

CHAPTER 2: States

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Political scientists, based on the work of Max Weber, define the *state* as
 - a. a small regional unit within a country, found only under federalism.
 - b. an organization that maintains a monopoly of violence over a territory.
 - c. the basic rules and norms of politics.
 - d. any condition that leads to political action.

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: Defining the State OBJ: Understand the concept of the state as a central institution in comparative politics. MSC: Remembering

2. *Sovereignty* is primarily defined as the ability of
 - a. individuals to vote freely in elections without restriction by the state or external actors.
 - b. individuals to depend on laws and regulations to be enforced with impartiality.
 - c. states to carry out actions or policies within a territory independent of external actors or internal rivals.
 - d. states to influence other actors in the international system by means of physical, cultural, or economic force.

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: Defining the State OBJ: Understand the concept of the state as a central institution in comparative politics. MSC: Remembering

3. The modern state spread throughout the world primarily through
 - a. increased international commerce and trade.
 - b. colonial dominance imposed by European states.
 - c. the spread of philosophical treatises by European thinkers.
 - d. a centuries-long process of wars and indigenous development of the state.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: The Rise of the Modern State OBJ: Understand the concept of the state as a central institution in comparative politics. MSC: Remembering

4. Which of the following can be said about the concept of a regime?
 - a. A regime is a set of political institutions that generate and carry out policy.
 - b. Regimes are most often transformed slowly by the evolving legislative and social preferences of citizens.
 - c. A regime guides the state regarding individual freedom and collective equality, where power should reside, and how power should be used.
 - d. A regime may consist of democratically elected legislators, presidents, and prime ministers, or it may be made up of leaders who gained office through force.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: Defining the State OBJ: Explain how regimes serve as the fundamental rules and norms of politics. MSC: Understanding

5. Thomas Hobbes believed that people gave up their rights to the coercive power of the state in order to
- seek greater equality between peoples.
 - gain religious freedom.
 - escape anarchy.
 - escape authoritarianism.

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: Defining the State OBJ: Understand the concept of the state as a central institution in comparative politics. MSC: Remembering

6. Which of the following might be a characteristic of a state with low autonomy?
- a limited ability to disobey the public
 - freedom from a state of “capture”
 - government pursuit of the best interests of the country, despite public opinion
 - a tendency to resist the interests of well-organized groups

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: Comparing State Power OBJ: Analyze how states can vary in autonomy and capacity, and how this can shape their power. MSC: Understanding

7. *Government* can be defined as
- a body that monopolizes violence, such as the army and police.
 - the leadership that runs the state.
 - bureaucrats who manage the paperwork and policies of the state.
 - any individual elected to office.

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: Defining the State OBJ: Distinguish the concept of government as the leadership in charge of running the state. MSC: Remembering

8. *Country* is a shorthand term for the combination of
- regime, government, nation.
 - nation, state, ideology.
 - territory, regime, state.
 - regime, state, government.

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: Defining the State OBJ: Distinguish the concept of government as the leadership in charge of running the state. MSC: Remembering

9. In which of the following ways does a government built primarily on charismatic legitimacy differ from one based on traditional legitimacy?
- Charismatic legitimacy is much more likely to transform into rational-legal legitimacy.
 - Charismatic legitimacy has a better chance of being institutionalized.
 - Charismatic legitimacy would likely be much shorter-lived.
 - Charismatic legitimacy increases in power more from length of office than does traditional legitimacy.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: Comparing State Power OBJ: Compare different forms of political legitimacy: charismatic, traditional, and rational-legal. MSC: Applying

10. Which one of the following accurately reflects the order of concepts from weakly institutionalized to highly institutionalized?
- state, regime, government
 - regime, government, state
 - government, state, regime
 - government, regime, state

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: Defining the State OBJ: Understand the concept of the state as a central institution in comparative politics. MSC: Understanding

11. *Asymmetric federalism* refers to a system in which power is divided unevenly between
- federal departments or authorities.
 - regional bodies.
 - national and federal bodies.
 - federal and judicial authorities.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: Comparing State Power OBJ: Analyze how states can vary in autonomy and capacity, and how this can shape their power. MSC: Remembering

12. Charles Tilly suggests that the modern state beat out rival forms of political organization primarily because it
- linked religious authority to political authority.
 - settled near trade routes.
 - staked out an area, consolidated power, taxed its subjects, and defended its territory.
 - developed the means by which groups could defend themselves through state building.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: The Rise of the Modern State OBJ: Understand the concept of the state as a central institution in comparative politics. MSC: Remembering

13. Recent research suggests that the rise of political organizations came about in large part because of
- the rise of monotheistic religions.
 - the extreme violence of pre-state societies.
 - writing as an innovation.
 - the expansion of slavery.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: The Origins of Political Organization OBJ: Understand the concept of the state as a central institution in comparative politics. MSC: Remembering

