

Lecture Notes:

① history of the state

- pre- stateless societies; “acephalous” = headless
 - **tribal societies** with **redistributive chiefdoms**
 - lack formal political centralization but has strong lineage structures
- c 3000 BCE first **pristine** or **primal states** arise in Middle East and, perhaps, Northern India
 - warfare had already existed, so this was not a proximal cause
 - much closer proximity of adjacent peoples in river valley societies that had undergone the agricultural revolution but were confined by natural boundaries
 - far greater competition for scarce resources led to new techniques for the coordination of populations both subordination of defeated groups and incorporation of others who preferred tribute to warfare or fleeing beyond the reach of the dominant group
- secondary states**
 - subjects but not citizens
 - more fragmentary and contested domination
- nation states**
 - clearly defined borders, states and societies tend to be coextensive
 - warfare played major constitutive role and has centralized institutions that control large aspects of life
 - exist as part of a nation-state system providing model for subsequent organization of developing world
 - has citizens, with aforementioned rights, ability to stand for office

□ Power and politics

- hierarchy of political participation (Olsen, 1973)
 - 1 *leaders* (.03): persons directly involved with governance
 - 2 *activists* (.14): persons engaged in organized political action within private organizations
 - 3 *communicators* (.13): persons who receive and communicate political information
 - 4 *citizens* (.30): persons with knowledge of the political system, opinions on issues, party preference, usually vote
 - 5 *marginals* (.18): persons who have minimal contact with the political system
 - 6 *isolates* (.22): persons who rarely or never participate in politics in any way
- voting behaviors
 - a party affiliation (1996)

party	DEM	IND	REP				
%	14	20	13	16	9	18	11
 - b in the mid-30s through late-60s, approximately 60% of the eligible population voted since then, only slightly more than 50% of the eligible population has voted
 - **political alienation**: an overwhelming sense of normlessness, powerlessness, and meaninglessness
 - **political apathy**: indifference or lack of interest or concern in political outcomes or policy
 - c characteristics of voters: tend to be more educated; employed; in professional, managerial, or technical fields; and earn an average to above-average income
 - race: white = 63.6% black = 54.0% latino = 28.9%
 - gender: male = 60.2% female = 62.3%

③ **functions** of the state

- a minimally retains the sole right to legitimate exercise of power (especially violence) within a region
- b guarantees certain rights and privileges, generally: (1) property, (2) personal, (3) welfare
- c requires recognition by citizens and other states to function

④ **models** of political action

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| PLURALIST
(interest groups) | NEO-MARXIST
(power elites: state, corporations, military) |
| ELITE PLURALISM | |

Key Ideas:

Nation state, voting, pluralism, elite pluralism, power elite theory.