

Chapter 15 Outline Notes
State Organization and National Power

- Belief that the number of countries will surpass 200
- Inequality a mirage due to state size and economic prosperity/disparity

Large-scale Influences on State Power

- Difficult to measure the relative power of states
- Important long-term effect is a country's global patterns of economic and political power
- Europe took advantage with its internal political power and expanded

Colonialism:

- Expanded Europe into non-European world
- Height of colonialism came during the 18th and 19th centuries
- Britain, France, Portugal, Dutch, and Belgium consolidated holdings
- Russia and Japan had large colonial powers
- Russia was large and contiguous (sold Alaskan holdings to the US)
- Japan was late to the scene

- Gained control through politics, economics, and military organization
 - When their organization failed, they suffered loss of land
 - Russia is a perfect example in the Far East
- Colonial powers were ruthless and set up the land for exploitation
 - Can see the power of colonial rule in that entire populations of an area were regimented in the service of the colonial ruler
 - Flow of raw materials benefited the colonial power
- Can still see the evidence of colonial rule (mines, railroads, ports, plantations)
 - Even though former colonies are independent, still see the influences of their former rulers (French empire)
- One of the most powerful impacts of colonialism was the construction of a global order characterized by great differences in economic and political power
- Large colonial empires didn't guarantee economic or political dominance
 - Much poverty
- Concentration of wealth brought by colonialism is at the heart of the highly uneven global distribution of power

Economic Dimensions of Power:

- Important to recognize that the capacity of states to influence the economic trends, to buy and sell strategic commodities, and to control the assets of major international actors are integral to the exercise of political power on the world stage
- Economic strength helps greatly
- Colonialism played a role in bringing together the economies of widely separated areas—giving birth to an economic order that was large-scale and highly differentiated
 - Able to create a great concentration of wealth

- Being a colonial power doesn't necessarily mean that it will be an economic power
 - Switzerland, Singapore, and Australia are examples for they were never colonial powers
 - Had good positions on a global economy
 - Great networks of production, consumption, and exchange with the wealthiest parts of the world
- Can understand the significance of a country's position and its projection of power
 - Look at the size of a state's economy
 - Understanding that countries are interconnected
- Important to view states in relation to one another (World-Systems Analysis)
 - An interlocked system of states
- Say the world is divided into 3 basic tiers: global economic core (driver's seat); periphery (little economic autonomy); and semi-periphery (keeps the world from being polarized between two extremes)
 - Not static tiers
 - See the world as a system of interlinking parts in which in order to understand one, you must look at the others

Geopolitics:

- Friedrich Ratzel: studied spatial aspects of state behavior within a system of states
 - Says that the state resembles a biological organism whose life cycle extends from birth through maturity and ultimately death
 - State requires nourishment to prolong its life
 - Space is a state's essential, life-giving force
 - Theory of organic theory (that the state functions like an organism)
- Rise of geopolitics (subfield of political geography)
 - Led to the expansion of Nazi philosophies in 1930s
 - Karl Haushofer a strong advocate for geopolitics
- Came with negative connotations after WWII that many would not associate themselves with the term

Heartland Theory:

- Sir Halford Mackinder ("Geographical Pivot of History")
 - Very intensely debated publications of its time
- Concerned when Britain gained global empire through its navy
- Many thought that the key to global power was through the oceans
- Mackinder said that it was through land-based power that empires will rule
 - Claimed that Eurasia heart was a resource-rich "pivot area"
 - Said this would be the base of world conquest
 - Called this the heartland theory
- Nobody foresaw this because Russia was in disarray
- When Russia emerged during WWII, theory gained renewed attention

Rimland Theory:

- Critic of Mackinder was Nicholas Spykman
- Argued that Eurasia's rim, not heartland was key to global power

- A zone that is fragmented and unlikely to fall under the sway of one superpower
- Today this area is still fragmented

Recent Developments:

- 19th century saw many competing for global powers (UK, France, Germany, Russia, US, and Japan)
- Saw two global wars WWI (1914-1918) and WWII (1939-1945)
- WWI resulted from combating colonial empires (Germans and Allies fought in East Africa and elsewhere)
- WWII moved southward and eastward beyond Europe and involved the US and Japan
- Results of WWII: US and Soviet Union emerged
 - Many European colonial powers never gained its initial status
 - Remained fragmented
 - US tried to help Europe with its Marshall Plan and Japan through its postwar administration
- World was divided between capitalist and communist powers
- Soviet Union dominated almost all of the heartland like Mackinder defined
 - Underestimated the lands outside this realm
 - US the only surviving superpower after the fall of the Soviet Union (1990s)
- Extrastate powers confined the US as evident through 2001 bombings
- Looks like its dominance in world affairs may be short-lived due to the outlines of a new multipolar world
 - Emerging in which the heartland and the rimland are represented by power cores
 - Russia: possesses an enormous military complex and major resources
 - Europe: dive toward integration and unification
 - China: economic growth of eastern provinces
 - US: fighting China across the Pacific
- Multipolar world has some similarities with Mackinder's prediction: the unstable multi-polar world leaves much potential for conflict

The Character of State Territory:

- Over half the world's states have populations below 5 million
- Almost 50 have fewer than 1 million
- Easy to assume that smaller populated states have less influence/power
 - Contradicted with Singapore (small yet has extreme significance)
- China growing at a huge rate (7%) and everyone else is growing between 1-3%
 - Even rulers are trying to restrain growth
- Beginning of 21st century, China's economy was behind the US and Japan
 - 2002, showed that the individuals of China earning a fraction of what US and Japanese individuals were earning
- There is no "ideal" population size of a nation
- Must consider people's capacities for organization in light of local circumstances, along with their position in the global political and economic order

Core Areas:

- Most influential European states grew from a core area expanding into regional entity and absorbing territory along their frontiers
 - Expansion halted, boundaries were defined, and internal organization matured
- Initial nucleus of these states still functions as a core area
- As ones travels away from core areas, smaller towns, fewer factories, and more open land
 - Japan's Kanto Plain: centered around Tokyo and one of the world's leading national cores
 - Agriculture still a prominent feature
- Countries without recognizable, well-integrated core areas may have notable capitals but cannot easily provide a focus for the state
 - Core areas can often promote a broad range of economic development initiatives
- Multicore states—possess more than one core
 - Problems
 - Can be slight if one is dominant and one is not

Capital Cities:

- Political nerve center of the country
- National headquarters
- Seat of government
- After colonies gained independence, they followed the European plan to make their capitals lavish
- Usually largest and most economically influential city
- Sometimes capital cities relocated with large expense when they become independent
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