14. The emergence of the modern state followed what specific developments?
- the rise of the Chinese Empire
 - the collapse of the Roman Empire and the European Dark Ages
 - the expansion of European empires around the globe
 - the development of the Mayan and Incan empires

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: The Origins of Political Organization OBJ:

Understand the concept of the state as a central institution in comparative politics. MSC:
Remembering

15. Which of the following is most likely a reason for the emergence of the modern state in Europe rather than elsewhere?
- the absence of significant internal geographic boundaries
 - the guidance of the Roman Empire in government formation
 - the presence of impressive farming and war-making technologies
 - the collapse of the Roman Empire and the rise of a form of organized crime

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: The Rise of the Modern State OBJ: Understand
the concept of the state as a central institution in comparative politics. MSC: Understanding

16. The development of the modern state in Europe was partly encouraged by
- linguistic and ethnic fragmentation.
 - the leadership of the Holy Roman Emperor.
 - lucrative trade with Africa.
 - the Crusades.

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: The Rise of the Modern State OBJ: Understand
the concept of the state as a central institution in comparative politics. MSC: Remembering

17. The modern state eventually supplanted which system of economic organization?
- city-states focused on trade
 - farming and agricultural model
 - feudalism
 - mercantilism

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: The Rise of the Modern State OBJ: Understand
the concept of the state as a central institution in comparative politics. MSC: Understanding

18. An institution that is recognized and accepted as right and proper by the public is seen as
- sovereign.
 - legitimate.
 - rational.
 - despotic.

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: Comparing State Power OBJ: Compare different
forms of political legitimacy: charismatic, traditional, and rational-legal. MSC: Remembering

19. Max Weber's three forms of political legitimacy are
- traditional, charismatic, and rational-legal.
 - traditional, charismatic, and technocratic.
 - technocratic, democratic, and authoritarian.
 - authoritarian, democratic, and revolutionary.

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: Comparing State Power OBJ: Compare different

forms of political legitimacy: charismatic, traditional, and rational-legal. MSC: Remembering

20. Which of the following statements about the development and spread of the modern state is accurate?
- Many states were able to use ethnicity as a nationalizing force even as people began to define themselves less through characteristics like religion or town of residence.
 - The rapid spread of states reduced the ability of individuals and groups to eliminate political rivals, leading to greater political violence.
 - The increased warfare resulting from the rise of modern states in Europe restricted technological innovation for centuries.
 - China's inability to forge a powerful state structure before Europe led to its marginalization in world affairs for over a thousand years.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: The Origins of Political Organization OBJ: Understand the concept of the state as a central institution in comparative politics. MSC: Understanding

21. The legitimacy of modern states is primarily derived from
- tradition.
 - charisma.
 - rational-legal authority.
 - technological specialization.

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: Comparing State Power OBJ: Compare different forms of political legitimacy—charismatic, traditional, and rational-legal. MSC: Remembering

22. The text suggests that the difficulty of amending the U.S. Constitution is evidence of the power of
- rational-legal legitimacy.
 - traditional legitimacy.
 - federalism.
 - charismatic legitimacy.

ANS: B DIF: Difficult REF: Comparing State Power OBJ: Compare different forms of political legitimacy—charismatic, traditional, and rational-legal. MSC: Remembering

23. Which of the following characteristics is more likely to be seen in a federalist state than a unitary state?
- concentration of power in a central government
 - underrepresentation of ethnic minorities
 - limited local policy making
 - devolution of taxation to regional bodies

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: Comparing State Power OBJ: Analyze how states can vary in autonomy and capacity, and how this can shape their power. MSC: Applying

24. *Capacity* can be defined as the
- ability of the state to wield power to carry out the basic tasks of providing security and reconciling freedom and equality.

- b. ability of the state to use its legitimacy to raise revenue and encourage adherence to rules and regulations.
- c. state's ability to influence international actors either through military force or diplomatic means.
- d. level of economic modernization of a country.

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: Comparing State Power OBJ: Analyze how states can vary in autonomy and capacity, and how this can shape their power. MSC: Remembering

25. Which of the following statements about the top twenty failed or fragile states is accurate?

- a. None is a European country.
- b. Most of the countries are extremely poor.
- c. Most of the countries were previously colonies.
- d. All of these statements are correct.

