. "War and the State in Africa", *International Security*, vol. 14, 117-139.

Sorensen, George. 2001. "War and State-Making: Why Doesn't It Work in the Third World?"

*Security Dialogue*, vol. 32, 341-354.

Taylor, Brian D. and Roxana Botea. 2008. "Tilly Tally: War-Making and State-Making in the Contemporary Third World", *International Studies Review*, vol. 10, 27-56.

### **Economic and religious perspectives on the origins of states: 28 March**

Spruyt, Hendrik. 2007. "War, Trade, and State Formation", in Carles Boix and Susan C. Stokes, *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*. Oxford University Press, 211-235.

Abramson, Scott F. 2016. "The Economic Origins of the Territorial State", *International Organization*, vol. 71, 97-130.

Grzymala-Busse, Anna. 2020. "Beyond War and Contracts: The Medieval and Religious Roots of the European State", *Annual Review of Political Science*, vol. 23, 19-36.

Gorski, Philip S. 1993. "The Protestant Ethic Revisited: Disciplinary Revolution and State Formation in Holland and Prussia", *American Journal of Sociology*, vol. 99, 265-316.

#### **Variation in state capacity: 4 April**

Mann, Michael. 1984. "The autonomous power of the state: its origins, mechanisms and results", *European Journal of Sociology*, vol. 25, 185-213.

Evans, Peter. 1989. "Predatory, Developmental, and Other Apparatuses: A Comparative Political Economy Perspective on the Third World State", *Sociological Forum*, vol. 4, 561-587.

Kohli, Atul. 2004. *State-Directed Development: Political Power and Industrialization in the Global Periphery*. Cambridge University Press, Introduction, 1-15.

Doner, Richard F., Bryan K. Ritchie, and Dan Slater. 2005. "Systemic Vulnerability and the Origins of Developmental States: Northeast and Southeast Asia in Comparative Perspective", *International Organization*, vol. 59, 327-361.

#### **Weak states: 11 April**

Bates, Robert H. 2008. "State Failure", *Annual Review of Political Science*, vol. 11, 1-12.

Jackson, Robert H. and Carl G. Rosberg. 1986. "Sovereignty and Underdevelopment: Juridical Statehood in the African Crisis", *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, vol. 24, 1-31.

Ezrow, Natasha and Eric Frantz. 2013. "Revisiting the Concept of the Failed State: Bringing the State Back In", *Third World Quarterly*, vol. 34, 1323-1338.

Slater, Dan and Diana Kim. 2015. "Standoffish States: Nonliterate Leviathans in Southeast Asia", *TRaNS: Trans-Regional and -National Studies of Southeast Asia*, vol. 3, no. 1, 25-44.

#### **States and Globalization: 18 April**

Mann, Michael. 1997. "Has globalization ended the rise of the nation-state?" *Review of International Political Economy*, vol. 4, 472-496.

Evans, Peter. 1997. "The Eclipse of the State? Reflections on Stateness in an Era of Globalization", *World Politics*, vol. 50, 62-87.

Helleiner, Eric. 1995. "Explaining the Globalization of Financial Markets: Bringing States Back In", *Review of International Political Economy*, vol. 2, 315-341.

Schmidt, Vivien A. "Putting the State Back into Political Economy by Bringing the State Back in Yet Again", *World Politics*, vol. 61, 516-546.