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: Comparing State Power OBJ: Compare different forms of political legitimacy—charismatic, traditional, and rational-legal. MSC: Remembering

26. Which of the following statements about Pakistan's slide toward state failure is accurate?

- a. Pakistan's lack of a central government at the time of formation may have contributed to its continued weakness.
- b. Central authority in Pakistan is too strong, leading to the formation of rebellious military groups on its borders.
- c. Constant warfare has led to a weak Pakistani military that is unable to provide sufficient state support.
- d. The first Pakistani leadership regime was too strongly institutionalized after independence.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: Comparing State Power OBJ: Analyze how states can vary in autonomy and capacity, and how this can shape their power. MSC: Understanding

27. Which of the following is a common argument for a centralized, unitary state (with no federalism or devolution of power)?

- a. A centralized state increases economic productivity.
- b. More centralized power enhances the legitimacy of ethnic groups.
- c. Local interests can be effectively represented without recourse to regional political institutions.
- d. A centralized state will have more legitimacy and sovereignty.

ANS: C DIF: Difficult REF: Comparing State Power OBJ: Compare different forms of political legitimacy—charismatic, traditional, and rational-legal. MSC: Understanding

28. A small state government successfully makes major changes to its public education policy out of belief that it is the best thing for the people, even though the public largely opposes the new policy. At the same time, the state proves largely incapable of maintaining law and order or providing food and medical care in a region that is suffering through a drought. In which of the following ways could this state be categorized?

- a. high-capacity, high-autonomy state
- b. low-capacity, high-autonomy state

- c. high-capacity, low-autonomy state
- d. low-capacity, low-autonomy state

ANS: B DIF: Difficult REF: Comparing State Power OBJ: Analyze how states can vary in autonomy and capacity, and how this can shape their power. MSC: Applying

29. Russia is a good example of a state with
- a. high capacity but low autonomy.
 - b. low capacity but high autonomy.
 - c. high capacity and high autonomy.
 - d. low capacity and low autonomy.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: Comparing State Power OBJ: Analyze how states can vary in autonomy and capacity, and how this can shape their power. MSC: Understanding

30. States with high capacity *and* high autonomy are
- a. unable to provide basic services.
 - b. typically democratic.
 - c. running the risk of threatening individual freedom.
 - d. more likely to provoke public unrest.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: Comparing State Power OBJ: Analyze how states can vary in autonomy and capacity, and how this can shape their power. MSC: Remembering

ESSAY

1. What is the “state” and what are its primary features?

ANS:

A good answer will include Weber’s definition of the state as a “monopoly of force over a given territory” as well as a discussion of sovereignty, legitimacy, and the state’s institutional role in policy making.

DIF: Moderate REF: Defining the State OBJ: Understand the concept of the state as a central institution in comparative politics. MSC: Understanding

2. How is a regime different from a government? What are the components that make up the regime of the United States?

ANS:

A good answer will clearly define the difference between the two—rules and norms (regime) versus the leadership that runs the state (government). Secondly, a good answer will specify components of the U.S. regime—constitution, court decisions, popular sovereignty, elections, federalism, etc.

DIF: Moderate REF: Defining the State OBJ: Explain how regimes serve as the fundamental rules and norms of politics. MSC: Evaluating

3. Describe Weber's three forms of political legitimacy. Is one of them more associated with the modern state than the others? Briefly describe how each form of legitimacy is represented in the U.S. government.

ANS:

A good answer will list traditional, charismatic, and rational-legal legitimacy, explain that rational-legal is most closely associated with the modern state, and then note examples of each form in the United States. Examples include traditional—"In God We Trust" motto on money; charismatic—the role of oration and skilled campaigning in elections; rational-legal—bureaucratic rules and procedures.

DIF: Difficult REF: Comparing State Power OBJ: Compare different forms of political legitimacy—charismatic, traditional, and rational-legal. MSC: Analyzing

4. How is power typically divided in a federal system? What conditions in a country are most likely to lead to a system of asymmetric federalism?

ANS:

A good answer will describe how certain powers (taxation, security, legislation) are dispersed to regional/local jurisdictions following rules typically specified in a state's constitution. Asymmetric federalism, or the distribution of power unevenly among certain regional bodies, is most common among states with greater ethnic or linguistic diversity.

DIF: Moderate REF: Comparing State Power OBJ: Analyze how states can vary in autonomy and capacity, and how this can shape their power. MSC: Understanding

5. Do you live under a weak or strong state? How do the concepts of autonomy and capacity help in thinking about the categories of strong and weak?

ANS:

A good answer will discuss the categories of strong and weak in terms of variation in autonomy (ability/power to act independently) and capacity (ability of the state to ensure basic security and stability). A good answer will also note types of activities that states with high/low capacity and/or high/low autonomy engage in on a regular basis and states that may serve as good examples of each.

DIF: Difficult REF: Comparing State Power OBJ: Analyze how states can vary in autonomy and capacity, and how this can shape their power. MSC: Evaluating